Todd Family Scholarship Veterans Interview Project
Suggested Questions for a Veteran of World War II (Navy)

Use these suggestions as a starting point and make your own outline for the interview. Remember, each interview will be different and not all questions will apply.

Introduction

Begin your interview by stating the following:

- Date
- Location (city, state)
- Your name
- Interviewee’s name

Example: Today’s date is August 1, 2019. My name is John Smith and this is an interview with Jane Doe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- Where were you born?
- When is your birthday?
- Who was your father?
- And your mother?
- What was her maiden name?
- Where did you start school?
- Who was your favorite teacher?
- When and where did you graduate high school?
- What were the major stores in your town?
- Describe the house you lived in.
- How did the Great Depression affect you and your family?
- What chores did you do around the house of the farm?
- Was there a movie theater in your town?
- What was the name of the theater?
- How often would you go to the movies?
- Do you remember when Japan invaded China?
- Do you remember when Germany invaded Poland in 1939?
- Theaters would often show News of the World and color cartoons. What did you think when you saw what Japan was doing in China, and what Germany was doing in Europe?
- What did you do after high school?
- Where were you December 7, 1941?
- What did you think when you heard about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?
- After the war started, did you help with the scrap metal drives or rubber drives?

Entering the Military

- Did you enlist or were you drafted?
- If you enlisted, why did you choose the service branch you joined?
- Where did you go for boot camp or basic training?
• How did you travel there?
• Tell me about the trip on the train.
• Where did you sleep on the train?
• Tell me about boot camp.
• What type of training did you have in boot camp?
• What is your most vivid memory of boot camp?
• How long did boot camp last?
• Tell me about your drill instructors.
• What type of training did you have after boot camp?

Military Service

• What ship did you serve aboard?
• Where did you go aboard the ship?
• To what division were you assigned?
• Where were your quarters on the ship?
• Describe your quarters.
• What was your average day on the ship?
• What watches did you stand?
• What were your duties on the ship?
• What was your average day on the ship?
• Where were your general quarters on the ship?
• Where was your place to abandon ship?
• When you went aboard, where did the ship go?
• Who was captain of the ship?
• Did your ship come under fire?
• How long were you on the ship?
• What is your most vivid memory of the ship?
• When you heard about V-E Day (V-J Day), what did you think?
• When did you get your discharge?
• What did you do after you were discharged?
• Would you join the military again?
• How do you want to be remembered?