10 Questions Veterans Will Be Happy to Answer

Please follow these steps:

1. Ask your veteran if he or she wouldn't mind having a brief chat about their military service
2. Find a quiet space with a 'low risk' of any interruptions
3. Share the questions before asking (your vet may want to replace one with another)
4. Ask the 10 questions below.

This dialog can be enormously beneficial, even therapeutic, to your veteran. You may become that special person that your veteran trusts enough to 'continue the conversation' in more depth. What a gift!

TEN QUESTIONS TO ASK A VETERAN

1. What motivated you to join the military?
2. Tell me about the day you signed up.
3. How did you get through boot camp?
4. What was your main job assignment after training (MOS)?
5. Where did you serve the majority of time in service?
6. Tell me about the other places you traveled to.
7. Which notable medals or citations did you receive?
8. Did you pull any pranks, or did others pull pranks on you?
9. How did the service change your life?
10. Do you stay in touch with comrades? Who and how?

TIPS:

• If your veteran feels up to it, I highly recommend recording the stories in audio. This will not only capture the veteran's stories in his or her unique voice, personality and dialect, but you can always transcribe the audio into the written word. Although video is a powerful medium, many people become too self-conscious of their appearance or other distractions.

• Ask your veteran if there are any photos he or she would like to share. Many veterans don't know how to tell their stories. But reminiscing with photos can often elicit a flow of conversation that can easily be recorded.
• Give the recordings to the vet, or help make them available online or in a physical form of some kind. Either way, you'll be giving your veteran a chance to see the affect these stories have on people today, while leaving a legacy for future generations tomorrow.

**TOOLS:**

• For recording in audio, I recommend trying our free mobile app because it takes a picture of the veteran, or one of the pictures, then records the story to marry the two together online.

• For writing the story, I highly encourage you to log in or create your free account in this website. Not only can you begin building your own story portfolio, but you can help your veteran establish his or hers too. This way, the stories can be kept private or discriminately shared.

• Continue the conversation by choosing from 200+ questions and more with the Legacy Stories Handbook. The moment a word is entered into the handbook, it becomes one of the most important family documents.

Veterans appreciate hearing "Thank you for your service", especially Viet Nam vets. But these kind words quickly fade away, leaving the veteran to deal with what they did to attract this attention. When you make a concerted effort to 'interact beyond kind words' you can boost the veteran's self-esteem and, in many cases, mitigate guilt. Now that's how you can make a real difference!

*Semper Fi*

Tom Cormier, Co-founder
Legacy Stories

P.S. I would very much appreciate it if you would be so kind to tell others about what we are doing and introduce them to the LegacyStories.org website. Thank you so much!