

# OH113: MINNESOTA'S WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT Oral History Interviews

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS**

**Creator:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project.

**Title:** Oral history interviews of the Minnesota's Women Vietnam

Veterans Oral History Project.

**Dates:** 2000-2007.

**Quantity:** 40 sound cassettes; 11 transcripts in 11 folders

**Location:** See Detailed Description section for locations.

### SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

This project chronicles the lives of Minnesota nurses who participated in the Vietnam Conflict. One focus of the interviews discusses suffering from and helping those who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). Another aspect of these interviews chronicles postwar involvement including work with veteran's organizations and the development of two monuments dedicated to the military service of women. Some of the subjects discussed include education prior to entering military service; hospital conditions in Vietnam; gender roles in the military; reactions of family members after enlisting; civilian life after Vietnam; involvement in PTSD groups; involvement in the Veterans Administration (VA); creating the Women in Military Service to America Memorial (WIMSA); basic training through the Army Nurse Corps; the Anti-War Movement; thoughts on the Iraq War; creating the Vietnam Women's Memorial; Communism and the Cold War; modern perceptions of the Vietnam Conflict: and the importance of women in the military.

# **INDEX TERMS**

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

## **Topics:**

Post-traumatic stress disorder.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Medical care.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975 |-- Personal narratives, American.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975 -- Women -- United States.

Women in Military Service for America Memorial (Arlington, Va.).

## **Places:**

United States.

Vietnam.

### **Persons:**

Bauer, Catherine (Kay), interviewee.

Boulay, Donna-Marie (DM), interviewee.

Bower, Lynn, interviewee.

Breed, Mary, interviewee.

Brunner, MaryLu, interviewee.

Buchan, Valerie, interviewee.

Crowley, Mary Beth, interviewee.

Evans, Diane Carlson, interviewee.

Heikkila, Kim, interviewer.

Johnson, Edythe, interviewee.

Rudolph, Ann, interviewee.

Tyrrell, Mary O'Brien, interviewee.

# **Organizations:**

United States -- Army Nurse Corps.

# **Types of Documents:**

Interviews.

Oral histories.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **Preferred Citation:**

[Indicate the cited transcript and page or sound recording here]. Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project. Oral History Interviews of the Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project. Minnesota Historical Society.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

#### **Accession Information:**

Accession number(s): AV2007.38

## **Processing Information:**

Processed by: Oral History Office

Catalog ID No.: 6704910

# **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note the format (sound recording or transcript) and location shown below.

# Sound recordings. 40 cassettes.

Location

Location	
OH113.1	Bauer, Catherine (Kay), April 28, 2005.
OH113.2	Boulay, Donna-Marie (DM), June 10, 2005. <b>RESTRICTED</b>
OH113.3	Bower, Lynn, June 20, 2006.
OH113.4	Breed, Mary, September 23 & 25, 2006.
OH113.5	Brunner, MaryLu, May 23, 2006.
OH113.6	Buchan, Valerie, October 27, 2005.
OH113.7	Crowley, Mary Beth, May 25, 2005.
OH113.8	Evans, Diane Carlson, May 10 & 15, 2000, April 3, 2001, May 8, 2007.
OH113.9	Johnson, Edythe, June 7, 2005.
OH113.10	Rudolph, Ann, May 26, 2005.
OH113.11	Tyrrell, Mary O'Brien, May 23, 2006.

# Transcripts. 11 folders.

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OH113.10	Rudolph, Ann, May 26, 2005.
OH113.11	Tyrrell, Mary O'Brien, May 23, 2006.

NAME: Catherine "Kay" M. Bauer

**DATE:** April 28, 2005

**PLACE:** Coon Rapids, Minnesota

**INTERVIEWER:** Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Catherine "Kay" M. Bauer was born in Minnesota and attended the College of St. Catherine, where she took up nursing. She enlisted in the U. S. Navy as a nurse and went to Vietnam. When she returned, she married and became a recruiter for the Navy. Bauer also pursued the Women in Military Service to America Memorial (WIMSA) completion in Washington, D.C.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED: Childhood; family; importance of religion; patriotism; college years and switching majors from education to nursing; enlisting in the Navy; the Navy Nurse Candidate Program; family reaction to enlistment; racial diversity and homosexuality in the Navy; working at the Sick Officer's Quarters in St. Albans Naval Hospital; spending time in Japan before being sent to Guam; Great Lakes Naval Training Center; signing up to go to Vietnam; working for USAID (United States Agency for International Development); first impression of Vietnam; hospital conditions; daily life in Vietnam; becoming accustomed to the culture and food of Vietnam; cultural differences in medical practices; treating various diseases and injured soldiers; different cultural views on gender roles; coming back to civilian life in the United States after the war; ambivalence about leaving Vietnam; becoming a Navy recruiter; getting married; politics of war; meeting other nurses who were Vietnam veterans; involvement in the Veterans Administration (VA) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) unit; importance of a women's memorial.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 4 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 4 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 210 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 64 pages

NAME: Donna-Marie "D. M." Boulay

**DATE:** June 10, 2005

**PLACE:** St. Paul, Minnesota

**INTERVIEWER:** Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Donna-Marie "D. M." Boulay was born in Massachusetts and studied nursing at St. Vincent College. She went on to Boston College to obtain her nursing degree. She served in the U. S. Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam and ended her service with the rank of Captain. Upon return to the United States, she became actively involved with several memorial projects.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED: Childhood; family; education; attending a Catholic nursing school; being one of the first females to attend Boston College; race and gender issues; discrimination; the Civil Rights Movement; activism; politics; deciding to join the Army Nurse Corps; basic training at Fort Sam Houston; family reaction to enlistment; racial diversity at Fort Sam Houston; working in the ICU at Letterman Hospital in San Francisco; orders for Vietnam; working at an evacuation hospital in Vung Tau in Vietnam; initial impressions of Vietnam; experiencing extreme climatic heat and witnessing poverty; Vietnamese food and culture; remembering individual patients; dealing with severe wounds; working with corpsmen; becoming a head nurse; relationship with male colleagues; meeting her husband; horrific experiences during the Tet Offensive; dealing with the stresses of being in a war zone; morale of colleagues and patients; anti-war sentiment from nurses; contact with Vietnamese people; leaving Vietnam soon after the Tet Offensive; homecoming; personal changes after experiences in Vietnam; involvement in Veterans Against the War; the anti-war movement; becoming actively involved in memorial projects; lobbying; what it means to be an American.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 4 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 4 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 240 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** Cassette tapes are **RESTRICTED**.

**TRANSCRIPT:** 68 pages

NAME: Lynn L. Bower
DATE: June 20, 2006

PLACE: St. Pool Misses

**PLACE:** St. Paul, Minnesota

**INTERVIEWER:** Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Lynn L. Bower was born in Minnesota. While in nursing school at the University of Minnesota, she applied and was accepted into the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing (WRAIN) in Washington, D.C. She enlisted in the Army and eventually went to Vietnam. After her return she worked at St. Mary's Hospital and was in the Army Reserves.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Family and childhood; values; her mother's home nursing program and encountering various illnesses and diseases; education and struggling with dyslexia; being cognizant of the politics of the war; patriotism; nursing school; transferring to the WRAIN program; expectations about female career options; differential treatment due to gender; joining the Army to help finance education; family reaction to enlistment; reaction to the political chaos and assassinations in the 1960s; feeling homesick; working on the surgical ward; dating; time at Fort Bragg; getting orders to go to Vietnam; being mistreated because of anti-war sentiment; working in the operating room in Vietnam; horrific injuries, mass casualties, and emotional trauma; feeling like a surrogate mother, sister, wife, or girlfriend to patients; witnessing incidents of harassment; leaving Vietnam after six weeks due to pregnancy; guilt over leaving Vietnam; coming back to the United States; getting married; birth of her son; post-traumatic stress disorder; moving to Minnesota and working at St. Mary's Hospital; meeting other female Vietnam veterans; the memorial projects in Minnesota and Washington, D.C.; working in the Reserves; what it means to be an American citizen; lessons learned since Vietnam; thoughts on the Iraq war; and what it means to be a female veteran.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 4 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 4 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 195 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 58 pages

NAME: Mary Breed

**DATE:** September 23 & 25, 2006 **PLACE:** Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

**INTERVIEWER:** Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Mary Breed was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She enlisted in the Army Student Nurse Corps during her senior year of nursing school and was sent to Vietnam. She worked in both the Da Nang evacuation hospital and the Quang Tri surgical hospital. After her return she spent time nursing at the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center. Breed was also involved in a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) group and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Being born in Swedish Hospital; joining the military; growing up poor; the role of religion in her family; the civil rights movements and the Cold War; her brother going to Vietnam; the limited women's professions; attending Bible School in California; the culture of Los Angeles; attending nursing school; exposure to the Anti-War Movement; going through training; getting sent to a neurosurgery headquarters in Vietnam; working in the Da Nang evacuation hospital; bitterness towards the government; her relationship with other nurses; seeing Bob Hope; working at a Vietnamese orphanage; interactions with the Vietnamese; the treatment of women in the military; being transferred to the Quang Tri surgical hospital; returning home due to her father's death; leaving the Army; finding a job at the Veteran's Administration Hospital; nursing in Bangladesh; working in Medical Intensive Care at the Hennepin County Medical Center; participation in a PTSD group; working on the Vietnam Women's Memorial and the physical appearance of the monument.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 4 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 4 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 230 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 74 pages

NAME: MaryLu Brunner
DATE: May 23, 2006
PLACE: Edina, Minnesota
INTERVIEWER: Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** MaryLu Brunner was born in Minnesota. She obtained a nursing degree from St. Gabriel's School of Nursing and worked at the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital. She enlisted in the U. S. Army as a nurse and served in Vietnam. Upon returning to the United States, she worked again for the VA and helped fundraise for the Minnesota Vietnam Memorial in St. Paul.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Family; education; working at the VA and then deciding to enlist in the U. S. Army; role of religion in her life; patriotism; awareness of the political situation; Communism and the Cold War; race and discrimination; gender roles; going to nursing school; satisfaction of being a nurse; meeting war veterans; volunteering to go to Vietnam; family reactions to her enlistment; training at Letterman Army Hospital in California; not feeling prepared for Vietnam; flying to Vietnam; being stationed in Pleiku at an evacuation hospital; relationships with colleagues; dating; fond memories; birthday celebrations; views on war; contact with Vietnamese people; personal safety; a typical workday; not getting to know patients on a personal level; treating injuries; respect; reading books written by female Vietnam veterans; best and worst experiences in Vietnam; homecoming; working at the VA; getting married; joining the Reserves; reaction to the Anti-War Movement; post-traumatic stress disorder; the importance of a women's memorial; opening up about Vietnam experiences.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 3 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 3 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 180 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 52 pages

NAME: Valerie Buchan
DATE: October 27, 2005
PLACE: St. Paul, Minnesota
INTERVIEWER: Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Valerie Buchan was born in Minnesota and obtained a nursing diploma from Hamline University. She worked as a nurse for several years before deciding to enlist in the U. S. Army. She served in Japan before going to Vietnam. Upon returning to the United States, she worked at the University of Minnesota and then became involved in the Reserves in Fort Snelling. She retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Family; childhood; wanting to be a nurse; education; attending Hamline University for nursing; having a strong family tradition of military service; a typical day in nursing school; working as a nurse for a church camp and other nursing jobs; gender roles; Communism and the Cold War; changing political views over time; learning for the first time about Vietnam and hearing about the Domino Theory; deciding to join the Army Nurse Corps; family reaction to enlistment; negative images of military women; basic training at Fort Sam Houston; diversity of women at Fort Sam Houston; going to Japan; working in the surgical and urology wards; responding to patient needs; emotional and physical trauma faced by soldiers; volunteering to go to Vietnam after two years of service in Japan; working at an evacuation hospital in the emergency room; dealing with horrific injuries; frustration with the war; relationship among hospital staff; balancing roles as a nurse and an American; impressions of Vietnamese people; dangers of being in a war zone; leisure activities; being Captain and head nurse; going to Australia for rest and recuperation; the Anti-War Movement in America; gender discrimination; working at the University of Minnesota and then the Fort Snelling Reserves; involvement in the construction of the war memorials; long-term effects of Vietnam: advice to current soldiers.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 3 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 3 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 165 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 66 pages

NAME: Mary Beth Crowley

**DATE:** May 25, 2005

**PLACE:** St. Paul, Minnesota

**INTERVIEWER:** Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Mary Beth Crowley was born in Minnesota. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with a nursing degree. Crowley then went into the Army and served in Vietnam as a nurse. She returned to the United States and worked for the Veteran's Administration (VA) for many years.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Family background; being part of a military family; patriotism; joining the Army Student Nurse Corps and deciding to enlist; first duty station at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; working on the VIP (Very Important People) ward at Walter Reed; working at the VA and treating Vietnam veterans; thoughts about the war and about politics; being an emotional person; dealing with stress; leisure activities; relationship with corpsmen, officers, and nurses; dating; gender and assumptions about females in the military; role of music; drug use in the war; becoming disillusioned with the war; anti-war sentiment; racial tensions; treating Viet Cong patients; culture and people of Vietnam; differences in hospitals in Vietnam; memorable experiences of Vietnam; traveling during R&R (rest and recuperation); fear of being in a war zone; dealing with various injuries in the emergency room; war in Iraq; post-traumatic stress disorder; going back home to the Unites States; working for the VA; significance of the Vietnam Women's Memorial; reuniting with other veterans; speaking at schools; views of what it means to be an American citizen; reaction to the fall of Saigon; thoughts about war.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 4 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 4 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 195 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 55 pages

**NAME:** Diane Carlson Evans

**DATE:** May 10 & 15, 2000, April 3, 2001, May 8, 2007

**PLACE:** Various INTERVIEWER: Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Diane Carlson Evans was born in Buffalo, Minnesota. She joined the Army Student Nurse Corps and was stationed at an evacuation hospital in Vung Tau, Vietnam. After returning home she founded the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project. Evans has been involved in many Vietnam Veterans organizations including Sister Search, various Vietnam education projects, a documentary on women serving in Vietnam, and the construction of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington D.C. She has also married and raised children.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Growing up on a farm; working odd jobs to pay for nursing school; joining the Army Student Nurse Corps; interning at the Veterans Administration Hospital; life at the evacuation hospital in Vung Tau, Vietnam; treatment of nurses in the military; the role of music; becoming politically conscious; lack of safety at the hospital; her encounter with a Canadian soldier; returning home to animosity from other Americans; founding the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project; suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); involvement with the TV show China Beach; portrayal of women Vietnam Veterans in pop culture and the media; being interviewed by the *China Beach* writers; difficulties of civilian nursing after Vietnam; starting a family; visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and a Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Reunion; raising money for the monument; the use of a traveling prototype to gain support for the monument; lack of support from fellow nurses; the original design being denied; securing a site on the National Mall in Washington D.C.; having the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project featured in 60 Minutes; redesigning the monument and the design contest; supporting the Vietnam Veterans Plaque; educational goals of the Vietnam Women's Memorial; developing a documentary on the subject; involvement in Sister Search; resentment for the government and President Johnson.

## **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 2 60-minute cassettes

3 90-minute cassettes

**Original:** 2 60-minute cassettes

3 90-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 350 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 103 pages ACCESSION NUMBER: AV 2007.38.7

NAME: Edythe "Edy" D. Thompson Johnson

**DATE:** June 7, 2005

**PLACE:** Minneapolis, Minnesota

**INTERVIEWER:** Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Edythe "Edy" D. Thompson Johnson was born in Wisconsin and attended Deaconess College where she obtained her nursing diploma. She served in the U. S. Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam. She also served in the Reserves and retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Family; childhood; education; patriotism and importance of service to the country; graduating from high school and deciding to pursue nursing; obtaining a nursing diploma from Deaconess College; being cognizant of the Civil Rights Movement and political issues; Communism; working in obstetrics (OB); President John F. Kennedy's assassination; studying journalism; importance of religion; factors that led her to join the Army Nurse Corps; training at Fort Sam Houston; family reaction to enlistment; working at Letterman Hospital in San Francisco; reaction to Vietnam orders; gender discrimination; diversity in basic training; identity as a nurse; the anti-war movement; thoughts on the politics of the war; going to Vietnam; hearing about the Tet Offensive; daily life in the evacuation hospital; memorable patients; interactions with other staff members; leisure activities; dating; contact with the Vietnamese; being educated about Vietnamese culture; serving as a surrogate mother or sister to soldiers; difference between civilian nursing and nursing in a combat zone; safety and stresses; being head nurse; homecoming; emotional repercussions of war; staying in the Army Reserves; coming to Minnesota and working in OB; working for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL); the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.; joining the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA); getting married; importance of the Vietnam Women's Memorial; post-war adjustments; going back to Vietnam as a civilian and working with orphans; the role Vietnam had in her life.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 4 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 4 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 210 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 75 pages

NAME: Ann Benson Rudolph

**DATE:** May 26, 2005 **PLACE:** Fridley, Minnesota **INTERVIEWER:** Kim Heikkila

PROJECT SERIES: Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Ann Benson Rudolph was born in Illinois and attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She studied nursing and later enlisted in the U. S. Army. She served in Vietnam as a nurse and, upon return to the United States, became involved in groups such as the Veterans Administration (VA) and a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) group.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED: Childhood; college; becoming a nurse; joining the U. S. Army Nurse Corps; training at Fort Sam Houston; working at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; meeting and marrying her college sweetheart; getting orders to go to Vietnam; family's reaction to her Vietnam orders; gender issues in the military; interaction with male colleagues in the military; nursing as a female-dominated profession; arrival in Vietnam and working at a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital unit; culture and people of Vietnam; working in the psychiatric ward; hospital conditions; differences between evacuation hospitals and field hospitals; bonding with patients; emotional implications of war; being a symbol for the Army Nurse Corps; being naïve before Vietnam; memorable experiences in Vietnam; being unaware of the political situation; corresponding with husband and parents; going back home; the Vietnam Women's Memorial; involvement in the VA; discharge; post-traumatic stress disorder; war and the media; current war in Iraq; advice for soldiers; what it means to be an American citizen.

#### **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 3 60-minute cassettes

**Original:** 3 60-minute cassettes

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 180 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 59 pages

NAME: Mary O'Brien Tyrrell

**DATE:** May 23, 2006

**PLACE:** St. Paul, Minnesota

**INTERVIEWER:** Kim Heikkila

**PROJECT SERIES:** Minnesota's Women Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Mary O'Brien Tyrrell was born in Wisconsin. She worked as a nursing assistant beginning in eighth grade and went on to obtain a nursing degree from the college of St. Scholastica. She enlisted in the U. S. Navy during her last two years of college and served in Guam. Upon her return to the United States, Tyrrell obtained a master's degree and worked in health education.

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:** Family; importance of religion; working as a nursing assistant starting in eighth grade; wanting to be a nurse since a young age; her father's illness; importance of patriotism and community service; working while in high school and college; being a good student; attending St. Scholastica and pursuing a nursing degree; deciding to enlist in the U. S. Navy and family reaction to enlistment; reputation of females in the military; traveling to Mississippi and being exposed to different ethnicities; racism; concern of Communism; being assigned to Camp Pendleton; being treated differently as a woman; volunteering for Vietnam and being sent to Guam; reaction to Guam; working the night shift at the air evacuation hospital in Guam; training corpsmen; conflicts of interest with the head nurse; becoming head nurse; the Tet Offensive; traveling to Japan and Thailand; treating injuries and contact with patients; work environment; racial tensions; writing a poem dedicated to the corpsmen; the importance of the Vietnam Women's Memorial; difficulty in finding a job upon returning to the United States; anti-war sentiment; obtaining a master's degree and working in health education; thoughts on war in Iraq and war in general; post-traumatic stress disorder; thoughts about women in the military.

## **COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW:**

**SOUND RECORDINGS:** User copy: 1 120-minute cassette

1 60-minute cassette

**Original:** 1 120-minute cassette

1 90-minute cassette

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 150 minutes

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** None

**TRANSCRIPT:** 55 pages