

How Would You Like to Be Remembered

Our Veterans Oral History interviewers usually ask the Veteran “How would you like to be remembered?” Here are some of the responses. The responses start with a man who lost his legs in the Vietnam War and finish with a man who spent nine months in a German POW camp. I want to say how remarkable each of these Veterans are, but their words show them to be normal guys.

From our Vietnam Veterans we heard:

“Oh, just as a nice guy and as a normal person. Sure I’m missing both my legs but that certainly hasn’t inhibited me from doing probably 99% of the things that I wanted to do in the first place. I certainly don’t want to be remembered as an amputee or anything like that, just a normal guy.”

“I worked as a professional social worker. But that hasn’t been the center of my life. That’s been a job. The center of my life is my family and my children. So I guess, more than anything else, that I was a good person--that I was a good father, a good husband.”

“As somebody who served his country and lived what they, he thought was right, right or wrong, but believing in, you know, the ideals of the American people.”

I would like to be remembered as someone that cared. That’s how I would put it.

I guess, just he did what he had to. You see, I came from the White Earth Reservation - sunset between us and 'Nam. I didn’t have anything to begin with. In fact, I think I came in owing. And from that point I’ve come a long ways.”

From our WWII Veterans:

“That’s kind of hard to explain. I guess it’s just that I served my country and I’m glad I had the opportunity to do it. Other than that, why I lived through it without any major problems.”

“Oh, I don’t know--That’s kind of difficult. I would like to be remembered as a patriot. I don’t know if I can say any more than that.”

“Well, I guess I’ve been – over the more than 50 years that I’ve been here in Moorhead, I’ve been active in community affairs and I think that some of my small town upbringing and my military service, and education I received at Concordia are all of the elements that really caused me to feel a responsibility to be doing some things in community service and I’m still involved in.”

“Well, I would like to be remembered as having served my country. I – I mean I was a church organist for 35 years. I’d kind of like to be remembered that way.”

“I want to be remembered as a guy that just did his part, did what his country asked and flew 54 combat missions and had no choice about being a prisoner. I mean when you bail out you don’t have any choice about becoming a prisoner or not. That’s about it, I guess.”

Local News: The fund raiser for the WDAY Honor Flight was a great success. We are still counting the numbers but we had about 200 people for the dinner, the bake sale was a hit and we

had great silent auction items. A more complete report will be released soon. Thanks to all how contributed, volunteered, purchased and were at the dinner.