

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thomas Boaz

Part of the Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online)) Central  
Illinois Vietnam War Stories project

Interview # VRV-V-D-2015-066

Thomas Boaz, a non-combative, conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: April 28, 2015      Location: WILL-TV Studio X, Campbell Hall, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Cassidy Williams and Kimberlie Kranich, Illinois Public Media

Technical Support (videographers): WILL Staff

Transcription by: Illinois Public Media Staff

Edited by: Illinois Public Media Staff

Total Pages: 25 pgs.    Total Time: 0:56 / 0.95 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 3,  
2016.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,  
Illinois.

© 2015 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

# Abstract

Thomas Boaz, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-V-D-2015-066

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Thomas Boaz was born December 9, 1953 and grew up in Decatur, Illinois. At the time of the interview he lived in St. Joseph, Illinois. When he was seventeen, Boaz spent a year in Germany from 1971 to 1972 as an exchange student. It was in Nuremberg, where he lived, that he saw the destruction that war could do as Nuremberg was still recovering from World War II. He also had the opportunity to become friends with people of different nationalities, and he realized people were all basically the same. On his eighteenth birthday he was required to register for the draft. He went to the Consulate General of the United States in Munich and registered to be a non-combative conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. He realized that he could never, in good conscience, carry a gun. Boaz discusses how he came to this decision and what it means to him to be a nonpolitical pacifist. His father was a veteran of World War II, and Boaz talks about what it was like to tell his family about his decision. His status as a non-combative conscientious objector offers a unique perspective of the Vietnam War, the protests, and the draft.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Vietnam War; conscientious objector; pacifism; war protests; Germany; exchange student; Thomas Boaz; Consulate General of the United States; anti-war movement during Vietnam War; World War II veteran; media during the Vietnam War; Nuremberg, Germany after WW II;

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

## COPYRIGHT

**The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955**