

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Timothy Kendall

Part of the Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILLradio.tv/online))

Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project

Interview # VRV-V-D-2015-072

Timothy Kendall, a pacifist who was imprisoned for having avoided the draft 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 30, 2015      Location: WILL-TV Studio X, Campbell Hall, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Kimberlie Kranich, Illinois Public Media Chief Content Officer

Technical Support (videographer): WILL Staff

Transcription by: Illinois Public Media staff

Edited by: Illinois Public Media staff

Total Pages: 59

Total Time: 2:10 / 2.17 hrs.

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

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# Abstract

Timothy Kendall, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-V-D-2015-072

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Timothy Kendall was born on January 23, 1949 in Oakland, California and was raised in Richmond, Virginia as the oldest of thirteen children. He was raised a Catholic. He grew up with very little money, but was able to attend the University of Notre Dame in Indiana on scholarships and loans, a result of the Great Society program set up by President Johnson. While at Notre Dame, he took courses on the philosophy of nonviolence based on the thoughts of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, while also learning more about the Vietnam War and the draft. Timothy recalls how he had seen the protest of a Buddhist monk who burned himself alive on the news. Kendall discusses the actions of pacifists of his time, like the Berrigan Brothers and the Catonsville Nine who actively protested the draft. By the time he was a junior, Kendall decided the draft and war were unethical. He failed to register for the draft at the beginning of his senior year in 1970, and also did not file for conscientious objector status. Kendall was therefore in violation of draft laws, and following his graduation, he returned to Richmond and turned himself in to the authorities.

Following a short trial, Kendall was convicted of violating draft laws and sentenced to four years. He began his sentence in September, 1971 and was released in February, 1973 after a judge had reconsidered his case. He served his sentence at the federal prison in Allenwood, Pennsylvania. Although difficult, he continued to practice pacifism in the violent atmosphere of prison. Kendall discusses his journey to pacifism and how it continues to affect his life today. For him, pacifism is the most practical solution.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Timothy Kendall; Vietnam War; pacifism; civil disobedience; anti-war campus protest; conscientious objector; Allenwood federal prison; Notre Dame during the Vietnam War

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