

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Carol Tyler

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember - Vietnam Oral History project

Interview # VRV-A-L-2019-074

Carol Tyler, the wife of a career Marine aviator who began his career with a tour in the Vietnam War, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember - Vietnam* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Oct 22, 2019 Location: Tyler home in Decatur, Illinois

Dates: Nov 6 & Nov 20 Location: ALP Library, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:17 + 2:10 + 2:50 / 2.28 + 2.17 + 2.83 = 7.28 hrs

Session 1: Early life thru husband's deployment to Vietnam as a Marine aviator

Session 2: Bob's time in Vietnam and their life in Hawaii and California after return

Session 3: Bob's career in Marine Corps from the perspective of his wife and family

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Carol Tyler, *Veterans Remember - Vietnam*, VRV-A-L-2019-074

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Carol (Albrecht) Tyler was born in September 1947 in Paris, Illinois, and grew up there, attending public schools and graduating from Paris High School in 1965. She met Robert (Bob) Tyler while in high school, and while attending Eastern Illinois University, majoring in elementary education, she and Bob decided to get married. They were married in March 1968 immediately following Bob's Marine Corps basic training. They moved to Jacksonville, Florida for Bob's follow-on training. He started officer training in November 1968 and was commissioned in February 1969. He deployed to South Vietnam in November 1970, and Carol and their young son Robbie returned to EIU in Charleston, Illinois during his deployment.

Following Bob's return from Vietnam, they lived on Oahu island, Hawaii until 1973. While there, Carol and Bob's daughter Suzanne was born. Over the next two decades they moved frequently from one military post to another as Bob continued to advance in the Marine Corps. He had several flying billets during his career, especially with C-130 Hercules. Bob was deployed twice to Okinawa during those years, both times for unaccompanied tours. Carol learned to be strong and resilient during those experiences, and came to proudly identify herself as a Marine Corps wife. She finished her college degree in 1971 and earned a Masters' degree in Liberal Studies from Rollins College while they were stationed in Florida in 1999. During most of their deployments Carol taught school while also balancing the demands of running a busy household, often while Bob was deployed or away for training exercises. She learned to cope with the frequent separations and strains their father's absences posed for the two children. She discusses all of this with great insight and candor. After Bob's retirement in November 1997, they initially moved to Long Island, NY, and subsequently to Fairfax, VA, but returned to Illinois and their roots in June 2009.

Subject Headings/Key Words: experiences of a Marine officer's wife; growing up in 1950s and 1960s in Paris, IL; family separation for Marine Corps wives; Vietnam War; Marine Corps social functions; Marine Corps Air Station El Toro; Naval Air Warfare Center, Orlando, Florida; the Citadel; teaching at elementary education level

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.

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