

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David R. Taft

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Rochester Community Stories Oral History project

Interview # CR-A-L-2020-023

David R Taft, a Rochester farmer and resident since his birth, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Community Stories-Rochester*) Oral History project.

Interview dates & location: March 5, 2020

Home of David Taft, Rochester, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carol Strick, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 41:00 / 0.68 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 9, 2021.

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

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Abstract

David R. Taft, *Community Stories-Rochester*, CR-A-L-2020-023

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: David R. Taft was born in Springfield, Illinois on September 8, 1950. He is a descendant of the original Rochester Taft settlers in the early 1800s. David's grandfather, Frank Chandler, was a carpenter who built many houses in the Rochester, Illinois community in the early 1900s. His mother, Esther Taft, was interviewed by the Sangamon State Oral History project in 1974. David was one of three children born to Loren and Esther Taft, and he, like his father, was a lifetime farmer. He married his wife, Debra, on March 22, 1980. They have two children, Andrea and David, who continue to live in the Rochester community. In addition to farming, David and his wife operated a quilting supply business for twelve years. He is a U.S. Navy veteran (1971-1973) and served aboard the *U.S.S. Blandy*, a Forrest Sherman-class destroyer, during the Viet Nam war. He is a member of the United Methodist church.

Subject Headings/Key Words: life in Rochester, Illinois; U.S. Navy; Vietnam War; *USS Blandy*; Honor Flight

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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