

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Clarence Senor

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

Interview # VRK-A-L-2008-075

Clarence Senor, a Korean War veteran in the Navy, in the years following the integration of the services, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: November 5, 2008 Location: Clarence Senor residence, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): N/A

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 38 Total Time: 1 hr 31 min / 1.52 hrs

Accessioned into the ALPL Archives on November 21, 2008.

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

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Abstract

Clarence Senor, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2008-075

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Clarence Senor was born to Alphonso and Elizabeth Senor on November 17th, 1929 in Springfield, Illinois. He grew up during the Great Depression and came of age during World War II. Clarence's mother found work during World War II at an ammunition plant in Illiopolis, Illinois, while he attended Feitshans High School in Springfield. Clarence dropped out of school in 1948 and worked at the Pillsbury Mills in Springfield until he enlisted in the Navy in January, 1951. He took his basic training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, and was thereafter shipped to Japan. He was soon assigned to the U.S.S. Leonard F. Mason, a destroyer. The U.S.S. Mason saw service in the Sea of Japan off the eastern coast of Korea, cruising in Wonsan Harbor (North Korea) in support of an Aircraft Carrier task force. The ship was damaged in an accident and sailed to the west coast for repairs.

As an African American, Senor was part of the first wave of blacks to serve in a recently integrated military. He discusses those experiences, both good and bad, as well as the nature of his duties on board ship. He was seriously injured in a jeep accident in Hawaii (head injury and concussion), and was medically discharged in September of 1952. He returned to Springfield, and eventually found work on the city's fire department.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Springfield, Illinois; growing up during the Great Depression; Feitshans High School, Springfield, IL; Satchel Paige; service in the Navy during Korean War; DD-852, Destroyer Leonard F. Mason; Wonsan Harbor; integration of the military; medical care during Korean War; Springfield Fire Department;

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