

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Paul Wisovaty

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

Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project

Interview # VRV-V-D-2015-083

Paul Wisovaty, who served as a radio operator with the U.S. Army 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: March 13, 2015      Location: WILL-TV Studio X, Campbell Hall, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Amanda Wijangco, Illinois Public Media staff

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): WILL Staff

Transcription by: Amanda Wijangco, Illinois Public Media staff

Total Pages: 48 pgs.      Total Time: 1:18 / 1.30 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.

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Abstract

## Paul Wisovaty, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-V-D-2015-083

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Paul Wisovaty was born on September 7, 1946 in Taylorville, Illinois. He was spending much of his time hanging out in pool halls in Taylorville, Illinois when he was drafted into the military in 1966. He spent eight weeks of basic training, followed by training as a radio telephone operator (RTO). He was then stationed at Fort Hood, Texas where he was assigned to work in a unit motor pool, change flat tires and other menial tests. He requested to be sent to Vietnam and arrived in country on December 30, 1967. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 5th US Cavalry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, which was stationed in the I Corps area of South Vietnam, close to North Vietnam. He discusses how the focus of the soldiers was to protect the man next to him, rather than to free the Vietnamese people. Instead of re-enlisting, he went back to the United States on June 2, 1968, where he was admitted to the University of Illinois. While there, he learned more about the Vietnam War and participated in anti-war protests. He graduated in 1973 with a degree in history and political science. In 1979, Wisovaty worked as a probation officer in Champaign County and then in Douglas County. He later joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War. He now talks to high school students about the Vietnam War and raises money for scholarships for veteran's children as a member of the Polish Legion for American Veterans. Being a veteran is still an integral part of his life. He discusses how his experience has changed his outlook on the world. Paul lived in Tuscola, Illinois at the time of the interview.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Paul Wisovaty; RTO experiences during Vietnam War; Taylorville, Illinois; Fort Hood, Texas; 3rd Squadron, 5th US Cavalry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division; University of Illinois; anti-war demonstrations at U of Illinois; Vietnam Veterans Against the War; Tuscola High School; drug and alcohol abuse during Vietnam War; probation officer work in Illinois; Iraq War; Cold War era;

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