

## RETURNING HOME

- When did you leave the military? Why did you leave?
- What was your fondest memory of the military? What was your least favorite? What do you miss the most? Would you do it again?
- What did you do after you left military service? How did the military impact your life?

## PRESERVING MEMORIES

- Do you attend reunions or keep in touch with military buddies? If so, tell me about those reunions or buddies and what is special about them.
- Do you have any photographs from back in the day you can share? Do you have old uniforms or ribbons or dog tags or other memorabilia from your military days you can share?
- What books or articles can you recommend I read to gain a better understanding about your military service?
- Would you recommend military service for today's young adults? Please elaborate.
- Is there anything you'd like to add that I haven't covered?

## Once you have completed your interview:



Write your own story of the veteran's experiences to share with the entire family, and add photos or draw pictures. Make your own book to present to the veteran at a family gathering or on a national day of commemoration like Veterans Day.



# Interviewing The Veteran In Your Family

## Interviewing The Veteran In Your Family

Interested in interviewing the military veteran in your family, but don't know where to start? The guidelines below might help you write his or her story. Listening is the key. Ask if it's okay to take notes or record the discussion, and take breaks—it may take more than one interview.

### GROWING UP

- Where were you born?
- What is your birthday?
- What are (were) your parents' names?
- List your siblings if you had them. Who was older and who was younger?
- What high school did you attend? What was the school's mascot's name? What extracurricular activities or sports did you do? When did you graduate?
- Were any members of your family in the military? If so, which branches of service? How much can you share about their military experiences?
- What did you do when you graduated from high school?

### JOINING THE MILITARY

- Why did you join the military? What was your branch of service? Why did you choose that branch?
- Where did you attend basic training? What was it like?
- What schools did you attend after basic training? Where were those schools located? What did you learn in those schools?
- After you completed training, where were you assigned? What was special about those assignments that has stayed with you?



George Barnett, 8, interviewing his Grampy, US Army veteran Dave Stockwell.

© 2017 by David B. Stockwell

### GOING TO WAR

- If you went to war, when did you go? Where did you first arrive? Where did you go from there and what did you do?
- What kind of food did you eat there? What did you do when you were off duty? What pranks did you pull on your buddies? Did you have a nickname? If so, how did you get that nickname?
- Did you have a special friend or group of friends? What do you remember most about them? Did they have nicknames? If so, what were they and how did they get them?
- Were you able to travel in your time off? If so, what other countries did you visit? What was special about them?
- How did you communicate with your family back home? What did you tell them about where you were?
- What awards or decorations did you earn? List them starting with the highest. Is any one of them your favorite? If so, which one and why?