

Maile Pang
Period 2

Wayne Barnes
Marine Corps; Air Force

Wayne Barnes

Born on March 30, 1939, Wayne Barnes grew up in South Gate, California. Since the year of 1939, Barnes has lived through all wars up until the present including World War II, The Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War. Even though Wayne has lived through many years of wars, he has never actually seen combat. Greatly inspired by his uncle's stories of war and the appearance of his uncle in his Marine Corps uniform, depicted an image in Wayne's mind which influenced him to join that branch of service.

In order to avoid the draft, Wayne voluntarily joined the service. He served in two branches of the military; The United States Marine Corps and the United States Air Force. When joining the Marine Corps service, Wayne was seventeen years old, still getting a high school education. He was extremely interested in the stories that his history teacher had told while giving lecture. The hardships and overcoming of obstacles of people in the past had intrigued him. His first year of service began in 1956. The time that Wayne served was around the start of the Vietnam War; however his commanding officer kept him in America. On his very first day of service, he will always remember everyone screaming at him as he entered camp. During his training, Barnes attended both the Marine Corps and Air Force Boot Camps and found the Marine Corps Boot Camp was more vigorous. According to Wayne, there was no discrimination in his unit. All races came together to defend the country for the best. While he spent some time

in training, he found living conditions to be not the best. In one of the Boot Camp's barracks located in San Antonio, Texas, there was no air conditioning.

Despite that the Air Force at that time was young and had not yet a reserve, Wayne decided to become a mechanic of airplanes. He specialized in fixing aircrafts' engines, changing spark plugs, readjusting tension on pulley cables, and being a supply driver. He enjoyed his time in the military because he got the opportunity to work with his favorite airplanes such as the C-47 which was common and not quite as complicated as most other planes. Wayne also recalls an experimental aircraft known as X-15 and another plane, B-57 that flipped over and burned. Those were some of his favorite moments and memories from his service. Not only was he able to enjoy it because of his love of aircrafts, but he recalls that the people you met along the way is a reward by itself. Mr. Barnes became friends with many people from other branches while in the service, enabling him to meet military personnel from all over the nation. No matter what branch he served in, he still met people he would have never had the chance to meet if he had not served.

Wayne believes his experience in the service was an overall positive one because it taught obedience and patience. Although he did enjoy his time in the service, he was delighted to be discharged in the end. Wayne had good intentions, but despite his efforts, the military kept him in America for good measures. He has strong opinions and criticisms of politicians such as the president. He believes Obama is naive unlike the president in which he served under: Eisenhower. Wayne did not suffer from much stress and pressure during his service and when he was on leave, he was able to keep in contact with his family in Garden Grove, Orange County. He wore out three cars while visiting his family on the numerous occasions. When the day was

over on off duty hours, Mr. Barnes would go to bars and nightclubs to relax after a long day. He preferred civilian bars best because there wasn't any confrontational arguments about his service.

Since he got his discharge, he hasn't had a reunion with his unit. After he served, Wayne became an employee for Chevrolet. For eleven years now, Wayne has been retired. Mr. Barnes claims to have had not much inspiration or influence on the training of veterans in the Air Force today due to the fact that those airplanes he used to work on, are no longer used in flight today, however he has made an impact on how modern planes have been improved and constructed based on mechanical struggles in previous wars.