

Nicholas Ruester & Jacob Blanchette

Period 5



Dale Turnley

U.S. Army

1966-1968

2016

Dale Turnley

Born on August 29th of 1944, Dale Turnley was the youngest of eight children. He was born in the small town of Yakima, Washington, but later moved to Auburn into a tiny house where coal and oil was the main heat source and the only restroom was an outhouse outside. Mr. Turnley graduated high school at the age of 17 in 1962 and immediately moved to California and got a job at St. Francis hospital. This is where he met his first wife and later had two kids with her.

In 1966 Dale Turnley was drafted for the Vietnam War. He, among other draftees, was lined up facing a wall. If you were tapped on the head you became a marine, if not you were part of the army. Mr. Turnley was not tapped on the head so he was shipped off to Fort Ord in

California to endure eight weeks in boot camp. Boot camp had taught him many life values that he still used today. After the eight weeks was up, he was shipped to Fort Jackson where he became a “Spec 5 X-ray Technician” and also trained incoming soldiers during basic training.

During Mr. Turnley’s days in the army, he rented a small trailer outside of the base. He made 95 dollars a month which was mostly consumed from the rental cost. What did he do for entertainment then if he had little money? Mr. Turnley would walk around the town and pick up bottles and recycle them in order to buy movie tickets. “I don’t enjoy movie theaters now for that reason.” Said Mr. Turnley. He also joined a bowling league while he was in the forces. These two things, however, were not the only things he did to relieve stress. Mr. Turnley’s preferred way of relief was to work. No “monkey business” was to be had with Mr. Turnley due to his respect for everyone no matter the age, race, or gender.

Dale Turnley retired from the Army in 1968 without hesitation. He had no close friends from the army due to his fear of losing them in battle and loss of contact information. He simply moved back to California where he met his second wife (his wife now) and also worked as an X-ray technician in another hospital. He left that hospital due to the lack of retirement money involved in his field and joined the Los Angeles Police Department. He served 30 years as an officer in the field of “Anti-Terrorism Enforcement.” Mr. Turnley was the age of 55 when he retired from the department and still occasionally gets night terrors from what he saw in Los Angeles. He now resides at the age of 71 in California with his second wife and goes to the occasional “Veterans of Foreign War’s” meetings.

Dale Turnley served two years in the Army as an X-ray technician and 30 years in the L.A.P.D. On March 18th of 2016 he allowed my partner and I the privilege of listening to his life

story and sharing some of the values he learned in boot camp. I thank not only him, but all the veterans who have served for our country.