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APUSH/ P.1

16 March, 2018

### King High Remembers

Frank Marlow, a United States Air Force veteran, was born in 1943 in a small town in Maryland. He began serving our country as a navigator in 1970 and ended his service in 1990. Captain Marlow joined the service straight from his ROTC commitment during his college years. This program prepared him for entering the Air Force soon after. He first was stationed in Georgia, and it was there that he intended to become a pilot. He quickly climbed up the ranks as a pilot, but just when he thought he was qualified to become a prestigious Air Force pilot, commanding officers told him otherwise. Captain Marlow's landings were just too rough for the liking of the Force. With his heart shattered, he was sent to navigation school. As a navigator he would still be onboard the aircraft, but not in control like he had hoped. His "office" shifted from the cockpit to just under it, but it was definitely not a less important job. There he controlled the massive 500 to 750 pound bombs, missiles, and machine guns onboard the B-52.

While commissioned in the Air Force, he was stationed in bases across the nation in almost every state. His first true battle experience occurred during the Vietnam War. Captain Marlow was stationed in Thailand. His first time traveling from the United States to Thailand, the officers used a tool called a "sextant," which operates using the stars, to navigate to cross the perilous Pacific Ocean. They achieved this within fourteen hours, an impressive feat. He would later take the same trip five different times, with longest of his flights taking sixteen hours.

While stationed in Thailand, one of his missions was to fly over to Vietnam, and bomb the Ho Chi Min Trail. The pilots tried to avoid bombing farms and villages, but need to if the enemy was hiding the Viet Cong . The purpose, to shock and send the message to the enemy force “don’t mess with us.”

Having never been in war, one can only imagine being stuck in a plane all those hours and making continuous bombing runs all the while being in fear of being shot out of the sky. But Captain Marlow and several other comrade pilots and navigators had two options: become a team and survive together or die by being shot down.

Captain Marlow is a prime example of the brave men and women who fought and lived bravely during Americas’ time of war. Captain Marlow is a walking historian not only did he live through Vietnam but he was born at the start of the Cold War. As teenagers of this generation it was our honor to interview him. We were able to experience a life changing event through King High Remembers. With the lesson learned from Captain Marlow we are more educated than our peers due to their lack of access to such memorable experiences as the participants of King High Remembers.

A lesson learned from this brave soldier and American war veteran, is that a common goal, strength, determination, and teamwork is the only way to overcome mountains of obstacles. Like many other veterans, Captain Marlow faced obstacles. He survived by not taking his fellow servicemen for granted, working as a team, and fulfilling his duty. Captain Marlow has taught us not to take for granted the people we surround ourselves with because at any moment, we could be relying on them for support to overcome an obstacle.

As far as the interview goes the memories shared by Captain Marlow were unbelievable. Unbelievable in the sense that men and women really faced death every day and had to either experience it, receive it, or give it, is simply unimaginable. One of us had the chance to have one of our relatives fight in the war but sadly he never shared his story and that is what is so courageous of the vets such as Captain Marlow. Instead of not sharing his story he chose to embrace it and it gave us the opportunity to grow and learn from it. Even though today we face different enemies the structure of war remains the same. Omit to have a Veteran grant us the opportunity of a life time is what makes this whole thing special and amazing. Today we learned not only about our veteran's life, but the entire group of men and women either retired or still in service to our great military. We learned that what we have is entirely the work of those men and women. Without them American wouldn't be the land of the free it so proudly is.

Thank you for your service Captain Marlow and for granting us the honor to listen and learn from your story of courage and valor displayed in the Vietnam War.