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Michael Munoz  
Period 1

John McGrew  
Navy and Air Force  
1951-1955  
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### John McGrew

Just outside Des Moines, Iowa, John McGrew was born in the small city of Marshalltown in 1928. Raised as an only child by his mother and father, he was encouraged to leave Marshalltown to seek better opportunities. Through hard work and dedication he was able to graduate from the United States Naval Academy in 1951.. This, in turn, set him on a path to be an intelligence officer in the United States Air Force. His time in the service during the Korean War allowed him to travel to California, the Philippines, Japan, and Korea.

Before joining the service, McGrew worked as a busboy and enrolled in a local junior college. This small town environment proved to be limiting to him, so he decided to join the United States military. Naturally, McGrew was apprehensive about joining his academy class because he was going to be working with nine hundred men he had never met. His Great Grandfather and Great Uncle both previously served in the US military during the Civil War; however, their experience did not influence him to join the service as much as his father did when the senior McGrew encouraged him to accept the Naval Academy opportunity. His father served in the Army Air Corps, taking photos in France during World War I.

During the Korean War, McGrew served as an intelligence officer for a medium bomb wing in the Strategic Air Command. He was the man who developed maps for the

aircrew, and debriefed their following missions. In doing this, he provided essential information to the airmen for their mission. While serving, his living conditions could be described as bachelor oriented; yet, he wasn't lonely because he made many friends and met his wife, Ann Mawhinney. She was the daughter of an Army colonel stationed in Tokyo. The couple had three marriage services; one for the Japanese registration office, one for American State Department, and at the Post Chapel. Being married three times later gave him the unique opportunity of appearing on the Groucho Marx television show, "You Bet Your Life." He and his wife returned to the states, and there he worked on his Master's Degree at Columbia University in New York, expecting to be sent to work at the developing Air Force Academy or West Point. Instead, he became very ill with tuberculosis and a pulmonary problem. After spending six months in the Navy Hospital in Queens, New York, he was placed on the temporary disability retired list.

After McGrew retired, he became an educator; which fits him perfectly considering how much he enjoys working with youth. In order to teach, he received his Master's degree and teaching credential from Long Beach State University. He completed a 31-year career in the education system beginning with teaching history and government, and eventually becoming a school district superintendent in Northern California. He earned a doctorates at USC.

McGrew became involved in many community organizations; these including, but not limited to, church, museums, education, and concerts. For example, he established a communities scholarship association, held a variety of positions in his church, and was president of the Sonoma County Association of School Administrators. After retiring from his educational career, he moved to Ashland, Oregon. His wife and he raised two

daughters and one son; these children then had children of their own, adding six grandchildren to the McGrew family. Two grandsons served in the Air Force and the other is currently teaching English to students in China.

McGrew said that he would consider himself “a B+ person.” Meaning that, of course, he isn’t perfect and there are things that he wish he could’ve done differently in his life. On the other hand, he knows he isn’t a bad person either because he has strong moral values and a clear conscience. He is a man who is still eager to learn and excited to share his knowledge. As a teacher, politician, naval academy graduate, writer, and United States Navy and Air Force Veteran, McGrew has accomplished many goals in his life so far, and he hopes to continue to grow.