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**The Vietnam Archive  
Oral History Project  
Interview with John Rangel Jr.  
Conducted by Dr. Philip F. Napoli  
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Transcribed by Mark Steven Varela**

**NOTE:** Any text included in brackets [ ] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.

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Philip Napoli: The very first question—I'd like for you to do is tell me your name, your age, and where you're currently living.

John Rangel: My name is John Rangel Jr. I'm sixty-eight. Date of birth is 28<sup>th</sup>, May '37. I was born and raised in California. Upon completion of my high school, that same week, June of '56, I joined the military. I retired in 1980. I live now in Augusta, Georgia.

PN: Tell me a little bit about the decision to join the military in 1956.

JR: All of my uncles were in the military and that impressed me a lot. Originally, I wanted to join the Marine Corps because I like their dress. But back then, they wanted guys six feet or better. Just coming out of high school, a puny little hundred-thirty pounds 5'6. I wasn't fit for the Marines, what they were looking for. I went next door to my army recruiter. The first thing he says, "We need infantry soldiers. 11 Bravos." I said, "That's where I want to go." I was an infantry sergeant all those years in my military career.

PN: I see. Tell me a little bit about your training and then we'll move on.

JR: We went to basic training for six months. That was the first group of soldiers that took that training for so long. They were actually training before us and thereafter for like eight weeks. But they were preparing us to go to Europe at the time, under the 11<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. They were having a lot of uprisings in the Middle East, so they

1 tapped us to go to Europe from basic training. From there, I went to different installations  
2 throughout the world, the United States, Cornish, United States, back to Europe and  
3 Korea. I think my biggest—I was in Germany in 1960 to 1962. When I got a letter from  
4 the Department of Defense, that I was to go to Fort Benning, Georgia. I was going to be  
5 part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault that they were going to take and escalate and train and that  
6 was going to be the new modern air warfare machine. Everybody then in Germany said,  
7 “Oh, you’re going to helicopters, air mobile! God!” I think that was the best move for us  
8 at that time because as it proceeded into the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault, we got Colonel Moore, our  
9 battalion commander. Sergeant Major Plumley, and my company commander, Captain  
10 Nadal, special forces officer. I was one of the old sergeants they sent back then because  
11 we had US and lifted people, draftees. I was twenty-five years old at the time. I was a  
12 buck sergeant. I had all these young soldiers and we trained for almost a year and a half.  
13 Fort Benning, South Carolinas. 101<sup>st</sup> were our enemy in South Carolinas. Finally, we left  
14 South Carolina headed back to Fort Benning and the Department of Defense said that we  
15 were ready. “We want you to be the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.” So we had that big parade at  
16 Doughboy Stadium with all of us and that was very touching because here we were an  
17 elite outfit. First of its kind in a military organization to do what we did, as far as  
18 helicopters and training, the air lifting, the supporting elements, and the Hueys was the  
19 best thing we had for us, going over there to Vietnam. Because of the way the terrain was  
20 built in Vietnam, you couldn’t get in there with trucks, you couldn’t get in there—if we  
21 walked, you had to drop us off five, ten miles but it would take us days to get through the  
22 canopy and break through all that brush and shrubbery. So if they landed us real quick,  
23 like in an open space, we were good to go. I thought that was at that point—I was very  
24 proud of myself. I kept telling my troopers, “Don’t give up, there’s going to be better  
25 days and remember this. That you were the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Assault troops going into Vietnam.”  
26 The only thing that I regret, not really, that is when you say air assault now, it’s a  
27 helicopter with wings, but to us, that is not the air assault.

28 (Editor’s Note: Interviewee takes out a badge to demonstrate it to interviewer)

29 This badge right here. Which is lightning bolt and a rifle. That’s air assault. We were the  
30 first ones to wear that. No one else can have this pin and no one has that. The air assault  
31 is still in progress, but they give them the wings with the helicopter. So that, again there,

1 made us a unique element that nobody can match, the firefight would tremendous—but  
2 most of all, we had the leadership.

3 PN: Talk to me about your officers.

4 JR: Lieutenant Marm, he was a lieutenant then, a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant. He was my  
5 platoon leader. Of course, you know he's a Medal of Honor winner recipient. When I got  
6 hit, I landed in—I didn't know where I was at. I woke up in Qui Nhon Hospital for  
7 surgery. But I thought about Lieutenant Marm and my people. I didn't know if they had  
8 survived or if they'd died. Or whatever. I didn't know nothing about them, and I cried,  
9 and I grieved for them because I wanted to be with them. My sole purpose in life as a  
10 leader down below is an NCO (Non-commissioned Officer). I know that they missed me.  
11 They missed getting orders from me, what to do and how to do it. I knew that they were  
12 going to get in trouble. As a result, they did because there was nobody there to move  
13 them around and shift them as leadership, that's what we were trained for. I'm glad we  
14 Captain Nadal as our company commander. I think, Captain Nadal at that point, he was  
15 special forces before then he joined us. He was a big, big asset to our company.

16 PN: Talk to me about his character.

17 JR: Down to earth. We know we were going to shot, we knew we were going to  
18 killed, but we had a mission to do and that's why we were there in Vietnam. We were  
19 there to free these people from communism, and we were going to do all we could to help  
20 these folks out. He looked after his men. Captain Nadal, I think in my estimation, is a  
21 solider that I would follow today. I made a speech several years ago to a hospital, nurses  
22 and doctors at Eisenhower, and they wanted me to speak. One of the questions that they  
23 asked me was, "How do you feel about Sergeant Major Plumley and Colonel Moore?"  
24 Because I had my speech lined up, so I had to pause for that about a minute. I said—I  
25 think it was '65 at the time, I said—put my notes aside, I paused for a little bit and I said,  
26 "If Sergeant Major Plumley called and made a phone called now, today, or tomorrow and  
27 said 'General Moore wants you at Fort Benning.' My answer to that was, 'I'll be there  
28 today.'" There was no hesitation whatsoever. Why, when, or who, that's out of the  
29 question. That's how I feel today. I feel lucky that I had good commanders in Vietnam  
30 with me on this battle. Now, when I say, "Good commanders," I was assigned to the  
31 Americal Division, before I went to Vietnam the second time. When I got to Hawaii, I

1 had a company commander. They'd been waiting for me because they knew I was  
2 coming. But I kept coming off for it. I didn't want to go to the Americal Division, I  
3 wanted to go with a season group because we already went through all this training at  
4 Fort Benning. Americal was just started going through their routine training. What had  
5 happened was, I come in with my uniform and of course my big yellow pants. The first  
6 thing the captain says, "I am glad you are here Sergeant Rangel, because we are going to  
7 kick ass when we get to Vietnam." I didn't say nothing. I didn't say, "Yes sir, or no sir." I  
8 just sort of nodded my head. But in my mind, that was the wrong words he used on me  
9 because I knew what was going to happen. I left Hawaii and I got assigned on my own  
10 from the Department of Defense and went over. That's when I joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored  
11 Cav. I was over there three months, five months with the 11<sup>th</sup> Cav and guess what  
12 happened? Lieutenant Calley and his massacres, My Lai, took place and the whole  
13 battalion. I knew then that this captain, he wanted medals, but he was going to get medals  
14 the wrong way. He wasn't going into Vietnam like Colonel Moore, Plumley and those  
15 people were. We were going in there for a cause. To relieve communism from those  
16 people and give them their freedom. That's the difference between My Lai and Ia Drang  
17 Valley and our men. So I'd have to say that Captain Nadal, in my list stands pretty high.  
18 He's always been the same today, tomorrow. He comes to meet me, or I meet him, I  
19 shake his hand and I tell him I love him; god bless him. Because he deserves that. He  
20 didn't get wounded, but he led the men that he had to with all the resources that he had.  
21 We were outnumbered. We knew we weren't going to make it. We knew that when they  
22 told us we were going in there. Three-hundred-fifty people. Against what? Four  
23 thousand? But we didn't give up, we didn't turn tail. Nobody cried, nobody went AWOL  
24 (Absent Without Official Leave). Nobody slid in the jungle to avoid the air lift that was  
25 going into the Ia Drang Valley.

26 PN: Tell me about that.

27 JR: We landed—when we got the word, A Company was the first airlift with the  
28 headquarters, Colonel Moore and his people and elements of B Company. We landed  
29 right below Chu Pong Mountain. We scattered out naturally, that's what we do  
30 automatically. The choppers—we'd been trained also to jump out the helicopters, don't  
31 the choppers hit the ground because they are susceptible to firefight from the enemy. We

1 flew out, choppers just moved on out. We were in good shape. We landed there and we  
2 got the word to go ahead and eat our meals. So we opened up our C-rations. This was  
3 about 12:30, quarter to one, because we were waiting for the direct order to come in.  
4 Supposedly, later about like 2:30, three o'clock, we got the word from 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, from  
5 Lieutenant Marm, said we had to move out. As we were moving out, hell broke loose at  
6 that time at another flank. We started getting sniper fire a little bit on our side. We moved  
7 past the creek bed, we got our fifty yards and we got down. We waited and waited. It was  
8 about like ten, fifteen minutes. We got the word to withdrawal. So we pulled back behind  
9 the creek bed. Come to find out that we had artillery coming in, the aircraft F-100 was  
10 coming in. The gunship was coming in, they were going to pinpoint fire on Chu Pong  
11 Mountain, up for where we were supposed to attack. Again, that's when the fire broke out  
12 loose. So as we proceed, we got the word from Captain Nadal, through Lieutenant Marm  
13 down the company, they came down the line to fix bayonets. So as we fixed bayonets, we  
14 crossed a creek bed, my first encounter with enemy was the bayonet, this Vietnamese  
15 solider. Bill Beck was there. Bill Beck describes it in the book. He gave me a sketch  
16 years ago and he says, "John, you were a hell of a dog-gone ground pounder. Bayonet  
17 this guy just like basic training." Well, it was either him or me, the way I look at it. I had  
18 no choice, that was it right there, one on one. I did what I was trained to do and how to do  
19 it. So I bayoneted at the solider. As we proceed, looks like red ants. NVA (North  
20 Vietnamese Army). Khaki helmets. North Vietnamese and Viet Cong. It was  
21 overwhelming. It was just fire left and right. We kept moving to the right because we had  
22 a tight end with their platoon. About halfway, I couldn't move with my Alpha team and  
23 Bravo team. We got fired right from the flanks, it was forty meters out. I didn't know it at  
24 this time, Lieutenant Marm kept hounding, "Move it to the right! Move it to the right!"  
25 Well, we were pinned. Luckily, we had coverage there from logs. Barricade it was a  
26 little—Some troopers caught cover there, we still couldn't move, we were getting intense  
27 fire. We couldn't move. I kept yelling, "We can't! We can't move!" Everyone had four  
28 grenades on them when we went into Ia Drang. We had all four ammunitions pockets of  
29 ammo. Of course, our rucksacks were full of ammunition, we were still on the ground. I  
30 can't move to my right, so here I am, what am I going to do? We're getting shot, we need  
31 to move. So I thought, "I got two grenades here. I pulled a grenade out of my harness. I

1 pull the grenades with my teeth, both of them, and I'm on my back, because I knew where  
2 the fire was coming from. Huge termite hill, I threw the grenade down there, on both of  
3 them. Those were the longest three, four seconds of my life. I said, "No, they can't be  
4 duds." About that time, they went (Makes explosion noises). We'd already been at 5<sup>th</sup>  
5 Bayonet, so I told my people "Cover my advance." I zigzag to the bunker and I saw what  
6 the damage of my grenades had done to the four Vietnamese there. A machine gunner  
7 and three riflemen. They were still breathing. But I went with no mercy, I stabbed them  
8 with my bayonet. At the small of the back, on the spine, and I'd emptied out ten, fifteen  
9 magazines. I did that to four of those Vietnamese. Each one. I even had to change  
10 magazines, put them in there because they were still alive. I didn't want to go back and  
11 maybe one guy would pick up a rifle, and on his last breath shot me going back. That's  
12 what I did. As soon as I got back, I started running. My grenadier John Brennan got hit.  
13 He went berserk. I had to go tackle him to get him on the ground, had to fight him like a  
14 bull. I had to keep him down, I told him, "Brennan, if you don't stay down, you're going  
15 to get killed, you're going to get killed!" So as I was ready to inject him with some  
16 morphine, my other hand was getting his first aid kit because that's what we do, we don't  
17 take our own first aid kit, we take theirs, the wounded, and that's all I know. At that  
18 point, I'm at Qui Nhon Hospital. I'm looking at all these IVs in my feet and arms. I said,  
19 "What in the hell am I doing here?" I couldn't speak. They told me the bullet went  
20 through my jaw, got a little speck right up in here, went through my neck, my jaw. Went  
21 through my neck, my esophagus and it came out right on my shoulder. It ripped my  
22 esophagus off, and that's why I'm talking like I am today. But they didn't conduct any  
23 surgery or cleaned out my shoulder because it was a huge open wound and it had to be  
24 healed. So from that point on, General Westmoreland was there at that time, lord god  
25 forbid why he was there that fast because he knew the casualties were in Qui Nhon. He  
26 came to me and just like I am seeing you today, he leaned over and whispered into my  
27 ears and hugged me and said, "Sergeant Rangel you are going home. You have the  
28 million-dollar wound." His agent gave him a Purple Heart, pinned it on me. He gave me  
29 the Presidential Citation for the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> and pinned it on me. Gave me the Bronze  
30 Star medal with "V" device and pinned it on me. He says, "Good luck son." And he went  
31 right on down the line. I wound up in in San Francisco, Letterman General Hospital.

1 When I landed in Travis, they got me a bed in San Francisco, because my family from  
2 Oakland, California. I was scheduled to go to Fort Walter, with my wife and two children  
3 were in Augusta—Fort Benning, I'm sorry. My uncle, when he heard that he could get  
4 me transferred to Walter Reed, he made a call and put my wife and two children on a  
5 plane and flew them into California. When we got on a Medevac bus to go out, at Travis,  
6 the protestors were at the gate, they wouldn't let us out because they knew that Travis  
7 was infiltrating people to Letterman General Hospital, from Vietnam. The protestors  
8 wouldn't let us get us out of Travis. I'm saying, "Oh my god—" I can't talk yet, but I  
9 know what's going on in my mind, I could see. I hear the rest of the soldiers that are with  
10 us, "Give us a machine gun, we'll blow their asses away, what is wrong with these  
11 people? They're fighting us!" They had to wait for the state troopers to come in and  
12 maintain and get order and shifted these people out of the way. They didn't have no  
13 weapons or anything, they were just blocking and protesting "baby killers", "women  
14 killers", "baby killers", spiting at us. Spitting at the buses as we went by. When we got to  
15 Letterman Hospital, it was the same thing. Protestors were waiting for when we got to the  
16 gates. That really made me very, very upset. About our American people taking those  
17 type of actions against our soldiers. John F. Kennedy said it right, that we were going to  
18 send our soldiers in there to help this country, no matter what and at what cost. It's very  
19 sad to see that John Kennedy is laying up there and he hadn't seen all those crosses that  
20 are up there, from veterans, us that came back. President Johnson was the one that put it  
21 on the newscast on television, that he is now sending the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav Division over to  
22 Vietnam. Everybody was waiting for that day at Fort Benning. We were ready, we were  
23 ready. Nobody hightailed it. Nobody left and went AWOL. There were certain  
24 individuals that I know—I don't know if I should say this to you or not. Can you cut that  
25 off for a minute?

26 PN: You had a company commander?

27 JR: When we got to Vietnam, when I left Letterman Hospital, I was out for  
28 recuperation finally. I could talk a little, but I was limited for duty at Fort Benning. I got a  
29 call from Lieutenant Marm one day. He says, "Sergeant Rangel—" I was still in the  
30 military. "Sergeant Rangel, I'm going to Washington D.C. to be presented the Medal of  
31 Honor and I want you to go with me. I hijack General York's plane out of Fort Benning,

1 and I want you to go with me.” I said, “Are you for real?” “Sergeant Rangel, I wouldn’t  
2 leave you behind. You’re part of why I got this award.” He’ll tell you today, that this  
3 award wasn’t for him, it was for his men. That’s how Lieutenant Marm is. I love the guy.  
4 A few months after that, we came back from Washington D.C., I got a call from a  
5 sergeant that was in Vietnam with us. He called me and he said, “Sergeant Rangel, do  
6 you remember so-and-so?” I said, “Yes, Sergeant.” “Well, he wants to meet you and a  
7 few others that was in Vietnam, that was in Alpha Company at the NCO club at  
8 Sandhills, at lunch perhaps 12:30, one o’clock. Can you make it?” I said, “Yes, I’ll be  
9 there.” And I hung up. For two days, I’m thinking, “How am I going to handle this after  
10 what I’d been through already with my men.” I got to go up there and shake hands and  
11 make it seem like nothing happened. But I couldn’t do that. I went to everybody talked—  
12 when one of the sergeants said this to him, he replied like, “Wow. If I knew it was going  
13 to be like that, I wish I would’ve gone with you guys.” And that’s it. I got up and I told  
14 him what I thought about, and my reason for saying what I did when I said that to him.  
15 “A lot of men died on that battlefield that are not here today. You should’ve been with us  
16 all the way because you started out with us in ’63 and you did the wrong thing.” And I  
17 left. I never had any more consultations or phone calls from other people in that group.  
18 Throughout the years, Captain Nadal had called me about nine years ago, I didn’t know  
19 they were having this reunion. Captain Nadal called me, and he says, “Sergeant Rangel,”  
20 We still address each other sergeant or colonel, just like General Moore. General Moore,  
21 “Sergeant Rangel, how are you doing?” I just met him up there, “Fine sir, I love you. I’m  
22 always thinking about you.” As the years go by, I get very emotional Veteran’s Day,  
23 Memorial Days. Veteran’s Day is the only time I come up here, but I didn’t know they  
24 were having a reunion except the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. When captain Nadal called me, he says—I  
25 think he said it, it was the fifth one going on. Then he said, “I didn’t know where you  
26 were at! I got a call from Becky. Becky Gill.” Oh okay, Becky Gill—Jack Gill was my  
27 neighbor, radio operator for Captain Nadal. He was my neighbor. He was my neighbor at  
28 Fort Benning. Let me say a little bit about Jack Gill. When we got on those ships, all E5s  
29 and above were given class captain class. All other soldiers were down on the bottom.  
30 They never did tell us why we had captain class, but we figured it out. We’re going to  
31 war, so they’re shipping us up and they are giving us some good royal treatment because



1 we don't know who's coming back, we're not all coming back. But it was wonderful. The  
2 butler would come through in the morning and (Interviewee makes bell noises). That was  
3 breakfast, dinner, and lunch, whatever and we would eat upstairs, in this dining area. We  
4 had waiters come to us and ask us what we want, and oh I couldn't believe it. I enjoyed it,  
5 why not? Jack Gill was my roommate. We didn't talk much about our families while we  
6 were at Fort Benning. Because we never thought about Vietnam, we knew but we—you  
7 know, whatever. We might go individually but not as a whole group. The day before we  
8 got ready to embark that ship and get on that LSDs (Dock Landing Ships) to get to the  
9 beach, to get those Chinooks taken to An Khe, when we were on the deck, it was just  
10 like—it was just like—how do I want to say it? We knew it, we knew just by looking at  
11 each other through our eyes. We hugged each other and he said, "Take care of my  
12 children for me, look out after them if I don't come back." I told him the same thing. I  
13 said, "I love you Gill." "I love you Sergeant Rangel." He died. He got shot. Years after I  
14 got out. I did what I could to stay in touch with those families. I love them like they're  
15 my kids, and they love me like their uncle. We had a reunion at Fort Benning, 1<sup>st</sup> of the  
16 7<sup>th</sup>. I made a plaque, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav plaque. Out of wood, beautiful. I made it in my shop. I told  
17 my wife, "When we go to the reunion and we go to the cemetery." because that was our  
18 next trip from the reunion, to the cemetery. I laid that wreath, that decal on his gravesite.  
19 His children were with me, the newspaper people were there. The television people were  
20 there. When I planted that plaque on there, I stood up in front of Gill and I saluted him. I  
21 said, "Sergeant Gill. Mission accomplished." Seeing that the kids grew up, got married,  
22 had good jobs. I still look after them today. I still do. His wife moved to Augusta,  
23 Georgia last week and I'm glad because she has ties with my wife, because we used to go  
24 to Charlotte all the time, we were together. We meet up here and she'll be here Friday.  
25 But it makes it better for my wife now. We're old now and we need that come and go. I  
26 say her kids are wonderful children, and I love them dearly, but I think about their dad  
27 and a lot of the other soldiers that was US and draftees, eighteen and nineteen years old.  
28 They missed out on a lot of things. Coming home to girlfriends, new cars, going to  
29 school, getting an education, meeting somebody. I think of John Brennan. John Brennan  
30 and I used to share the same "pup" tent because he was my grenadier. He was the  
31 firepower on my squad, with a small 40 millimeters. That's why he was right next to me,

1 I kept him to me. I tell him, “You stay with me. Because I need your firepower.” “Okay  
2 serge! Okay, serge!” But it was many years later when I came to the wall, after Captain  
3 Nadal had call me. It had been now about maybe eight years. When I saw John Brennan’s  
4 name up there, I didn’t know then that he was dead or killed. I did not know until I saw  
5 his name on the wall. Every time I come back, that’s where I go to. John Brennan. John  
6 Brennan. I try to take all this one day at a time, since I’ve gotten out. I’m under the VA  
7 (Veteran’s Affairs) help now. Just think, it’s been forty years. The VA had been dragging  
8 their tails on soldiers like me that has a problem. They finally got me into this post-  
9 traumatic stress program. I finished it, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully now, the VA  
10 administration will look into my records and what the VA had done for me in Augusta,  
11 Georgia and why they put me in this program. To give me the entitlements that the  
12 government—I honestly believe, that is owed to the American soldiers. I would—I don’t  
13 hesitate to tell you that our government, I think in my opinion, our government is not  
14 doing enough for our veterans. There’s a lot of homeless people out there. I just left a  
15 stand down in Augusta, Georgia. For veterans and my god. I went there to the DAV  
16 (Disabled American Veterans) representative; we had our own little meets for these  
17 people. I cannot believe the conditions of these veterans. They are not retirees, they did  
18 three-four years, five years, whatever and they got out with no place to go. Hunger is  
19 there. Medical aid, no clothing for these folks. You might say, well, they took it upon  
20 themselves to go that way. But a lot of them came back and their families didn’t want  
21 them. They got divorces while they were over there, and they went hysterical. There was  
22 nothing for me, nothing to do. So why should I go further? That’s a bad—but I think the  
23 Veteran’s Administration, who is our only hope, I wish they wouldn’t cut budgets and cut  
24 budgets. Hospitals here, and clinics there. Just let and support these veterans that need  
25 help. I am the chapter president of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Division Association in Augusta, Georgia.  
26 I have a hundred and forty people on my roster that I get from Copper’s Cove. Let me tell  
27 you, I kick butt with these guys. I said, “Do it for the veterans, us. The new generation.  
28 The Iraqi Soldiers now. We need to go see them. We need to give them their stuff.” The  
29 VA doesn’t give clothing articles. It’s not in their budget. My chapter broke that charter,  
30 and we go to the hospitals and we get ditty bags, and we give them to these guys.  
31 Because they deserve that. They’re Iraqi soldiers, they’re doing something that they

1 believe, like we did when we went in. They sent you in there—you were in there because  
2 our president told us to go. That's who we supported. Doesn't matter who the  
3 commander-in-chief is. The military, me like I am, infantry soldier proud of the uniform,  
4 even though I'm a sergeant, not an officer. But I love the uniform, I love what every  
5 soldier is doing today. But what's hurting us is all of these protesters right now. Yes, they  
6 have a lot of soldiers killed over there, but war is hell. Somebody got to pay that price.  
7 Who's going to pay that price? Civilians are not here—say, I'm going to blow you an  
8 airplane, we're going to take all these civilians out here and we're going to fight a war in  
9 Iraq. That's why we have the military. It was back in 1776! George Washington, his  
10 troops! I believe honestly, that's the way it should be in America today because in my  
11 speeches, when I go around, I sort of remind people, "How many people here seen the  
12 movie Red Dawn?" Do you know what I'm talking about?

13 PN: Yes, I do.

14 JR: "Do we need this in Augusta, Georgia? Or do we need this up there in  
15 Decatur? Do we need it up there in Atlanta? Do we need it in Columbus, Georgia?" And  
16 that's what I tell them. "Think about it people. It could be right in your hometown! The  
17 possibility."

18 PN: The point is that the government then owes you if you're going to make that  
19 bargain. To send your young body. To Iraq or Vietnam.

20 JR: Exactly. The people in Vietnam, they say, "Well, that was an old lesson  
21 learned." I can't believe that old lesson learned, I read in papers and people talk this and  
22 say this. But let me tell you something that upsets me now that I'm here with you. I'm not  
23 going to mention any names. But there is a high visible individual here in this country  
24 when the war was going on in Vietnam, that individual's son went to Canada to draft—  
25 draft dodger. When the war was over in Vietnam. I forget, '71?

26 PN: '75.

27 JR: He came back to the United States and the rest of the drafters. They were  
28 given full amnesty.

29 PN: Right, like Carter.

30 JR: Exactly. When Carter speaks on TV today, I turn it off. I turn it off. I feel that  
31 in my opinion him being our commander-in-chief did wrong. He pacified the enemy. The

1 enemy is good for propaganda, and he did it again during that time. That's sad for us. We  
2 have to cope with that, and we have to live with that. But I'm hoping that we'll have some  
3 good days. I'm hoping for good days to come for all of our veterans.

4 PN: Me too. Me too.

5 JR: I know that you people will do good on this. I am very proud of you guys.

6 PN: Listen, all we have to do is listen to you. That's our privilege. I think we need  
7 to stop.

8 JR: Yes, that's the end of that. Thank you very much.

9 PN: Thank you.

10 (End of interview)