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**The Vietnam Archive
Oral History Project
Interview with Rayburn Smith
Conducted by Dr. Richard Verrone
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Transcribed by Mark Steven Varela**

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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.

1 Dr. Richard Verrone: This is Dr. Richard Verrone, I'm conducting a video oral
2 history interview with Colonel Rayburn Gene Smith. Today is Veteran's Day, 2005,
3 November 11th. We are in Washington D.C., at the Crystal City Hilton for the 40th
4 anniversary of the Ia Drang-Pleiku campaign as well as the 1st Cav association reunion.
5 Colonel Smith, thank you for doing this. I want to ask you before we get into some of the
6 details, tell me a little bit about what unit you were with, what your duties were, your
7 assignment was there in Vietnam.

8 Rayburn Smith: I was with the 1st of the 9th Air Cavalry squadron. The
9 reconnaissance squadron for the 1st Cavalry Division. As squadrons, we had an infantry
10 each troop, which was a company. We had an infantry platoon and we could settle prior
11 to the main battle of the Ia Drang infantry platoons that I ambushed and a major North
12 Vietnamese unit coming out of Cambodia. But our job was to provide reconnaissance for
13 the 1st Cavalry Division and the gun platoon also to provide close air support. We were
14 there the first day of the battle of the Ia Drang when the North Vietnamese didn't run like
15 we thought they would. (Chuckles)

16 RV: Right. Tell me about your commander, Colonel Stockton. He was the one
17 over you all. Tell me about him. What kind of man was he?

1 RS: Colonel Stockton was quite a flamboyant individual and he always said we
2 did that same thing for the 1st Cavalry Division that Stuart did for Robert E. Lee in
3 Virginia. But he was quite an interesting character. He would lead you into battle, but
4 when you got back to base camp, he would party with the rest of us. He was quite an
5 individual. Everybody loved it.

6 RV: You flew with—were you by yourself in the chopper? Or did you have a co-
7 pilot?

8 RS: No, each of our troops—again, I was in Charlie troop. Each troop had a
9 ground reconnaissance platoon and then an aerial escape platoon, they flew H13s, the
10 little bubble helicopters. We had to lift the aircraft Hueys to carry to the infantry platoon
11 and I was in the gun platoon and we had the weapons aircraft rockets and machine guns.

12 RV: So tell me, looking at those days in November 1965, before we get into what
13 happened there, when did it dawn on you all about the significance of this battle? That
14 what was happening was different and what was happening was going to be very
15 influential or at least possibly influential with the people in charge of organizing and
16 running that war.

17 RS: It was probably well into the battle, towards the end of the week. You know,
18 we read about it in the paper. I think at the time, nobody understood the full significance
19 of it. Looking back on it, it's always easy to look back and say, "That was very
20 significant." But we didn't really realize it at the time. I think being young also you don't
21 realize, you think things like this are going to happen for the rest of your life and nothing
22 like that thank goodness has happened since.

23 RV: Tell me about yourself personally, how did you prepare yourself to go into a
24 situation like that. I mean, you don't know exactly what you were getting into at first.
25 How did you prepare yourself to get in?

26 RS: Well, I just tried to prepare myself psychologically and being the youngest
27 pilot in my troop—

28 RV: How old were you then?

29 RS: Actually, I was twenty I think, but later that wasn't particularly young but at
30 the time most of the pilots were quite a bit older. Of course, I was twenty but I looked
31 like I was sixteen and acted like I was about twelve. (Chuckles) Since I was young and

1 inexperienced—they put most of the young and inexperienced pilots with older pilots, so
2 I flew with Captain Jim Kidd. He was an instructor, so I flew in the pilot seat, he flew in
3 the co-pilot seat. Unfortunately, Jim passed away from cancer back in 1990. So I look
4 back on the captains, majors, and colonels that I served under and I think of what role
5 models they were and just all gentlemen in a very difficult situation. But to answer your
6 question, at that time I think I was somewhat naïve. So it was later on the next month I
7 lost my wingman in the Ia Drang and in December, just before the Christmas truce, my
8 aircraft was shot up three out of four days in a row—it was shot up three of those four
9 days and twice bullets came through the windshield. So that was a wakeup call. In fact,
10 Jim was pretty cautious, the pilot I flew with. We were the last aircraft in the squadron,
11 there was somewhat vulgar term for it, but we were the last aircraft in the squadron to be
12 hit by enemy ground fire and we weren't hit until the Ia Drang. You know, after that I
13 would allow that night and think, "There's no way I can make it." I'm not going to make
14 this year because if you think of it, how many times your aircraft has been hit, your
15 buddy's aircraft had been hit. How many times bullets come through the windshield and
16 you think, "I'm not going to make it!" And the way I dealt with it, this is of course after
17 the Ia Drang, I didn't really deal with it very well in the Ia Drang, but the way I dealt with
18 it after the Ia Drang and maybe this wasn't a very healthy way to deal with it, but I just
19 accepted the fact that I'm not going to make it. So why worry about it? I'll just go ahead
20 and do my job. That's how I came to terms with it. Whether it was a good way to come to
21 terms with it, I don't know.

22 RV: Well, tell me about your action there in the Ia Drang.

23 RS: On the first day I remember we were out there and we just assumed they
24 landed the 7th Cavalry guys. We assumed the North Vietnamese were going to pull back
25 and they didn't, they kept coming. I remember it was after about thirty minutes the guys
26 on the ground started screaming for ammo. Everybody was basically fairly new to
27 combat. What we didn't realized is when you become frightened in combat, you like to
28 hear noise and nothing makes more noise than an automatic weapon. These kids were
29 down there with their weapons on automatic and it doesn't take long to burn up all the
30 ammo you were carrying. After that I believe they came out with a rule in the division
31 that they had to fire their rifles on semi-automatic to keep from using it. Because they

1 couldn't keep ammo—supply to them. Then, I remember one day coming back from a
2 reconnaissance mission in the Ia Drang, we were at Pleiku just outside the perimeter
3 there. All we used to say, “We fought the battle of the Ia Drang. The Ia Drang campaign
4 said we could get to Pleiku to find a place to take a shower.” Anyway, I remember the
5 only time I had an engine to go out and we got it on the ground before it quit, we were
6 headed back from a reconnaissance mission on the Ia Drang. The aircraft started to yaw
7 but we got it to the ground before the engine quit. I remember how good it felt to see
8 those infantry. We called on the way down and they flew an infantry squad in there. I
9 remember how good it was to see those guys coming. Now, I've forgotten the original.

10 RV: Tell me, on the 14th, on that Sunday you're hearing about the ammunition
11 problem. From there what happened?

12 RS: Of course, we were responsible for resupplying but a lot of times like I was
13 telling my wife, I wish I had known more about what was going on at the time but you
14 know, you're just aware of what's going on where you are and even more aware of the
15 big picture. We provided reconnaissance obviously and on the 16th, we had an aircraft—
16 we were at the tea plantation, which was closer to the Ia Drang than Pleiku. That's where
17 we flew our missions out of. On the 16th of November we got called—we were up by the
18 tea plantation that refueled, we got called back into the Ia Drang because one of our
19 gunships had been shot down. They'd managed to make it to a clearing and the North
20 Vietnamese were trying to get to them. So we were trying to keep the North Vietnamese
21 off of them until they could get the Chinook to come in and lift the Huey out. After they
22 got the Huey out, they had split us, we flew as teams. My wingman—there were two
23 aircraft. Sometimes they split us up and they would put one H13 down low and a Huey
24 up high, gunship to provide cover. Normally, it was one Huey down low and a teammate
25 up high but they would split us up sometimes. This particular day, our wingman had gone
26 off to support for an H13 and while we were down trying to get the other aircraft out. As
27 soon as they got the aircraft out, this H13 Captain Jonny Gallow headed on down to the
28 Ia Drang and we followed him, we were going to go ahead and start a recon mission at
29 that point and support him. We were up high, he was down low. We got him to the Ia
30 Drang river and he said, “Hey, there's an aircraft down. Hey, it's one of ours!” The 9th
31 Cavalry Aircraft reconnaissance squadron had a yellow insignia on the door. 227th and

1 229th had blue insignia. This one had a yellow circle, and that was Charlie troop. A troop
2 had a yellow triangle, B troop a yellow square, and Charlie troop had a yellow circle. At
3 the time, I didn't realize who it was. I didn't realize it was my wingman, I knew it was
4 one of our—there was six or seven aircraft in the platoon, I knew it was one of us, but I
5 didn't realize who it was. And Johnny Gallow—because we knew he had been there for
6 an hour and a half, couple of hours, Johnny Gallow radioed, "I'm going in to check the
7 wreckage." And thought to myself, "There's no way he's coming out of there alive!" So
8 we started making tight turns to try to keep—it was in kind of a clearing and I knew the
9 North Vietnamese were set up in the tree line. We started making real tight turns to try to
10 keep them occupied and off of him. Every time I could see Sergeant Rowley, who was
11 the gunner on the aircraft. He was lying, his body was there beside the aircraft. He was
12 the only one I saw. Every time we'd come around, we were low, I could hear the North
13 Vietnamese blessing away with the automatic weapons.

14 RV: How far away from X-Ray was this? Is this north?

15 RS: No—yes, probably northwest of X-Ray. I sometimes get X-Ray and Albany
16 mixed up, but I guess it was a couple of miles, it's been forty years.

17 RV: Sure, yes.

18 RS: We were making Chu Pong Mountain—we were probably, after the rest of
19 the aircraft arrived and we were making gun drawn, we were probably getting a little bit
20 inside Cambodia. It was on the Ia Drang river. I can always remember thinking, when
21 Johnny Gallow went in there, it has haunted me for the past forty years, I wonder if I
22 could've done that. When he went in, I said, "There's no way he's coming out of there
23 alive, they had two hours to set up and get ready for." I can remember—I don't wear my
24 religion on my sleeve, but I can remember the prayer I prayed that day. I can remember
25 saying—

26 RV: For Johnny?

27 RS: No, for me. (Laughs) I thought Johnny was gone. No, I could remember
28 praying, "Please god, just let me live one more day." You know, "If you get me through
29 today, I'll figure out how to get through the rest of this year." Anyway, Johnny came out
30 of there. He got back to the aircraft and I guess we were able to pin them down enough—
31 they were concerned, it's difficult for one aircraft to pin somebody down like that

1 because you have to turn. I guess they were so concerned that they knew we were coming
2 back that it kind of just diverted their attention from Johnny Gallow. I met him a couple
3 years ago, a reunion. The first time I'd seen him in all those years and he said, "You
4 know, I never thought about until I got out of there. I never thought about the danger I
5 was in." I think that's typical of so many people that do very courageous things. They're
6 concentrating on helping the other person and they don't realize the danger they are
7 putting themselves in. But by then, as soon as we spotted the wreckage, we called back to
8 the tea plantation and they launched the rest of the gunships. When they came in, we
9 marked a spot with smoke and then people entered there. Rockets and machine guns into
10 the area and what had happened, evidentially these guys had been captured after they got
11 on the ground. Sergeant Rowley may have been killed getting off the aircraft. But the rest
12 of Johnny, at least one of their bodies—the rest of them had been taken out to the edge of
13 the woods and executed. I've always heard of target fixation and we're taught about
14 target fixation in flight school. Pictures of World War I, World War II, pilot gets an
15 aircraft on his tail. He dives straight down to the ground and pulls out at the last second.
16 Because when you're trying to kill somebody, there's so much fear that's all you're
17 concentrating on. Jim Kidd and I, when we flew, both went horrible when we were flying
18 the other one kept his hand right in front of the side click, in case the other one was hit. I
19 realized on one of these runs that Jim was not going to pull out. We were right at the tree.
20 I pulled back on the stick on the last second and he said, "Way to go, Smithy" and
21 everybody called me Smithy. But if I haven't pull back at the last second, we would've
22 gone.

23 RV: Why, did he not?

24 RS: He was just concentrating so much on killing those guys that were shooting at
25 us and going to shoot at Johnny Gallow, you know. That's all that you think about and
26 you lose—a lot of aircraft and dogfights in World War II, they ran into each other.

27 RV: So this is on Wednesday, the 16th?

28 RS: Yes.

29 RV: Okay. Did you get the chopper out of there? Were you able to lift it out?

30 RS: No, it was January before anyone—the infantry went back in there. That
31 night or the next day the Air Force dropped a five hundred pound bomb on it to keep

1 them from salvaging anything else off of it, but by then I'm sure they'd taken the machine
2 guns and anything they wanted. But in January they went back in. I think it was January
3 an infantry unit went back in and recovered the remains, what was left of them.

4 RV: Right. What about the rest of that week? What happened with you?

5 RS: Well, of course that night, I remember going back to Pleiku and going to the
6 club and we were talking about everybody. One guy suggested we fly around the Ia
7 Drang with a loudspeaker. We couldn't accept the fact that those guys were dead. Having
8 some drinks at the club and then hitting back out to my area. It gets cold in the mountains
9 of Vietnam at night around Pleiku. Outside of the fence, I was afraid to walk back to
10 where my tent was to try to find them, where they'd been shoot. You didn't move around
11 much at night. So I can remember with no cover or anything sleeping in the back of that
12 aircraft that had been shot down. They had slung over back into the area and crawled up
13 to the back on the metal floor, trying to sleep that night and freezing to death. I lose track
14 of the sequence of when these different things occurred. The thing I also remember about
15 the Ia Drang—for a week it was never night down there. The flares just hung over the Ia
16 Drang all week. One night, we were flying—we would go up and fly a radio relay.
17 Infantry or somebody on the ground was trying to contact Pleiku. They would call and
18 then we would be in the air and we would relay the message to Pleiku. I remember that
19 one night flying a radio relay over the tea plantation and a Chinook going in, but nobody
20 was killed. I don't think anybody was killed or hurt. I don't remember if it was shot down
21 or if it was a mechanical problem. I remember one day, later in the week after the B-52
22 strikes and that's an awesome thing.

23 RV: Did you see this happen? Or you saw them other times?

24 RS: Well, from a distance—hearing them and seeing them from a distance. It's a
25 pretty awesome thing.

26 RV: Did you see them on 16th and 17th, when they dropped on the mountain? On
27 Chu Pong?

28 RS: I can't remember if this was right on Chu Pong or further down in the valley.
29 But we had to go in and recon after the strike. I couldn't imagine anything living through
30 that. It looked like the surface of the moon, just multiple craters. We were the third
31 aircraft, which isn't a real good idea. There were normally two aircrafts. We were

1 following, I believe the troop commander was up front. I don't remember who was
2 number two, we were number three. They were in a bank to the right. What we were
3 doing, we were re-conning and sending back a report on the B-52 strike. The lead aircraft
4 that started screaming that they were receiving fire from these guys on a crater and I
5 could not believe somebody had lived through that. Anyway, they were ready for us.
6 When all of those machine guns are firing, and everybody is screaming on the radio, you
7 can't hear anything. The gunner behind me was firing and you know the rounds come up
8 and hit you in the back of the head, at the end of the mission, you just rake the spent
9 cartridges out of the aircraft. One stuck between my helmet and my flight jacket and just
10 sizzled.

11 RV: It was hot, yeah?

12 RS: I was screaming for Jim Kidd to take the control and he couldn't hear me
13 because all these machine guns were firing. Everybody's screaming on the radio. The
14 round just sat there until cooled off.

15 RV: So, were you involved with the support around Albany and the march out to
16 Albany in that LZ (Landing Zone) that they created there?

17 RS: We were flying missions and I wasn't aware of the march exactly. I wasn't
18 that aware of what was going on. Maybe I was—a lot of times you're flying and you're
19 just looking for the North Vietnamese to radio to the infantry where they are. I remember
20 one day, we were low level and this was a more jungle area of the Ia Drang, down around
21 Albany the vegetation is not that thick. It's a strange looking. Anyway, I flew over and I
22 got a lesson from Jim Kidd. I flew over and I guess there was a North Vietnamese squad
23 or platoon down on the trail and they were with their weapons and everything and the
24 gunner saw them. But when I turned, we couldn't find them again after that. Because I
25 made the mistake instead of allowing turning right and then circling back, to try to go
26 back to the exact same spot. I'd just made a turn which put me off a little bit. Another
27 thing is—I don't know if it was the Ia Drang that we learned this or not, all the gunners
28 carried some smoke grenades. If you saw something, you'd drop the smoke grenade
29 immediately and then you could locate the target. Well, what happened the gunners
30 would become excited and they would start firing and not drop the smoke grenade. What
31 we had to do is we started making the gunners pull the pin in the smoke grenade and hold

1 it in their trigger hand. So they had to throw the smoke grenade in order to fire their
2 weapon, that was the only thing that worked. I can remember late one afternoon, one of
3 the—I don't know which company it was, they were being attacked and they were about
4 to be overrun and I will never forget the company commander screaming on the radio
5 begging for close fire. I can remember Dick Marshall, my platoon leader rolling, into the
6 target and firing rockets and machine guns and I could just see the traces coming up,
7 enveloping his aircraft. We started to roll in and something happened with the electrical
8 system, the weapon systems wouldn't work. So we had to break off the attack and you
9 know you feel terrible and then you feel a little guilty because there is a certain amount of
10 relief that you don't have to go into that. I can remember the first dead North Vietnamese
11 soldier I saw, I guess it was in LZ X-Ray. They called us at the end of the mission one
12 morning, on first flight recon mission to come on in and help carry out the dead and
13 wounded. As gunships, we didn't have much space and we didn't take care of people.
14 You know we are loaded with ammo and fuel, but towards the end of the mission, we'd
15 burned off so much fuel, you could get about two individuals in the back. I can remember
16 landing there and looking out through the woods. The Ia Drang was an eerie place, the
17 vegetation and you can see for a long ways. It wasn't a real thick jungle where we were.
18 To see all of those guys wounded and dead laying there. We took the last two wounded
19 guys and realized in combat when you get hit, you don't always get hit in nice places.
20 You get hit in the groin and all kinds of places. These guys were filthy, they hadn't had a
21 bath in gosh knows how long. We carried—my aircraft picked up the last two wounded
22 guys and the aircraft behind us began picking up the dead that came behind us. One
23 teammate began to pick up the dead guys.

24 RV: What is it like to take out the wounded? How do you deal with that? What do
25 you do with that?

26 RS: To take out the wounded, it's a good thing because you're helping them out.
27 The thing that's really difficult to do, and I remember getting back to Pleiku right after
28 that. For some reason after our aircraft had been shot up, one of the rounds—we took two
29 hits when the aircraft was shot down and we were trying to get those guys back up. We
30 landed at the tea plantation. By that time, that started to get mortared. So we cranked up
31 and head to Pleiku. Once we get to Pleiku, the crew chief looked in the book and said,

1 “Hey, we are not supposed to be flying this.” Because most of the strength of the rotor
2 blade is in the leading edge and this round had penetrated that leading edge about the
3 third of the way down. So the next day, I couldn’t fly because our aircraft, they had to
4 change the rotor on it.

5 RV: Did you stay in the same aircraft? The whole time?

6 RS: Yes, 621. Not the whole tour, but until at least January of ’66 it was the same
7 aircraft, 621. But you asked me, I was getting around—so the next day I wasn’t flying in.
8 So I was walking over to get inside the compound at Pleiku to take a shower. As I was
9 going over there, these soldiers are coming in piled with bodies. These kids are eighteen,
10 nineteen years old. Most of them not from upper-class families. They don’t own the shirts
11 on their back and they’re dead. I’m looking at them and it was really depressing to think
12 about—to look at them and think about what they had lost, but to think that might be
13 what’s waiting for me. But you know, I can remember they would put them on these
14 Army, they called them mules. They would load the bodies on those and take them over
15 to the tent where they processed them. You know, you think about when you’re growing
16 up that when you die in combat—these guys, you know, their arms were sticking up in
17 the air and it was really grotesque. Just sad.

18 RV: When you see things like this and you realize—you’re a young man at that
19 point and you’re doing very, very dangerous missions in this attack helicopter and you’re
20 closer to your support. Does it make you want to fly closer, fly harder to protect the
21 future troops that are coming in and doing recon for? Or does it back you away? Or does
22 it numb you?

23 RS: That’s interesting. I’m not sure.

24 RV: What do you remember it doing to you?

25 RS: As far as close air support, it didn’t bother me if I couldn’t see the person I
26 was shooting at. Most of the times, you can’t see. It didn’t bother me if he was shooting
27 at me. What bothers you—if you catch somebody in the rice patty or something,
28 occasionally you catch them in the open and they’re running and you almost root for
29 them because you know, that scared you off and you know what he’s going through. In a
30 crazy kind of way you bond with your enemy because nobody knows how you feel back
31 home like your enemy knows. I thought about—I know what he is throwing at me and I

1 cannot imagine what he's going through because we are throwing a lot more stuff at him
2 than he's throwing at us.

3 RV: What did you hear about General Moore? Hal Moore?

4 RS: I didn't really know him because the guys that flew the H-13s that I talked
5 about, my buddies in the troop supported him directly. Everything I heard was positive. I
6 mean, guys just really liked him. They were always telling Hal Moore stories. One guy, I
7 think it was John Shant, landed there one day and shut his H-13 down and was over
8 talking to—I don't know, this may not have been the Ia Drang, but was talking to some
9 of the guys. Here's this H-13 cranked up and I guess Hal Moore's flying his aircraft
10 around. I assumed Hal Moore was checked out in the H-13, but that's the story John told.
11 He just took it for a ride. (Chuckles)

12 RV: What's it like here forty years after the fact? You know, being around all the
13 troopers, being around your fellow pilots. What's it like?

14 RS: I don't know, it's a strange feeling. I came to the 30th anniversary of the battle
15 of the Ia Drang with the 7th Cav when Colonel Stockton was the guest speaker. What
16 really hit me there was for the first time I started to see the children of people who were
17 there and they just wanted to know something about their fathers.

18 RV: These are of the ones who didn't make it out?

19 RS: Who didn't make it. That was—I would've wanted to do that too if my father
20 had, you know. Since then, I'm also a member of the bull whip squadron which is the 1st
21 of the 9th. At our last reunion we had the daughter of our troop commander, who was
22 killed after the M-66 before we went home. She walked in and no one had seen her, that's
23 the first contact. It's just really an emotional thing, but also it's different going to the 1st
24 of the 9th reunions as opposed to this because few of these guys I knew, but all of the
25 guys in the 1st of the 9th I knew. We flew together every day, supporting these guys. But
26 to go to a reunion with Colonel Stockton and—I was the most Junior Officer in the troop
27 and to be around these guys, captains I looked up to and majors, to be equal. It's just an
28 interesting feeling. It's also nice to be able to be with those guys and their wives, and not
29 have any pressure. No fear, no pressure.

30 RV: That's interesting. Why do you say pressure? What kind of pressure would
31 you feel?

1 RS: Well, when you're in a military unit, there's always pressure from above to
2 do what's right. Pressure from being killed, fear of being killed. Having a lot of
3 responsibility, but then when you come to one of these, you just let your hair down.
4 Besides being on somewhat equal terms with everybody, it's nice just to be able to enjoy
5 being with a person.

6 RV: Tell me about your reaction to the book? This comes out in the early 1990s
7 and it goes into great detail about that operation there, those three days at X-Ray. Then,
8 the next few days going into Albany. 1st of the 7th gets a lot notoriety and still do, now
9 with the movie. What was your reaction to this story being told in such detail, with such
10 high profile people?

11 RV: Well, I guess I was just flattered and in awe that I could have been a part of
12 something like that. The first time I knew about the book, I was stationed at Fort Meade.
13 This friend of mine said his wife was in the OWC (Officers' Wives' Club), "Why don't
14 you come to the club tonight? Somebody is over—" and somebody probably gave the
15 name, "Talking about a book." So I went and it was Joe Galloway. I don't know if I knew
16 who Joe was or not. I'm sure I did because I read about something in *Newsweek*. Anyway,
17 he starts talking about the battle. At the end of it, people had books for him to sign. I
18 didn't have a book and I told Joe about John B. Stockton. That I'd flown for John B.
19 Stockton and he gave me his book and he autographed it. I told him—last year we had the
20 1st of the 9th reunion and Joe was there autographing books. I reminded him that he had
21 given me my book and he says, "Well, you better hang onto that book. That book is now
22 worth about three hundred some dollars." I got off track, I can't remember—

23 RV: Just about the reunion being here, being around these men again. I wanted to
24 ask you, how would you like the future to remember your job there at Vietnam? What
25 you did, but also specifically X-Ray and Albany, and that action. What would you like to
26 say to people listening to this years from now?

27 RS: I think the thing I would like them to remember most—two things, number
28 one, the guys who didn't make it back. You know, like my wingman and all the guys in
29 the 7th. The things that they missed out on that we have able to enjoy all these years. I feel
30 a tremendous amount of guilt about that.

31 RV: Really?

1 RS: Yeah. The other thing I would like for them to remember is that even though
2 the war may not have been fought in a very wise matter or maybe in hindsight we
3 shouldn't have gone in there, but our goal was nevertheless noble. I think the war against
4 international communism was a very noble goal and effort and I think it's not always
5 portrayed this way in the media, but the communists weren't nice guys and both people
6 didn't happen until the communist took over. I've felt tremendous—I like the Vietnamese
7 people. I felt sorry for them and because they had a very difficult life, a very difficult
8 time. That's what I'd like most to be remembered. The people, the guys who didn't come
9 back and the fact that it was a noble effort.

10 RV: Alright. Colonel thank you so much for doing this interview.

11 RS: Yes sir, pleasure.

12 RV: It's an honor to do it. Thank you sir and Happy Veteran's Day.

13 (End of interview)