

Transcription: Paul Montelongo

Today is Wednesday, November 30th, 2011. My name is James Crabtree, and this morning I will be interviewing Mr. Paul Montelongo. This interview is being conducted by telephone. I'm at the General Land Office Building in Austin, Texas, and Mr. Montelongo is at his home in San Angelo, Texas. This interview is being conducted in support of the Texas Veterans Land Board Voices of Veterans Oral History Program. Sir, thank you very much for taking the time today to talk to us. It's always an honor to be able to do these interviews. The first question we always like to start with is just tell us a little bit about your childhood and your life before you went in the military.

Paul Montelongo: I was raised here in San Angelo, and I went to private schools. I just went to 6th Grade and I was like you say raised with nine other children. We were ten in the family.

A big family.

Paul Montelongo: It's a big family, and I was always, my parents were Christian people, and so I tried to follow their example. So I became a Christian and I was raised in a Temple _____ Assembly of God Church here in Angelo, and so later on I was called to go to the Army, and so I never did expect something like that.

Now you had nine brothers and sisters. Where were you? Were you the youngest?

Paul Montelongo: I am 82 years old and my oldest brother is 86, which is Tony. My oldest brother is Philip. No, he's the one that's 86.

So the oldest is 86?

Paul Montelongo: Yes, he was in the Army, in the second World War in China.

Did you grow up on a farm or did you live in town?

Paul Montelongo: I was raised here in town.

In San Angelo.

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, in Sam Houston school.

So during World War II, how old were you? Were you in school, or I guess you were too young to go in the military.

Paul Montelongo: My oldest brother is 86 and I'm gonna be 81, and then I have another brother which is Tony, and he was in the Marines in 1947 and 1950, and he is next to my oldest brother, but then I have a sister in between.

When your oldest brother went off to the war in World War II, did you keep track of where he was? Was your family able to get letters from him and that sort of thing?

Paul Montelongo: Well, I know that he was in the 1st Cavalry in the Burma area in China, and so I don't remember you know, like how many times he wrote home. Although he was in the Cavalry. He was trained in Kansas, O'Reilly, Kansas.

When he got back home from the war, did he tell you about his service?

Paul Montelongo: Well, he's been telling us about his service in Burma, how he had to climb those hills, when they had to cross all those mountains to Burma to attack the Japanese there, and how they had to climb those hills and carry all their equipment on their back on mules, and how some of those mules would fall downhill.

How was it that you ended up going into the Army? Were you drafted?

Paul Montelongo: I was drafted.

Did you think you would be drafted or was it a surprise to you?

Paul Montelongo: Well, it surprised me. When you are young, most of the time you are staying around going from, having, just drink to have a good time and drink to enjoy your life, and so all of a sudden you are called, and you don't think too much about war, you know.

Were you working at the time?

Paul Montelongo: Yes, I was working for Emil Ettus wood shop and so when I went into the service I was working there.

When you got your draft notice, how long was it before you had to actually report to basic training?

Paul Montelongo: I don't remember that, but I have the record here when I went to the Army. I went into the Army on May the 23rd, 1951. That was in Abilene, Texas.

What was your first impression of the Army?

Paul Montelongo: Well, I didn't think about it until I got into basic training, and then it was pretty rough. So you never been through that before, and then you say well thank you God that my father, we were young kids, we were exposed to cold weather like going to pick cotton, you know, in winter time, and work chopping wood. So it was real rough work and then when you get into the Army into basic training, you go into that kind of training and so really you appreciate kind of like your life before and you look and you can make it because you've already been through a rough life like that.

When you were drafted and the war was going on in Korea, were you familiar that there was a war going on? Did you follow the war at that time?

Paul Montelongo: Only that I realized that there was a war in Korea and something that I think you know, the second war, World War, and fighting with Germany and fighting with Japanese. I used to like to think a lot about planes and I used to be collecting different kind of planes like P-31s and 38s and B-51s and the Mustangs and stuff like that, and I don't know where in the world

I got all that information. I was just a kid, you know. Then during the Korean War I didn't realize that I would ever be in a war like that.

When you were drafted though, did you know that the war was going on?

Paul Montelongo: No. I didn't think about it, you know.

How old were you when you were drafted?

Paul Montelongo: Oh, I think was 20. I was called in in '51 and I was born in 1931.

So you were 20. You go through all your training and at some point you get assigned to a regular unit and you get shipped to Korea, is that right?

Paul Montelongo: Right.

Who did you go to Korea with? What unit were you part of?

Paul Montelongo: I didn't have a unit, I was just in the Army and that's it. I was in training in Fort Sill, I mean Camp Roberts, California, and then from there they sent me to San Francisco, and then from San Francisco they sent me to Japan, and then from Japan over there, they pick the ones that were going to go to Korea and the ones that were going to go to Germany. I was hoping when they were picking the ones that I would go to Germany with ____, but no, and they take all the ones that were going to Germany and then they said now we're going to pick all the ones that are going to Korea. And I said uh-oh, and I was one of them.

When did you arrive in Korea? Do you remember the time of year?

Paul Montelongo: I don't remember, recall what time it was when we arrived in Korea.

What type of unit were you assigned to? I think you told me earlier you were with an infantry unit, is that right?

Paul Montelongo: I was with the 2nd Army Division, 30 Air Regiment, and so I was in heavy mortar company.

Did you fire the mortars yourself?

Paul Montelongo: No, about three weeks after I got there, I ended up being a CO driver.

A driver for the commanding officer.

Paul Montelongo: For the commanding officer.

Why do you think it was they picked you to be his driver?

Paul Montelongo: Well, it's a complicated thing because for drivers, and so they wanted to truck drivers, so I said I wanted to be a truck driver, even though I was already in the platoon, for the two heavy mortars company. So anyway they went and got a license to drive a truck, and then they took me up to the front lines with the infantry troops and see if I wanted to be an FO.

A forward observer?

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, so they brought me back and I didn't know they were going to give me a choice to pick something else. They said well, they went from truck drivers back in the motor pool, so I said I want to see if I can get one, OK, one truck. They took me back to headquarters where they had the motor pool and the time I got there, everybody else got a truck and I didn't get anything, so they let me stay there in a tent by myself, you know, at night, and I stayed the next day came the mailman and he said, Montelongo, want to go in jeep and I want you to take me back to headquarters to get the mail. OK. And I went to the motor pool and there was a jeep left there. It was the most muddy jeep I've ever seen. You could hardly see the windshield because it was muddy. So anyway I cleaned it the way I could, and I came to the front of headquarters and the mailman came, got in the jeep and we went back to headquarters to pick up the mail, and while I was waiting there for him to come out, here come the SQ, and he said what are you doing with that dirty jeep? Don't you know there is water where you can wash it up? That was the first time I had driven a jeep. There was a creek over there. He said go take it over there and wash it right now. So I went and washed the jeep and I came back to pick up the mailman and went back to my headquarters and so then we went to the front lines to deliver that mail to the troops in the front lines, and I did that for two days, and then next morning, here come the master sergeant, and he said Montelongo, what are you doing there? Don't you know the captain is looking for you? No, I don't know anything. He said well, go to the motor pool and pick up a jeep over there and come and park in front of the headquarters. Yes sir. I went to the motor pool and I saw a jeep right there. Man, it was a shiny jeep with a radio in the back, a big antenna and a top on it, and man, it was nice. And so I came through the gate and register and told them I was the driver for the CO, came in front, parked in front of the headquarters, and there came out the commander with Captain Grenaskas, no, Captain Harley was his name, and he got in the jeep. He said well now you are my driver. It's going to be nothing but like he said you're gonna be driving my jeep so you're gonna be my driver. OK. So from there on we go back to headquarters and he gave a briefing with the other commanders and then from there, we would go to the front lines where we had four platoons of four point mortars, and we had them scattered all over the front lines and we would go and inspect those platoons every morning.

So as the CO's driver, you got to get around a lot and see a lot more than the average soldier would have otherwise.

Paul Montelongo: The only thing about it, we went right to the front lines to the infantry, to see the infantry commanders, and he would go, instead of talking to them through a radio, he would go to them at the front lines and my biggest danger was running into artillery. That's why a Chinese shell ran in front of us. Every time they had a chance, they would fire at us with artillery, and they would see us coming. That's what my biggest danger was. We were always exposed to artillery, and that's why my ears, I have a hard time hearing.

Because of the artillery?

Paul Montelongo: When I go to church, I don't understand what the preacher is preaching because I can't understand what he is saying. I hear noise but you have to talk real close to me like you are doing right now so I can understand what you are saying.

When you would drive the CO around, was it just the two of you in the jeep, or were there others that rode with you?

Paul Montelongo: No, it was just him and me.

I know sir you told me at one point you were in your vehicle and your CO were struck by an artillery shell?

Paul Montelongo: Yes, we changed commanders. Captain Harley was my first commander, and then Captain Veranoskas and there was Captain Daniel, and there was Captain Veranoskas, that was, and then the replacement of Captain Veranoskas was Captain Doss. The reason I remember that name is because there was another FO from the artillery that wrote me a letter say about 40 years later, because they saw my name on a list of 2nd Army. They got a list of all the ones that served over there, and he wrote me and said are you Paul Montelongo that was in the 2nd Army Division? Yes. Well I do want to tell you that I saw you several times over there. You know that was something very unusual for somebody to wrote me. O'Neill, and he lived somewhere way up there in New Jersey. And he was giving me the information about this captain, the one that got killed. He was married and he had a son and a daughter, and so anyway, when this happened, we were going to, Captain Veranoskas was going to be replaced, and so this captain came in and the next day I took him to the front lines.

This was Captain Doss?

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, I took him to the front lines.

Was it Dodd or Doss?

Paul Montelongo: I think it's D-O-S-S. He wasn't there very long. See, he was there next day and we were going back to the front lines and he was telling me about his service and then he was telling me that that was the second time he was going to Korea. And when we were going along, I asked him if you were so lucky that you went back the first time, why do you want to come back again? He said oh, because right now I'm a captain and then if I went there one more time, I'm going to get a promotion to major. I said oh, OK. So we made it all right back that day. But then the next day, Captain Veranoskas went with us, he and I, Doss and Captain Veranoskas, they went with me to the front lines. I took them over there, but that night before we had, they had a talk. The Chinese took O Valley for a month. They overran a company, I think it was Company C. They overran Company C in O Valley, so they took over O Valley, and I was reading a while ago on the Internet, you know, about O Valley, the battles they had over there, and so when we got there, we looked at that platoon been firing all night long. There were ammunition bunkers all over the place, you know, where they had been firing all night supporting the troops in O Valley, so my two captains, they got out of the jeep and went to inspecting platoons. While they were gone, there was this truck driver in a truck backing up into the platoon yard, and I had a little box camera, and I told him, say, do you mind taking the picture here in front of my jeep and looking towards the platoons? And he said yeah, I will. That to me brings bad memories, because he got down and came over and took my picture, so when I, after he took my picture, I went to follow the two captains and lieutenant, and so I see where they were going, so then I came back, we came back and were coming back to the jeep and we were gonna leave. So just as we were going to leave, here comes an artillery shell and set right in front of us. So it knocked me down and knocked my helmet down, and when it knocked me down, I felt something real hot on my left side, on my jacket pocket, and said uh-oh. I said oh God, if it's your will, let it be your will. I remember they say that when you get heat, you don't feel any pain. You feel something warm, you know. So I said well, I knew I was hit

there, and when I raised my head to look toward, see when the shell fell, I was standing next to my CO, Captain Doss, and Captain Veranoskas was there, and then Lieutenant Nelson was standing next to me, so next to the jeep, we were going to get on the jeep to start back. And so when I raised my head to look and see if I could see them, and then I saw my CO, which Captain Doss, he was gonna be the replacement for Captain Veranoskas, I saw him, he was lying back and he just was looking up. I said uh-oh. I didn't see Captain Veranoskas and – they had run up the hill to the bunkers, but he didn't move. And then I tried to get up and I couldn't get up. So they come and picked me up and took me to a bunker, and then while I was laying down I looked toward the driver that was backing up the truck full of ammunition, I think the truck was full of ammunition, full of 4.2 mortars ammunition, and he was, you know when you open up the door when you are backing up a truck? You open the door to look back? He had the door open and he was head down, and I knew he was hit, too.

Were there multiple shells exploding, impacting around you, or was it just that one round?

Paul Montelongo: No, after that, it kept coming down. All around. After that I went and looked at the truck and that ammunition, boxes you know, had holes all over. On the front end it was full of holes where shrapnel hit it, and the windshield had holes. So really it kept coming, coming, I don't know how long it lasted.

So some of the soldiers came out and grabbed you and got you into the bunker.

Paul Montelongo: Yes, they come and took me to the bunker and then while I was there, Captain Veranoskas was there, and then they put me down and untied my ___ and look inside, and he said there in there, but there was a big blister to my ribs on the left side. It was a big blister where those shells, those shrapnel when they fall, when they explode, they red and you can see flames coming out of it, you know. And then they didn't find there, but then they opened my jacket on the pocket, on the pocket there was the New Testament and a piece of shrapnel was inside my pocket, but the shrapnel came through the New Testament, all the way through, but it kept spinning because that piece of shrapnel has paper wrapped all around it where it tried to penetrate the inside.

So the thickness of that bible you were carrying in your jacket helped prevent that fragmentation from getting inside you.

Paul Montelongo: Well it really is not strong to hold it back. It could've gone through but something inside hold it up to not go through.

If it hadn't been for that bible there, absorbing a lot of that impact, it probably would have gone into you, correct?

Paul Montelongo: Well not really. I think that it was the power of God like the bible said, the angels of the Lord around you, something on the inside stopped it from not penetrating on the inside because if a shell is hot and it's like red, it's going to burn up paper. But it didn't burn the paper. Like it burned my skin, but it didn't burn the paper. So that's something questionable.

Was that the only place that you were hit?

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, that was the only place that I was hit. I think Captain Veranoskas was ordered to the news and to the Army and they gave me the Purple Heart.

Do you still have that bible?

Paul Montelongo: I have the bible and I have some pictures. I'm gonna send you this picture that I put together, and it has the picture of the New Testament and the shrapnel, and then the article that came out on the Pacific Stars and Stripes.

Oh that's great.

Paul Montelongo: Then on one piece of paper I put both articles.

That's great.

Paul Montelongo: And then on this picture that I'm gonna send you my picture is in between the article and the New Testament and you're gonna see where it shows where I had my New Testament.

That's a great story. How was it that the press came to find out about it? You said Captain Veranoskas?

Paul Montelongo: I think Captain Veranoskas put it on the news and the Stars and Stripes, and then it came out here in Angelo, too, on the Standard Times.

Did you parents see the story?

Paul Montelongo: I don't know who did. It came out after September 18th. This happened September 18, 1952, and it's around the San Angelo Standard Times, and this bible can save, if you doubt its power. And then they write something how it happened. And then I heard, you know like Paul Harvey used to give news, you know? I heard that he had it on Paul Harvey, too, on the news -

Oh really, you never heard that segment, but somebody told you that he talked about your story.

Paul Montelongo: I heard that somebody, I don't know who told me that Paul Harvey had said it. I used to listen to the news all the time.

Well if he did that, I'll see if I can't try to help track that down. It seems like that might be out there in archives somewhere if he mentioned you in one of his shows. Did you ever try to find it?

Paul Montelongo: I imagine you can. Like this article on the Standard Times, I lost the first report. Well they told me it came out on the Standard Times, so I went over here to the University, ASU college, and they have all the old reports of the Standard Times and on this article about the Pacific Stars and Stripes, it came out, I saw it in Korea, and then I sent it to my mother. I sent that newspaper to my mother and when I came back I asked her where that paper was, and she didn't have it. And so something happens, sometimes something happens that you don't think you are going to get to get that information again, but can you believe about 45 years after that, I was coming from Corpus and I had a phone call and a message on my phone, and then I went to see what the message was, and he said if I was the one that was in Korea and saved by a New Testament and says yeah. And then he said well, if you are, I have a magazine,

he said, where I saw your article in Stars and Stripes and I was in Korea, and I have that magazine if you want it, you can come and pick it up.

Sure, well we'll see if we can't find a way of making a copy of that, too, because I don't want you to have to send your only copy.

Paul Montelongo: No, I have more copies. I made more copies. Well you can look for it, too, if you want.

Oh yeah, we'd love to have any pictures or anything you would want us to put on the web site and when we send you your CDs with this interview in a couple of weeks, I'll be sure to put my card in there, too, so you have my mailing address and all of that information for how to get in touch with us.

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, this newspaper, this man's name was Dallas, I don't even remember where he came from, and he said you have to be pretty careful because it's pretty old he said, and this paper has a lot of articles. But it was a surprise to me, I was so happy, you know, that I got that information so I could make a copy and then I had put it, I'm trying to figure out, I don't know too much about computers, but I'm trying to get somebody to help me put the article in the Internet to let people know if you, a lot of times people say why should I go to church? And sometimes you don't know, like I was looking at what the bible says and 34:7 is says for the Lord, Angelo is the Lord of God that rescues all of whoever answer Him, so that's the promise of God through Him. You don't think some day you're gonna need all of that.

That's right. So you were already a believer when you went over there, but this just reinforced your belief when that happened to you.

Paul Montelongo: It helped because when I made my decision to start going to church, that kind of helped me out and kind of put me in a condition that I carried the New Testament wherever I went and every time I had a chance to read it, I would read it. And I had a lot of other experience that I knew I could've died. I saw a lot of miracles that I think how in the world did I escape that? How in the world could it be that one time there was an artillery shell fell in front of my jeep, and it spread shrapnel all over the jeep it blinded me. I mean the lightning was so strong that it blinded me, but then there was the mess sergeant was with me and it was already dark, and then so he told me, Montelongo, back up, back up! So I backed up. I couldn't see. And then he said turn right! And then I turned right, I was doing what he told me. I didn't know there was a gate there. So I went inside and I heard somebody, but I couldn't understand what they were saying, and they come and pulled him out of the jeep and they grabbed him by the arm and then the other one came and grabbed me out of the jeep, and I couldn't understand what they were saying. So they grabbed me with my arm and pulled me down and then they took me to the foxhole and threw me right in there. So there was incoming artillery and they were coming all around us, and it was kind of a funny deal that you do a lot of dumb things even when you are in an occasion like that. I was in a foxhole and my mess sergeant was next to me somewhere about two or three feet from me. Every time a shell fell, we could hear it coming. It was close, you know, and it threw shrapnel all around us. You know what stupid thing I did? I picked up a rock and when the other shrapnel came in exploding, and then I threw that rock at my sergeant, hit him on the back, and he got up, Montelongo, Montelongo, I got hit, I got hit, come and look at me. I went over there and where, where did it hit you? I knew where it hit him. It's right here, right here. He said oh, there's nothing in there. OK. I came back to my foxhole, you know. But I never did tell him that I threw the rock and hit him on the back.

Interesting, that was a good little story.

Paul Montelongo: You know, things you do, you're in the middle of where you are dying, but still seemed like God gave you some kind of strength, you know, not to be that afraid. It's something that's unbelievable to believe and to say thanks that you pulled through so many things in a place like that.

Sure, you go through situations and circumstances that a normal person will never encounter, so it definitely is a different experience, I know.

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, it's something that you know you have to do and you have to face whether you like it or not. You are like fighting for your life is what you are doing.

Sure.

Paul Montelongo: And there was another time when we used to hear planes, on the Stars and Stripes, how bombers would go out and bomb at night and then the next day you would hear a report that we destroyed so many trucks, so many things, you know, where those bombers would drop bombs. Do you know, one night I was standing on the fence on the motor pool about 1 o'clock in the morning, I heard a big lightning, it light my tent like it was daylight, and a sound, I mean real loud, twice. And you know what? Those bombers had dropped two bombs on our motor pool but they missed.

Yeah, friendly fire.

Paul Montelongo: They miss it. They just passed it, their motor pool and dropped two bombs in there. Next time I went to look and see there was shrapnel left on the ground where they explode, and they were from American bombers, but good thing I didn't get the motor pool. They missed. But I bet next day in their report there was news we destroyed so many trucks, and just what happened in Afghanistan, you know.

That's right. It's always a worry, potential for friendly fire force on force. Sir, I was going to ask you, too, how long ultimately did you spend in Korea?

Paul Montelongo: During the time you serve two years, and then if you went overseas you just served 21 months, and I think that I was in, according to this report, I think I was 11 months in Korea, and so when my, I'm looking and I have these charts right here and it gives a report of what I was, let me read you this report here.

OK.

Paul Montelongo: I was in combat infantry badge is what I had and then Korean service medal, won two Bronze service stars, and United Nations service medal, and the Purple Heart.

Do you remember how you received the Purple Heart? Did they have a ceremony for you?

Paul Montelongo: They give it to us over on the front line. They line up the ones that get awarded the Purple Heart. I really don't remember just how it happened, but I remember they

would call us that we were going to get an award, but I don't remember just how it happened and how many more were there.

Were you able to let your parents back home know that you'd been wounded?

Paul Montelongo: Oh yeah, they were worried about it. When you are wondering like that, they don't know just how bad it was, they get worried about it because in war you never can tell how bad it is anytime you're gonna run into something like that. It could be something minor or major. But it don't take very much to take your life because I'd like to know some soldiers over there, they had been there so long and they just like a few days to come home and then they got killed.

Do you remember the day that you got to leave Korea?

Paul Montelongo: Oh well yeah, I remember when they called me that I was take the MO to leave. I had already served there long enough. It seemed like they made points of how many times you went to the front lines. I went to the front lines twice.

Kind of like a point system like they used in World War II I guess. If you had enough points, they would send you home.

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, and another time I went to the front line the first time, I went through Injon, and then went through Seoul, so I came back. I think I stayed about three months in the front lines and then they came back to Injon again and then came up to Cochito, that island where they had all the prisoners, the Korean prisoners. So we came and built smaller, where they kept the prisoners, you know, the place was too big and they had too many prisoners of war in one place, so they were trying to separate them and put them in smaller places where they could keep an eye on them better. I was in Cochito and there was a general there that was captured by the prison. They would tell you not to get too close to the gate. Somebody in the prison had to come out, and they said not to get too close to the gate.

That makes sense.

Paul Montelongo: And this general got too close to the gates and they captured him. So to set him free, I remember one time we surrendered the compound. There was tanks out in the hills and troops all around it, and we were there, I had to take the captain there so I was in a jeep watching it. But they wouldn't let me take a camera and take pictures. I remember the tanks started firing tear gas, and there was tear gas all over the place, and they finally freed him, freed the general.

Sir, I was going to ask you, too, when you got back home to the United States, did you get out of the Army pretty quickly after that?

Paul Montelongo: Oh yes, I was discharged here in San Antonio.

Oh in San Antonio, OK.

Paul Montelongo: I was released there in February 17, 1953.

And did you go back home to San Angelo at that point?

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, I came back and they put me in Reserve for five years.

Was it good to be back home?

Paul Montelongo: Oh man, you almost want to get down and kiss the ground when you get back. Something that when you're young like that and you never been away from your home and you don't know what it is to be away from home, and you pass the holidays over there by yourself thinking of all the memories back home, and it's a nightmare. It's a nightmare for a lot of men who are young boys. They come back with their mind all messed up. So those memories what you see, what you been through, and you always in a way you think, you don't think, you have in your mind that you're gonna die anytime. That's in your mind and you cannot get that out of your head. You try to replace that like I did, tried to scrap yourself on what you, in the days you are in, because you see artillery going over your head and it has a funny sound.

Sure, yeah I've heard it.

Paul Montelongo: And you don't know where it's going to land. So even though I'm 50 something years that I've been there, I still say oh, like thinking a lot of the truck driver that took my picture, you know, and then I didn't realize about 40 years ago, you know what, his wife or him took that picture of me, and then remember you seeing that.

Do you still have that photograph?

Paul Montelongo: I see every time I look at that photograph it came to my mind, you know.

Did you ever find out that name of that soldier that took that photo?

Paul Montelongo: No, I used to have a little box, camera, one of the first ones that came out and that's why I took the picture.

I was just curious if you ever tried to figure out who he was.

Paul Montelongo: Oh, the one that took my picture? I didn't even get to know his name. He was in the same company that I was, but there were so many drivers, you know, that it's kind of hard to get their names, and so to know who they were, like this captain that got killed, if it wasn't for Nelson -

You wouldn't have known anything about him otherwise, sure.

Paul Montelongo: Yeah, I wouldn't remember. I didn't get to know him that well. I know Captain Veranoskas was there and he was there for a little bit longer time. And we used things like I told this captain, why you want to come back again? That makes you feel bad, it makes you feel like why you want to do that? And then I said oh God, and he was so young, he was real young.

Well sir I want to tell you, we really appreciate you letting us record this interview with you and I know before we started you thought an hour would be a really long time, but we've already gone over an hour.

Paul Montelongo: Oh my God.

Yes sir, and these are great stories that you've told us and the great thing about this program is we can save this interview now so that hopefully generations from now, hundreds of years from now people can listen to this interview and perhaps learn something from it or gain an appreciation for what it means to serve. Everybody here at the Land Office from Commissioner Patterson on down, we want to thank you for your service to our country. In a couple of weeks like I mentioned before, we're going to send you CDs of this interview as well as a nice signed letter and certificate from Commissioner Patterson. So we want to let you know that it's on its way and it's just a small token of our thank you to you.

Paul Montelongo: I don't regret going to the service. It was a great experience and I feel very honored that I was, had a chance to serve in the service, and it was a great experience for me, so that's what life is all about. We want to do something new, something we don't know, and so we just have to move along and just take whatever life has for us.

Well we're all grateful, sir, for your service to our country and I think everybody feels that way and we're really glad we were able to get some of your story for our record so that we can save it now and share it with other folks.

Paul Montelongo: Well I want to thank you for this opportunity that you gave me, and so if there is another way I can help you, let me know and in the mean time I have some pictures that I can send you.

Yes sir, I'll get that address to you soon. I'll probably give you a call in the next day or so with that address and pretty soon we will be sending you the package with all the CDs and everything as well.

Paul Montelongo: Well OK, well thank you very much.

Yes sir, thank you very much and we'll talk to you again soon.

Paul Montelongo: All right sir, thank you.

[End of recording]