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Gloria Spatafore interview

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Jacobsen: Living History at Central Washington University. This is Oct. 20, 1998, and we are interviewing Gloria Spatafore, retired with Veteran’s Affairs while at Central. Would you give us some of your personal history?

Spatafore: Okay, I was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota. I was a middle child of three children; my older brother, and I had a younger brother. My father was a first generation born in the United States; he’s an Italian, and his father came over from the old country. He was born shortly after they arrived. I think it was around 1908 that they came to Ellis Island. My mother is a German, and we were raised in Montana because my father was with the Milwaukee Railroad, and that’s why we moved around so often. He was a roadmaster with the Milwaukee Railroad. I ended up in Washington State because I married a service man who was stationed at Moses Lake. I don’t even remember what- I think they used to call that base there at the time, so that’s how I got to the State of Washington.

J: He was with the Air Force.

S: Yes, Air Force, that’s right.

J: T gathered that from the Moses Lake Air Base. How did you come to get a position at Central?

S: Well, I came to Ellensburg in 1975 to finish my degree here. I had two years left on a degree, and I wanted to get it as quickly as possible, and I figured that Central, well, the whole Ellensburg area is a great place to raise a child, and I had a fourth grader at the time. My daughter was in fourth grade. And so we moved over here; I got my degree in ’77. Then I left town for a year. I went to Reno, Nevada and worked with the Association for Retarded Citizens, and I didn’t like Nevada, especially Reno because it was a twenty-four hour a day town, and it got very tiresome, So I moved back to Ellensburg because of the climate, the community, the smallness of it, the intimacy of it, and I decided, well, I had to have a job to go along with it, and since Central was one of the biggest employers I applied here and was able to get on.

J: Where did you do your first two years of study before Central?

Spatafore: Oh, I would go a quarter to one school and then if it was in a town someplace else, I’d go another quarter to another school. It took me seventeen years to get my degree.

J: And you finished with what degree here?

S: The degree I got here was a B.A. in Communications, specializing in Inter-Personal Communications.

J: I interrupted you with regard to how you were placed in a Central position.

S: Yeah. Fortunately they were recruiting for someone at Career Planning and Placement, I believe they have a different name for that office now, but since I had experience using that office when I graduated from Central, at least I had a foot in the door, so to speak, so I was hired to that position.

J: Tell us something about the job. What it entailed?
S: Now, the Career Planning and Placement?

J: Yes.

S: Well, basically it was helping students to find employment after graduation, and they would start their job search and their interviewing skills, and things like this, ahead of time, so that they’d have everything ready to go by the time they graduated. And there was always a newsletter that was sent to them so they could see what jobs were out there, and how they could apply on them. So that’s the kind of work we did there.

J: To get a better picture of the office, was Dean Owens head of that at the time?

S: Yes. Yes, Dean Owens was the Director, and Wanda Robinson was an assistant there. She was the one that hired me.

J: How long did you stay doing that particular...?

S: I was there a year and ten months, I think is all. It wasn’t very long. And then the job as Veteran’s Advisor came, and I didn’t think I had a chance to get it, but I applied on it, and since I’ve had previous experience with the Department of Army, Department of Navy, and the Department of the Air Force, I was lucky enough to get the job as Veteran’s Advisor on campus. And, unfortunately, although I have applied, I did apply for other promotional opportunities, I never did receive one, so I remained Veteran’s Advisor for almost nineteen years. Well, let’s see, nineteen years is total, so it would be seventeen years as Veteran’s Advisor.

J; Would you describe what your role was in that specific position, some of the key things that you did?

S: Oh, right. The job was wonderful, basically, because you saw the beginning and the middle and the end of all your planning and what-not. Students would come in, veterans, some dependents of veterans, reservists, and children of deceased veterans would be entitled to this benefit program, when they receive money monthly for attending school.

So a student would come in and we’d go over the basic rules and regulations for the VA, and then I would help them to decide on what classes they should be taking in order to get that degree, I pretty much knew the entire catalogue, basically, and the degrees that were there. So I worked directly with the students a lot of the time.

J: So you were like advisor, but primarily focusing on veterans.

S: Yes, like a faculty advisor, only paid a lot less.

J: For orientation of the people that will be viewing this, or reading about it, which wars were these veterans coming from largely?

S: When I first started in 1980, of course it was the Viet Nam War. And, boy, there were some real hostile veterans coming through the door, but it calmed down, and pretty soon they were Gulf War, and that was no problem. I think the most problem I had with veterans, was not the veterans themselves, but when they started a G.I. Bill for reservists, and the reservists didn’t have to put any money in, or they didn’t have to make any basic commitment to get the entitlement of their monthly amount of money, and they just didn’t seem to have the training and the background to make them responsible young adults. Some of them, now I can’t say that’s true of all of them. Some.

J: So a lot would depend upon the particular Guard they were in and which organizations.
J: This may be difficult to answer, but did you come to know any students well enough that they stand out in your recall?

S: Oh, yes. The students, the only students I could employ in my office were veteran students because it was a federal work-study program, and of course, all of them I knew quite well, and still have contact with occasionally. There was one girl in particular, she was a reservist, boy, I wish I could remember her name...

J: That’s why I say it’s difficult because it is for all of us.

S: It is. I should have looked it up, but she studied night and day. She worked like crazy. She was not one of my employees, by the way, but she went on to Med. School, and as far as I know, she’s a Doctor by now. I haven’t heard from her in quite some time; since she went off to Med. School.

J: Do you have the feeling then that this service really contributed to the success of people it advised?

S: Well, it certainly contributed to it materially and the way the students would follow their programs. The veteran students, who were actually in the Service were a lot more dedicated than the people that were under the G.I. Bill for other reasons, like because they were reservists, or they were a child of a deceased veteran, and they didn’t take it quite as seriously. See they only have thirty-six months now, basically, it used to be forty-five, and now thirty-six months of benefits, so they really have to stay on track in order to accomplish their degree in that time period. The G.I. Bill has paid for itself over the past because it graduates students; those students get better jobs because they have graduated from college, and they’re in the higher income brackets, so they pay more taxes. So the G.I. Bill pays for itself in that respect. And they just want to make sure that that continues.

J: Well, it sounds like you’re in tune with that kind of program then.

S: Yes.

J: Did you take any classes after you became an employee?

S: Yes, I did. I didn’t have much experience on computers, and I had a computer class. And I took some classes just because I enjoyed them. It got to be a very difficult thing though in the last seven or eight years because we not only had registration, but now we had pre-registration for the next quarter, and pretty soon you were lined up with so many duties and so many special events coming up that you couldn’t afford to be out of the office, basically, at the time when the students needed you. If you were working at a desk where there was no one around you know, that’s a different story. You can come in after six, or before seven in the morning, but it was hard making up the time. So I quit.

J: Your only help primarily was secretarial?

S: Correct. Secretarial.

J: Other than that they were students.

S: Well, when you speak, secretarial, I am speaking of student helpers, I had no assistants,

J: You had no full-time...

S: Right. I had no full-time assistants.
J: So basically your office was you.

S: The Office of Veteran’s Affairs was me.

J: That’s kind of a challenge and enjoyable, I suspect.

S: Uh hum.

J: Do you recall—any negative contacts that you had with students? Were there bitter people, or giving you a hard time on the job?

S: Yes. I had a Viet Nam Vet come in once and he was just raising cane because he didn’t like a regulation that I quoted to him. And I always tried to do it in a positive light, you know. “But that sounds like a good idea. But in order to comply, we have to do it this way,” you know, but he almost had a fit, and he almost tore my phone cord until my supervisor came in and told him to leave. So then I had one call me up one day and just screaming at me over the phone. I recorded it and sent a copy to the Dean of Students, so that she could see some of the things that we had to put up with. Nobody would do- that to her.

J: You referred to- a supervisor. Were you stilt under The Career Planning and Placement, or...?

S: No. This was as Veteran’s Advisor, and I

J: Oh, I see, off-campus

S: Right. No, on campus.

J: Who-was...?

S: Lou Bovos, the Registrar.

J: Oh, Lou, the Registrar

S: . . .Was my supervisor as Veteran’s Advisor, and then after Lou was Carolyn Wells.

J: Okay, well that gives me, and probably the viewer, a clearer picture of the hierarchy of the administration.

S: Right.

J: I hadn’t really realized how that worked. So did that arrangement work out Okay in terms of the two different people, Lou Bovos and Carolyn?

S: Well, Lou Bovos had alternative motives, I think when he chose a woman for that job. He particularly liked to push around most women, and he wanted me to do a lot of other duties that just would not fit in with the job afterwards, but we managed to struggle through what must have been close to ten years. He left me alone to do my job, basically, so he was not my favorite supervisor. But Carolyn Wells is an excellent supervisor. She knows what she’s doing; she knows that other people have skills that maybe she doesn’t have, and she leaves them alone to use those skills. And, of course, I kept her informed all the time about any positive or negative aspects of my operation, so that if she heard about it from the President of the University; which has been known to happen, then she would be well-prepared to know what was going on.
J: That gives us a picture of supervision which is one of the questions that we want to ask you anyway.

S: Yeah, right.

J: In terms of this, did you have written evaluations of your work?

S: Yes. I did get written evaluations. Of course it was required by Personnel. After the first two or three years it just seemed kind of like an unnecessary process. I’m well aware, I’m pretty down to earth, and I know what my good points are, and I know where my weak points are-. I can’t say that the evaluations helped.

J: Provided that much help?

S: No, It was just a time consuming thing for my supervisors to do. And they didn’t need that.

J: I judge they didn’t like it either?

S: No, they had to get several reminders from personnel in order to fill these out.

J: One of those necessary things to do because higher-ups sends it down.

S: Right.

J: Is that imposed largely by the State Civil Service, do you know? Or is it...

S: I do believe it’s the State Civil Service that demands that.

J: So that here at Central, we don’t have a great deal of autonomy on that.

S: Right.

J: Helps us to understand our Civil Service system. You mentioned a couple of events where individuals, veterans, that you had to deal with, where they were a little hard to deal with. Do you remember any things that were light-hearted humorous that occurred as a function of the on-going activities? Made you smile at the end of the day.

S: Well, I had some veterans come up to me and tell me that they were so happy to find a friendly office of Veteran’s Affairs because they hadn’t had that much personal conversation with anybody at other schools that they’d been to. And that I had been really helpful, you know, when they say something like that, you can’t help but feel good.

J: That really does make your day. I suspect they hadn’t received too much of that in the military either.

S: No, they’re taught pretty much to just say, “Yes, Sir.” And go on their way.

J: Overall, would you say that Central was a pleasant place to work, or did it have its ups and downs, majority good or bad?

S: Well, when I think back on my early days at Central, I can say that I really enjoyed them. We had a coffee room; you could smoke in the coffee room, and everybody would get back there when they had a break, and there’d be a lot of camaraderie, and a lot of laughing and having fun. It was really an excellent break. And then when they cut off the smoking inside any of the buildings, then the people that didn’t
smoke found better places to go than the people that did smoke because the people that did smoke would have to stand outside in the cold and smoke their cigarette. And all that camaraderie was gone then; it just wasn’t there any more.

J: That’s interesting. Do you find anything else that would attribute to that, or was it all primarily that?

S: Well, it was partially that. Another thing, I think was when they went to pre-registering during quarter for the next quarter. Because I was located in the Registrar’s Office, as I said, and it was just constant. You were registering; you were doing the add-drop period, and then a couple of weeks rate? you were pre-registering and doing the add-drop for pre-registration, and then it was time to do grades. It was difficult to take a vacation. Maybe a week at a time maximum, but when you came back you were loaded with stuff to do. Nobody in our office could take any more than about a week, ten days vacation, at a time. Oh, there were a couple of privileged characters that managed to do it, but not many of us. I never asked for any time off when I knew it was during one of those critical periods. You just need every person there. It’s understaffed.

J: Did you have any reactions from students? How they felt about the change from registration at the beginning of the quarter, or pre-registration?

S: They loved pre-registration. It’s a great way to go. But there are some problems with it, and that is that some students will sign up for seventeen or eighteen credits, keep them, and then the next quarter go to all the classes and then decide which one they’re going to drop, because they use that kind of as a preview. And that ties up the class for other students, and I don’t like to see that at all. But I don’t know how you’re going to change that particular item.

J: Basically, it dragged out the registration process for a long time.

S: Yes, it did, but students who were able to pre-register knew that they were okay for the next quarter with what they had signed up for, and they weren’t too worried because they knew they had an add-drop period coming up where they could change that if they wanted to, and needed to. But a student, the sophomores, of course, have the most difficult problem because they’re very last in registering. And I don’t know why, but the last five years, it’s become so difficult to get classes that you need, and they really have to fight in order to get what they need to graduate.

J: Over the years, did you come to know any faculty through your work that you recall particularly? Faculty members.

S: Oh, let’s see. I’ve worked with Eldon Johnson. Is that his name? For the Biology Department.

Bonnie Kiucking: No.

S: I can’t figure who it would be...

Voice: Shirley.

S: Shirley Johnson. Yeah. Well, basically not for course work for any of the students, but I handled the scholarship program at Central, too.

J: Oh.

S: The Merit Scholarships that came out of the Registrar’s Office.
J: Oh, you did?

S: And so, he worked on the GTE and more recently he’s worked on other ones, the Merit Scholarships.

J: Oh.

S: The Merit Pre-Med. Scholarships, so I’ve gotten to know him pretty well. Other professors, I know a lot of them around the campus, but none real well.

J: So, (you) were tied down to student contact and registration primarily.

S: Right.

J: Now that you bring up this scholarship program, could you describe that a little bit to us?

S: Oh, okay. The Merit Scholarship Program is a promotional type of thing that the Academics, they call it Academic Services now, it used to be Admissions and Records, they put out this scholarship list every fall. Send copies to all the students who are getting good grades around the State that were sent in by their counselors, their names were sent in by their counselors, and then they send out extra copies to every single high school and every community college in the State. And we describe the different scholarships that are on there. There’s probably ten or twelve scholarships available for them. They fill out the paper work and send it in, and it was my responsibility then to put all that information on a computer system and contact the different committees for each one of these scholarships and make sure that they kept on track and got their selections made. And once they made their selections I’d have to compare it with other scholarship lists and make sure that a student didn’t get more than one, but he got the better one, and we’d fill the other one with another student. And, of course, that led to the February when we used to have the CIF Banquet, and now it’s just called a scholarship visitation. So all the students would come to campus and it was wonderful working with those bright young students. One of the best scholarships we have is Wal-Mart, and they give us a scholarship every year for $5,000.00 for four years, and right now, I think, we must have four students going to school here on that Wal-Mart Scholarship. $5,000.00 a year covers expenses fairly well. And they’ve got the guarantee, you know, if they keep up the grades, they’re going to get it for the following year, too.

J: Was all that channeled by way of the Foundation, or...?

S: Yes.

J: So at least that coordination, then it’s up to campus committees to select?

S: Right, yes.

J: That sounds like a huge job. It must have taken...

S: Well, that took about four months of my time from December 15 until March 15, and my B.A. would just have to hang on the back burner, and I’d see students as I could, but it was a busy time for me. I couldn’t take a vacation then. I couldn’t take a Christmas vacation because that was the deadline for everybody to get their applications in, was Christmas. And so I’d work, well, my last year there we had Christmas Day and New Years day off, and that was it.

J: Do you see any way to alleviate that for persons that might succeed you?
S: Well, not really. They talked about moving the date into January, but one of the problems with that is then that the committees have to go through all those files a lot quicker, and still get the offers out to the students because if Central wants these people to come to Central because they’re excellent students to begin with, they need to be on time to offer them the opportunity to get here.

J: Grab them and get the commitment.

S: Right. Get the commitment from them that they’re coming.

J: Boy, I’m glad we got on to that scholarship situation.

S: Yeah. One forgets what one does. I also handled the waiver programs at Central, too.

J: Tell us about that.

S: Like when we had, we used to have a reciprocity agreement with Oregon, and there’d be a certain number of students that could come to school from Oregon for the in-state tuition price. There were other reciprocity programs, and I’m trying to remember what they were. There was the Viet Nam Veteran’s tuition waiver, and then there was the Desert Storm Veteran’s tuition waiver, and what else did we still have. Firemen, law enforcement, firefighters tuition waiver. And we had a faculty and staff tuition waivers, so that when new faculty came from out of state, if they had a son or a daughter that needed to go to school here, even a spouse, basically, that they could get the tuition, the out of state tuition portion waived until they were able to become state residents. We figured it would be just a year, so they were eligible for it for one year.

J: So you had to be up on the State law and code on that.

S: Yes. I did.

J: You mentioned Oregon; was there any other state that had reciprocity?

S: We, I think a long time ago, before I started handling it, we had reciprocity with Idaho and Alaska, too. But when I came it was just Oregon. And, of course, a few years back when we were having money troubles we eliminated the reciprocity with Oregon. It was written up in the Legislature as, “You may do this.” So, it was a choice that the University could make and the Board chose not to do it.

J: About how many, do you remember, would there be from, say, Oregon?

5: Oh, I think it was a maximum number of four.

J: Oh, I see. Was there a maximum on all these other categories that you mentioned?

S: No, there weren’t; not for Viet Nam Vets. There were for the faculty-staff. It wasn’t numbers, but it was the amount of money, and when you passed that, when you spent that money for the year, there were no more waivers.

J: That was pre-determined by Legislature?

S: No, that was pre-determined by the Budget Committee here at Central.

J: Oh, okay. You’ve given us a lot of data that I hadn’t heard yet that’s going to be in our history.
S: Really?

J Yes. Very much so. You’ve read all these questions, and I haven’t been looking down, I’ve been too interested in what you’ve been telling us. Are there things that you remember that you wanted to tell us from this or elsewise, that you’d like to get into our history?

S: Well, I’ve always been a liberated woman, and I’ve fought for women’s liberation pretty much all of my life, and I think one of the most important things that I discovered when I got into the Registrar’s Office was the camaraderie of the women there. I think that they’ve done an extremely beautiful job of supporting each other, in making sure that, you know, people are happy there, and that part I like very much. It’s been a real thrill to meet women working together instead of working against each other. And that certainly is one aspect of Central that I think is important. One that I can say that I don’t like very much is that the Civil Service people are, they tend to be thought of as computer terminals, or part of the machinery. And, well, just for an instance, we were in Mitchell Hall and, of course, that’s a hermetically sealed building, or whatever you call it now, where you can’t open any of the windows. I believe this one is too, isn’t it? Every time someone new comes in there, for about the first six months they’re sick as a dog, basically, with flues and colds and all kinds of things. And it’s, as far as I’m concerned, the building. Here we are in Ellensburg, Washington where the breeze comes through and we have the clearest, cleanest sweetest smelling air outside you ever want to see. You can’t open a window, and it didn’t seem like the administration was going to do anything about the problem. I had to scream and holler a couple times and so they finally submitted to an air test, that some men came in and collected some of our air and ran some tests on it, but it never came to anything. Nothing was ever changed, so when they put us in a computer, too, they wouldn’t bother to set it up so it wasn’t reflecting a light from the outside, you know, where if you were at a station if it was there; it was there, and that’s all there was to it. The concern there just, it was just like we were part of the equipment, basically, and we worked and worked and worked.

J: So among the many administrators you looked for human factors engineers.

S: Yeah. Right.

J: Right. I failed to mention whether or not you had met other administrators to speak of, through your work that you have a comment on.

S: Oh, a comment on?

J: Other administrators.

S: Administrators at Central?

J: Yes, that you might have encountered through your work.

S: Okay. I think one that was very influential for me was Dr. James Pappas, who is now a Vice-president, I don’t know, do you have a title, I don’t remember?

J: Marketing is one of them. He had a double title, yes.

S: He is such a kind man, and he has real concern for each and every student that comes near him. And he remembers names; he remembers all these students. He’s a P.R. man “plus”. Of course, sometimes he can be a little too soft. When it comes to some of these students who come to him to complain about something or another, but he’s a wonderful person, just a real people person.
J: Well, I’m glad I got around to asking that because he has appeared before in terms of mention, both by students and faculty and staff.

S: Good. Very good. Glad to hear it.

J: So, you are among others that believe that way, about Jim Pappas.

S: Carolyn Wells, like I mentioned earlier, is just an excellent supervisor, and she’s always working ahead, thinking ahead, planning ahead for the future of Central, and she’s awfully good at what she does. And she’s the “little stern” in Dr. Pappas, so she’s able to tell a student, “No”, much easier. Which is good. They need that sometimes.

J: Do you think there’d be a way of working through people like Dr. Pappas to get some of these things that staff need and desire?

S: Well, I don’t think so because Dr. Pappas and people like him are so busy with other jobs they can’t say no to, that they don’t really have the time to concentrate on it. He would delegate somebody. In fact he delegated me to be the “esprit des corps”, basically of our area. But we did what we could, but I don’t know if there’s a good way to handle that. I mean, Central, although professors don’t like this word, Central is a business, and...

J: I know, they don’t.

S: and as a business we were there just to perform, basically, and our needs were not that important.

J: As the staff would like to say, “Well, yes, it’s a business, but we’re the people that run it.”

S: Yeah. Right. Well, it’s hard when you’ve got people that come in from the outside and become like Provost, or Vice-president, or whatever. And then they find out a year or two later that this person isn’t working out, but they’ve given him tenure. And then... so they’re going to go teach, but the Department doesn’t want them to teach. So then they end up running a program on the Coast with forty-five students in it for $80,000.00 a year. I mean, that’s good money for being a screw-up, basically.

J: I’m glad you mentioned that because that’s one staff thinks about, but often doesn’t get expressed.

S: Right. Supposedly, that’s not any of our business, although with our Civil Service the way it is, we usually reach the high point of our pay in about ten years, so anything after that we don’t get any raises unless the Legislature provides a two or three per cent a year, and then we see all this money going to waste on someone who isn’t doing a job, and it gets...

J: Excuse me.

S: ...to us.

J: Apparently the only other way would be to shift areas, or something like that, for higher positions.

S: I guess I don’t understand.

J: Well, you were the director of your program, but there would be other higher Civil Service positions...

S: Right. Right
J: Say, President’s Secretary, or something like that.

S: I’m glad you mentioned that because in sixteen years, seventeen years that I was veteran’s advisor, I think I applied for two other jobs on campus. One, as I was being interviewed I could tell that he had already chosen the person that he wanted in the job, so the interview was merely a “let’s get this over with” type thing. He was very pleasant and everything, but I just knew when I walked in there. He already wants his friend over here to be in that position. The other time was a very good job, too, that I really wanted in student employment, and I interviewed for it, but they ended up hiring somebody from off-campus, somebody new to the community. I couldn’t help but feel that the reason was they didn’t want somebody in there who knew where all the bones were buried.

J: So there’s always that politics in back of…

S: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. It’s always there when you’re Civil Service you’ve always got to watch your step. I think that’s one of the reasons why I did join the union. It’s AFSCME, Ace eF eS Cee eM Ee, American Association of State County and Municipal Employees. It’s nice to have a little muscle behind you in case you should have a problem that is not really your problem, but somebody else’s.

J: So your union representative, from on campus, but you’ve got one in Olympia, correct?

S: There’s one in Yakima, too.

J: There is one there, too.

S: Yeah, although, more recently, the union hasn’t been very active, and I did quit the union about two years before I retired.

J: The union representative, for sake of history here, works at the Civil Service Board, or presents your...

S: Oh, if you’ve got a complaint or something; is that what you’re saying? Oh, okay. Then you can get the Civil Service representative to come up, and you and him, or her, would meet with your supervisor and go on up the chain, the ladder, that you have to follow in order to resolve a problem. That didn’t happen in my case.

J: I just wondered, would it be the Board?

S: Board of Trustees, yeah.

J: Oh, not State-wide, here?

S: Right. Here. It pretty much depended on the problem though. If it was a personal problem it would end here; if it was something about state employment itself then it could go to Olympia.

J: And that’s controlled by a Board, is it not? The Civil Service Board.

S: Yes.

J: Some of this I used to know. I’ve forgotten so much of it. Now, can you think of things you and I have not talked about might be of benefit to the history of this institution?
S: Maybe anyone looking at this tape might want to know that the Viet Nam War benefits began in 1973 and ended in ’8-, no wait a minute, I’m sorry. I’m trying to think of those dates, and I had them down last year.

J: Around ‘83 or ‘4, wasn’t it?

S: It was around, I think it was 1984, no, wait a minute, ‘85. People that were there for clean-up in the Spring of ‘85 still got reduced tuition. So we’re looking at 1973 to 1985.

J: Twelve years.

S: Yeah, that was a long time. And, of course, Desert Storm, the build-up began in the Summer of 1990. The War began in January of ‘91 and ended in March of ‘91. That was a short one; thank heavens. When all my, no, not all my students, but there were- about twenty-four of my students who were in the Marine Reserve Unit, down in Yakima, and, of course, they were all called to active duty, and I didn’t want the same thing to- happen to them that happened during the Viet Nam War. For then? to get lost, and not find their way back, so I wrote them usually monthly. I contacted their parents to find out where they were stationed and then I sent them copies of our college paper, The Observer, and wrote a letter with it telling them what was going on at the campus. And I got all of them back. They all came back to school, They brought back some pictures of the war, and it wasn’t pretty, but they were really thankful to get that information. See, I went through the Viet Nam War with my husband. I was seven months pregnant when I’ found out he was going to Viet Nam, and they deferred his leaving until after the baby was born, and then he spent a year in Viet Nam while I raised my daughter alone, so it was a rough time. And that War just kept going on and on and on. I’m so thankful Desert Storm didn’t. That’s about everything I think.

J: We have been interviewing Gloria Spatafore of Veteran’s Affairs who has showed us you not only have to be knowledgeable, but you have to have a real concern about your students in being an advisor. Interviewing has been Eldon Jacobsen, and at the camera is Bonnie Kriucking. We thank you very much for this interview, Gloria.

S: Thank you I’ve enjoyed it.