

Getting to Know You

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I was born in Washington, D.C. on July 19, 1932. My mother was also born in Washington. My father came to Washington as a small boy, during WWI, when *his* father took a government job at Walter Reed Army Hospital. My grandmother Cox was the daughter of a Confederate soldier, John Wesley Taylor, who joined up at age 16 (not drafted!) in 1864.

While John was in the Confederate hospital in Farmville he was captured the day before Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House. John was paroled and went home to King George County, Va. JWT ran a little store with his daughter's assistance in Colonial Beach, Va. My grandmother never liked to see uniformed men. She would not allow my father to join the Boy Scouts because of this. She did however belong to the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She had a wall plaque identifying her father as a soldier in the Confederate army. One of her sons (Uncle Johnny, not my father), was drafted in 1918, reported to Fort Meade, Md. but the war ended so he came home. That's as close as any family member was to military service after JWT walked home with his parole until my Uncle Ralph became an army postmaster in WWII.

I took on the responsibility of military service in our family by talking my way into an ROTC unit that was being organized at my college, Bucknell University. Because the Korean War was in progress I had to get four years of ROTC into a three year period. I served in ROTC as a battalion and regimental adjutant and received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps in 1954. I served on temporary duty at West Point and have some interesting home movies that were made of our training of the cadets in transportation field expedience, such as floating a jeep on a tarpaulin.

My lifelong interests include military history which helped me get into ROTC because I had written a term paper in high school on the Meuse-Argonne Campaign of 1918. My first year grades at Bucknell were not good and I was refused entry into the ROTC program for that reason. However, I showed the term paper to the "powers that be" and was admitted to the program because of it.

It was during this time that I met my wife, Gini, and we were married in the Post Chapel at Ft. Eustis, VA. We are still married and have five children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren!