

Spears: October 23, 1923

Interviewer: Tell me a little bit about your childhood Mr. Spears. Growing up and what your parents did.

Spears: Well I was raised on a farm we had several head of cows to milk and all that stuff that goes along with farming.

Interviewer: Were you how many siblings did you have?

Spears: There were seven of us five girls and two boys.

Interviewer: And where did you fall in rank?

Spears: I was the youngest.

Interviewer: Tell me a little bit about your schooling and what school life was like.

Spears: Well went to just a little country school the first eight grades. Then we went to high school ____ county high school. And I went three and half years and give it up and decided to join the navy.

Interviewer: Did any of your siblings graduate from high school? Was that a norm around here or?

Spears: My brother graduated and one of my sisters.

Interviewer: Do you have any recollections of the great depression maybe in the 1920s maybe in the 30s?

Spears: Yeah it was a rough life. You just didn't have anything I mean you worked for everything you got and we raised about everything we ate. And so it was really a rough time there was nothing really to do. People were looking for work but there was no work to be had.

Interviewer: Do you remember your parents speaking of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his New Deal and anything of him?

Spears: Yeah I do my oldest brother was a __ veteran and times began to change and began to get better as time went along.

Interviewer: Before Pearl Harbor the war in Europe had been going on for about two years about 1939 is when things really got going on over there. Do you remember seeing anything in the newspapers and realizing things in Europe weren't going real well and things might possibly spread? Or was it one of things that was in the back of your mind but never really a concern?

Spears: No I really didn't think that much about it you know because we didn't at that time we didn't really have a paper and about all we got you know was just word of mouth you know people talking.

Interviewer: You said you enlisted in the navy. What year did you go in service?

Spears: January 11, 1941.

Interviewer: And what made you decide to enlist in the navy why the navy?

Spears: Well I just I kind of a friend of mine joined the navy lived close by here and I don't know for some reason wanted to join the navy. And I was under age I had to have my parents' consent I was only 17. My dada said well if you want to go I'll sign it. So he signed it he thought they wouldn't take me because I was minus a trigger finger. And I talked to the recruiter and he said that has nothing to do with it so away I went.

Interviewer: In January did you have any idea that the nation was on the brink of war?

Spears: No I had no idea after I went to basic training and I was sent to Pearl Harbor and I thought Lord Lord I'll go over there. And of course I go over there and there were hundreds of ships there at that time I still didn't think anything about it I was a kid until everything started happening. And I realized that things wasn't so good.

Interviewer: I've been told that your siblings or brother also served in the service. Is that correct?

Spears: No

Interviewer: Oh I'm sorry.

Spears: I have a sister that served as a nurse.

Interviewer: Okay was she an army nurse?

Spears: Yeah

Interviewer: Okay so you ended up going to Pearl Harbor. Tell me a little bit about what your basic training was like before you went to Pearl Harbor and then what a routine day at Pearl Harbor was like.

Spears: Well back then everything was normal you know I mean we went about the duties of cleaning the ship and various chores we had to do. (Tape skipped about five seconds) We went on a few maneuvers had some gun fire and fired the guns and stuff. They'd have planes that would fly over pull them up it was called a sleeve and the antiaircraft gun would fire at that. We had a ship that pulled a target behind it and we fired the main batteries and the secondary batteries. I was in the secondary battery for and just maybe we'd be out for about four, five, or six days and we'd come back in and tie it up and lay there for days. Of course back then they was short of fuel I mean they was trying to economize everything. Just everything seemed to be routine we just had liberty and stuff like that and go ashore for a while go to Honolulu.

Interviewer: Tell me going through December the 7th when Pearl Harbor was hit start there if you don't mind. Start when you got up that morning and then just take me through everything if you don't mind.

Spears: Well that morning was like every morning we had got up at six a.m. had breakfast and put our stuff away put our hammocks up and all that sort of stuff. And then it was almost time for colors all the guys was out on deck and when it come time for the colors why we all would stand for attention so you

had to face the stern of the ship. And a lot of us went back inside then just a few minutes later I heard this explosion and I stepped out and looked up the way and toward the island where we were tied up at. They had a sea plane base on up ahead of the island where they come in and landed and I thought well that planes blowed up. It was a huge explosion I thought lordy lordy. Then I heard another one too and I looked up and here these Jap planes come across us about 50 feet above the ship. I looked at that I said it had that red ball on it I thought my God they are making this real look at that. And about that time there was three guys the pilot, the torpedo man and the gunner and the gunner was had a machine gun hanging over the side. I could see him as plain as all get out. And he was firing away at those guys out on the decks was falling. I thought galilee they are making this real and by that time

Interviewer: So you thought it was a drill?

Spears: Yeah

Interviewer: To being with.

Spears: Yeah I thought it was a drill. I had no idea you know that something like that would come along. And by that time there were gobs of planes everywhere dropping them and we started getting hit and huge explosions.

Interviewer: At that time, and I am sorry to interrupt, what ship were you on?

Spears: I was on the West Virginia.

Interviewer: The West Virginia okay

Spears: Yeah we were tied up beside the Tennessee.

Interviewer: Okay

Spears: And the Arizona was just in behind us and the Oklahoma was in front of us. And there were huge explosions everywhere planes flying going by. And I stepped back inside and we kept getting bounced around by the explosions so I run back out and they said abandon we'll have to abandon ship. And we were sinking in the water and by that time the Oklahoma above us had rolled over. And then a few minutes later the Arizona blew up and man it just smoke covered everything. And I was in the water a bunch of us guys jumped in the water and I swam over to the island and there was straf I could see guys falling there. And I laid down and I was kind of I had to look a little bit I was afraid to raise up I got all and I could see the dust on each side of the bank and I could hear guys holler. That went on for about two hours and after we realized what was going on it was too late everything was sinking and burning.

Interviewer: Was there any attempt was there any attempt by the leaders the navy leaders to be able to mount a defense or was it such a surprise I mean was there even an attempt?

Spears: Well not really I mean nobody seemed to know what was going on or what had happened. But it was a total surprise to everybody, everybody I knew you know. Of course maybe some high ups realized.

Interviewer: Ralph had told me that you were one of the ones in charge of pulling the bodies out of the water as the day went on. Tell me a little about that.

Spears: Well there was guys a lot of them had jackets on and some of them were just floating and I would pull them out of the water get them on the island there. And some of them were banged up pretty bad you know arms were off legs and that sort of stuff.

Interviewer: I've read a good deal about Pearl Harbor and read about the Komokozzie missions that they were running. Did you witness any of that or anything where the Japanese would literally just fly there planes and commit suicide as they flew their planes.

Spears: I don't at that time I don't think they did much they might have been some that was you know was shot and hit and maybe they decided to end it.

Interviewer: Right

Spears: Rather than die.

Interviewer: Okay I just didn't know if you had seen any of that there.

Spears: Not there I didn't

Interviewer: Okay but you later saw some of it?

Spears: Yes I did.

Interviewer: Okay we'll talk about that when we get there. Were you able to hear FDR's speech that he "This is the day that will live in infamy?" Were you somewhere you could hear that that night or

Spears: No

Interviewer: You didn't hear that. What was your parents' reaction when they finally when you finally got to talk to your parents again and tell them that you were alright? How did that conversation play out?

Spears: Well about the only I wrote them a letter sometime after that I did have one of the letters I had written it was probably by the time I got it written and got it back it was probably two weeks. I don't recall the exact time now of me telling them that I was okay. At that time later on you wasn't allowed to tell where you were at but they knew I was there.

Interviewer: Right

Spears: And they knew what ship I was on.

Interviewer: Did you immediately realize American was now at war I'm sure?

Spears: Yeah I knew that it was here.

Interviewer: Right when you finally had a chance to sit down and think about it did you feel like your preparation and your maneuvers and your training had you properly prepared? Were you ready for it or were you

Spears: No no

Interviewer: Tell me a little bit about what you thought could have been done to prepare.

Spears: Well we had all of our ammunition stored below and no ready ammunition up all we had was a little few rounds of 50 caliber on the bridge.

Interviewer: Uh huh

Spears: And all the all the ammo antiaircraft all of it was stored. Had well it would of took us well if they would have took the hint when they spotted that group of planes the first wave we could have probably got ammunition up. And whether we could have got steam up I don't know that would have been maybe 30, 40 minutes. We would have been better prepared then had we realized that these planes was coming and went to battle stations and prepared to get underway.

Interviewer: Right

Spears: And prepared to get underway

Interviewer: Right

Spears: I'm thinking well had we had ammunition up we could have shot a lot of them down no doubt about it.

Interviewer: Sure

Spears: In the process the way we were we were tied up had we of fired any of our main batteries the big guns at the planes coming in hoping to splash them we'd have torn Honolulu all to pieces.

Interviewer: Right

Spears: That's just my thoughts

Interviewer: No that's fine I appreciate it.

Spears: But it was totally unexpected I mean I had no idea and none of the guys that were around me you know that I went through basic training and served with on the ship there. I mean nobody could believe it.

Interviewer: Uh huh tell me what was December the 8th like and what on Pearl Harbor what was that day like? Was it was everyone walking around talking or was everybody ready for war at that point just waiting to be shipped out tell me what the immediate day after was like.

Spears: After well the main thing for me was thinking well they'll be back you know. We knew they were out there and they had figured that they would be back but we couldn't go nowhere.

Interviewer: Right

Spears: We were sitting on the bottom the Tennessee was inside she couldn't move. The only one was the Nevada and the other ships was all crippled so I mean we had no defense really. Had two carriers out but it was kind of for several days everybody was real uneasy you know just think well they'll be back. If they come once they'll come again and they had told us that if we was out there and they were figuring for another go around they had done crippled us ruined us I mean they could have come on if they wanted to. That was their plans I understand after it was all over with the Japs had figured on having another session and they were gonna bring troops in after they got us bombed out. But it was pretty tense for several days until they knew the fleet ahead had gone back to Japan.

Interviewer: Once things calmed down where did you get shipped to? Where from Pearl Harbor where did you go to I mean where did you move?

Spears: Well I just lost around Pearl there for a week or so while they were assigning people. Well another thing the next morning after the attack there was some planes come in off of one of the carriers and they of course the battle station. And of course they didn't know you know definitely it was our planes and we went to battle stations. And I got put on the Tennessee where I could get something to eat and I was stationed on the anti-aircraft gun. So they had ammunition up and they had 10 or 12 of us guys holding 5 inch projectors which were pretty heavy and they had us holding them so we could hand them to the gun. And I got so nervous and I started shaking my teeth were rattling and I laid the projector down and the gunner officer said "sailor pick that" I won't say what he said "pick that up." I said I can't and finally I got straightened out a little bit. It scared us but that was one of the scariest moments I guess I had.

Interviewer: I'm sure you weren't the only one that was having those feelings. I'm sure that was pretty common. Was there any other instances, people around you that you saw suffering the same type panic?

Spears: That was just one of the

Interviewer: Oh I'm sure on every boat that was there on every ship that was there was people suffering from the same thing.

Spears: Then later I got from there they put me on an old destroyer an old four's stacker. And I served on it well let me see I got on it maybe two or three weeks after that and we patrolled off the islands. And the Battle of Midway came up and we got orders to head that way. We run probably maybe a day and then they turned and sent us back. The battle was already over with so we missed that.

Interviewer: You were should have been there but never got to it before it ended okay. What did you think the initial focus of the war was not in the Pacific it was we were going to beat the Nazi's in Europe first and then worry about the Japanese. Being at Pearl Harbor I'm sure that you guys were very gun ho and let's go get the Japanese they bombed us now it's their turn to do kind of something we went through. What was your thoughts and everybody around you thoughts about the idea of the war in Europe taking precedent over the Pacific?

Spears: Well we kind of more or less forgot about Europe I mean we knew then that we had to go after the Japs that was the main thing right there.

Interviewer: When did you finally leave Pearl Harbor for good and get and start your tour of duty in the Pacific?

Spears: We left there and we came back to the states on this old destroyer and they were gonna make an attack ship out of it. I came home on 30 day leave from Seattle and they sent me down to Frisco to catch a new ship destroyer Bush. And I caught it in April or May something of 43 and I rode it until we lost it. We went all the time through well we went to Alaska for a while and fought the Japs for a month up there. And headed out to the South Pacific with it down to New Guiney, New Aberdeen, Philippines, and Ewagema.

Interviewer: You were in the Battle of Ewagema

Spears: Yeah

Interviewer: That's what I thought.

Spears: Yeah we went all through the Philippine operations and a couple of major battles down there.

Interviewer: And you were in Guadalcanal were you at Guadalcanal?

Spears: No I missed it.

Interviewer: Okay tell me what a regular now that you were at war and on these ships all day everyday tell me what a routine day when you weren't fighting was like. When you woke up to the time you went to bed what was a sailor's day?

Spears: Well you just cleaned the ship and do normal duties I was a boats maid and we saw the ship got clean and other major chores. But we didn't at that time we were well we were all pretty wore out you know as far as ___ up ___ and the ship sunk and didn't really know a lot about that stuff like we did before. Seemed like we was in constant battle readiness we had planes in the air and ships around everywhere. And we just more or less did what we could do and a lot of times we'd go to places a little safer and they'd let us go ashore. And we'd take some beer and drop the guys off stay on the beach for a couple of hours and come back. We wasn't allowed to have drinking it on the ship.

Interviewer: Right

Spears: It was just well more or less we just run from one place to the other there was so many things to do. We escorted a lot of troops and we had two major battles there in the Philippines. We was in on those ___ on down to the Marshals and Gilberts.

Interviewer: You hinted that you were a lot more somber after Pearl Harbor that your attitude had changed so was there was a difference between the new sailors that came in from other places and had been joined with the guys from Pearl Harbor? Was their attitude different because they weren't there so we they kind of jovial and a little more light hearted?

Spears: Well they didn't a lot of them after we went to Pearl there was a lot of them seemed to change their attitude a little bit. And after we in a few variable and a few air attacks why they began to realize that this was real.

Interviewer: What you had realized December 7th.

Spears: Yeah

Interviewer: So what was your when was your first experience with combat? You said that you experienced a couple of air attacks and everything else. Do you remember the date or was it the first battle you were in other than Pearl Harbor?

Spears: Well I was in several screeches down in the South Pacific. And I guess a lot of the big ones were up around Marianas we were in one there. And it just seemed like all over we was running into different groups. The Japs was moving out and we had two pretty good battles there off the Philippines. We'd lose some ships then that was that was really about the first time that I can recall they started the komokozzies. We had one dump on us in off of Indiawa in the Philippines. His wingtip there where the guardrail the life line they've got steel you know all around the side of the ship. And the wing hit but it didn't explode so I don't know where he dropped his bomb and got hit but we figured that then but then later they started more of it. And then we went on up to Okinawa.

Interviewer: Tell me what

Spears: And we had that battle off Ewagema.

Interviewer: Uh huh

Spears: So we had a pretty good battle there at Ewagema too with the Japs up there.

Interviewer: Sure

Spears: But we went in we bombarded we went in close to the beach and landed troops. And the battleships big ships was firing over us lobbing them in there. And we stayed up there a while then went on to the Philippines then. But then it was kind of quiet there for a while until we started up to Okinawa. We went up there two days before they started the Battle of Okinawa.

Interviewer: Tell me you would have been about 19 in 1943 is that about right?

Spears: In 41? I was 17 when I went in.

Interviewer: So in 43 you would have been at that time the battles were going on you would have been about 19, 20 years old something like that.

Spears: Yeah

Interviewer: Tell me what it's like to be shot at and have to shoot back and everything. Because not a whole lot of 19 and 20 year old kids know what that's like.

Spears: Well it's pretty rough when you I mean you know you can see a ship fire and a lot of times you can see the shell coming in. And oh my God and of course it will either pass over you or around you or whatever maybe they were firing at somebody else and your shooting right back at them. Of course your too dag gum busy to loading the guns and all that. Of course I was stationed on the bridge captain

along side of me. Running errands passing on messages stuff like that he always wanted something done he'd say go do this or go do that. And I was on the gun crews for a while and then they decided they needed somebody up there I guess captain decided I was kind of the senior man as far as battle life was concerned. I'd stay up there and I'd watch it all and it's pretty hectic when you think well we're next. Then the day that we got sunk that's on the USS Bush the first well we shipped them over to help us out after got hit we had done been hit two or three times. The first one to come in on us I was on the bridge and the last I saw him over on the other side of the bridge I stayed a little longer than I should have. And I could see the pilot standing up and kind of leaning up in that plane like that. And a lot of them started over to the other side because they thought he was coming right at us and they knew wherever you're at.

Interviewer: Wow

Spears: And then about the time I got about half way across it hit and the explosion knocked me down and so I got up looked around the of the ship was blown out. And from there it just first one thing then the other then the communication officer set he threw a bunch of papers over the side and jumped in after them. And he was drifting away and there was planes everywhere. And the captain told me put the boats in the water put the boat and by the time I did that and got around to him he said "they ain't gonna come back for me." I said you ain't got much further I could look and see the Jap planes out over the horizon. So I got back in the tip tied up and we thought well with some help we can make it back in all power was knocked out. So the captain told me to pass the word that if we got hit again abandon ship. So I went on along and this plane dove into us but didn't do any damage and so we had already started preparation to abandon ship and I got up in the ___ and the captain and all of us started around and it didn't do no damage. So he said take me back and pick these guys up they had all jumped in the water.

Interviewer: Right

Spears: Prior to that when I splashed in the water this buddy of mine hollered at me he and I worked the further part of the ship. And hey he called everybody by their last name hey Spears I turned around and said yeah. He said what happened to my damn wallet and his name was Hook I said right here it is Hook and I handed it to him. And he said well give me a shot he said I'm hurting I said you've had two, oh. I said I'll be back in a minute so went on and in a second that plane hit us then and I got the boat and got around and the captain told me to take him back pick the guys up. And I was picking the guys up getting them on brass and stuff the third one come in and he drove into us and oh my gosh. I didn't know where he was diving he was down so low and I stopped boat and cut the engine and hunkered down and about the time I looked up he went over and I thought he's gonna miss the ship. And that rascal he pulled out and come back in and got us again. And by that time why it wasn't very long and the ship broke in half. I seen guys jumping off the ship and I knew not to go back in then. So I waited a while and went back in and I picked some guys up and took them to the raft and then it started getting dark on us. It wasn't nowhere to go I stopped and floated around there I couldn't find nobody and then about midnight why the ship come in got us. Turned the flashlights, on put them lights out. So they picked us up and I got picked up about midnight some of the guys didn't get picked up until about three in the morning. They was packing on rafts a lot of guys they just drank so much salt water they couldn't get in the raft they were hanging on they just turned lose. One boy said I pulled up, this guy's name, said I pulled him up about a dozen times said I'm worn out said I ain't gonna pull you up no more, down he went. I guess some of them jumped in without their jackets. That was one of the main things put that jacket on then if you jumped in water you was to hold it down make sure it didn't get off of you. But I thought for sure

we was somebody would come over and help us out. That one ship did after we got hit the first time and he had already been hit twice I think well I know he had been hit a couple of times. But he then they some of the guys got picked up on a tug they sent a tug out to tow us in but after we lost communication well that was it then. It was a pretty rough day I think there was they had about 400 of them in the air that day.

Interviewer: Do you have any idea how many men you picked up that day? A rough estimate of how many sailors you picked up out of the water?

Spears: I have no idea I would say probably 25 anyway. They was scattered you know the current was separating them and you'd get two this guy and then hit him maybe pick up two or three. Sometimes you got back it was getting dark on us it was late in the evening you just lost contact with everybody the waves and all began to pickup it was hard to see guys. And a lot of them maybe jumped off without jackets I'm sure.

Interviewer: You mentioned a lot of your captain and the leadership. Tell me a little bit about what you thought of the quality of the leadership. I spoke with one gentleman who had a he had a sergeant blow his foot off so he didn't have to go into battle got sent back stateside. So I've heard the whole spectrum I've heard really good stories I'm heard some really negative ideas of the leadership. Tell me what your perspective was.

Spears: We had now that you mention that we had a boy he was in my division he come on in San Diego when we took ship after we put the ship in commission we went from Frisco to Diego. And he said I ain't going over there and I said well yeah you will you'll go somewhere. I won't go and one morning they heard a shot and we had men stationed on the ship with riffles and this boy took his riffle and put it down at his foot and blowed his foot off. And he laughed about it I told you I wasn't gonna go.

Interviewer: Other than

Spears: Then they sent the guy off and I guess they said he'd get a dishonorable discharge. But that's all I know obviously we went on off to sea and they put him off the ship.

Interviewer: Uh huh

Spears: I don't recall the boy's name now I can't think of it. I just don't

Interviewer: No that's alright that's fine. But you were overall impressed and you trusted in their competence your captains and everything else?

Spears: Yeah

Interviewer: Didn't mind any of them.

Spears: Yeah we had good leadership over there. There was a lot of things that went on some negative and some positive but overall I think it was pretty well what we did was pretty well planned.

Interviewer: Did you were you promoted during your time in the service did you move up the ranks at all?

Spears: No I just I wound up boat mate second.

Interviewer: Talk to me we were talking a little bit about what they did the Japanese. Were you impressed by their training and the things that they were able to accomplish and the way they accomplished them? Or was it a sort of I can't believe they're fighting like this I can't believe they're doing it this way? When you look back at it.

Spears: No we fought ___ they're crazy we knew that. But when they come to that they knew there wasn't nothing if they went out they wasn't coming back they knew that because they had enough fuel to get there and so I was told they sent a leader with each group. And if he didn't dive in when they told him to he wasn't gonna come back because he had orders to shoot him down and leave him out there. His they started a little of that before but when we hit Okinawa is when that suicides really started. They had been training them for months and they knew we were close to getting there. And that was and they considered it an honor.

Interviewer: That's exactly the word they used for it, it was an honorable way to die an honorable way to fight.

Spears: They interviewed this one pilot that attacked Pearl Harbor and he said I consider it an honor to be called to do that.

Interviewer: Really because I've heard interviews of some people that thought because the Japanese because it was sneak attack and it was kind of like hitting someone in the back. That a lot of them have looked back as if maybe that wasn't the most honorable thing for them to do because they weren't ready for it. They didn't have any problem with war it was the fact that it was a sneak attack to initiate the war. And that's some of the comments I've heard on a couple of the different programs I've watched and a couple of the books that I've read.

Spears: I don't know.

Interviewer: Just interesting that you had heard that just contrasted with what I heard is all. You mentioned a couple of people that had been wounded and that you worked with that had been hurt. Did you were you ever wounded in the service?

Spears: No

Interviewer: You were not?

Spears: No I was just one of the lucky ones.

Interviewer: Were you ever recommended for a medal or anything like that?

Spears: No

Interviewer: Any awards or recognitions?

Spears: No just other than the regular medals that I

Interviewer: What was it like on what were your thoughts on the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? You had been in the Pacific the whole time the war was winding down and it was either in the invasion of Japan mainly of Japan what was your thought process and your crews thought process on that?

Spears: Well I was glad they did it and I don't there was a lot of negatives on that. But I say they killed a lot of people and but they killed a lot of our guys too when they sneaked in on Pearl Harbor.

Interviewer: Oh sure.

Spears: Had we have not have dropped the atomic bomb and went in there to take it by land we would have lost a million and a half guys. And you've got it you might as well use it.

Interviewer: I agree.

Spears: Like McArthur said when they fired him when the Korean War come up. He said put the bomb to them you can't win a land war in Asia. Said put the smasher to them that's when they got rid of him.

Interviewer: Uh huh

Spears: So you've got to use what you've got. I mean had we have not dropped that that would have been a million and half more guys that we would have lost. Like he said war is hell said if you're gonna fight a war you fight it to win. He said that's like playing football one team takes it and goes to the ten yard line turns it over to the other team they go back to the ten yard line nobody wins. And that was told as a parallel it goes parallel and stops the game stay where you're at you've lost all them men you haven't gained nothing. Jumped right out jumped into Vietnam the same thing. Crazy

Interviewer: I agree, after the war was over and you came back home tell me what it was like to be a victorious American sailor coming home. Where there celebrations here in Ashland and Chapmansboro when you got back here?

Spears: No too many they were it was kindly quiet there for a while and I was pretty well shook up. I didn't know what to do with myself I loafed around for a while and drank quite a bit. I just fell with a bunch of guys who had all been through hell together and drank a lot. I couldn't get straightened out I just had things on my mind I just thinking well maybe this will break out again. I didn't know how to cope with it and I went to work and worked on the river boat for a while and loafed around here.

Interviewer: Did you have any idea of what you had accomplished and how important that was in the context of history and how America was a super power was the world superpower? It was after WWII that American really emerged as the power she is today. Did you guys realize or have any idea that you were the ones that lifted America up to that level?

Spears: I think we started that we was the greatest and had the best nobody could beat us we showed that we proved that.

Interviewer: Now talk to me a little bit compare September the 11th and the nation's reaction to the events on that day. With your experience on December the 7th and how the events relate in your life.

Spears: Well when it happened first when I saw it I thought it was just a plane crashed then I realized it was like the Komokozzies. They figured it was an honor to go do what they were doing. I mean I don't I just and it's not gonna stop.

Interviewer: What did you think about the nation's unity?

Spears: I think pulled them closer together yes very close. I've had a number of people younger people stop me and thank me. Say I want to thank you sir. A number of people.

Interviewer: That's good

Spears: Of course I ware one of my few hats and but it it's woke the people up and I think they always relaxed. It's not gonna happen over here it happens in other places. They see these suiciders and all everywhere wearing bombs and blowing people up on buses and stuff. And I think it woke people up I really do.

Interviewer: Mr. Spears that you for your time I appreciate it I really do thank you very much.