

## **Devlin, Suzanne USMC**

[00:00:16.90] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I was born in Staten Island, New York in 1953. My family are largely German immigrants farmers who came over in the 1870s, started farms first in Virginia and during the Civil War moved to the City of New York where they had five of the largest farms in the City of New York to include Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island.

[00:00:47.59] JOE GALLOWAY: Hang on to that.

[00:00:48.82] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And because I come from a long line of probably fighters, my great, great grandfather did not want to pay his taxes to New York City at the time. And so at his death, New York City took his last farm, which is the one that I grew up on in Staten Island, I didn't know it was his farm though. And took it and made it part of the Greenbelt of Staten Island. So today it still sits as almost 3,000 acres of New York City's parkland. He donated it for a tuberculosis sanatorium.

[00:01:26.11] JOE GALLOWAY: Sanatorium.

[00:01:27.26] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And it was where the first tuberculosis cure was actually used, so it's a very come from a--

[00:01:34.87] JOE GALLOWAY: How many were in your immediate family?

[00:01:39.76] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Five of us total, I'm a twin. My dad was in the Army Air Corps during the war but otherwise he was a businessman. He owned his own company, oil burner company. Servicing.

[00:01:59.21] I think that probably is the biggest curiosity because I didn't come from what would be called a military family at all. But I think, as you might recall, we're in a bit of a turmoil during the 1960s and '70s, lots of questions about women's role in society. My mother was a true feminist of her era.

[00:02:22.88] JOE GALLOWAY: Now what year are we talking about you thinking about doing it?

[00:02:26.86] SUZANNE DEVLIN: '60, '70. That's 1968, '69, and '70. Obviously, you had--

[00:02:30.97] JOE GALLOWAY: Race riots, assassinations--

[00:02:31.26] SUZANNE DEVLIN: --the whole civil rights--

[00:02:32.93] JOE GALLOWAY: --civil rights.

[00:02:34.22] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Women's role in society, the war, a lot swirling around. So I remember sitting at the table with the typical female coffee klatch of adults and they said, so

what are you going to do when you grow up? And I just wanted to be something other than a secretary, a nurse-

[00:02:53.29] JOE GALLOWAY: Or a teacher.

[00:02:53.63] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Or a teacher. I said, I want to be something more than that. And they said, Well you can't. And I was like, there's got to be something more than that.

[00:03:01.29] JOE GALLOWAY: But the Marine Corps is hard core.

[00:03:03.68] SUZANNE DEVLIN: My brother was kind of Marine-like and had a heart murmur, so he was not drafted. And when I was looking at options, I went to college for a little while but I just felt like I needed more than college, I was just restless And so my brother said, oh, you should join the Marine Corps. What do I know?

[00:03:22.40] Really I had tried to join the Navy. And I'm making all the phone calls to all the armed services for somebody to talk to me. And the Navy said, "Call you right back." And the Marines said, "I'll see you in about 20 minutes." These two handsome Marines, I'm 19, these two guys probably 23, 24 years old showed up in 30 minutes in dress blues at my house and said, how would you like to go out for spaghetti dinner? I'm like, I'd never had a date with a guy like that, so I'm all about it.

[00:03:55.07] JOE GALLOWAY: I'm with you on that.

[00:03:56.33] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I signed those papers right after spaghetti. I had no idea of course really what I was signing.

[00:04:01.82] JOE GALLOWAY: What you were getting into.

[00:04:02.39] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Exactly.

[00:04:03.68] JOE GALLOWAY: You of course, knew there was a war going on?

[00:04:07.57] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I did. But I also knew that even if I wanted to go, they weren't sending me anywhere. And I kept thinking that could change although at the time it was hard to imagine that change. It was so successful that--

[00:04:24.54] JOE GALLOWAY: Were they training women separately?

[00:04:26.85] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yes, I was part of the WM Battalion at the time, the last vestiges of WM Battalion, which I honestly thought was a good thing. Honestly, women have really suffered in the services without advocacy since then in my opinion.

[00:04:42.50] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:04:43.09] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And while it was a bit old fashioned the way WM Battalion was run by then General Brewer, who was my colonel then. You were managed like property, if any guy wanted to date you the WM master sergeant was watching that, and the men had to sign you out and sign you.

[00:05:04.42] JOE GALLOWAY: Sign you in.

[00:05:05.42] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Barbed wire around your barracks, you were protected by Marines, you were 1 to 10,000, you were respected.

[00:05:15.46] JOE GALLOWAY: A lot of big brothers there.

[00:05:17.57] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah. And I think women-- like I said, they were very protected because there weren't many of you. Went to Memphis after Parris Island for training, and then went on to Cherry Point as a destination, that was my air traffic control site, which was at the time the second largest Marine Corps base of the wing, it was a big base. It was very exciting. But again the Marine Corps motto at that time was To Free Men To Fight, so you assumed jobs of men, which I was in air traffic control.

[00:05:50.12] Only men were in that particular MOS, so I got in as a in-flight clearance, which was considered unique at the time, a big bus through some of those closed doors.

[00:06:01.59] JOE GALLOWAY: Broke the ceiling.

[00:06:02.81] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Right. Back then we basically handled all the flight planning for all the pilots, and did all the weather, and did all the notice to airmen. So back then you typed all the flight plans into a teletype machine and got them cleared. We cleared all the aircraft coming in and off the runway.

[00:06:24.76] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:06:25.46] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And handled all the search and rescue when an aircraft declared an emergency. I think we were the first Harrier site when the Harriers came out, which was very exciting.

[00:06:37.08] I did take on a general, and I was a Pfc, not really properly acculturated probably, but for some reason, this general's flight plan, I could not get it approved, I couldn't get it through the system. I don't know if it was a weather thing or maybe I had an extra dot, but in any event, he could not take off, and he sat until he parked his plane and came in and was all over me. Who are you to stop me from flying my airplane? And this guy was scarred. I think he'd been flying in and out of Vietnam for quite a while. And he was like, whoever said women could be here anyway. So my captain had to stand pretty tall for that.

[00:07:23.96] I don't really think I did anything wrong, that's why I probably still kept my position.

[00:07:28.11] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, were talking about the computer here anyway.

[00:07:30.01] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Exactly. So anyway, it was a good job, it was a really exciting job. Well back then there was certainly no money in the barracks. I was in the old World War II barracks, with the fans.

[00:07:48.37] JOE GALLOWAY: Oil heater in the winter.

[00:07:50.50] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Exactly. 15 women to a toilet. it was pretty-- really no difference between prison and the Marine Corps. They cut your hair, you got to wear these horrible clothes, the only difference was when you got out somebody, well, maybe somebody thought it was pretty good what you did, but I thought I was in prison half the time.

[00:08:16.92] Yeah, it was a different time. Women of all colors and races were working hard to join and diversify what was pretty much a workforce that was just about men. And if you recall back in the day, it was a very specific size of men.

[00:08:37.41] The law that allowed women to integrate into jobs in this country, didn't just open jobs to women, but it opened them up to small men, because it used to be six foot, 200 pounds, or 180 to 200. You had a-- uniform meant a uniform. They cut uniforms to a certain size and shape. This was the only group that fit into it. And then they introduced women of all sizes and shapes.

[00:09:03.33] And I think most of my time at Parris Island as a recruit was spent in getting measured for uniforms, which was incredible. Measure for uniforms because the Marine Corps had decided it was time to change their image of women.

[00:09:17.85] And a general at the time took his very beautiful secretary and made her the image for women Marines that he was going to recruit. And she was a beautiful woman, beautifully prepared for this incredible poster that was floating all over America, and that wasn't what they got.

[00:09:38.46] So, we learned what we're supposed to look like, how we should walk, how we should talk, we had to have teas to entertain people, we had-- this is like a completely different Marine Corps. I didn't know that I was joining a Marine Corps.

[00:09:53.91] JOE GALLOWAY: That sounds like they're preparing an Annapolis graduate's wife.

[00:09:57.95] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And that's the way it was for boot camp, that was boot camp. And just as I was transitioning out of the Marine Corps, it was the whole switch over to a more equal position. And now you're moving into the battlefield.

[00:10:12.36] So all of a sudden you were getting rid of all of your women's clothes that were perfectly suited to your figure and you were all of a sudden in men's fatigues with cammies, big combat boots, weapons. It was like, wow, everything just transferred. You're no longer a woman

at all after the Marine Corps was trying so hard to make you into a woman. In fact, they taught you how to smoke. If you were a smoker you were not allowed to smoke like a man, you're supposed to smoke as a woman. It was a very funny time.

[00:10:44.83] It was so difficult that the Marine Corps had to initiate training to handle all of the disputes and the hostilities, again because you had America in the middle of the civil rights movement, you had women, and you had all this complexity around race. And then you threw all these people onto a base and they were supposed to get along and fight together and they fought plenty. There was a lot of battlefield in the dormitories and around.

[00:11:12.05] It was new for men and women of different races to actually date. It was still seen as outrageous, while not necessarily illegal. But in South Carolina, if a black female and a white male were seen together on the street dating in any capacity it was considered very eye opening. And I being a New Yorker didn't really see the color line a lot of my Southern brethren.

[00:11:35.66] And I didn't think about dating-- oh, I'm dating somebody that's African-American, or black at the time. I dated people, whoever I felt like, but it was the reverberations of that. So I would say socially, it was a very interesting time for all the services.

[00:11:56.61] The real turmoil wasn't about the war when you're in the service.

[00:12:00.54] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:12:01.35] SUZANNE DEVLIN: The real turmoil was the social fabric of society that was changing that made it a battlefield socially. In fact, I had orders to Okinawa that were canceled because of essentially what were considered gender wars even back then. And there were women Soldiers who were being raped in Okinawa by male Soldiers and they decided-- they literally canceled my orders to Okinawa because of the danger between the men and women.

[00:12:30.87] JOE GALLOWAY: That tells me that the leadership has fallen completely on its face in a place like that.

[00:12:37.61] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah, I think that there were still not many women in leadership positions in the Marine Corps at that time to probably effectively even have a voice in that conversation.

[00:12:50.58] JOE GALLOWAY: You're right.

[00:12:52.05] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Men still plenty ruled. And I was told, we might have to have you here, but that doesn't mean we have to really want you here, we don't have to make it happy place for you.

[00:13:04.44] JOE GALLOWAY: We don't have to like it.

[00:13:05.80] SUZANNE DEVLIN: We don't have to like it.

[00:13:06.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Or like you.

[00:13:07.62] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Exactly. See that was before sexual harassment, before practicing anti-discrimination, before the civil rights movement, before everything that's in place today.

[00:13:16.53] JOE GALLOWAY: It almost sounds like the 18th century.

[00:13:20.40] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I think it was even tougher in some ways, but you're right. A lot of times I would say we were in the bars because in most of our bases they were very remote, but the funny thing about the bar story in the '70s in the service was that, here you see again that social piece.

[00:13:43.37] The male Marines of course all had their hair cut very short, just not at all fashionable, and so when they went out socially or if a woman Marine was going to date somebody-- You're always more cool about dating somebody who looked like they were civilian versus a Marine. So the men were busy wearing wigs.

[00:14:00.02] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, really? Just to go off--

[00:14:03.53] SUZANNE DEVLIN: To go off and to meet women. And you didn't know some guy was wearing a wig until it started to shift while you're dancing and you're like, oh, it's a Marine."

[00:14:11.82] JOE GALLOWAY: It's a Marine.

[00:14:13.75] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And of course the women were wearing wigs too because back then if you didn't they allowed you to not cut your hair. But if you did not cut your hair they issued you a wig and they told you--

[00:14:25.25] JOE GALLOWAY: A short hair wig.

[00:14:26.65] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yes, and they told you what your hair color was. Now my hair was always sort of blonde. However, my DI told me that I was a redhead, so they issued me a red haired wig--

[00:14:37.96] JOE GALLOWAY: A red haired wig.

[00:14:38.81] SUZANNE DEVLIN: --that I had to wear. And people would say, I just look completely different. And my ID would say I was red headed. So you never knew what you were dating when you out there in the bar scene, you didn't know what you got half the time. but otherwise you played the typical athletic games, volleyball, baseball, you worked out.

[00:15:04.43] As you mentioned, I spent 33 years in policing and became one of the first female chiefs in the country to head a major police department. There were 10 women when I became

the chief of police in Fairfax. Of the 10,000 police departments in the country, there were 10 women police chiefs of major police departments.

[00:15:23.23] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:15:23.83] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I give that success story for me to the Marine Corps because it was the Marine Corps who not just taught me about leadership, but showed me women leaders who were really amazing women. Women don't get that. And we had it in a very confined finishing school environment, some very strong, assertive, attractive, professional women who've led, a lot of integrity, polish.

[00:15:59.51] When I started my policing career, I was one of very few and you were very isolated, more so than in the Marine Corps, because in the Marine Corps, you were associated with WM Battalion, but in the police department you were with men, and you.

[00:16:13.07] That experience in the Marine Corps helped me and-- really helped me craft a personal image for myself in policing before there ever was an image for women in police and it was really because of the wonderful women that I met in the Marine Corps.

[00:16:29.33] JOE GALLOWAY: Who were your leaders.

[00:16:30.81] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Who were my leaders. And as I said, General Brewer was my lieutenant colonel on Parris Island. And Jenny Wren, Lieutenant Colonel Jenny Wren, she was also one of the first--

[00:16:44.64] JOE GALLOWAY: And she made it to three stars.

[00:16:46.01] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah, I believe she did. Well I think if I think professionally, what I was asked to do as either an air traffic control or as a drill instructor. I think that when you are training recruits, you invest in them and your day one with them and then six weeks later who they are. And I think so on the drill field to watch with great pride the women that you've developed over that six week period and to see them marching on that parade field as yours that you're handing over was very inspirational.

[00:17:32.61] JOE GALLOWAY: When you were a drill instructor, were you a drill instructor only to female Marines?

[00:17:38.12] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yes, only to female Marines. It was very, very inspiring to see what you create in that very-- it was a very hostile, aggressive environment, Not all women were ready for it, even as a WM Battalion.

[00:18:00.18] And in air traffic control, we had I would say a most exciting moment and tragic moment because we had a Harrier crash. And they said it was brand new at the time. Yeah, I would say that was probably it. We lost the pilot and it was a huge tragedy for the airfield because you didn't have planes crash. You might have plenty that declared emergency but you really weren't going to lose a pilot.

[00:18:32.82] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:18:33.36] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And that went down badly.

[00:18:34.83] JOE GALLOWAY: It went down fast.

[00:18:36.09] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Mm-hmm, we had all the search and rescue, and it was a very big operation at the air field. I just finished up two. And it was just-- it wasn't a great amount of years obviously, but it also reminds me how great it would be for a country to give everybody that experience because it changes you, it changes who you become, it changes your whole life.

[00:19:01.87] Just a couple of years in the Marine Corps crafted for me a whole persona that was completely different from what I imagined.

[00:19:08.70] JOE GALLOWAY: You left the Marine Corp somebody else?

[00:19:11.53] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I did. And you know everybody's changing during that time, but I think I definitely left as a way better person given the opportunity. People of that age make so many mistakes and you weren't allowed to make too many mistakes, you were very, very tightly governed.

[00:19:30.55] So when I got out of the Marine Corps obviously it was post Vietnam and a lot of people didn't like you too much. And I'll tell you what, as a former drill instructor, when you went out socially to meet other Marines and they found out you were a drill instructor, you had people that would come out of the crowd. I had people that would come out of a party and they would say, I hate you, I always hated you, and I hate you. And you're like, whoa, I was just doing my job.

[00:19:56.36] JOE GALLOWAY: And this was from personal knowledge or just in general.

[00:19:59.39] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah, like my recruits, like some old recruit you'd run into. And I actually had two recruits I ran into. When I got into policing, one recruit of mine, had been a recruit of mine, she ended up in the police department as a secretary.

[00:20:13.17] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, my.

[00:20:13.71] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And I had a boss who said, oh, you're a Marine? Meet my secretary, she was a Marine. except she wasn't. I had kicked her because she stuttered, because they didn't permit stutterers. He said, you've got to meet her. And she came out, and she was just-

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[00:20:28.18] JOE GALLOWAY: I hate you.

[00:20:29.99] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah, I hate you. But well, so your reception was an odd time because again you had people who were very pro-war or those-- so you it wasn't something you talked about.

[00:20:40.21] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:20:40.78] SUZANNE DEVLIN: You did not talk about the fact that you were a Marine and had a former life. In fact, it really wasn't something to talk about really until I think like the last 10 years. You wouldn't even talk about it. It wasn't fashionable.

[00:20:58.13] I think there were definitely aspects of your personality that's a little distorted after Marine Corps because you are used to taking orders, you're used to getting orders, giving orders. And I remember my first job was with the Airline Pilots Association right here in DC.

[00:21:15.38] And my introduction to fashion was new because I'd been a couple of years in uniform and I'm looking at some very smartly dressed women and I wasn't so smartly dressed. But anyway, my first couple of days on the job I would sit in my place and I would wait for the orders.

[00:21:30.83] JOE GALLOWAY: And they didn't come.

[00:21:31.94] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And they weren't coming. And I remember sitting at my desk and the clock is ticking as the day is over and I'm still at my desk. My boss came out and he said, why are you still at your desk? I said, well, I'm waiting to be secured. He said, you're waiting to be secured, what is that? I said, well, I'm waiting for you to tell me that I can go home. He said, well, we don't tell you to go home, you just go home.

[00:21:56.18] And there were a lot of those kinds of tell me what to do now, tell me what to do now. And there were other aspects of my personality I think that had maybe-- in my last year as a drill instructor maybe a little on the rough side.

[00:22:10.10] JOE GALLOWAY: I can't believe that.

[00:22:11.09] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah, I wasn't as diplomatic as I might have been at other times. And you're busy getting up in people's faces so you're violating their space. So there are other occasions where I'd find myself maybe not as polite as I could be.

[00:22:24.12] So in a funny kind of way again, socially adjusting to a new role--

[00:22:27.90] JOE GALLOWAY: On the other hand, for police work that's good.

[00:22:30.11] SUZANNE DEVLIN: It became very handy as I traveled into law enforcement. That again was the recognition that the world had changed in the short time that I was in the Marine Corps. Suddenly, there really were real opportunities for women with Title VII, that basically changed in 1973, which said you can no longer seal employment opportunities. You can't keep women from doing anything.

[00:23:02.45] And police departments were ordered to bring women into law enforcement, post the riots, post the protests, there was a feeling that women had a place in policing that was larger than had been earlier described.

[00:23:16.64] So when I got out of the Marine Corps, I could be a bar bouncer, I didn't have an education, I was trying to find a place that I could transition my skills for better money. I was making \$7,000 as a Washington secretary. And you might recall what the Washington secretary was, but those were women who were chased around the desks by their male bosses who didn't have a lot of competence.

[00:23:41.28] I was hired with two fingers and looks, and chased around the desk by my boss I didn't know that at the time, but when I got there I figured out what was happening. And the headlines all across the country were police departments are seeking women.

[00:23:56.31] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:23:56.75] SUZANNE DEVLIN: \$13,000 a year to start. I was making \$7,000 a year, so I was like, sign me up.

[00:24:04.88] JOE GALLOWAY: There you go.

[00:24:05.55] SUZANNE DEVLIN: So I didn't know what world I was getting into when I got into that world either, but I thought the Marine Corps probably would prepare me for it. And indeed my first day on the job it turns out that a very large man who was a motor cop, who was about 280 pounds, an enormous man, and you know, women were not being very well received in policing, everybody said, we've got to figure out who is this Marine that's coming in? Bring her in, bring her in, we'll show her who we are. And I showed up and this guy gets up and he said, nobody touches her. He was a Marine.

[00:24:40.70] JOE GALLOWAY: He was a Marine.

[00:24:41.39] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I was a Marine. And so he put the bubble guarding around me and there was a no touch zone. You mess with her, you mess with me. So again, how funny the world works that this funny transition of the Marine blanket of protection, it you know translates wherever you are and it's forever, it's a forever thing, which is again how wonderful it is to have had the opportunity to serve in the Marine Corps and how sad it is that with an all volunteer service that we have today, so many men and women don't have the opportunity.

[00:25:18.79] It was a very long, hard struggle but it was worth it and it was very gratifying to see I was fortunate that the world was changing. When I wanted to start a family-- formerly, if you were to start a family, you would have to leave your place of employment.

[00:25:38.38] Women who were in police work and in the services who got pregnant were tossed. It was like, you're bad, you're going to be discharged because you're bad. And the law changed and all of a sudden, oh, you got in the family way and they had to figure out what to do with you. So I was lucky, so I got to live a real life in policing.

[00:25:59.58] JOE GALLOWAY: And still be a police person.

[00:26:00.65] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah, and be a wife, have a family, grow my children up, rise in leadership, and do many, many different things, serve the public and the community. It was a very, very gratifying job.

[00:26:17.26] My roommates were all former Marines. Matter of fact, there's a Marine friend of mine I'm meeting next month who was my roommate in Parris Island. So I would say, it's like they're your college fraternity.

[00:26:29.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:26:29.52] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I didn't go to college in a traditional way, so I didn't join a fraternity, but the Marine Corps was like my sorority.

[00:26:36.69] JOE GALLOWAY: That was your sorority.

[00:26:37.94] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah. So you--

[00:26:39.38] JOE GALLOWAY: You did stay friends with a lot them.

[00:26:40.98] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Oh, yes. Yes, many of them, I'm still in touch with--

[00:26:43.08] JOE GALLOWAY: You guys have a reunion once in a while?

[00:26:45.33] SUZANNE DEVLIN: We do.

[00:26:46.06] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:26:46.44] SUZANNE DEVLIN: We do.

[00:26:47.10] JOE GALLOWAY: That's great.

[00:26:51.71] SUZANNE DEVLIN: You know the Marine Corps grows you up, and it grows you up fast. You either grow up or you don't, I guess. And I think that it teaches you a resilience. And no, I wasn't on the battlefield, I was on another strange battlefield that you don't get any medals for, you shed a lot of blood, sweat, and tears over it, that social battlefield that was America at that time.

[00:27:17.94] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:27:18.54] SUZANNE DEVLIN: And I think it taught me a personal resilience. I went through a lot of emotional-- just a very silly story, I'd been designated a squad leader, it was my first real challenge and I was designated as a squad leader. And we had the press coming in to a whole front page of the Raleigh-Durham Dispatch on women Marines. And I was selected as a squad leader to get everybody just in the perfect place for when the news rolled, right?

[00:27:50.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:27:51.08] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I'm 19, I'm excited. So sure enough my 60 member platoon are all lined up. We're looking ready. We're squared away. Everybody's looking immaculate. And the DI walks through the threshold. And you'd yelling, 10 hut. Everybody's standing there sharp. And what am I doing? I'm the last one to be ready, right? I grab my cover and I snatch it on my head and I think I put it on backwards.

[00:28:17.90] The cameras are rolling, this is front page storyline, right? And the DI, who is fortunately for me about 5 foot one stood at my nose and just proceeded to berate me publicly, shame me, what an idiot, who did I think I was, did I think I was Marine material? On and on and on. And I was standing at attention and the tears are just rolling down my face but I'm just completely stoic, right?

[00:28:48.05] And this is a front page story, Raleigh Times Dispatch, 1971, and Jenny Wren was the battalion commander at the time when that made the big front page. And she came back to my DI and she writes across this page, who is this Marine?

[00:29:05.66] Anyway, it was later, you're never forgiven, but-- and I didn't even know about the article, but getting through that emotionally-- today, kids would be out there slitting their wrists, finding a place to hang themselves. There's no resilience today and I think that while that sounds silly today, that kind of public shaming, you couldn't even handle it on Facebook today. But you buck up, you get over it and you move on, the next day is the next day.

[00:29:31.86] And I think that that is the most important lesson that I learned because, just forget about that day, move on to the next day, make the next day your best day, make the next day your best day, and that has carried me through life. And today people just go-- they crumble at the worst day. The worst day is the worst day again and again and again. And they don't know how to let it go.

[00:30:00.64] It shocks me in many ways, I guess because I was at the end of the war, and yet I knew so many men that went to the battlefield and I did marry two men because the Marines promise you a few good men, I got to two Marines.

[00:30:15.22] JOE GALLOWAY: You got two.

[00:30:16.00] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Married them both. When I look at the numbers of men who died, and women, on that battlefield-- and then of course I transitioned my career to law enforcement. And I know more than 15 people on the Law Enforcement Memorial wall, men that-- men and women who I worked with, more than 15 on that wall, and I don't know any on the Vietnam War Wall, I guess just because of the size of a war like Vietnam. But the police memorial is all about the 10,000 police departments across the country, for me to know that many cops personally killed on the job really makes you wonder what has changed in America.

[00:31:03.10] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:31:04.12] SUZANNE DEVLIN: But anyway, the Vietnam Memorial, I love it. I go to Quantico, I go to the Marine Corps Museum, I take my grandchildren to the Marine Corps Museum, which again is a beautiful testimony to the Marine Corps so, yeah.

[00:31:22.15] It's very strange to see that you're suddenly a part of history.

[00:31:25.06] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:31:25.66] SUZANNE DEVLIN: But how exciting to still be around to be part of history.

[00:31:29.28] JOE GALLOWAY: That's exactly right.

[00:31:31.03] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Yeah. And thank you for letting me tell my story.

[00:31:37.34] JOE GALLOWAY: Have you received your Vietnam lapel pin?

[00:31:41.36] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I have not.

[00:31:42.24] JOE GALLOWAY: We're going to fix that.

[00:31:43.98] SUZANNE DEVLIN: OK, well thank you very much, appreciate it.

[00:31:46.33] MARK FRANKLIN: And so we have developed this lapel pin for our Vietnam Veterans. It says Vietnam War Veteran, you'll see the American Eagle, and six stars along the side. That represents the United States and the five allies that fought with us in Vietnam, the Koreans, Australians, New Zealand, Philippine, and Thai.

[00:32:02.68] So, if I may.

[00:32:03.90] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Please.

[00:32:04.32] MARK FRANKLIN: Is It OK?

[00:32:04.77] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Absolutely.

[00:32:05.27] MARK FRANKLIN: Right here, all right?

[00:32:06.20] SUZANNE DEVLIN: Absolutely, thank you.

[00:32:08.02] MARK FRANKLIN: I don't like poking holes in people's clothes until I get their permission.

[00:32:12.95] SUZANNE DEVLIN: I will wear it proudly.