

Reinke, Sharon US Navy

[00:00:16.84] SHARON REINKE: I was born in Gary, Indiana in August 28, 1942.

[00:00:22.04] JOE GALLOWAY: I can sing a song about Gary, Indiana.

[00:00:23.86] SHARON REINKE: Yes, you could. But I was raised in East Chicago, Indiana, which is just down the road a bit. Yeah.

[00:00:29.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Just down the road from Gary?

[00:00:31.39] SHARON REINKE: Mm hm.

[00:00:33.01] JOE GALLOWAY: Who were your family members?

[00:00:36.01] SHARON REINKE: My mother was Anna Myrtle Fernando, and my dad was Louis Salvatore, And my brother-- I have two brothers, Laverne and Bob. My dad was a professional boxer.

[00:00:52.95] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:00:53.23] SHARON REINKE: And he worked in the steel mill, Youngstown steel mill.

[00:00:56.29] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:00:56.89] SHARON REINKE: Yeah, my dad was Tony Zale's sparring partner.

[00:01:00.37] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:01:01.54] SHARON REINKE: Now, there aren't going to be very many people who remember Tony Zale. I mean, that's a long time ago.

[00:01:07.25] JOE GALLOWAY: That's a long time ago--

[00:01:08.38] SHARON REINKE: Yeah.

[00:01:08.68] JOE GALLOWAY: --but all of that's impressive. What years did you serve in the Navy?

[00:01:16.51] SHARON REINKE: I served on active duty from May of 1966 till January of 1970. And then I went immediately into the Navy Reserve program and I served for the next 36 years.

[00:01:30.82] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow. Where did you serve overseas during both of those careers?

[00:01:36.76] SHARON REINKE: I didn't serve overseas, but my husband was also on active duty.

[00:01:42.39] JOE GALLOWAY: OK.

[00:01:43.12] SHARON REINKE: And we went to Naples, Italy where I taught school for four years.

[00:01:46.94] JOE GALLOWAY: OK, very good. JOE GALLOWAY: What led you to a commission in the Navy?

[00:01:56.83] SHARON REINKE: Well, when I was eight years old, I went and saw my brother graduate from boot camp up at Great Lakes. And on the way home, my other brother asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up. And I said, I want to go and be in the Navy just like my brother Bob.

[00:02:14.53] I tried to get into the Navy when I was in college. They said, no, you wait until you have your degree then we want you. So I went ahead and got my degree, taught school for two years, and then I went into the Navy.

[00:02:26.08] JOE GALLOWAY: All right, so you took a direct commission?

[00:02:28.60] SHARON REINKE: Mm hm.

[00:02:29.65] JOE GALLOWAY: Went through the whole nine yards?

[00:02:31.21] SHARON REINKE: I did indeed. In the winter of 1966.

[00:02:37.39] JOE GALLOWAY: In Great Lakes?

[00:02:38.20] SHARON REINKE: No, no, no. That was up at Newport, Rhode Island.

[00:02:40.99] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, even colder.

[00:02:41.59] SHARON REINKE: Yeah, even colder. Yeah.

[00:02:46.24] JOE GALLOWAY: What was your sense of what was going on in Vietnam and in the world before you entered the military?

[00:02:58.09] SHARON REINKE: The newspapers were full of Vietnam, the news was full of Vietnam, everything was negative. And I--

[00:03:06.45] JOE GALLOWAY: Campuses were full of demonstrations.

[00:03:07.51] SHARON REINKE: Campuses were-- yes. And I said, I've got to fight this.

[00:03:13.18] JOE GALLOWAY: And you said, I'm going to do my thing.

[00:03:14.47] SHARON REINKE: Yes. And that's exactly what I did.

[00:03:21.27] JOE GALLOWAY: And you did your basic training, OCS in--

[00:03:26.30] SHARON REINKE: Newport, Rhode Island.

[00:03:27.11] JOE GALLOWAY: Newport, Rhode Island.

[00:03:29.51] SHARON REINKE: When I reported in for duty there, I was met on the bus by Lieutenant Bobbi Hazard, Marietta Payne, and I can't remember the third one. There were three names that did not bode well.

[00:03:51.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Pain.

[00:03:52.29] SHARON REINKE: Pain and hazard.

[00:03:54.57] JOE GALLOWAY: What was your specialty?

[00:03:56.46] SHARON REINKE: We didn't have specialties back then. We were not warfare qualified. That came in the '70s.

[00:04:04.32] JOE GALLOWAY: You did what they told you to do.

[00:04:05.52] SHARON REINKE: I did what they told me to do.

[00:04:07.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Did they give you training that you thought prepared you for whatever they threw your way?

[00:04:13.98] SHARON REINKE: Well, they taught us-- yes, they had classes in personnel and communications and other fields where we might be stationed and have other work to do.

SHARON REINKE: I was assigned to Miramar Naval Air Station to Fighter Squadron 126, which was the precursor to the TOPGUN squadron. I was the first woman officer assigned to a Navy fighter squadron. And I was assigned as a ground officer.

[00:04:47.67] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:04:48.42] SHARON REINKE: And I did everything that didn't fly.

[00:04:50.85] JOE GALLOWAY: There you go.

[00:04:51.81] SHARON REINKE: But I got to fly in the back seat of the aircraft as well.

[00:04:54.72] JOE GALLOWAY: Ah, there you are. What responsibilities consumed most of your time? On that assignment and subsequent ones.

[00:05:04.20] SHARON REINKE: Well, on that assignment, working the personnel issues for the squadron was my primary duty. And educational services-- I served as the educational services officer getting courses lined up for various individuals in the squadron. And I did-- as I said, personnel was a big issue and public affairs.

[00:05:31.14] And I was a communications officer. I did just about, as you say, everything that-- anything they needed to have done that didn't fly--

[00:05:40.11] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:05:40.44] SHARON REINKE: --I somehow got involved with it. SHARON REINKE: It was a mixed bag, if you will. Because there were some who felt that women had no place in the Navy or in the military and they weren't particularly excited to see me come aboard. And there were others who thought this is, hey, there's stuff she can do here and we're going to go ahead and-- we're going to work with her. We're going to get things done.

[00:06:12.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:06:13.14] SHARON REINKE: And so it was-- got along fine with everybody. I liked the enlisted folks, they were very-- they wanted to take care of the ensign. That's my second class and the chief. Yeah, that was important.

[00:06:32.79] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you form friendships with men and women from different racial and social backgrounds during your time in the military that you might never have had in civilian life?

[00:06:47.34] SHARON REINKE: Yes, I did. The majority of the men that I was stationed with were white. And we had some Native Americans in the squadron as well. And I actually formed a pretty good relationship with one of those and with a parachute rigger who went back to Minnesota every year to harvest rice.

[00:07:21.84] JOE GALLOWAY: Wild rice?

[00:07:22.47] SHARON REINKE: He took 30 days every year on leave and went back and made as much in that one month as he made--

[00:07:30.87] JOE GALLOWAY: In the year with the Navy.

[00:07:31.41] SHARON REINKE: --the rest of the year. Yes.

[00:07:33.75] JOE GALLOWAY: That's wild.

[00:07:34.47] SHARON REINKE: But he was a parachute rigger.

[00:07:36.63] JOE GALLOWAY: They harvest wild rice--

[00:07:37.99] SHARON REINKE: Wild rice.

[00:07:38.49] JOE GALLOWAY: --on canoes.

[00:07:39.00] SHARON REINKE: That's right.

[00:07:39.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:07:41.40] SHARON REINKE: I didn't form any friendships with women because there weren't any.

[00:07:46.14] JOE GALLOWAY: There weren't any. You were a pioneer.

[00:07:47.67] SHARON REINKE: I was it. I was. Yeah, so.

[00:07:52.29] JOE GALLOWAY: Describe any social tensions or turmoil that you experienced or witnessed in those years.

[00:07:59.73] SHARON REINKE: Oh mercy. Can we just stop here for a minute? Can we stop for a minute so I can just--

[00:08:09.97] JOE GALLOWAY: Gather your thoughts.

[00:08:11.54] SHARON REINKE: Well, yeah, I don't know if I should say some of these things because they would not be accepted now. I just didn't say anything about a lot of things. I'll give you an example.

[00:08:24.81] The first commanding officer I had was very solicitous of me. And there were no restroom facilities for women in the squadrons. They didn't have any women, they didn't need it.

[00:08:36.64] JOE GALLOWAY: They didn't have any women.

[00:08:37.99] SHARON REINKE: So there happened to be-- I had between the commanding officer and the executive officer's office. And he let me have access to that restroom. I just looked to make sure that people were out or whatever. And that was the restroom that I used.

[00:08:58.03] Well, that commanding officer was relieved and the second one came in. And he called me into his office and the first thing he said to me was, you don't belong in my Navy and I'll do everything I can to get you out. That was his first words to me and he never spoke to me again.

[00:09:17.77] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:09:19.51] SHARON REINKE: But he did try to-- ultimately tried to-- as I told you, I was educational services officer. And he tried to hang me for two missing advancement exams that

had been missing two years before I ever joined the Navy. And at that point, I knew I was in trouble.

[00:09:43.45] So I went up to the legal up on the staff, ComFair staff, and I told the E-6 up there, because I happened to know him and he introduced me to the lawyer there. And a couple of days later, I had orders taking me from that squadron and putting me up on the staff. So that's not the kind of thing I wanted--

[00:10:12.17] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, you don't want to talk about that.

[00:10:13.01] SHARON REINKE: I don't want to talk about that.

[00:10:14.99] JOE GALLOWAY: It's a very different Navy today--

[00:10:18.26] SHARON REINKE: It is indeed, and--

[00:10:19.79] JOE GALLOWAY: --than it was in 1960-what?

[00:10:22.01] SHARON REINKE: '66.

[00:10:22.97] JOE GALLOWAY: '66.

[00:10:25.16] SHARON REINKE: Much different now.

[00:10:26.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:10:26.42] SHARON REINKE: But that commanding officer, that second commanding officer, we got new aircraft in. And he took the first hop in the new A-4 Skyhawk and he dropped the seat pins in the jet intake. That's like a couple hundred thousand dollars worth of--

[00:10:43.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Worth of engine chewed up.

[00:10:46.60] SHARON REINKE: So anyway--

[00:10:47.28] JOE GALLOWAY: Did they take it out of his salary, I hope?

[00:10:49.48] SHARON REINKE: Oh, no. I don't know anything like that. But I mean, that was what I was dealing with. And the squadron was kind of polarized for a while. I didn't say anything about anything.

[00:11:00.38] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:11:00.80] SHARON REINKE: I just kept my mouth shut.

[00:11:02.08] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:11:02.77] SHARON REINKE: And the commanding officer assigned this lieutenant commander to be my boss. And he would come into the office, the window would be closed. He would close the door and he would stand there and smoke a stogie until you could not breathe. And I had to stay in there until he decided I could leave. So I don't want to talk about that.

[00:11:31.05] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. Well, we just won't talk about it then.

[00:11:34.05] SHARON REINKE: OK.

[00:11:35.49] JOE GALLOWAY: We'll move right along.

[00:11:38.11] SHARON REINKE: But I had some really good experiences with the people there. Ultimately, the squadron-- things that the commanding officer was doing to make me look bad-- the guys said, you know, this isn't funny anymore.

[00:11:55.69] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:11:56.83] SHARON REINKE: And when it became this isn't so funny anymore, the entire atmosphere changed.

[00:12:03.07] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:12:03.40] SHARON REINKE: And that's OK. I just figured I had joined the Navy, I was invading a man's world-- and it was a man's world at that time-- and I just had to put up with it. How badly did I want to stay in? That's all.

[00:12:23.81] JOE GALLOWAY: There it was.

[00:12:25.60] SHARON REINKE: Yeah.

[00:12:28.07] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, you were going from ensign to captain in the US Navy and Navy Reserves. That's a long haul. You served a lot.

[00:12:39.74] SHARON REINKE: Yes, I did.

[00:12:45.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Tell me about climbing that ladder in a service that didn't want any women in it.

[00:12:56.15] SHARON REINKE: I started out as an ensign and I was with the squadron, Fighter Squadron 126. And then was transferred to the Commander Fleet Air, Miramar to the staff. And that broadened my experience with the aviation community quite a bit doing that.

[00:13:18.93] And then I went back to-- I was stationed in Indianapolis, Indiana at Fort Benjamin Harrison where I was an instructor in speech and research. They call it oral communications and research.

[00:13:31.58] JOE GALLOWAY: In the information school.

[00:13:32.45] SHARON REINKE: Yes, in the public affairs school for the military.

[00:13:36.62] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:13:37.04] SHARON REINKE: And I made lieutenant there and left in 1970, left active duty and went into the reserve program. And found out I had made lieutenant commander, but I hadn't been notified of it.

[00:13:57.53] JOE GALLOWAY: They hadn't told you.

[00:13:58.76] SHARON REINKE: So I wanted to know, why didn't I make lieutenant commander? Well, you did. It was going between active duty and reserve program.

[00:14:10.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Did your rank catch up with you?

[00:14:12.39] SHARON REINKE: Yes, it did. Yes.

[00:14:13.76] JOE GALLOWAY: Thank God.

[00:14:14.96] SHARON REINKE: Yeah. And I went to work in the Reserves as-- let's see. First thing I did was public affairs in the Reserve unit in Indianapolis. And there I started a program where I would get training films from the Navy and show them to these guys who were seamen and just coming into the service, not having any idea what they wanted to do when they went on to active duty. And we covered submarines, surface warfare--

[00:14:52.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Whatever?

[00:14:53.06] SHARON REINKE: --whatever. And so they'd have an idea of what they would have to do and what was involved with those different jobs or billets. So I felt like that was a pretty worthwhile thing to do.

[00:15:05.48] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:15:05.72] SHARON REINKE: I enjoyed doing that. Yeah. And from there, I went to Naples, Italy with my husband. He had been in Vietnam while I was teaching. I was teaching school to civilians then and doing the Reserves-- going to Reserves four nights a week, because he was gone. I had nothing else going on at home.

[00:15:31.96] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you do for recreation off-duty activities, both here and overseas?

[00:15:38.50] SHARON REINKE: Well here, at the squadron, I would go with a pilot on weekend jaunt. They had to have so many hours of flight time.

[00:15:51.93] JOE GALLOWAY: So you'd get the back seat?

[00:15:53.74] SHARON REINKE: So I'd get the back seat, drop me off in Chicago. And I'd go home and see my mom--

[00:15:59.44] JOE GALLOWAY: See your mom.

[00:15:59.59] SHARON REINKE: --and my brothers, yeah.

[00:16:00.79] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:16:01.30] SHARON REINKE: And then pick me up on Sunday, meet them out there at the Glenville--

[00:16:07.83] JOE GALLOWAY: Go back to work.

[00:16:08.17] SHARON REINKE: Yeah. And then just go on back to the squadron. So I got to do some of that. And I'd spent some time flying with the guys at night when they were doing training for refueling and that sort of thing. And I would go up with them--

[00:16:29.44] JOE GALLOWAY: That's kind of wild.

[00:16:29.56] SHARON REINKE: --in the back seat. And I did some back seat dogfights too. Those are interesting too. Yeah.

[00:16:37.16] JOE GALLOWAY: Yes, they are.

[00:16:38.08] SHARON REINKE: But it was a good experience.

[00:16:43.29] JOE GALLOWAY: Can you describe the quality of the leadership in various units that you worked in? Good, bad, and indifferent.

[00:16:52.62] SHARON REINKE: I worked for probably the best that there is. I worked for Captain Swede Vejtasa who was a World War II aviator. And he was ComFair-- Commander Fleet Air, Miramar when I went to work for him. And I've never worked for anyone quite like him before. And I'm glad I had him as a commanding officer.

[00:17:21.99] And then when I left Miramar, he said, Sharon, drop me a note once in a while. Just let me know that you got to Fort Harrison, OK, and that everything is OK. Just make sure. OK, so I wrote him a little note, everything's fine, you know. Well, he answered me. And we wrote for the next 47 years.

[00:17:41.25] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:17:42.57] SHARON REINKE: And he was just a wonderful person. And my commanding officer, the first commanding officer I had at the squadron, superb. The leadership there was just really extraordinary. And they were extraordinary people.

[00:18:00.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:18:07.44] SHARON REINKE: Oh, there are so many. I guess one of the best times was when the commanding officer took me out for my first flight. It was a night flight and I was really impressed. And then he said, we've got to go one more time. We're going to go again.

[00:18:25.80] We went a few days later and we went supersonic in an F-9 Cougar, which is absolutely unbelievable. But it was great fun. And that was one of the more extraordinary things that I did.

[00:18:39.57] And that commanding officer was always teaching me, always teaching. Whenever we would fly-- he had a master's degree in survival-- and we would fly over the mountains and he would say, if we had an accident and we had to go down and we had to eject, this is what we'd do. And he'd go through the steps of what you do to eject from the aircraft.

[00:19:03.12] And then when we land, we're going to use the parachute. We're going to make sure we keep it handy. And we're going to dig a hole and we're going to line the hole with the parachute. And that's how we're going to stay--

[00:19:19.07] JOE GALLOWAY: Survive it.

[00:19:20.25] SHARON REINKE: --how we're going to survive.

[00:19:21.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:19:21.81] SHARON REINKE: So later on, several years later-- many years later, I guess-- he was the commanding officer at survival school when my husband went through survival school. So that was kind of-- my husband got to meet my favorite commanding officer as well. So that was of neat.

[00:19:42.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, that's cool.

[00:19:47.99] SHARON REINKE: Oh, mercy. I guess it was the day when I found out that my friend had been killed in Vietnam.

[00:19:59.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Aw.

[00:20:00.92] SHARON REINKE: He had flown off the Oriskany. He was an F-8 pilot and he flew off the ship and that was it.

[00:20:12.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Disappeared.

[00:20:13.61] SHARON REINKE: Mm hm.

[00:20:15.27] JOE GALLOWAY: Sad.

[00:20:16.04] SHARON REINKE: That was very sad. There were couple like that that just really-- one of the happier times though was when the only person to survive Laos and to escape from Laos as a POW came back to the States.

[00:20:38.90] JOE GALLOWAY: Dieter--

[00:20:39.23] SHARON REINKE: Dieter Dengler.

[00:20:40.13] JOE GALLOWAY: --Dengler.

[00:20:40.43] SHARON REINKE: Dieter Dengler.

[00:20:41.02] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:20:41.63] SHARON REINKE: Escaped from Laos. The most interesting story.

[00:20:45.71] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:20:47.45] SHARON REINKE: Yeah. Oh, what a man.

[00:20:49.61] JOE GALLOWAY: We got almost no one back from Laos.

[00:20:52.96] SHARON REINKE: No, we didn't

[00:20:54.08] JOE GALLOWAY: We got nobody.

[00:20:55.79] SHARON REINKE: One of those is a friend of mine I went to high school with. And he was Special Forces for the Army. And that's where he was lost. Never came back.

[00:21:07.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:21:08.36] SHARON REINKE: Yeah. Yeah, that got me involved with the POW-MIA issue being at Miramar.

[00:21:15.08] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:21:15.56] SHARON REINKE: And I've been working the POW issues for many years and had a former POW working in my office, who is also a very interesting person, Ted Stier. Did 5 and 1/2 years in the Hanoi Hilton.

[00:21:39.31] JOE GALLOWAY: How did your experience in the military change you and affect your life afterward?

[00:21:46.93] SHARON REINKE: If I had not joined the Navy, I think I would have been dead a long time ago.

[00:21:51.10] JOE GALLOWAY: Really?

[00:21:51.67] SHARON REINKE: Yeah. I was a teacher in East Chicago, Indiana. I like teaching, but there was something that was missing. And I had always wanted to do the Navy, go into the Navy. And when I signed the papers, my mother looked as though I'd signed my death warrant.

[00:22:15.73] And now, it's the best thing I ever did was to join the service. That's where I belong. That's my niche.

[00:22:28.82] JOE GALLOWAY: Did your experience as a part of our military affect the way you think about veterans coming home from combat today?

[00:22:36.47] SHARON REINKE: Yes. Yes, it does. And I love every one of them.

[00:22:45.02] JOE GALLOWAY: What do you think the war, the Vietnam War meant to you and your generation?

[00:22:52.63] SHARON REINKE: I think it had a heavy impact on my generation for those of us who went or were involved with it in any way. The fact that there was not acceptance of the-- we were not accepted by the world, if you will. Ostracized, rejected, spit upon when walking in the airport.

[00:23:20.32] JOE GALLOWAY: That's by our own country.

[00:23:20.98] SHARON REINKE: By our own people, yes. And people didn't want to have anything to do with them, with the veterans. Nothing. And just really looked down their nose at them.

[00:23:35.11] And I'm going to digress here-- I think that that's the reason that so many bikers are Vietnam vets or war vets. Because when they came back from overseas, they did not have any acceptance from the rest of the community. And sometimes even the families rejected them.

[00:23:58.75] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:23:59.29] SHARON REINKE: And so they formed their own community, and that was motorcycles, and that's what they do. And they're brothers. They were brothers in arms and they're brothers when they're on the bikes and they're just wonderful, wonderful people. But I think that that's why there are so many bikers who are Vietnam vets.

[00:24:25.72] JOE GALLOWAY: Hmm. How do you think the Vietnam War is remembered in our society today or is it?

[00:24:34.75] SHARON REINKE: Interesting that there are people today who pretend that they were in the Vietnam War and served.

[00:24:43.39] JOE GALLOWAY: Wannabes.

[00:24:44.23] SHARON REINKE: Wannabes, yeah. But didn't have the courage to do it themselves when the time was there. Yeah. I don't have a lot of respect for those folks.

[00:24:56.32] JOE GALLOWAY: None.

[00:25:02.42] SHARON REINKE: I belong to Rolling Thunder, and we wash that Wall every month from October through April-- or I mean, April through October. And I go down at least once a month during the other months as well. Yeah.

[00:25:17.03] JOE GALLOWAY: What are your thoughts about that memorial?

[00:25:22.34] SHARON REINKE: I am amazed at the reaction that people have to it. Those who have not been to the Wall before but were in Vietnam-- I have been privileged to escort, to be with a couple of the guys from my Rolling Thunder group who had never been. And the reaction was just like-- it all came out.

[00:25:53.39] And my husband-- my husband went down to the Wall one time and he could not go back again. He couldn't do it. So--

[00:26:05.10] JOE GALLOWAY: Some folks never get there.

[00:26:06.54] SHARON REINKE: Never-- that's right. But there are a lot of things down at that Wall that are very meaningful. And we collect the artifacts a couple of times a year. And things that people leave at the Vietnam Wall, it'd just break your heart.

[00:26:23.61] JOE GALLOWAY: Those things all go into a Park Service warehouse.

[00:26:26.88] SHARON REINKE: They do. And a building will be constructed and there will be a display.

[00:26:34.31] JOE GALLOWAY: Display, yeah.

[00:26:35.02] SHARON REINKE: And there will be roving displays going throughout the country as well.

[00:26:38.40] JOE GALLOWAY: As there should be.

[00:26:39.18] SHARON REINKE: Yes. SHARON REINKE: I'm glad that you all are doing this.

[00:26:47.68] JOE GALLOWAY: Ah. Have you received your Vietnam lapel pin?

[00:26:53.38] SHARON REINKE: I did.

[00:26:54.11] JOE GALLOWAY: You got one.

[00:26:54.46] SHARON REINKE: And I'm very touched to have that. What a privilege.

[00:27:00.44] JOE GALLOWAY: You think it's the right thing to do?

[00:27:02.72] SHARON REINKE: I think it's the right thing to do. A lot of time has passed. There's a lot of history in the last 50 years. And it's time that the Vietnam veteran was recognized.

[00:27:17.29] JOE GALLOWAY: Thank you, Captain.

[00:27:18.37] SHARON REINKE: Thank you, sir.

[00:27:20.50] JOE GALLOWAY: Thank you for your service.

[00:27:21.74] SHARON REINKE: Oh, and it's been a pleasure to be with you today.