

## **Rosenberg, Carol and Stanley US Army**

[00:00:13.52] MARK FRANKLIN: When and where you were born.

[00:00:15.59] CAROL ROSENBERG: Winchester, Massachusetts in 1948.

[00:00:18.56] MARK FRANKLIN: And, sir?

[00:00:20.46] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I was born in a small city inside of Detroit.

[00:00:25.82] CAROL ROSENBERG: My father was a mechanical engineer. My mother was-- well, majored in microbiology, University of New Hampshire, but then it was World War II, and then my father was over there. And then he came back, and they met up, and got married, and she had four kids in six years. So she stayed home.

[00:00:43.76] MARK FRANKLIN: So your dad was a World War II vet-- or veteran?

[00:00:46.17] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah, he was a bombardier.

[00:00:46.97] MARK FRANKLIN: And tell me what it was like growing up in Massachusetts.

[00:00:50.00] CAROL ROSENBERG: I grew up in Ohio.

[00:00:51.26] MARK FRANKLIN: Oh, OK.

[00:00:52.34] CAROL ROSENBERG: I grew up in Ohio. My father graduated from college at Northeastern. And then he got hired by Goodyear, so we-- just outside of Akron, Ohio, I was brought up.

[00:01:03.11] MARK FRANKLIN: Ah. And so what was it like growing up in Akron, Ohio?

[00:01:06.74] CAROL ROSENBERG: It was fun. Now, it was Cuyahoga Falls, and it was like the city was a lot of World War II-- everybody had kids. We all played outside, came in at nine o'clock at night when it got dark. All the parents took care of all the other kids. I always thought it was a great childhood.

[00:01:27.39] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

[00:01:30.21] CAROL ROSENBERG: Two brothers and two sisters.

[00:01:32.13] MARK FRANKLIN: Older or younger, or where did you fall out?

[00:01:33.63] CAROL ROSENBERG: One sister older, two brothers and one sister younger.

[00:01:36.84] MARK FRANKLIN: OK. Sir, how about yourself?

[00:01:39.42] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Well, my father was an automotive engineer, and my mom was a housewife. I was born in Highland Park, Michigan, but just born there. I lived in Detroit until I was about 10. I grew up in a classic mixed old neighborhood. We had every ethnicity. And like Carol, we played outside until it got dark.

[00:02:03.72] We lived two families, one house, my uncle and his kids and myself, my two sisters. And it was very close because there was a lot of family close by. And it was good growing up there.

[00:02:21.99] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I graduated in 1961. I was kind of vacillating between medicine and physics. I just didn't have the math ability to get a degree in physics. But medicine was definitely within my reach. And I loved medical history. I loved the history of microbiology.

[00:02:39.96] My favorite book when I was growing up was a book called Microbe Hunters by Paul de Kruif. It's actually quite famous. And a lot of scientists and physicians I talk to have read that book, and it inspired them. It was quite amazing.

[00:02:55.30] MARK FRANKLIN: So where did you go to college?

[00:02:57.78] STANLEY ROSENBERG: University of Michigan.

[00:02:58.95] MARK FRANKLIN: And then from there?

[00:03:00.48] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I went to medical school at the University of Michigan also.

[00:03:02.82] MARK FRANKLIN: And what type of medicine did you want to pursue? Or had you not made up your mind yet?

[00:03:06.45] STANLEY ROSENBERG: No idea, not any idea at all. I was kind of like-- just hanging out there.

[00:03:11.73] MARK FRANKLIN: And how did you wind up going from that to joining the military?

[00:03:17.04] STANLEY ROSENBERG: To help pay for college. I was on the senior program on medical school, and they paid for college. And I got an early commission. And that got me through medical school without a bunch of debt, which was very important. A lot of folks I knew were over their heads in debt.

[00:03:36.94] I had worked summers, saved money. My parents did the majority of it, make no mistake about it. But I helped finish it out by joining the military. And, actually, I was very interested in a possible career as a military physician.

[00:03:51.33] MARK FRANKLIN: Ma'am, going to you now, when did you graduate high school?

[00:03:54.87] CAROL ROSENBERG: 1966.

[00:03:56.58] MARK FRANKLIN: And where did you end up going to college?

[00:03:59.52] CAROL ROSENBERG: Kent State University and then St. Luke's School of Nursing in Cleveland.

[00:04:03.30] MARK FRANKLIN: Kent State University?

[00:04:04.59] CAROL ROSENBERG: Mm-hm.

[00:04:04.83] MARK FRANKLIN: And you entered there in '66?

[00:04:06.57] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yes.

[00:04:07.14] MARK FRANKLIN: Graduated in '70?

[00:04:08.94] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yes.

[00:04:09.63] MARK FRANKLIN: OK. And what-- did you decide-- did you know right away you wanted to be a nurse?

[00:04:12.84] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, I knew since eighth grade when we had to do what we wanted to do when we grew up. And I always knew I was going to be a nurse.

[00:04:18.54] MARK FRANKLIN: And how about joining the military? What led you to do that?

[00:04:20.91] CAROL ROSENBERG: They helped me go to school. And, also, it was Vietnam. And I figured if our kids were getting drafted and being sent over there, the least we could do is volunteer to go over and help.

[00:04:29.71] I watched some of it. I know there was a lot of rage, a lot of politics about it. But my biggest attitude was that if our kids are going to go over there and be cannon fodder, the least we could do as medical people could go over there and help. That's all.

[00:04:46.48] MARK FRANKLIN: Sir, how about yourself? What was your sense of the war at that time?

[00:04:50.68] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Confusion. If you watched television, you would see body counts being reported. And if you did the arithmetic with the body counts, it was like more people than there were in Vietnam at the time. There was people marching in the streets. I knew something was wrong top to bottom. But like Carol, I didn't care. If I was going to be a physician, I was going to help the GIs, and that was it.

[00:05:24.01] CAROL ROSENBERG: And you were going to be drafted and sent anyway, so you might as well volunteer.

[00:05:27.30] STANLEY ROSENBERG: That's true.

[00:05:27.99] MARK FRANKLIN: But you also--

[00:05:28.86] CAROL ROSENBERG: I didn't volunteer to go to Vietnam. I volunteered to join the Army.

[00:05:37.28] CAROL ROSENBERG: Basic training at Brooke Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. I was there for a year. And then they came in one Friday afternoon and says, you're going to Vietnam. You've got until Wednesday to clear. You've got two weeks off. And you're over there.

[00:05:51.92] MARK FRANKLIN: Talk to me about that training. We'll get to when you get to Vietnam.

[00:05:54.47] CAROL ROSENBERG: They didn't get any training.

[00:05:55.76] MARK FRANKLIN: But you spent a year at Brooke.

[00:05:57.35] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, I wasn't training there. I was working full-time. Six weeks of basic training when I first got there, but then I was assigned there, also, to work.

[00:06:04.85] MARK FRANKLIN: Well, talk to me about the six weeks of basic training. What was that like?

[00:06:10.94] CAROL ROSENBERG: The officers treated the nurses like glass. They would take us to happy hour on Friday. When we had to do our Camp Bullis training where you go out in the woods and you shoot your azimuths and try to find your way. And they'd come out and rescue us if we got lost. And then at the end of the week, they sent the Army band out with us, so when we ate our K-rations-- so we could be entertained.

[00:06:36.65] So we really did not get anything. We had to go through the gas chamber, hold your breath and run out through that. But no military weapons, no anything like that.

[00:06:46.93] MARK FRANKLIN: You didn't get any weapons training?

[00:06:48.28] CAROL ROSENBERG: None.

[00:06:48.43] MARK FRANKLIN: But you did get land navigation training?

[00:06:50.38] CAROL ROSENBERG: No, they sent us out in groups of four. And then you had the dummy that goes out and stands in front, and you shoot your azimuth to try to figure out how to get back. And it took us a long time. And our group, actually, really did not take it seriously.

[00:07:04.93] MARK FRANKLIN: So your six weeks of basic training at Fort Sam Houston, and then you go to work? Is that pretty much--

[00:07:10.26] CAROL ROSENBERG: Straight up, yeah.

[00:07:11.11] MARK FRANKLIN: And what was your initial assignment there at Brooke?

[00:07:14.23] CAROL ROSENBERG: I wasn't at the main hospital. I was at the secondary hospital, the big one. But it was a recovery room in a ward of 40. And there was one nurse and three corpsmen. And we did the blood draws, and we did all of it.

[00:07:28.12] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I did my internship in the Army. I was an Army intern. And I was very unhappy about medicine at that time. There was so much more Army than medicine, I was not really happy about the whole deal. And so I elected not to do an Army residency. And I don't think they probably wanted me because we kind of clashed.

[00:07:52.15] But they did give me what was called an OJT, or on-the-job training. And I did it in anesthesia because they needed anesthesia. And I said, OK, what the heck, sounds good. The other options didn't sound so good.

[00:08:04.22] And I went to Fort Gordon, Georgia and spent three months while I was there getting OJT. I did anesthesia. It was an apprenticeship, kind of mentoring situation. And during that time, I was sent to Vietnam training. I guess I had basic training.

[00:08:27.74] We had basic training, which was a doctors'-- all doctors' strange, abbreviated basic training where they tried to expose us to everything that the GIs got, to let us know just what the real thing was like. We crawled under barbed wire with the machine guns. That was a misery, through the mud.

[00:08:47.77] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you do that at nighttime or daytime?

[00:08:50.39] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah, at nighttime. It was quite spectacular, actually.

[00:08:52.88] MARK FRANKLIN: And the machine guns are firing over your head?

[00:08:54.65] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah. And they told us, look, those machine guns are not low enough to kill you if you stand up, but nobody believed it. It may have been absolutely true, and it was. But I crawled as low as I could through the mud. When I finished, my helmet had a mud cake about yay high. Then we all went to a car wash to clean off. We went through a car wash to clean off.

[00:09:21.83] And we went through the gas chamber where you were trying not to inhale, and then you had to speak your name, rank, and serial number. And your eyes are running, and you're gassed. And we did the location training, altazimuth, shooting your azimuth and trying to find your way. And, of course--

[00:09:40.43] CAROL ROSENBERG: But that was at Camp Bullis, wasn't it?

[00:09:41.81] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah.

[00:09:43.04] CAROL ROSENBERG: And that's basic training.

[00:09:44.00] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I did two kinds of training. One was Fort Sam, which was all doctors' training.

[00:09:49.40] CAROL ROSENBERG: All Medical Corps.

[00:09:50.27] STANLEY ROSENBERG: They made us march. They made us do basically everything that the regular GIs did, except it was abbreviated, just-- they wanted us to know what the GIs had to go through. And I thought that was fair and reasonable. And it was really interesting, fun in its own way because we were all lumped together. We had hotel rooms. And we got to the camp, and we all sat at the same bars and listened to the same crazy music.

[00:10:25.01] MARK FRANKLIN: So it wasn't 24 hours a day like you would be a GI in basic training?

[00:10:29.75] STANLEY ROSENBERG: No.

[00:10:29.90] MARK FRANKLIN: You were done at the end of the duty day? You had your time off? Well, what about this Camp Bullis? What was that?

[00:10:35.84] STANLEY ROSENBERG: We were at Fort Sam, Houston. Was Camp Bullis a part of Fort Sam? Yeah, but that was probably the basic training part of a very large fort. I had a separate pre-Vietnam Vietnam training after I got my orders to go to Vietnam.

[00:10:55.61] And that's where we ran through the woods, and we jumped off, and we had to fight or walk our way through clouds of tear gas, and a whole bunch of things that were pertinent to a GI, never really were too pertinent to me as a doctor there. But it was, in fact, a couple of weeks of straight-up pre-Vietnam training. They were two separate issues.

[00:11:25.77] Vietnam, for me, was a big plus, big minus. It made me a doctor. It gave me the confidence to be a doctor. And I did not have that confidence at the end of my internship. But when I went through Vietnam, what I did there, I realized, I can do this. So, for me, that was a huge plus.

[00:11:49.84] MARK FRANKLIN: But how did you wind up getting there? Because I thought--

[00:11:52.12] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I was just doing OJT because they needed anesthesia people. And that's fine with me, and I'll get some training. And I wanted to just fulfill my obligation.

[00:12:02.93] MARK FRANKLIN: So you were obligated to the Army?

[00:12:04.30] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I was obligated. I was fulfilling my obligation. And that was fine with me because I got to do anesthesia. I got to do medicine. And I knew I was going to go to Vietnam, just it was a question of when.

[00:12:22.53] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, my god. I was like, what am I going to do now? I called my parents. I go, I'll be home on whenever because I'm going to Vietnam. They held up steady. They really-- and then the two weeks I was at home, they showed me off and all this stuff.

[00:12:40.30] And I remember when they took me to the airport to go to California before I got on the plane, and then my father had taken the day off and everything. And then he goes back into work, and everybody's grumbling about junk. And he just stood up and says, I just put my daughter on a plane to Vietnam. If anybody can top that, go ahead. Otherwise, get back to work. And he goes, there was total silence.

[00:13:01.95] And I was the only female on that plane to Vietnam. Fortunately, I was sitting next to a guy in his 30s. He had gone home on compassionate leave and was coming back, had been there. So he was a little more mature, which was a lot more helpful than being next to a 19-year-old that was scared to death because I was 21 and scared to death. And so that really helped. It was a long, long trip. And they must have fed us every two hours.

[00:13:28.29] MARK FRANKLIN: Was it a direct flight? Or did you stop along the way?

[00:13:31.06] CAROL ROSENBERG: We stopped in Hawaii, but just to gas up and stuff like that. And then we ended up in Long Binh. And they put me in a trailer, and I was the only female.

[00:13:39.30] MARK FRANKLIN: But you landed at Long Binh?

[00:13:40.86] CAROL ROSENBERG: Mm-hmm.

[00:13:41.40] MARK FRANKLIN: Was this day or night?

[00:13:43.23] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, it was the day.

[00:13:44.43] MARK FRANKLIN: During the day.

[00:13:45.27] CAROL ROSENBERG: And then we ran like crazy. And then we would get into the airport, all of a sudden, all the guys who are waiting for this plane to leave stand up and cheer. They gave us a standing ovation because that meant that there was going to be an empty plane to take them out of country.

[00:13:58.32] I just was so scared, I don't even remember the whole part. I know that I stayed in that trailer for like four days before somebody came and said, OK, let's get your gear. And then they brought in another nurse that was going, and so I felt a little bit more comfortable. But 21 and all young males and everything sitting around, and I was scared to death to go anywhere.

[00:14:21.18] Because I was totally out of my element, brought up fairly sheltered. I was totally overwhelmed.

[00:14:30.55] MARK FRANKLIN: Sir, how about yourself? Now, you know you're going to Vietnam. When did you finally get the orders? And talk about that experience and journey a little bit.

[00:14:37.63] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I was expecting them. I got them, I think it was May. No, I left in April. About 30 days, you had 30-days' notice, 30 days before. And I said, oh, OK. I expected this. It was nothing-- nothing--

[00:14:54.61] MARK FRANKLIN: April of what year?

[00:14:56.71] STANLEY ROSENBERG: '70. Basically, it was the same flights-- I think it was American Airlines--

[00:15:02.22] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah, it was.

[00:15:02.56] STANLEY ROSENBERG: --until Hawaii. And then it was Flying Tiger from Hawaii to Long Binh. We came into Long Binh-- I came into Long Binh very-- it was late at night, very late at night. And we got off the plane, and it was hot. I don't remember heat like that, and wet, and it stunk. To put it bluntly, it stunk, just a mixture of animal and fish and dirt--

[00:15:30.58] CAROL ROSENBERG: And human sweat.

[00:15:31.42] STANLEY ROSENBERG: --yeah, and sweat. It was like, what? And it finally just occurred to me that I'm not in Kansas anymore. And then they took us, they put us on armored buses. And we rolled through the countryside on these armored buses, no lights.

[00:15:51.13] And I'm peeking through the lattice work on it. And it was almost like one of those horror movies where you see these deserted shacks and buildings go by. There was no light except for some light ambient. And I'm thinking, uh-oh, this might not be as much fun as I thought.

[00:16:12.49] And they took me to a trailer with some other guys to wait. And then I get into the trailer, and all of a sudden, the ground started to shake. And I started hearing these sounds, slam, slam, thud. It was a B-52 strike on the perimeter. There had been some incursions.

[00:16:36.29] And the one thing I remember is the pressure waves hit your ears. I had never felt anything like it before. You have no concept of what kind of an impact that a B-52 bomb makes until you just feel it through your whole body. And I thought, I can swim home from here. Just give me a shot. I can swim all the way.

[00:16:58.07] And I stayed there for about a month. And that's where they showed me to Phu Bai. Long Binh was where they basically introduced me to war medicine, introduced me to the



heat, to the malaria pills, to the operating room when terror just crashes through the doors. And they gave me that time to accommodate to what I was going to be doing.

[00:17:28.37] And then, after a month there, they brought me into the office-- one of the offices-- and said, OK, Dr. Rosenberg-- or I don't know if it was Captain Rosenberg-- and he started pointing out these various places. Then he said-- I'll never forget this-- and this is where you're going. It's Phu Bai. And Phu Bai is all right. And that was our motto, by the way. Phu Bai is all right. And then I got put in a Jeep and, [WHISTLES], up to Phu Bai.

[00:17:57.62] MARK FRANKLIN: Were you serving as an anesthesiologist in Long Binh?

[00:18:01.43] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Sort of mentored. But, yeah.

[00:18:04.88] MARK FRANKLIN: What kind of things consumed most of your time? What were your initial duties in Long Binh?

[00:18:09.59] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Operating room, pretty much 24/7.

[00:18:13.70] MARK FRANKLIN: For the month that you were there?

[00:18:14.90] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah. There were no duty cycles. There were no on and off. It was whenever.

[00:18:22.97] MARK FRANKLIN: Now, ma'am, you're in Saigon? Or where did you land?

[00:18:27.48] CAROL ROSENBERG: Bien Hoa.

[00:18:27.87] MARK FRANKLIN: Bien Hoa, OK. And you're waiting to go to the replacement company? Or are you at--

[00:18:32.07] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah, I didn't know where I was going. They came, and you stand around and wait for somebody to come and tell you what's going on.

[00:18:39.48] MARK FRANKLIN: How many days did that take before someone came to get you?

[00:18:41.34] CAROL ROSENBERG: It was at least four or five days before-- then they took me over and tried to find boots and uniforms to fit. And they didn't have women's stuff like that. So, no, I just got to wear all the stuff I got in basic training.

[00:18:54.99] MARK FRANKLIN: Now, I forgot to ask, when did you arrive in Vietnam?

[00:18:58.32] CAROL ROSENBERG: July of '70. I just was processed down in Bien Hoa, and then I went straight to the 85th.

[00:19:04.62] MARK FRANKLIN: And do you remember when you reported, same month?

[00:19:07.62] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, yeah, because I was only there for a few days. And then they flew me in, and there I was. I started out in the emergency room.

[00:19:15.36] MARK FRANKLIN: You started in the emergency room?

[00:19:16.98] CAROL ROSENBERG: Well, they didn't know-- they start you there. And I was only there for about a week. It was really tough, disarming M-16s when the guys come in and going out to the caddy shack. And then I got sent--

[00:19:30.29] MARK FRANKLIN: What's the caddy shack? I'm going to ask you when you guys use these terms. So what's the caddy shack?

[00:19:34.58] CAROL ROSENBERG: K-I-A, where you take the dead bodies, Killed In Action.

[00:19:40.12] MARK FRANKLIN: Ah, OK.

[00:19:41.60] CAROL ROSENBERG: And to wait for them to take off and stuff. But then most of the people that worked in the emergency room were RA. They had been there for a while. They were older. They had more experience. They were a little bit calmer. They didn't get quite as dramatic. And then they put me over into the medical wards. When you're there, you're the only RN, and then you have two corpsmen. So you're it.

[00:20:06.75] MARK FRANKLIN: And what do you do at the medical ward?

[00:20:08.60] CAROL ROSENBERG: I had-- there was three tiers. And I had the drug addicts here. And the malaria is on the other side. And we had all three kinds of malaras. And then the second tier was like immersion foot and liver flukes and things like that. And the third ones were upset stomachs and the diarrheas and everything like that. And then one time we had a sergeant that had tuberculosis, and we had to isolate him. So we saw everything that we were told in microbiology we would never see.

[00:20:43.92] MARK FRANKLIN: If there was one thing that consumed most of your time, is there anything that would stand out?

[00:20:48.36] CAROL ROSENBERG: Well, actually, two. First of all, worrying about the drug addicts.

[00:20:52.29] MARK FRANKLIN: Oh, explain why.

[00:20:53.07] CAROL ROSENBERG: Because the fact that we had two corpsmen. They had to be escorted to the bathrooms and back. They were not allowed out of the ward unsupervised. One night I came on duty-- because I worked 6:00 P to 6:00 A, and one of the guys said-- one of my guys had gotten out during the earlier shift by himself and gotten something bad.

[00:21:18.78] And by the time I get there, he was in bad shape. I had to call this one and Dr. Grossman so they could do a tap on him. And he ended up brain dead because it was with strychnine mixed up.

[00:21:34.96] MARK FRANKLIN: OK, so he basically overdosed. What's a tap?

[00:21:39.00] CAROL ROSENBERG: Spinal tap.

[00:21:39.81] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Lumbar puncture.

[00:21:40.89] MARK FRANKLIN: And the purpose of that was to see--

[00:21:42.90] CAROL ROSENBERG: If he had any brain function left. He didn't, really. But he was stiff as a board.

[00:21:46.89] STANLEY ROSENBERG: You're looking for infection. You're looking for proteins. You're looking for bacteria.

[00:21:52.02] CAROL ROSENBERG: Increased pressure on the brain.

[00:21:54.63] STANLEY ROSENBERG: The junk that these guys got was very powerful and very contaminated. And it was horrific.

[00:22:00.54] CAROL ROSENBERG: A whole lot more powerful than it was ever in the United States that they might have gotten used to. And they were scared. They were totally scared. They were just little kids. And they were trying to do anything to numb themselves up.

[00:22:13.89] But then I walked in after that, and I said, because of that, he is going to be brain dead or he's dead. And one of the kids looked at him and said, he's been on it long enough, he should have known better. I lost it at that stage.

[00:22:27.13] The other one was the malaria patients because some, especially the falcip ones, the ones the fever can get so high it can actually boil your brain, and putting them on the ice packs up and down. And when you've got 104 fever, and you're shaking all over, and you don't want ice packs on you. And they were so sick. And the liver flukes were pretty bad.

[00:22:50.70] MARK FRANKLIN: What is a liver fluke?

[00:22:51.75] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, it's a parasite that invades your liver, basically. And it's really bad. And immersion foot is about as nasty as it gets. The infection, it's not fun. I had good corpsmen.

[00:23:07.29] MARK FRANKLIN: I can only imagine. Now, sir, it's time to leave Long Binh, and now you're being reassigned to the 85th. How did that happen? And talk about that a little bit.

[00:23:15.33] CAROL ROSENBERG: Who knows?

[00:23:17.18] STANLEY ROSENBERG: They needed a new anesthesia person, and Long Binh - and Phu Bai was the place. So put me in a Jeep and shipped me up. And when I got there, like Carol, there were a lot of good, experienced people, so you weren't hanging out all by yourself.

[00:23:40.48] And they tutored you and taught you. And you picked it up very quickly. Carol dealt with medical. I dealt with almost exclusively trauma. And I had never seen trauma at that level or either as bad as that or as much as that. It was a total shock.

[00:24:06.07] CAROL ROSENBERG: We were the busiest trauma center in the entire country at that stage.

[00:24:09.46] MARK FRANKLIN: One of your colleagues mentioned that at one point, the 85th used more blood than any other hospital in Vietnam during that time.

[00:24:18.40] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah, that was Gus.

[00:24:26.20] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Everybody is your friend, really.

[00:24:28.51] CAROL ROSENBERG: It's family. It is, because you can't call home. We get one call a year, and it's like, over, and only if it's just patched through. And so there were no amenities. So we were it. And you got so close so fast.

[00:24:46.30] STANLEY ROSENBERG: You learned that you had to trust everybody with your back and make sure that they could trust you. There were African-American doctors, Hispanic doctors.

[00:24:58.51] CAROL ROSENBERG: And our corpsmen were just all-- everywhere.

[00:25:00.70] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Corpsmen, everybody.

[00:25:01.57] CAROL ROSENBERG: Two of my best corpsmen were Latinos. But they were COs. They shouldn't be on the same unit at the same time. And we had incoming one night, and we did have them. And it's like, you guys got to cover the doors. And they're going, no, we don't handle weapons. You got to handle the weapon, and we'll cover the patients.

[00:25:19.60] And I'm going, this is not happening. I need at least one person that's going to protect my unit, my ward. But they were awesome people.

[00:25:32.06] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Nobody shirked. Nobody had to be told what to do and when to do it.

[00:25:36.71] CAROL ROSENBERG: And we all complained all the time, the same way.

[00:25:40.04] STANLEY ROSENBERG: But it was a self-starter and a self-runner. We didn't need anybody. As anybody who-- [COUGHS] excuse me-- even thought about shirking, uh-uh, not happening. And that went from the corpsmen, to the supply workers, the docs, the nurses, the administrative staff.

[00:26:00.86] MARK FRANKLIN: You're both at the 85th at the same time. How did you two first meet?

[00:26:05.30] STANLEY ROSENBERG: The O club.

[00:26:06.05] CAROL ROSENBERG: I was at the O club with a bunch of us. And he walks in and prances across the floor and turned around and pranced out. And I went, who is that weird person? And he thought I was a flake. So that's how it works. So we didn't actually really formally meet at all. Everybody's just-- everybody's--

[00:26:26.63] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Everybody knows everybody.

[00:26:27.77] CAROL ROSENBERG: Exactly, exactly.

[00:26:30.23] MARK FRANKLIN: But eventually you worked together? You mentioned that you had to call him from time to time.

[00:26:33.93] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, no, I didn't work. That was just an emergency because of the fact that this guy was so rigid that there was no way that they were going to get a needle in his back unless he had some anesthesia to relax the muscles down because he was in total muscle spasm.

[00:26:55.30] CAROL ROSENBERG: I have no idea. We were totally, totally different.

[00:27:02.19] STANLEY ROSENBERG: It just happened.

[00:27:04.41] MARK FRANKLIN: Was it halfway through your tour, or towards the end of the tour?

[00:27:07.35] CAROL ROSENBERG: Partway through. And then mostly it started out being good friends and really talking a lot and everything. And one of my corpsmen just looked at me one night. He said, Lieutenant Conley, he really loves you. And I went, no, he doesn't. We're just good friends.

[00:27:22.68] And then-- but you don't know when you come back to the real world because you're-- everybody's-- you're isolated. And so you have no idea if it's going to work out when you come back and there's real things like cars, and grocery stores, and you know. So I think that's the biggest surprise for me is that it worked out back here, also.

[00:27:54.73] CAROL ROSENBERG: We lived in these hooches. They're like wooden boxes. And you had a room. And we had electricity. That was my-- there was no anything. My hooch

mate and I, actually, we'd get goodies from home. And we had a pet mouse that we'd leave our M&Ms out for just so that we felt like we had something. We'd never get to see it, but it was our pet mouse. And then during rainy season, they had the metal rebar things out so you could walk so you weren't always in the mud and run across to the bathrooms and cold showers, really fun.

[00:28:28.72] MARK FRANKLIN: Now, were the quarters different for nurses from doctors?

[00:28:31.75] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah, they got separate.

[00:28:33.07] STANLEY ROSENBERG: They're about the same. Yeah, I got my own little box.

[00:28:35.83] MARK FRANKLIN: You didn't share a box? You had your own box?

[00:28:37.84] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Although, they had some larger with four and five docs in them. Those were actually better because they were bigger. You could breathe. I could touch my walls with my hands. I had a bed. I got a heating blanket so I could put my wet, soggy stuff on it, and my underwear would be dry the next morning. That was really cool.

[00:29:05.39] And eventually, I bought a little refrigerator from some guy who was leaving. And I could keep whatever. Usually it was cans of juice or things like that in my refrigerator. And that was nice, particularly when it was hot.

[00:29:20.87] CAROL ROSENBERG: Midnight breakfast, that was the best meal of the day. Eggs, and they had creamed chipped beef, and they actually made biscuits, and it was real food. And it wasn't that busy. So, yeah, that was--

[00:29:36.11] MARK FRANKLIN: And that was provided for?

[00:29:38.87] CAROL ROSENBERG: The officers had to pay.

[00:29:40.13] MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah, but it was provided for the folks working that shift?

[00:29:44.06] CAROL ROSENBERG: Anybody could do it. Anybody could show up.

[00:29:46.35] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I loved it. I learned to love creamed chipped beef on toast. Seriously, I absolutely loved it.

[00:29:50.60] MARK FRANKLIN: So you agree that was the best meal?

[00:29:51.80] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Oh, absolutely. Food during the day was a disaster.

[00:29:55.72] CAROL ROSENBERG: It was mediocre.

[00:29:56.64] STANLEY ROSENBERG: One of the great, great privileges of knowing this woman was if we could hitch a ride to the Marine base south of us--

[00:30:06.34] CAROL ROSENBERG: Or the fixed-wing base.

[00:30:08.02] STANLEY ROSENBERG: --they would feed the nurses steaks. And if we tagged along--

[00:30:11.92] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah, we did get steak.

[00:30:12.28] STANLEY ROSENBERG: --they'd let us in.

[00:30:13.60] [LAUGHTER]

[00:30:14.38] CAROL ROSENBERG: You guys would send us out beside the road to hitchhike, and you would hide in the gutters. And so when they stopped, you guys would jump out so everybody could get in the back.

[00:30:23.41] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Best food we ever got was the Marine base. It was amazing. Those guys--

[00:30:26.44] CAROL ROSENBERG: The fixed-wings, also. The Air Force always had good stuff.

[00:30:28.72] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Oh, the Air Force--

[00:30:29.32] CAROL ROSENBERG: They always got the best.

[00:30:30.37] STANLEY ROSENBERG: --man, it was like, before they set up an Air Force base, they had one of these giant choppers drop an O club complete with a covered bar there. And then they built the base around that. We were so jealous. It was ridiculous.

[00:30:43.00] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you have time for any recreation? Or do you have any off-duty time? And if did, what did you do during that time?

[00:30:50.46] CAROL ROSENBERG: I slept. Six days a week-- he was more irregular because the fact that it was depending on how many people got shot or if the hospital ship was offshore, they took all the casualties once they had gotten--

[00:31:06.58] STANLEY ROSENBERG: You just worked until you were done.

[00:31:07.52] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah. But for the medical ward, it was six days a week, 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM. I didn't get much. And we did have one air-conditioned sleep hooch. And I would always-- when it was really hot, I would always run over to try to-- because it was quiet. Because trying to sleep after working nights in your hooch when everything else is going on all around you, it's almost impossible to sleep.

[00:31:33.56] So we did go out on a couple of-- what do you call them-- charity missions to help the locals and stuff like this. But by that time, when we were there, they just wanted medicine.

They didn't trust anybody. They had been at war for so long, first with the French, and then with the US, that they're not going to trust anybody.

[00:32:01.76] CAROL ROSENBERG: Mostly they were really scared. The kids were extremely clean. But they worked hard.

[00:32:09.80] STANLEY ROSENBERG: It was strange.

[00:32:12.65] CAROL ROSENBERG: And we did not respect them. That was the worst part. I mean, not the people we worked-- on our little base, we didn't.

[00:32:19.34] STANLEY ROSENBERG: When I was at Long Binh, I'd first gotten in there, one of the other officers turned to me and said, Stan, what would you think about a place like Long Binh in the United States if it was run by, say, the Vietnamese, where you couldn't enter because you were an American? Where you could come in and wash their clothes, and maybe cook their meals, but you couldn't live there. You basically couldn't work there. What would you think about it? That set me back.

[00:32:53.93] CAROL ROSENBERG: But then again, it was hard to trust because most didn't have uniforms. They had the NVA, but then you had-- it was so much guerrilla warfare, like with our own Revolutionary--. And they were teaching kids to walk up to people, GIs, with grenades. So it got to the point where you just didn't trust. They didn't trust us. We did not trust them. So it was very mutual. I think they would trust us less because--

[00:33:23.25] STANLEY ROSENBERG: The history of Vietnam goes back a long way.

[00:33:25.38] CAROL ROSENBERG: --the fight had been going on so long.

[00:33:27.51] STANLEY ROSENBERG: The history-- people don't realize that Ho Chi Minh in his earlier incarnation was actually one of the founders of Comintern. And he was the founder of the Viet Minh to drive the French out. Well, that I get. But he was a Stalinist, and he simply wanted to replace French rule with Stalinist Vietnamese rule. And it was brutal.

[00:33:55.93] At the end of the war, I realized I hated them beyond words, I can tell you. I hated our own government for being there, to be honest. But I hated the NVA and I hated the Viet Cong because they were brutal, they were murderous, and they were tyrannous. And make no mistake about it. The Vietnamese didn't gain anything when they switched from the French to the Viet Cong.

[00:34:18.13] CAROL ROSENBERG: And then they get the Chicoms coming in, pretending that they weren't. But we were so close. We were there during the build up going into Cambodia. And nobody was supposed to know about it. I mean, nobody in the country was supposed to know about it. Our guys would go by in their tanks with big signs, "Cambodia or bust." And it was supposed to be hush-hush.



[00:34:38.84] And they would come back with a different kind of malaria that was in country. And you'd go, oh, how long were you in Cambodia? And they'd go, how did you know we were there? You're not supposed to know. Well, you have that Cambodian malaria. That's kind of a telltale.

[00:34:52.52] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Cambodians were bigger, better fed, and--

[00:34:57.62] CAROL ROSENBERG: No, I'm talking about the-- yeah, the ones--

[00:34:59.21] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah, when they came in the hospital, and we got Cambodians.

[00:35:01.19] CAROL ROSENBERG: No, when our guys went over into Cambodia when they weren't supposed to be there.

[00:35:04.48] MARK FRANKLIN: But you treated Cambodians?

[00:35:05.57] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Oh, yeah.

[00:35:06.02] CAROL ROSENBERG: And we treated the NVAs and everything else.

[00:35:08.00] STANLEY ROSENBERG: And Chinese, make no mistake about it.

[00:35:09.98] MARK FRANKLIN: You treated Chinese?

[00:35:10.79] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yes.

[00:35:11.00] CAROL ROSENBERG: Anything that came in got treated.

[00:35:12.77] STANLEY ROSENBERG: When you got VC in, you really had mixed feelings. I did it. But I have to say that some people put them at the end of the line of triage, and I didn't argue. The GIs came first. When we were done with the GIs, then we'd treat VC, but not before. So--

[00:35:32.09]

[00:35:38.77] MARK FRANKLIN: Describe the quality of leadership that you had when you were at the 85th.

[00:35:44.11] CAROL ROSENBERG: Sugiyama?

[00:35:45.97] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Not impressive. The commanding officer who was there just as I got there, the other docs called him a moral reprobate. He was having an affair with one of the half-Vietnamese, half-French translators. He spent most of his time in his hooch drunk. And they just booted him and brought in Sugiyama-- not Sugiyama--

[00:36:17.83] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yes, it was.

[00:36:18.40] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Sugiyama? Sugiyama. He was an interesting fellow because he was Nisei, and his parents had been interned. He came into the Army as an enlisted man, rose through the ranks, became a doctor, and then ended up commanding our unit. And he mostly stayed out of our way. Which is how we wanted it.

[00:36:40.07] CAROL ROSENBERG: He was so unliked that when he moved, they had to have his trailer moved close to the nurses because he was scared to death that he was going to get fragged. So they moved it really close because they knew that nobody was going to hurt the nurses.

[00:36:56.00] STANLEY ROSENBERG: We just wanted them to do their job and stay out of our way because we ran ourselves. That unit ran beautifully.

[00:37:02.39] CAROL ROSENBERG: And it was a bunch of misfits. And he was RA. And so that makes a big difference.

[00:37:08.06] MARK FRANKLIN: Now, why do you describe them as misfits? That's an interesting--

[00:37:10.19] CAROL ROSENBERG: Mostly because of the fact that we were in for short terms. We were independent. We were more medical than we were military. And that upsets the RAs. Our head nurse was like that. She was married to a noncom. And when he came up to visit her, she would make him stay over with the noncoms because she was a light colonel and he was staff-- or some sergeant. It's like, you're married.

[00:37:37.32] So these two-- and so that wasn't quite the fit of the ones that were just going to be in for two or four years. And we were medical. You wanted to be medical. You didn't want Army protocol to take over. So we just kind of ignored them.

[00:37:58.79] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I think we got a couple of Aussie docs that came through for a short time. I didn't have too much contact, but I thought they were great guys. They could drink like crazy. I can tell you, they could put it down. But they were really nice guys. And they were there just to basically see what we were doing and help out because they had Aussie units in there.

[00:38:20.48] The ROKs got a really good reputation. They were very well respected. We said "Rock" not as R-O-K, but R-O-C-K. So we had a lot of respect for the Korean troops.

[00:38:40.35] MARK FRANKLIN: Do you recall any significant operations that occurred where you received the casualties as a result that occurred during your time there?

[00:38:47.16] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Firebase Sword.

[00:38:49.56] MARK FRANKLIN: Talk about that a little bit.

[00:38:51.37] STANLEY ROSENBERG: [EXHALES] Firebase Sword was just subject of a brutal long-term assault by the VC. And they got the casualties out, and we got lots of them. Like, three days of nothing but bodies, blood, terrifying. I saw one thing there that-- excuse me.

[00:39:17.20]

[00:39:17.37] MARK FRANKLIN: Sir.

[00:39:18.55] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I saw a GI who got hit by a phosphorus grenade. And a phosphorus grenade punctures you with thousands of little bits of phosphorus, and they burn, and they steam. And to this day, I can't talk about it.

[00:39:35.20] MARK FRANKLIN: It's OK.

[00:39:38.08] STANLEY ROSENBERG: You treat it with potassium permanganate to neutralize the phosphorus. But that was-- I mean, I saw a lot of bad stuff. But that and the burns, horrifying. The ones that we couldn't intubate because they were so swollen, the massive burns from the burning JP-4, the jet fuel, they died right in front of you because you couldn't get an airway. There was no way. The burn was so far out that you couldn't dig deep enough to find their trachea.

[00:40:11.23] And I remember one day, one of the surgeons who was more experienced than I, a kid died on the table, and I was just in shock. And he looks at me, and he says, Stan, some wounds are fatal. I just couldn't believe it because who dies on my table? Nobody. I save everybody.

[00:40:35.26] Wrong. You can't save everybody. And that was a humongous shock to my system. As new in medicine as I was, I couldn't believe it. I'd never lost anybody on the table before that one guy. And I lost a number since then, after that. But I was just in shock. It was Mel Aben. You remember Mel.

[00:41:01.09] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, of course I remember Mel.

[00:41:02.20] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah, we talked a lot. He was an experienced surgeon. He taught me a lot about surgery and anesthesia during the war because he'd been there for like six months before I was.

[00:41:12.84] CAROL ROSENBERG: He was also older, so he was more experienced.

[00:41:15.10] STANLEY ROSENBERG: He was older. He was more experienced. We had a lot of talks about trauma medicine. So I learned a lot from him. That and the liver trauma are my most vivid memories. We lost every one of our liver fractures, seven. We couldn't save them. When their liver-- you take a huge concussion wound, it shocks the liver, tears it off the vena cava. We were never able to save any of those kids.

[00:41:44.92] And we tried everything we knew. 100 unit of blood transfusions, different positions, hours and hours of surgery. Once you re-exchange somebody's blood with bank blood, especially the stuff that had been sitting in a CONEX at 150 degrees and had no clotting elements, we couldn't-- it was so upsetting. We all just-- I died with every one of those kids.

[00:42:15.84] CAROL ROSENBERG: How about Christmas Eve?

[00:42:18.09] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Talk about it.

[00:42:19.23] CAROL ROSENBERG: That's when we got the casualties from a friendly fire, 15 of them. And it just really would mess you up.

[00:42:26.22] MARK FRANKLIN: 15? How did it happen? Do you recall?

[00:42:28.89] CAROL ROSENBERG: Somebody called the wrong coordinates.

[00:42:31.44] MARK FRANKLIN: So it was an artillery friendly fire? Is that--

[00:42:35.01] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yes, it was, wasn't it?

[00:42:36.63] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah. Yeah, because it's much more difficult than anybody imagines to drop artillery in the right place. It's really much more difficult.

[00:42:47.67] CAROL ROSENBERG: Well, also when you're thinking back that many years, where you don't have all the computers, and you're just having to do it by hand and old-fashioned radar. We tend to forget that you can't pull out your phone and put in Google Map. But it was really a major shock.

[00:43:09.12] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah, we talked about that for a long time.

[00:43:10.99] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah.

[00:43:17.05] CAROL ROSENBERG: When I was still in the ER, and they brought in a patient that had been shot every which way and backwards and missing limbs. And he swore. And one of his buddies said, there's a lady present. And he apologized to me. And I'm going, don't do that.

[00:43:35.29] And that was the day they were bringing Miss America through. And so they put him off in a corner so Miss America didn't have to see him. And I'm going, she could have stayed out. This kid is not going to live. That one was-- that will never go away.

[00:43:49.10] MARK FRANKLIN: So he didn't survive?

[00:43:50.02] CAROL ROSENBERG: No.

[00:43:55.69] STANLEY ROSENBERG: A few letters.

[00:43:58.12] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you tell much about your experiences and what was going on? Did you talk much about that in your letters?

[00:44:03.31] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Mm-mm.

[00:44:04.86] MARK FRANKLIN: Ma'am?

[00:44:06.07] CAROL ROSENBERG: At the beginning, I talked some. But I mostly made it really lightweight. I had a six-year-old sister, and I'm not going to upset my father. So I was just like, if you're hearing about this, it's not as bad as you-- they make a big to-do. And mostly it was the lightweight stuff, the filth, and what I miss, and please send me.

[00:44:28.66] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I couldn't describe what was going on. I just couldn't.

[00:44:32.89] CAROL ROSENBERG: I didn't want to.

[00:44:35.17] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah, what would be the point?

[00:44:38.23] CAROL ROSENBERG: We still don't talk about it very much.

[00:44:40.93] MARK FRANKLIN: Even to each other?

[00:44:41.74] CAROL ROSENBERG: No. We've lived through it. What's there to talk-- go back for?

[00:44:47.40] MARK FRANKLIN: Sure.

[00:44:48.01] CAROL ROSENBERG: You know?

[00:44:49.18] MARK FRANKLIN: How much news did you get from home about what was going on back in the States?

[00:44:56.15] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Not much. Some of the letters commented on people parading in the streets and the anger and confusion, but--

[00:45:09.65] MARK FRANKLIN: Did that affect you in any way?

[00:45:11.81] STANLEY ROSENBERG: It made me upset. It angered me that we weren't getting support, that the GIs-- I didn't care for myself. I was OK. I cared about the GIs not getting the support they needed.

[00:45:23.45] CAROL ROSENBERG: They hadn't been getting it before, so it didn't surprise me at all. No, it just kept escalating.

[00:45:34.42] MARK FRANKLIN: Who got orders to come home first? You did?

[00:45:38.21] CAROL ROSENBERG: And then I get home, and I was going to surprise my parents. And I get to the airport in Atlanta because they had been transferred to Atlanta, and I wasn't old enough to get a credit card, and I couldn't rent a car. I said, I just got back from Vietnam, a year in Vietnam, and I'm not allowed to rent a car?

[00:45:52.36] And some poor-- some guy that was one of the shuttle drivers, his son had been in Vietnam and come back. And he heard me say this, and he actually drove me to my parents' house in Marietta. And that's like an hour's drive.

[00:46:07.75] MARK FRANKLIN: Was it a direct flight from Vietnam to Atlanta?

[00:46:10.00] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, no, no.

[00:46:10.69] MARK FRANKLIN: Talk about that journey.

[00:46:11.41] CAROL ROSENBERG: I came back into Seattle. And the first thing I did was go into the restroom and ditch my uniform and put on real clothes because I knew what would happen. The reception of anybody coming back with the Army uniform on was not good.

[00:46:25.72] MARK FRANKLIN: Had someone told you that? Or you just knew that?

[00:46:27.16] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, no, you just knew it. It was happening before we left.

[00:46:29.92] MARK FRANKLIN: OK.

[00:46:30.34] CAROL ROSENBERG: So, no, the biggest thing I missed was I left my boots. Those were the most comfortable things. It took me a month afterwards to figure out how to walk up a curb because I was so used to having the heavy boots on that I was used to using that force. And with sandals, it's like my knees going way up in the air because you just get used to those kind of things.

[00:46:55.53] MARK FRANKLIN: What was your reception like when you got home?

[00:46:58.07] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, my parents were thrilled. My little sister didn't go to school. There was major excitement. And me, I just wanted to go to sleep where it was quiet.

[00:47:07.82] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you stay in? Or were you discharged?

[00:47:09.92] CAROL ROSENBERG: I stayed-- two years, and I was out. That was my end. I got done.

[00:47:13.82] MARK FRANKLIN: Do you think you had any trouble adjusting to life afterward when you came back from Vietnam?

[00:47:19.47] CAROL ROSENBERG: I don't think that much at all. A friend and I drove out to California and back to visit one of my friends who had stayed in, who had been my hooch mate.

And then we took off down to South Florida, and I got a job in a private medical hospital where it was like no stress, no anything. At the end of the day, you go out and sit by the pool. So that was a great transition back.

[00:47:46.93] MARK FRANKLIN: And that's what you did, then? You went on and continued your nursing career?

[00:47:50.53] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah, yeah.

[00:47:51.37] MARK FRANKLIN: And, sir, how about yourself? When did you come back? Oh, but let me go back. When did you come back, ma'am? What date?

[00:47:57.64] CAROL ROSENBERG: It was in July-- I don't know-- '71.

[00:48:00.25] MARK FRANKLIN: OK. And yourself, sir? When did you come back?

[00:48:03.31] STANLEY ROSENBERG: April.

[00:48:04.78] CAROL ROSENBERG: No.

[00:48:05.14] STANLEY ROSENBERG: No, April to April I thought.

[00:48:07.18] CAROL ROSENBERG: No.

[00:48:08.17] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Honestly, I don't remember exactly.

[00:48:09.79] MARK FRANKLIN: But it was '71, springtime?

[00:48:11.23] STANLEY ROSENBERG: It was '71, yeah.

[00:48:12.52] MARK FRANKLIN: And talk to me about that journey for you.

[00:48:15.19] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I got on the plane with all the other GIs.

[00:48:21.08] CAROL ROSENBERG: You went straight to Gordon, didn't you?

[00:48:22.79] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Mm-hm. Got into Seattle and took off my stuff. And I regret leaving my boots. They were wonderful boots. And one thing that struck me as just strange, we got into the airport, and they don't pay for your ticket home. You're at Seattle airport, and you got to buy your own ticket.

[00:48:51.97] CAROL ROSENBERG: See, I had forgotten that.

[00:48:53.27] STANLEY ROSENBERG: And there was a GI ahead of me in line who was just dumbfounded because he couldn't afford a ticket home. I bought his ticket. He paid me back. But I couldn't believe it. You mean these guys, the GIs, have got to buy their own ticket home? I was

flummoxed. But I had money. These guys didn't. So I took myself back to Fort Gordon, then up to my sister's, who was my real tight family.

[00:49:30.38] MARK FRANKLIN: What was that reception like?

[00:49:32.72] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Strange. Nobody really knew what to say. They just kind of let me do what I wanted. They tried to fix me up with girls. But I just kind of knocked around for a while.

[00:49:50.42] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you have any trouble readjusting?

[00:49:54.68] STANLEY ROSENBERG: It was so strange, but no. I went back to practicing medicine.

[00:49:59.57] MARK FRANKLIN: Now, how did you two reconnect when you're back? Had you stayed in touch when you came back?

[00:50:04.04] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah.

[00:50:04.76] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I wouldn't let go of her.

[00:50:06.33] CAROL ROSENBERG: He chased me, honest to God. Every time he got off-- a weekend off from Fort Gordon, he'd drive straight down to South Miami. And then he'd drive back.

[00:50:17.54] MARK FRANKLIN: And that's where you-- you were in Miami at that time?

[00:50:19.40] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah.

[00:50:19.73] MARK FRANKLIN: OK.

[00:50:20.69] STANLEY ROSENBERG: I was at Fort Gordon doing obstetrics. [LAUGHS]

[00:50:24.62] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you change? Did you change direction?

[00:50:26.60] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Well, that's they needed. So I became an obstetrician.

[00:50:29.30] CAROL ROSENBERG: You thought you wanted to become an OB.

[00:50:31.25] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Well, I thought about it, but changed my mind. Actually, I did another year of OB in my residency, and anesthesia as a subspecialty. But it was good. I learned a lot of medicine there. It was different. Anything but trauma.

[00:50:45.90] MARK FRANKLIN: So you got out and you continued your medical career?



[00:50:48.81] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yeah, I went to Duke for a residency. And then we went to-- we moved-- Carol, we were married by then. Actually, we were married just before I got out of the Army.

[00:51:02.76] MARK FRANKLIN: Oh, you were?

[00:51:05.55] STANLEY ROSENBERG: And then we went to Durham for Duke University. I stayed at Duke, did my residency, and then stayed on for a couple of years on junior staff, and realized that Duke University was not my kind of place. The politics, the pressures were just incredible. So a friend of mine whom I'd met at Duke who was a junior staff when I was a resident said, hey, there's this wonderful little town that's got a lot of possibilities. It's Greensboro, and it's an hour down the road.

[00:51:37.86] CAROL ROSENBERG: And it's still in the South.

[00:51:39.51] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Which I love. I love the South.

[00:51:42.12] CAROL ROSENBERG: He likes the warm.

[00:51:43.65] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Yes. So I said, OK, we'll check it out. And that's where we are today.

[00:51:50.55] CAROL ROSENBERG: The end.

[00:51:51.99] MARK FRANKLIN: No, almost, but not quite.

[00:51:54.75] CAROL ROSENBERG: Oh, I'm sorry.

[00:51:55.29] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you stay in contact-- other than with the reunion, did you stay in touch with any of your fellow veterans through the years prior to getting together with the 85th reunion?

[00:52:05.91] CAROL ROSENBERG: I did my hooch mate for quite a few years until she died, but that was all. I just want to separate it all out. I just wanted it-- box it up. I did it. I'm fine. But I didn't want to keep reliving it and reliving it. I've seen too many times where veterans as they get older, that becomes all-consuming for them, like that's the only thing in their whole life they ever accomplished.

[00:52:33.87] MARK FRANKLIN: Like it almost defines who they are.

[00:52:35.52] CAROL ROSENBERG: Exactly. And it's like, no, that's not-- I'm more than just that one little year, which made me, and made me grow up a lot. And I was matured. And I met this one. But it's not something I think about every day. Most of the time, I don't think about it at all. In fact, for 20 years afterwards, except for close family my best friends, I never told anybody I went to Vietnam because the reaction was always like, you know? So I didn't.

[00:53:05.10] MARK FRANKLIN: How long have you two been married now?

[00:53:07.62] STANLEY ROSENBERG: 44 and 1/2.

[00:53:09.63] MARK FRANKLIN: Wow.

[00:53:14.86] STANLEY ROSENBERG: It made me a much better doctor. That was big. It gave me the confidence to be a doctor because I wasn't sure I was going to stay in medicine. When I finished my internship, I just didn't believe in myself. I just didn't believe that I really could do it. Vietnam convinced me that I could and be good at it.

[00:53:34.85] So I know this sounds strange, but I'm grateful to Vietnam for that. And I felt that I did everything I could for the GIs. I left nothing on the table. And I felt good about what I had done. Bad that-- sad that I had not saved everybody or helped save everybody because nobody does it alone-- anesthesia-- but good-- I said to people, if I die now, I'm OK. I've done the best I can. I've done everything I can. And that's how I truly felt at that time. So it made me a much better person.

[00:54:18.39] MARK FRANKLIN: How do you think your experience in Vietnam affects the way you think about troops coming off the battlefields today?

[00:54:26.99] CAROL ROSENBERG: I seen some of their mobile hospitals, and I am just amazed. They look like-- and they're closer to the front. And the packs they have, the trauma packs they put on that the medics keep in their backpacks that stops the bleeding immediately, it's just, chuh-chuh. It's amazing how many they can save.

[00:54:48.98] And I've always been that super patriot. My family goes back to-- I had a member of my family signing the Declaration of Independence. And my father and my uncle was an RA. And my other uncle, and my grandfather was in World War I, and going all the way back. So we were brought up, you stand and salute that flag.

[00:55:11.06] So the guys that come back, it's the same way, I feel. And I'm really glad they're getting that reception now. Because 20 years after Vietnam, all of a sudden, they noticed that, oh, these veterans weren't so bad after all. Let's go thank them. And I'm thinking, no, no. It's too late. I don't want that now.

[00:55:33.14] MARK FRANKLIN: Sir, how about yourself?

[00:55:34.54] STANLEY ROSENBERG: It makes my heart break for some of them. I'm glad, as Carol says, the advances in trauma care are wonderful. I just think they're fantastic. And putting everything up front where they can be treated literally on the battlefield-- because minutes count. Seconds count.

[00:55:57.62] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yeah, seconds.

[00:55:58.47] STANLEY ROSENBERG: And if you can grab those seconds to treat trauma, you save lives. And it's unquestionable, the numbers prove it. If you're injured in the Mideast now, you have a much better chance of surviving the same exact wound.

[00:56:14.30] CAROL ROSENBERG: And the cleanliness.

[00:56:16.49] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Cleanliness. Just the quality of the equipment, we were using 1940s equipment. You can't believe some of the stuff we used at the 85th. The anesthesia machines looked like they had been invented in 1800-and-something. They were-- I mean, they were rugged, which, obviously all the military stuff has to do. But they were as primitive as could possibly be.

[00:56:43.00] And some of the guys, when they got to the hospital, looked at the equipment and said, what? We're going to use this? The answer is, yes. Our backup were cans of ether. When's the last time ether was used in a hospital? But that was our backup anesthesia was ether and a cloth mask.

[00:57:02.14] CAROL ROSENBERG: It works.

[00:57:02.89] MARK FRANKLIN: Wow.

[00:57:03.34] STANLEY ROSENBERG: And it works.

[00:57:03.97] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you actually use it?

[00:57:05.11] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Never did. Don't want to. I've used ether in my training program, and it's horrible. It makes you sick as a dog. But that was our backup. So the stuff they've got-- and they put the guy on a plane and treat him with an airplane as an operating room in the air while he's being transported, amen, I love it.

[00:57:27.73] CAROL ROSENBERG: Well, their mobile units are incredible. And the sterility and the up-to-date equipment, it's amazing.

[00:57:34.70] STANLEY ROSENBERG: They deserve every bit of it.

[00:57:36.56] MARK FRANKLIN: How do you think the Vietnam War is remembered today?

[00:57:43.12] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Golly. I think people treat it as some kind of bizarre ancient history. Anything that happens before you're born might as well have been the Civil War or 1812 or something like that. There's still so much confusion about who the bad guys were. And let me be very honest. I fully and absolutely believe that Viet Cong and the NVA, they were the bad guys. They started the whole thing. They were brutal. They were murderous.

[00:58:21.05] We didn't do enough to take care of our troops in terms of protecting and supplying them. Our leadership, unfortunately, we have what they call a "French general's

syndrome," where you fight the last war-- we're going to win this war again. We're going to fight it again, and this time, we're going to win it.

[00:58:40.43] You had tank generals trying to-- like Westmoreland-- World War II tank and Korean tank generals trying to lead a guerrilla war in Asia. No, that's not working that way. They do not understand. One of the worst things that happened when JFK was assassinated, he was finally coming around to understanding the nature of guerrilla war and making the adjustments.

[00:59:05.84] And the Marines, by the way, they were the first and the best people at understanding guerrilla warfare. There was no question about that. And they really didn't get the chance to shine because after JFK died and LBJ came in, he went all the way back to the beginning, learned all those lessons all over again at the same cost.

[00:59:30.89] So I don't think people-- I've got the old man syndrome, start reading history, talking to people, trying to understand it. And it's never what you think it was. There's so many sides to all these questions. It's so much more complex than I ever knew when I was in Vietnam. So many more actors, and it went back so many decades, even hundreds of years before we showed up.

[00:59:55.94] This stuff didn't fall out of the sky all of a sudden. These are colonial-- we were fighting colonial wars. We were fighting the wars between China and Vietnam that go back 1,000 years. We were fighting the wars between communism and the West. All those were-- they all came together. And they've been coming together for hundreds of years.

[01:00:18.83] So maybe 100 years from now, we'll be getting the same kind of-- or 50 years from now-- we'll be getting the same kind of books about Vietnam that we're getting about World War II. And maybe they'll shed more light on the subject. I hope.

[01:00:35.64] MARK FRANKLIN: Ma'am, were there any lessons that you took from Vietnam that you'd like to pass on to this or future generations?

[01:00:43.05] CAROL ROSENBERG: No, because there's always going to be war. In high school I did my-- my theme was, why does man crave power? And I read everything I could think about it. And that's what it comes down to. That's what war is. Somebody is trying to crave power and say they want to keep going.

[01:01:08.98] And so I do not think that there's ever not going to be a war somewhere, whether it's a small one or a large one. We see what's going on today with China and with Russia flexing muscles and what's going on in the Middle East. It's not going to stop.

[01:01:24.57] And I'm an optimist. It comes across as I'm being a pessimist. But I'm basically a major realist, and I know it's going to happen.

[01:01:38.78] CAROL ROSENBERG: Many times. When I first read about it being built and saw the design, I was appalled. It's just like, no. And the first time I went down there-- because there are names on there that I know. And it's total silence.

[01:01:57.77] Everybody that walks by-- it's like we went to the World War II opening one. We took my parents up there. Everybody's babbling and everything like this. And people go by the Korean War Memorial. And I've never been past-- gone down the memorial that you don't get shivers and people aren't totally reverent. Or they speak in whispers to their kids to explain.

[01:02:23.96] It just is amazing. It's almost like a religious thing. I've been into churches and synagogues that are a lot louder than when people parade past that. It's the most simplistic, most complicated monument I have ever seen, and not just because I was in Vietnam. Because people that haven't been there are just in awe of it.

[01:02:47.51] MARK FRANKLIN: Sir, how about yourself? What are your impressions?

[01:02:49.64] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Exactly the same. It's deep. It's simple, and it's deep. And you look at the World War II Memorial, and it's gaudy by comparison. Now, the Korean War I think is terrific because slogging through the bitter cold, that's what they did. That was real. And that was the next best. And Vietnam, perfect. Simple, clean, and deep.

[01:03:26.63] CAROL ROSENBERG: And it paid tribute to every single person that died. So it wasn't a glory to the wonderfulness of it.

[01:03:41.07] STANLEY ROSENBERG: Amen. Thank you.

[01:03:43.05] CAROL ROSENBERG: Yes.

[01:03:45.81] MARK FRANKLIN: Well, you're an awesome couple. And I want to thank you for your service, sir. Ma'am, thank you for your service. And thank you both for doing this interview. This was terrific.