

Veteran Voices Project: 1940s Transcript

Jim: My name is Jim McDonough speaking to you as part of the New York City Veteran Voices Project and we are interviewing Nick Troianiello at his home. Nick is a combat veteran, who currently lives in New York City, Staten Island. And Nick, my understanding is you're the oldest surviving Staten Island resident who fought in the battle of Iwo Jima. Is that correct?

Nick: I belong to the Marine Corps League here in Staten Island, and I'm the only the surviving member of that organization.

Jim: Here you are, ninety-four years old today, but take us all back in time.

Nick: When you turn eighteen you had to sign up for the draft and before I got called for the draft, I enlisted in the Marine Corps...and they're telling you: "Okay, now you're gonna go overseas. And then the ten guys go overseas there's only going to be four of you coming back. And I said to myself: "What, am I going to be one of those four?"

Jim: You got off that landing craft and headed onto the beach.

Nick: But the beach was crowded with vehicles...bodies and so forth. It was a nightmare...a nightmare.