

Minnesota State University, Mankato,  
Memorial Library, Southern Minnesota Historical Center.

McLaughlin, Tom, 1947-. Oral History Interview and  
Collection, 1968 - 2003.

SMHC Manuscript Collection 1700

**McLaughlin, Tom, 1947-. Oral History Interview and Collection, 1968 - 2003.  
SMHC Manuscript Collection 1700. 2 folders and 2 audiocassettes.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Tom McLaughlin collection consists of two audiocassettes and a transcript of an oral history interview conducted between McLaughlin and Grace Mlady in 2003. McLaughlin served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. McLaughlin talks about the time he was wounded, a few daily memories of Vietnam and several descriptions of his patrols. He was discharged from the Marines with a rank of E-4.

This oral history interview was conducted as part of the South Central Minnesota Veterans History Project conducted by the Southern Minnesota Historical Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Tom McLaughlin was born on March 14, 1947 in Winona, Minnesota to Charles and Moraine McLaughlin. After graduating from high school, Tom enlisted in the delayed entry program in order to prevent from being drafted. He joined the Marine Corps. He completed his training at Camp Pendleton in California. In the May of 1967, Tom arrived in Da Nang and then moved to An Hoa, where his assignments were based out of. On the third day of the Tet Offensive, Tom was wounded in both arms and his left leg by defending one of the men from his squad. He later received the Purple Heart for this action. Tom was sent through many different hospitals both overseas and in the United States. He lost is left leg and is now considered 100% disabled. Later he appeared on Good Morning America with about fifty other veterans who had served along with him. He became the All-State VFW Commander in 1984 and now serves as the Blue Earth County Commissioner. He has a wife and two children and lives in Mankato, MN.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

There are no restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property and libel laws as they apply.

**COLLECTION CITATION:**

This collection should be cited as:

McLaughlin, Tom, 1947-. Oral History Interview and Collection, 1968 - 2003. SMHC Manuscript Collection 1700, Southern Minnesota Historical Center, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**ACQUISITION:**

Tom McLaughlin donated this collection in March 2003.

**PROCESSED BY:**

Grace Mlady transcribed the interview in 2003.

Brittney Andringa processed this collection in November 2003.

**RELATED COLLECTIONS:**

A copy of this oral history interview is also available from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Information is available on the National Registry of Service website for the national Veterans History Project. (<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/vets-registry.html>) After checking the OCLC national database in November 2003, it has been determined that there are no similar manuscript collections about Tom McLaughlin available elsewhere.

**LCSH SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

McLaughlin, Tom, 1947-, interviewee.  
McLaughlin, Tom, 1947---Interviews.  
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975.  
United States. Marine Corps.  
Veterans.  
Veterans History Project.  
Oral History.

<b>SMHC Manuscript Collection 1700</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Oral History Interview, Cassette, 2003, Tape 1	Cassette	
Oral History Interview, Cassette, 2003, Tape 2	Cassette	
Transcript, 2003	1	1
Photographs and Manuscript, 1968-2003	1	2