

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
LYNWOOD L. BATTLE JR.
JUNE 26, 2020

Q. Hello. My name is Kevlin Haire. It's June 26, 2020. I'm conducting an oral history interview for the Ohio State University Archives with Lynwood Battle. Lynwood, welcome.

A. Thank you.

Q. We're going to start at the very beginning like we start all of these. Can you tell me your date of birth and where you were born?

A. I was born on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1942 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Q. Did you think that your birthday everyone celebrated it, and that was just natural for the whole world to celebrate?

A. I say that all the time, Kevlin, all the time. The whole world parties with Lynwood.

Q. Tell me a little bit about your family background. I assume you grew up in Cincinnati and how big was your family, and that kind of thing.

A. I did grow up in Cincinnati. In fact, I grew up above the "family store" as they say, because our family lived above the funeral home in downtown Cincinnati. It was called the West End then. There were four of us, four children. I was the oldest of four. My mother and father were there and we were just one big happy family, right down in the heart of Cincinnati.

Q. Now they hadn't started the funeral home, correct? It was started the generation before.

A. They had not started it. My father and uncle were the second generation. And my grandfather and grandmother came up from North Carolina—Mount Airy, North Carolina as a matter of fact—in the late 20s, early 30s, and started the funeral home in 1933.

Q. Okay, wow. And had your parents gone to college? Maybe they didn't have to since your dad took over the business.

A. Yes, there was a requirement that they had to have at least two years of college before they could go into mortuary college, mortuary school, and become licensed after a state test.

Q. Oh, okay. That leads me up to my next question. I'm interviewing you obviously because you attended Ohio State. I found in doing some research on you, Cincinnati actually has a mortuary science school. Did you go there at all? Why did you decide to go to Ohio State?

A. Well, you're exactly right. As a matter of fact, the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science is the oldest mortuary science school in the country. They had intended to do that anyway because there was a promise to my dad, that if he paid for my college education, I would take a break after two years at Ohio State, come back to Cincinnati and do my 13 months there at Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, and then go back to Ohio State to complete my degree work and get my Bachelor's.

Q. Oh, that's interesting. And so you did that?

A. I did that. I kept my promise. He paid for my college. I didn't have to have an outside job or take on a whole lot of debt. I was debt-free when I graduated from OSU. The funeral home helped out a lot and I was able to concentrate on my studies and also my extracurricular activities.

Q. Just briefly, why didn't you go to the mortuary school after you graduated from Ohio State?

A. I could have, but I was anxious to get it over with. After two years I said, "Lynwood, you really have to go get this done." As it turned out, it was a very good decision because with my major being anatomy and physiology, when I got to mortuary school, I was able to ace

everything. I graduated from the embalming college with just about straight A's, *magna cum laude*. I knocked the roof off things.

Q. That's great. That's quite an achievement. Let's get back to when you started at Ohio State. What year was that? I assume you started in the fall.

A. It was in the fall of 1960. I had intended to become a music minor, which I ended up doing, but my main focus in getting to Ohio State was to be in that band, to be in The Ohio State University Marching Band. To eventually dot the "i" and maybe even be a drum major there. I accomplished both of things. I did not become a drum major of The Ohio State University Marching Band, but I did become the band commander, aka drum major, for The Ohio State University Military Band, the ROTC band.

Q. I didn't know we still had a military band. That's interesting.

A. Yes, we did. We had one of the oldest military bands among ROTCs in the country.

Q. Which instrument did you play?

A. I played the sousaphone. It started out that way with brass instruments in high school, starting out with the trumpet and then the baritone, and because I was a big lad, the band director there said, "Lynwood, why don't you give the sousaphone a try." I did and it stuck. I loved it. It was a big, bulky, heavy instrument that was called the floor of the marching band, the bass instrument that keeps the beat.

Q. And it's an added plus that the sousaphone, as you said, is the band member to dot the "i."

A. Usually you have to be a sousaphone player. There have been some honorary band members, honorary non-band members like Jack Nicklaus, who was a graduate and one of the world's greatest golfers. And some notable actors.

Q. Bob Hope was one.

A. Bob Hope, exactly. Bob Hope did it and several others. Woody Hayes did it. He was the coach, the football coach at the time. He got a chance to dot the “i” too. It was reserved for the really special people.

Q. How did you know about the marching band? Because you were in band in high school. I mean, you didn’t grow up in Columbus.

A. No, I knew about the band in high school because I was the high school drum major there. I was drum major for my junior and senior years. I got the bug to start taking baton lessons and became a pretty good twirler and leader of the band. We fortunately had to do the same kind of routine that the Ohio State Marching Band did, and that was to memorize all of our music, so that we weren’t distracted by having to flip music over while we were marching. We could concentrate on marching. That was a plus. I had heard the Marching Band many times, and in fact I took lessons, private lessons, on being a drum major from Ed Maundrell, who was a former Ohio State drum major.

Q. I was going to ask you about the tryouts, but you must have aced the tryout because everybody has to try out.

A. Yes, I did. I tried out. Before that time, though, I thought that it might be good to get to know the band director at the time, Jack Evans, and I auditioned for a scholarship, a music scholarship, on sousaphone, or tuba. Although I didn’t get the scholarship, I did get in front of the band director at the time. When tryouts came up for the marching band, I was already prepared to show him that I could play, maybe not good enough to get a scholarship, but I could march. I could definitely march as a drum major. As you might imagine, that’s the second most important thing that the Ohio State Marching Band does, is march, because that’s what everybody expects them to do, and do it well, in precision. I tried out for the

marching band in my freshman year and made it, and I was overjoyed that I had done that because at the time, there was only one other African American and he was about to graduate. There weren't many of us at the time.

Q. Did you feel any different or were you treated any differently because of that?

A. That's an interesting question, Kevlin, this was the very early '60s. The Civil Rights Movement had not kicked into high gear. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was four years away. It wasn't something that was top of mind for me. The glue that held all of us in the marching band together was our music, our music and our band. It was kind of like a military experience, because it was all male. Of course, the military at that time was all male too. Women did not participate in the marching band until Title IX came along. I had already graduated by then.

Q. Right. So you didn't feel any kind of discrimination in the band.

A. No, none at all. In fact, I made some very good friends in the band, so much so that I keep in touch with about a dozen of them now. That's over fifty years later.

Q. Wow, that is amazing. Do you have reunions?

A. Yes, we have our reunions every year and the first reunion that I went to was back in 2008.

Q. You haven't played in the Alumni Band, or did you do it then?

A. I did it then. I played in the Alumni Band then and also got to dot the "i" for the second time. This time I dotted it age 64, with two knee replacements and heart failure, and did well. I dotted it with the second African-American drum major, Oliver McGee, leading me out to the spot to dot it. What a thrill! There was something about that. I was the first African American to dot the "i" in the band in '64, November Homecoming to be exact, and then 50 years later, the second African-American drum major ends up putting me on

my spot. And we had four Script Ohios, but because I had the most seniority of those that were doing it, I got to be the dot on the west side, which is the side where all of the broadcasters broadcast from and the films are made. That was kind of the premier “I”-dotting spot and still is, for the four Scripts.

Q. Tell me about your first dotting the “i” experience.

A. It was a thrill. It really was.

Q. How were you chosen to dot the “i” as a sousaphone player?

A. First of all, you have to be able to march and be somewhat of an actor, to be able to do it. You have to be a ham if you want to put it bluntly, and I was all of the above. I was looking forward to it. I thought that I was going to be really, really nervous, but I knew my stuff. I could do all of those things standing on my head. It was no big problem, but after I did it, the biggest thrill was the ramp entrance and seeing the greeting that the band got, just as the drums came down first followed by the band, and then the drum major finally came through last with the band and playing down the field and doing the goalpost toss. All of that, and before that of course we had the Skull Session. The Skull Sessions were always a lot of fun because we had the football team coming in in suits and ties with their ear pieces in, so they could concentrate on what they were going to do. Woody Hayes (the coach) loved the band. He absolutely loved the band and all of its history. You probably know that Woody was one of the professors of history when he retired. Woody would lead the football team in and we usually had a guest band, our opponents, and they got a big kick out of it.

The St. John Arena has always been, I can’t remember when it wasn’t full, from the floor to the rafters, because it had a history. If you went into Columbus to see the football game, you started with the Skull Session. At the Skull Session we practiced the

halftime show. We also did the pregame show, and the post-game show...marching, mimicking our moves through those three things. And also the music, putting the final touches on the music. When it came time to take a deep breath and get some water and a bio break, we marched up to the "Horse Shoe" and got ready. There was always a crowd outside of the arena. We marched down that ramp and the drums, I'll tell you Kevlin, it was absolutely an incredible experience, just being in that tunnel because of the echo of all of it. There was a whole lot of noise. The noise that we didn't make ourselves, the 80,000 or so fans that were in the stadium at the time, because that's all it would hold, made the rest of the noise. When I went back fifty-plus years later, to "dot the i" in the Alumni game with the Alumni Band, they had already remodeled the stadium and it held 105,000 at that time. I had a chance to be cheered on by 105,000 Buckeye fans in 2008. That was a thrill, too.

Q. I can imagine that, because it's a thrill for the fans. Even the most diehard football fans who are there for the game would say it's one of the highlights of the experience of going to the stadium for a game, don't you think?

A. I can echo that very much, Kevlin, because no one left for the halftime show. In a lot of stadiums and football games, people use that as a time to go out and get hotdogs and popcorn. They didn't budge when halftime came up for The Ohio State Marching Band.

Q. It's probably one of the few teams, college teams, that can say that honestly.

A. Yeah, and we were awfully proud of that. We were awfully proud. We showed our appreciation appropriately.

Q. I'm assuming that when you went back home to go to mortuary school you were still practicing because you wanted to get back in the band. Is that correct?

A. Oh absolutely. Absolutely. Every year, really every game, you can be challenged by an alternate. And there were two alternates for every row. If you were having a down week, you could become an alternate yourself. Even as a squad leader—I was that during my junior and senior years—I could be challenged. I was challenged several times, but they didn't knock me out of my position because I practiced a lot. And practice is the key to anything, and especially music. And making good music made the adrenaline go in you, so I didn't lose that enthusiasm when I came back to mortuary school. I put on the tapes then at the time, that was the time of tapes, and practiced the music. I continued practicing the drum majoring part of it too, because I had high hopes of still trying out for drum major in the spring of one of those years. But I never did that. I never had to do that because along came this position through ROTC and the Military Band, to become the band commander and drum major for that organization, which was just as large as the marching band.

Q. Oh wow, I didn't know it was that big.

A. It was huge. It was huge. It did most of its parades and things for what's called the "Pass in Review" in the spring, when all of the military brass came to and review the troops. We kept the beat so that they could stay in step for the ceremony. I was leading the band in the marching, not playing, but using a mace to conduct and lead them in the drill.

Q. Did the military band have its own performances aside from that, for the public at all?

A. Yes, it did. It had its concerts that it provided the music for. Then it morphed—during basketball season—it morphed into what we called the Buckeye Band. That was the Pep Band for the basketball team, that played in St. John Arena.

Q. We're going to get back to ROTC, but when did you go to class?

A. I had to do that because anatomy and physiology was a rigorous course. I really enjoyed it a lot. I loved it, as a matter of fact.

Q. How did you juggle all of this?

A. Just had to set some priorities. That's one thing that ROTC taught, was setting those priorities. It was a good leadership experience for me. I managed to juggle a lot of things, including becoming president of my fraternity for that time too. I did have some fun. I had a lot of fun as a matter of fact. I love that school. I love that school.

Q. Let's back up and let's go to freshman year, because that will segue into ROTC as well. I'm curious as to why you were in ROTC. When you were a freshman, where did you live first of all, and what were your first impressions of campus?

A. Baker Hall. It was the only co-ed dorm at the time in 1960. It had an all-male side and an all-female side. It was called a co-ed dorm, but we had a thick wall between the men and the women.

Q. Were you assigned to that dorm, or could you pick it?

A. No, I was assigned to it. It was the smallest dorm. A few of the dorms hadn't been built yet. Later on, the others came along. I enjoyed it. Met a lot of good friends there too.

Q. Did you stay at Baker Hall your entire time at OSU?

A. The whole time. The whole time. We didn't have a fraternity house until my senior year, and by that time I had become a counselor at the dorms, so it gave me a little extra money, and I just stayed there in the dorm.

Q. You were a counselor, too? Good grief.

A. Yes.

Q. I'm tired just listening to this.

- A. It worked out.
- Q. I guess it did. You are a freshman and at the time, male students had to take military training classes, but you decided to enter the ROTC program, or was that sort of gradual?
- A. As you said, I had to. The first two years, freshman and sophomore years, because I was a male, I had to be enrolled in the ROTC program. Because Ohio State was a land-grant school going back to the 1800s, \$30,000 was given to the school if they had a military training program as part of their curriculum. So Ohio State was one of those, one of the largest programs was Ohio State...right up there with Texas A&M. That's what I did. The Basic Course of ROTC was two years, the first and second years, freshman and sophomore. And then, if you decided that you wanted to go further and work toward your commission, which I did, then you went into the Advanced Course your junior and senior year. In the summer between your junior and senior year, you went for five weeks of camp. My camp was at Fort Indiantown Gap in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This camp was five weeks long. We learned all kinds of things about military tactics and operations and military history. We studied World War II, the Civil War, and the tactics that were used in those wars. And we had a full-time staff of active duty officers and NCOs [non-commissioned officers] who took us through the paces.
- Q. When you went back to do the last two years, you did have to commit to a certain amount of time in the military after college, correct?
- A. I did. I had to commit four years after that. And then I received a stipend, a nominal stipend—I think it was \$40 to \$50 a month—for participating in the Advanced Course, which was the pathway to becoming a commissioned officer.
- Q. Why did you decide to do that? Did your family have a background in the military?

- A. Yes, World War II. The Greatest Generation, my dad and my uncle, yes indeed. And they were very, very supportive of my decision to do it because at the time, as you know, things were heating up in southeast Asia. It was moving along pretty well. In fact, some of the schools were getting some heat for having a program there and having compulsory ROTC.
- Q. Oh yeah, that became more and more controversial as time went on.
- A. It did. It did. But it didn't deter me or my colleagues, my comrades, and we continued to fight the good fight.
- Q. How did you end up joining a fraternity? I know it was more common back then than now, but I'm guessing you were in an all-black fraternity.
- A. Yes, I was in an all-black fraternity. It was called Omega Psi Phi. It was just by happenstance that I was recruited by some of the football players, because many of the football players happened to be members of Omega Psi Phi. And here I was in the marching band and they were on the football team, and the two just kind of came together. How could I say no to these guys?
- Q. What did you do in the fraternity? You didn't have a house, so that must have been kind of an obstacle in group gatherings.
- A. We had a place on a closed -down military installation, and that's where we did most of our meetings and parties and things like that. And we did a lot in the Student Union.
- Q. Right, yeah, a lot of organizations had to do that.
- A. Yeah, right, because we weren't the only ones without a house.
- Q. That's true. Tell me about, let's get back to ROTC and tell me, it sounds like you had a good experience, but can you think of really good experiences? I'm assuming the band was probably the best experience, and maybe some of the worst experiences.

A. You know, I enjoyed ROTC a lot because I've always had a real respect for the military, and I knew that eventually I was going to be commissioned as an officer. I had to know my stuff. Even though it was hard balancing all of those things, ROTC offered me the best shot at becoming the kind of leader that was going to be able to stay alive when I went to war, which I ended up doing. And not just stay alive myself, but be responsible for groups of soldiers who depended on their leader to keep them alive, to make it possible for them to go home.

Q. Right. We're all over the place, but this is fascinating. I'm just having a conversation with you. When you graduated and you were commissioned, where were you sent?

A. I was sent to the Officers Basic School first. And that was in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. I was assigned to the Field Artillery, and that was the training grounds for the Officers Basic School, and I did most of my work on 105mm Howitzers. That was the smallest of them. It had six guns, but it was kind of the workhorse of the Army at the time. And the Army being the largest branch in the military, I used a lot of those. So when I graduated in St. John Arena, I just took my robe off and had my uniform on underneath it with my gold bars on it, and I swore my oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, etc., etc., etc. And I was commissioned then along with my comrades as a second lieutenant in the Army.

Q. Where did you end up being stationed?

A. In the Panama Canal Zone, after I finished Officers Basic, I got my assignment to the Canal Zone. I had gotten married in December, the middle of December, and I didn't really know where I was going until June after I finished Officers Basic. I told my wife, "We are going to the Canal Zone. That's where our assignment is going to be." And she said, "Oh, the

Suez Canal." I said, "No, honey, not the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal, in the sunny tropics." And that's where we went. The U.S. still owned the Canal Zone, and we went there and lived in officers' housing. My assignment was with the 2/77th Field Artillery. We did a lot of things other than just train. At the time, there were troops that were going over to Vietnam to serve. Our battery was the battery that was responsible for training them, because the temperature was about the same as Vietnam in the Panama Canal Zone. That was a big assignment that we had, to get them acclimated to what they would find in Vietnam. And then secondarily, because the canal was a point of transit for a lot of people, it also had a lot of dignitaries going through it at various times, we performed the ceremonial duties of the 21-gun salute with our 6-gun battery. Those were always good things to do. I certainly had my eyes and ears on the band, the military band, at the time. They had a couple, but there was one, I think we got the best one. I wanted so badly to be able to play in it, but I had other duties then. I had to be an army officer.

Q. What's your most vivid memory from the Canal Zone?

A. The people. They were so nice. And my wife was a kindergarten teacher. She stayed in Lorain, Ohio, and graduated, and then we got married, but she was a kindergarten teacher and got a teaching job with the Pan Canal Company teaching the children of military personnel. The Pan Canal Company ran the schools. She had a chance to make more money than I was making. I made \$241 a month and she made triple that. We were able to do a few things that we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. And we had our first child there. We had our daughter, Monica, there. And we had a maid. Everyone had maids and maids lived on-site with you. This was part of what the women, the young women, did at the time because they made good money.

Q. That is wild.

A. It was a good place to live, yes indeed.

Q. How long were you there? Were you there the whole time you were in the Army?

A. No, I was in the Canal Zone for three years, and then I made captain. A few months after I made captain, I got my reassignment orders for Vietnam. I had known that it would probably happen, because lieutenants were the forward observers for getting killed so often, that they started having captains go as forward observers. Fortunately, I was able, instead of walking on the ground with the troops and calling in fire from the ground, my battalion commander who was a Major, wanted to travel by helicopter. He was in the helicopter, so I got the call in, "fire on the enemy," from a helicopter. It was flying pretty low, but at the same time I had to call in to practice the skills that I had learned, both in ROTC at Ohio State, and also in the Officers Basic Course. I could take care of myself pretty well. We started out in Saigon, in the perimeter defense of Saigon because it was coming under attack quite a bit. And then we moved up to Dau Chang, which was an outpost that had a lot of action. And my final assignment was Củ Chi. You have heard of the tunnels of Củ Chi. This was right at the edge of the Michelin Rubber Plantation and Agent Orange took front and center because we had been defending the Michelin Rubber Plantation all that time. And then the powers that be decided that they were going to defoliate all of the rubber trees. We had to defend all of that too. Our assignment ended up being probably the most challenging one of my tour in Vietnam, and we lost a lot of good men, a lot of good men, good friends. I wonder how I managed to come home after that. By the grace of God that I guess I managed to do that, but I lost a lot of good men. I still think about that a lot, a lot. And coming out of it I earned two Bronze Stars, one for valor,

and one for distinction of my duties. The one for valor was defending our motor pool at the time we were under heavy attack, and they were about to blow up our ammunition dump. I had to get down there and lead my men into trying to stop that from happening, and things seemed to be going to hell in a handbasket. I didn't even have my rifle with me; I only had my 45 pistol. I just kind of threw caution to the wind and ran up to where I heard the shots coming from and fired my 45 and took two or three of the Viet Cong out. That was really a good experience for me to bring a lot of my soldiers back, but also to be awarded the Bronze Star medal, which I was very proud of.

Q. That's quite an honor. How did you get the medal of distinction?

A. The job that I did, the overall job that I did in leading the second of the 77th Field Artillery when I was stationed there. That was for overall performance.

Q. During the Vietnam War, I know that some young men went into ROTC program with the thought that, if I'm an officer it's more likely I'm not going to be in the thick of it, but you were definitely in the thick of it. I'm guessing having talked to you, that was not your goal with ROTC; it was more to lead, be able to lead other people through the mission.

A. You put it very well, Kevlin. That wasn't my ultimate goal. If I had had my choice, I would never have gone to Vietnam. I was not itching to get there, but once I got there, I knew what I had to do. I knew that I had the training to do it, and I knew that my responsibilities were to win every battle that we went into. We were pretty good. We could handle ourselves with those guns.

Q. Did that help, I don't know if the word is correct, say reduce the fear, that you had this goal and you were just kind of focused on the goal, or was fear a good thing to have because it may have made you take fewer unnecessary risks?

A. Exactly. I was laser-focused all the time on what my job was. My job was with my men. I ate last. I pitched my tent last. I was last. They were always first. That was the experience I think that helped gain me the respect of my troops, and they saw that I wouldn't ask them to do anything that I wouldn't do myself.

Q. How long were you in Vietnam?

A. Thirteen months.

Q. When you left Vietnam, when was that?

A. It was in August '70, and I came home then.

Q. Were you discharged at that time, or did they just have another assignment for you?

A. I was put in the inactive reserves because I forfeited my commission at that time. I figured I had had enough. I had done my duty, and it was time to come home and take care of my family, and that's what I did. And also, come home and be at the funeral home, work at the funeral home.

Q. Your wife must have been very relieved.

A. She was a big part of me coming home. She kept me pumped up the whole thirteen months I was there. I received more care packages and I was smoking some pretty good cigars. She kept me well supplied with Shakespeare Lou Coronas, I can tell you that. But I don't smoke anymore.

Q. Did you meet her at Ohio State, or how did you meet her?

A. I did. I met her in the Student Union the first week that we were in school. It was just sweet. We ended up just bumping into each other literally and being part of a group that hung out together. One thing led to another. We had ons and offs, ins and outs. Then when I came back from Cincinnati after my sophomore year to go to embalming school, she also left

because her mother had cancer. She went back to her home in Lorain, Ohio, and ended up graduating from Ashland College in teaching. She went back to Lorain really when I went to Vietnam, so we were separated again. We didn't hook up again until my R&R in Hawaii. She brought the baby along. The baby had measles at the time, so she covered her face. She was at the tail end of her bout with the measles, so it wasn't endangering anybody.

Q. That is so funny. Do you think Ohio State helped you, even though that's not necessarily what you were studying at OSU, but how did OSU help you in running your family's business, do you think?

A. It's a business. It certainly gave me some business education that I really hadn't concentrated on. I was a science major and I knew biology, but I did happen to take some business courses and that helped. It helped a lot when I came back with the accounting part of it, because having a "ma-and-pa" kind of operation at a funeral home, we served the living and the dead. So running a business wasn't the biggest thing we did. We considered it more a ministry than a job. But we had to act like we were running a business too, or we would end up really broke. I was able to take some of that experience back, to bring it back home to Cincinnati and help with some of that education that they paid for at Ohio State.

Q. You had so many great experiences at OSU, meeting your wife, being in the band, being the drum major in the Military Band, ROTC. What are your favorite experiences from Ohio State?

A. At the very top of it has to be the marching band, after I had wanted to be a part of that organization for so long, and was able to do it in my first year, in my first month on campus. So that big school which I thought would be a daunting experience for me, but it was all a part of finding a niche. My niche was music. I took to it like a duck to water. Musicians

are just cut from a different cloth. We have to do things together. We march in step with each other. We make beautiful music. It's hard to describe, but that's my ultimate experience there. I enjoyed my coursework also because I knew that it would one day lead me to being a mortician. It helped a lot. It was difficult. I didn't choose an easy path to get my Bachelor of Science degree, and I'm glad that I didn't because I needed the knowledge to do what I did at mortuary college here. I consider myself a pretty good embalmer. It's something that is hard to explain, but you end up serving client families in the worst day of their life. That has been rewarding for me. So Ohio State helped with that. It prepared me for making sure that their loved ones looked natural.

Q. What was or were your worst experiences at Ohio State? Don't tell me you didn't have any.

A. Leaving.

Q. Leaving?

A. Leaving was my worst experience. I love that school. I really, really love that school and there's nothing I wouldn't do for it. When I retired from Procter and Gamble after 30 years or so in 1998, everyone knew that I had dotted the "i." That was common knowledge around. I didn't keep it a secret. But because they knew it, they knew what would really make me happy. A big surprise came when they gave a \$25,000 endowment in my name in perpetuity, to support the marching band. It started out at \$25,000 and now it's north of \$60,000, and this provided a scholarship at the discretion of the band director, and over the years the marching band director has decided to use it to help the assistant drum majors as they've come through the system. So that was over 20 years ago. I'm very, very happy that they did that among a lot of other really nice gifts that they sent me, from Procter and

Gamble. But I also gave them a lot of leadership experience there. I know we're not talking about my work experience there, but that has been a big part of what I did and I enjoyed that a lot. But coming out of that experience at Procter and Gamble and receiving that endowment and being able to turn it over to the Development department at Ohio State, which I know you're familiar with. They come down, I get a nice note every year from the scholarship recipient, the development office that is in charge of southwest Ohio, we have lunch and chew the fat and see where we're going, ultimately looking at some things that I might do down the road, because I'm not getting any younger, to create an even bigger legacy for that, not the least of which is the first Black "I"-dotter and the first black drum major, aka band commander, in the ROTC. I'm kind of proud of those things, very, very proud of those things.

Q. You should be, definitely. Just briefly because I didn't know you were at Procter and Gamble; I thought your career was focused on the family business. What did you do at Procter and Gamble?

A. I started out in Administrative Management, and the Director of Development and Recruiting called me in the office one day, and I asked him a few questions. He said, "How would you like to come and work with me?" I said, "You know, that would be good." At the time, Procter and Gamble was trying to build its cohort of women and minorities. The historically black colleges did not have business schools, many of them didn't. And so my assignment was to help the deans of these business schools start the school and direct the money that Procter had set aside for professorships, scholarships and other things, and provide the schools in the summertime, in partnership with the University of Cincinnati, they would stay and get paid, the students would get paid, and it would give them a look at

what business is like, and give us a chance to take a good look at them. That was very rewarding for me. I travelled a great deal. I travelled about 33 percent of the time, primarily in the south, because that's where the historically black colleges happened to be. Grambling State University, Clark Atlanta, AU Complex, Prairie View A&M in Texas, Tennessee State, Florida A&M, which also had a very good marching band too. I had a chance to do a lot of things in helping get more representation among the underrepresented in Procter and Gamble. When I started in the '80s, when I started this program in the '80s, the percentage of women and minorities in Procter and Gamble was a lot less than it was when I left. And now, the women are almost 40 percent, and we have a number of women who are in key executive positions and several who are on the Board of Directors. I was very pleased with that, and we had had minorities coming along very well in the business area, some of whom I had even referred from my travels through the historically black colleges and other places. I was the Affirmative Action Manager. That was my title when I started out. I retired as the Manager of Global Diversity.

Q. From where I'm sitting, I feel like you've made an amazing impact with your life. Do you feel that way?

A. I think I was blessed to have been surrounded by a lot of really, really good committed people who shared my values and it was a good experience for me. It's kind of humbling in a way because, you know, they could have selected in a variety of ways, with my selection, they kind of took a chance because they didn't have much experience at Ohio State with the marching band and African Americans, even trying out, because most said that they didn't think they could do it. It was a humbling experience to see that I could not only do it, but I could encourage others to do it. Now in the marching band there are a

number of African Americans, and the band is almost half women. The same thing for the women in the marching band, especially those that carry this 35 1/2-pound instrument called a sousaphone around on their backs. So women could do more. We've got women in the military, no women in the combat arms at the time. Now you have women that are doing great things. You've got women that have run and won political contests. You have one that is ready to challenge the top senator in the country, Mitch McConnell – Amy McGrath. She retired from the Marines as a fighter pilot.

All people needed was a chance, Kevlin, just a chance to excel. And they needed the training to do it, and they needed mentors to help them do that. Those were my goals, to hook up people who needed each other. In the beginning it was difficult because it was mostly white men and they tended to recruit in their own image. And their own image was not female and it was not minority. So they had to be convinced that this was something that was not only good for the company, but good for society. Many of them had never even experienced working side-by-side with minorities and women. Now look at them. Procter and Gamble has decided because of all of the issues with racism and sexism and everything that's been brought to light over the last month, that it was going to stop buying advertising from companies that used racist language and that did not have the same values that Procter and Gamble has. As a result, there's going to be a whole lot of companies that are going to lose money because Procter's advertising budget, it's the largest advertiser in the country, and it spends north of \$10 billion a year. It's using its heavy hammer to put its money where its mouth is. I'm very, very proud of the company that I worked for, for almost 30 years.

Q. That's probably thanks to you, that it has come this far.

A. I'll take credit for some of it, but it was certainly a struggle. It wasn't easy, but it took a lot of patience, took a lot of patience, and finding the right people who certainly had good hearts, but just didn't know how to do it.

Q. Lynwood, is there anything else that you'd like to discuss? We've been all over the place, but I think we've hit most of the questions.

A. I appreciate the questions that you sent me in advance because it gave me a chance to think about what this hour, hour and a half, was going to look like. I hope I connected all the dots for you and I'll be anxious to see the transcript. I'm honored again to be a part of the legacy of the old guys and gals, people will be reading this have access to it, is the nice thing about it. People will be reading this for decades, and they'll go back and they'll see that, yeah, there was an ROTC and the ROTC did some good work even though during the Vietnam War there were a lot of ROTCs that were burned out. And there was a lot of animosity with ROTCs from people being against the war. All of these things kind of contributed to me giving me, wrapping my head around some things that were really important to me.

Q. I'm glad you had the opportunity to do that because I just found this fascinating. I think you're right—this is another important piece of the puzzle, that people will read later on and go, "Oh, I see. That makes sense." I appreciate your time. I'm going to stop the recording and then I'll explain what happens next.

A. Okay.