Veteran: **SUGGS, Eric**

Service Branch: **AIR FORCE**

Interviewer: Gace, Michael

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Highlights of Service: **Served in Saudi Arabia during Kosovo incident; Longest active member of the Honor Guard at Langley Air Force Base**

Interviewer: I'm sitting here with Eric Suggs at his sister's house on the front porch. Please give us your full name, rank, and serial number.

Veteran: My name is Eric Suggs. I'm an E-4 in the United States Air Force. I've been in for four years. Serial number is the same as Social Security: XXX XX XXXX.

Interviewer: How did you join the Air Force?

Veteran: I went to the recruiter's office.

Interviewer: What was that process like?

Veteran: I started off going to the Army recruiter. They took me downtown to what they called the "Mets," which is an acronym for military something-or-other. They took me down there, and I took what's called the ASVAP(?) test, which everybody has to take when they come into the military. It basically gives you a score in general studies to find out what you'd be better doing in the military. I took the test and scored pretty good, and went to talk to the guy about what kind of job they could give me, and he was really, really, really, really rude, so I decided I didn't want to go into a branch where they were gonna to be that "pissy" about stuff, so I walked out of there and walked straight into the Air Force recruiter's office. I game them my scores, and they told me what kind of job they could give me. Shot me a little bit straighter and told me the truth a little bit more, so I decided to go into the Air Force.

Interviewer: What was your reaction from your friends and family?

Veteran: It was a mixed reaction. Friends didn't want me to go. I remember Jeremy and Corey told me that I couldn't go. I remember Mike telling me I couldn't go. I think my parents were in a situation where they didn't want me to go; however, they knew it was the best thing for me. Nobody wanted me to go, but a lot of people knew that it would be the best thing for me.

Interviewer: What was the hardest thing about basic training?

Veteran: The hardest thing was getting used to the lifestyle. You went from a situation where you were got to party and stay up as late as you want and do whatever you want to a very structured life. The hardest thing was realizing that you couldn't go do whatever you want, so the first three or four days were very difficult. A lot of tears by a lot of men that were bigger and stronger than me, and a lot of bonding was made because of that. A lot of people got real close because we were all in the same boat. There were forty other troops in my barracks, and we were all going through the same thing. Different situations, but we were all going through the same thing, so we all bonded very closely. I know since I've been out of basic training I've seen a couple of people that I went to basic training with, and it was like we had never left each other. We still had that bond, and we probably always will.

Interviewer: Do you know any of their names?

Veteran: I remember a couple of them that I was closest to. One of them, which was really strange that I bonded so close to because I was a redneck from Baytown, Texas, and a somewhat prejudiced redneck, this individual was about six foot tall, about 250-260 pounds, and a black guy. One of the nicest guys I ever met in my entire life. I can't even think of his name right now, but I saw him in Saudi Arabia, and that was a treat. A couple of others I saw in tech school, and I haven't seen them since.

Interviewer: What was your training like?

Veteran: Physical training was a joke. It really was. We're not the Army—we're not the Marine Corps. We don't have to get out and run with gear on. Basically, the thought is that if we ever get into a situation where I have to go into hand-to-hand

combat or they have to put a gun in my hand, something has seriously gone wrong, and we're in a lot more trouble than they're gonna worry about me being in physical shape. We had to do, I think, 50 pushups, 60 situps, and run two miles in 14 minutes. It was a joke.

Interviewer: After basic training, where did you go from there?

Veteran: I actually stayed at Lackland Air Force Base for my first tech school, which the Air Force calls it. Other branches call it different things. Tech school is where you learn your job. I went through electric principles—they called it EP school—at Lackland Air Force Base. Our barracks were actually at Medina, which is right across the street from Lackland, but our school was on Lackland. They taught us the basics of electronics—what computer chips are, what resistors are, how to use a digital multi-meter, and stuff like that. After that it was tech school again at Shepard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, where we learned more about our job and what we were going to specifically do in our career. EP was for everybody that anything to do with electronics. We got grouped with people in our career field in Wichita Falls.

Interviewer: How many weeks did you stay there?

Veteran: Medina was four months, and Wichita Falls was five months. That was probably the hardest thing to do. You got used to basic training after being there for six weeks, and then you up and moved to Media for tech school and got used to that, and you had to up and move to a totally different place and go to Wichita Falls for five months, and then once you got used to that, you had to up and go to your base.

Interviewer: Where was your base?

Veteran: My base is Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. I think that technically where it's considered to be—right on the coast.

Interviewer: Basically, what does your job consist of?

Veteran: I work on the avionic system of the F-15. The avionic system consisted of a lot of different things. The warning system that the pilot gets when he's being shot

at, or the guidance system for the missiles, the targeting system, the stuff that tells the pilot where he's at any time that he's flying. If he can't see, he can still tell where he's at, because of all the computers on the plane. When a part breaks, they send it to me, and I hook it up to a really big computer, and I run diagnostics on the system. The diagnostic computer tells me what possibly could be wrong with the unit, and I go in and fix it.

Interviewer: You mentioned that you met your friend again over in Saudi Arabia. How was Saudi Arabia? How were the people over there?

Veteran: The first time I went to Saudi Arabia was during the Kosovo incident. We had a situation where we were supposed to go to Saudi Arabia to do a normal rotation. We do rotations over there—3-90 day rotations per base. Like my base would go over there for 90 days, and then we'll bring the crew back and we'll send another crew over there for 90 days, and then another base goes in and relieves us and they'd do the same thing. During the Kosovo incident, however, we couldn't get tanker support to our jets because everybody was out fighting in Kosovo, so what we ended up doing was only going over there for 60 days instead of 90 days. Saudi Arabia was a completely different world. The first time I went we were in somewhat of a war, so we were fighting and we weren't allowed to go off the base. We were there at Prince Sultan Air Force base, which is owned by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They were just coming out of Tent City, is what they called it, because actually the Kobal (sic) towers that exploded, I believe, in '94 or '93, and they decided to move all the troops on base, and they ended up in tents. Everything you did was in tents. You slept in a tent; you ate in a tent; you showered in a tent. I was lucky enough to be one of the first people to move into the brand new dorms that the king of Saudi Arabia built for the American troops. He spent like a billion dollars on these dorms. They compare the barracks we lived in to a prison, and the only difference is that the guards looked out instead of in, but it was the safest place in the world. There was a lot of camaraderie there. There was a lot of friendship there. A lot of people holding each other up when things would happen to them back home. You're not allowed any alcohol there at all—no beer, no liquor. Saudi Arabia doesn't allow alcohol in their country, so we weren't allowed to have any alcohol or pornography—

pornography wasn't allowed either. That could even consist of your wife sending you a picture of her in a swimsuit—that's pornography. For Christmas, you couldn't send anything over there with anything to do with Christmas—like Christmas trees, Santa Claus—couldn't have it. You had to get used to the customs. The second time I went to Saudi Arabia, which was just prior to the September 11th incident that happened—I got back actually on September 9th after spending 90 days there, and we got in Riyadh—and that's when you really got to see what it was like down there. It's real easy for people to sit back and say that they're wrong, and it's real easy to sit back and think that they're barbaric or that they're inhumane, but it would be the same as them coming over here to us and saying that we're lazy. That's the way that they're raised. That's what they believe in. They've never been told or shown anything different, so that's what they do. Their customs are quite a bit different. The women are treated very badly. Animals are treated better than women. You have to do certain things; for instance, you cannot hand money or do any kind of transaction and shake hands or take something from anybody using your left hand. You have to use your right hand in Saudi Arabia. The reason for that is that Saudi Arabians do not believe, basically, in toilet paper, so when they go to the bathroom, they wipe their butt with their hand, and they rinse their hand off, and so to offer somebody your left hand that you just wiped your butt with is considered an insult—a dramatic insult. In fact, it was so bad that you will literally have people walk away from you if you do anything with your left hand, even if you're an American. They know you're American, because they look nothing like us. None of us look anything like them. There's a lot of different things in Saudi Arabia. As I said earlier, the women are treated very badly. A woman has to wear a black robe—I can't remember the name of it—and the reason is once a woman gets a certain age, the father decides that her chest is getting bigger, you can actually tell that she's a woman, and it's time to cover it up. The father decides how much of a head dress she wears—whether she doesn't have to wear anything on her head, whether she has to wear something just to cover her hair or something to cover her mouth or her full face. Women must not walk by themselves. If they want to go shopping, they have to be in groups of women or they have to be with men. And they can't walk in front of or beside of a man. They have to walk behind him.

Women do not speak unless spoken to. Women are for having babies, so the Saudi Arabian men will have sex in the missionary position, and that's it. Get them pregnant, and the wife stays home with the kids. The men are allowed to have up to three wives. If they're rich, they can have four. If they're royalty, they can have six, but nobody can have more wives than the king. Each wife has to have the same exact house. They don't stay in the same house, but they have to have the same identical house. So, when you're driving down the road and see three houses that look exactly the same, you'd know that that man has three wives, and those are his three wives. If a woman is raped in Saudi Arabia, she gets stoned. They stone her to death, because they feel that she must have done something to lead on the man that raped her, so they automatically think that she is at blame. Sometimes the women will do things to try to catch a man's eye. One time when I was in downtown Riyadh, I had several women not only staring at me, but winking at me, and wanting to talk to me, and this is with tour guides with me. I didn't know what they were doing, but you have to be very careful and you really have to watch your step, because if I was caught talking to a woman, they would put me on trial. They don't exactly play around over there either. They still believe in public executions. They cut people's heads off in the middle of what they call Chop Chop Square. You walk into Chop Chop Square and the crowd sees that you're an American, the crowd will part and they'll start pushing you to the front. When you get to the front of the crowd, there's a stage, and you watch an axe drop and cut somebody's head off and roll into a basket. They used to cut off your right hand if you got caught stealing, and the reason for that is because it's an insult to use your left hand. If they cut off your left hand, you can hide it, but if they cut off your right hand, you HAVE to use your left hand, and everybody knows this guy's a thief. They used to cut off their hand on stage, but they had too many people go into shock and die, so what they decided to do instead is now they smash the hand with a sledge hammer and then take you to the hospital and have it amputated. I know it's stupid, but anyway… They're pretty strict over there—they don't play around.

Interviewer: Back to stoning the women. You were telling me before the particular way that they stoned them.

Veteran: Yes, Saudi Arabian people are very, very lazy. They're very rich, and that's why they're lazy, so since none of them want to get their hands dirty, they dig a pit, they tie the woman down in the bottom of the pit, and they take a bag of rocks and they stone the woman, and that's how they kill them.

Interviewer: You got back on September 9th, so what was your reaction to September 11th? What is going through your mind?

Veteran: On September 11th, I woke up. I was off of work, because they give you two weeks off when you come back from Saudi Arabia to get re-oriented and getting all your stuff together. I was home, and woke up about eleven o'clock to a phone call from a friend here at home. She said, "Oh, my God, can you believe it?" I didn't have the TV on, so I didn't know anything about it, and being the sarcastic person that I am, I said, "No, I can't. What the hell are you talking about?" And she said, "You're not watching TV?" And I said, "No." So, she said, "Turn on your TV." I said, "What channel?" She said, "It doesn't matter." I turned on the TV, and that was right about the time that the second plane went into the tower. I just went into shock. I thought I was watching a movie. That's what I thought it was because I didn't want to believe it. After watching it for a few minutes, I got off the phone with her, I went and woke my roommate up—he was also in the military—and I said, "Richard, you need to get up and come see this." About 45 minutes later, I got a call from work, and they said, "Get in here now! Don't put your uniform on, don't get a shower, get your clothes, and get in your truck, and get here NOW!" The security forces people had M-16s fully loaded, and when you pulled up to the gate they automatically put the gun up to your face if they didn't recognize you and asked you for your I.D. They weren't taking any chances, and understandably so. We get to base, I get to work, and everybody there was in shock. Everybody had the same attitude—"When are we going?" When do I need to have my bags packed by?" "When is my plane leaving?" Everybody wanted to go. Everybody knew who it was. Everybody knew that we wouldn't sit back. Everybody knew that we wanted to play our part in payback for what they did to Americans. A couple of people that I worked with had loved ones die in the towers, and all of us felt the same thing—tell me when we're going. We didn't care where we were going. We didn't care what we were

going. This was something we needed to do to help the effort. It was pretty intense, especially when we got word that we were evacuating the base because there was another plane headed for us. That was a pretty hard thing to swallow. We evacuated the base and all went home. We were all told to be by the phone, not to go out, to stay off the phone unless we had call waiting, but we would be getting a phone call probably at the most 48 hours. We were sitting there waiting. Wanting to go, but knowing that we might not get a chance or not knowing where we were going to go. The higher-ups decided it was more important for us to stay home and protect the coast. Our jets were the ones that would fly over New York City and Washington, D.C., and all up and down the East Coast making sure that no other planes were coming in, and we're still doing that to this day. We still have jets flying on the East Coast constantly, 24-hours a day, fully loaded, waiting for something to happen. We're not dropping our security at all, and we shouldn't—not until every terrorist in the world has been destroyed. I guess to answer your question, my initial response was shock; my second response was anger; and my third response was fear.

Interviewer: Going back before September 11th, how was the security on the base?

Veteran: Lax—very, very laxed. I had a friend that actually got on the base using a dollar bill, because our military IDs was green and the dollar bill was green, he folded it and stuck his picture in it and flashed it to the security guard, and the security guard just waved him through. I, myself, got on using a female's military ID, and the gate guard looked at it and said, "OK." And I actually asked him, "Does that look like me?" And he looked at it and said, "No, it's not. Who is this?", and I said, "It's her." I got on using a black man's ID. It was so lax that it was almost to the point that it didn't feel safe. Now, it's completely different. If you're not supposed to be on that base, you're not there—period.

Interviewer: Have you seen the security lax at all in the last couple of months?

Veteran: A little bit, but it's still very, very, very tight. They're still not playing around. They're still carrying M-16s at the gate. They still have five or six people at the gate instead of one. They still do higher checks at certain points. Trying to get into my work area is more difficult, because we are in a classified work zone. It's

gone down a little bit, because there used to be concrete barriers that you had to weave through to get into the gate. That's gone down, but it's still pretty tight security.

Interviewer: You were supposed to be getting out of the Air Force this past February?

Veteran: I was scheduled to get out—they call it DOS, which is Date of Severance—on February 10, 2002. When September 11th came around, they basically did what is called a "stop loss," and it was military-wide, and that meant nobody was getting out. People that were supposed to be retiring didn't get out, people that were just getting out—nobody could get out of the military.

Interviewer: What did you think when the Joint Chiefs of Staff decided to retire just a few weeks after September 11th?

Veteran: It didn't bother me at the time. I was in a situation where for the past four years I had used the Air Force for training and preparing me, and now they needed me, so I pretty much sat up and said it's OK. I'll do what I've got to do. A team is only as strong as its leader, and when your leader backs out and says, "Nobody's scaring us because we don't have enough people and we don't have enough experience to fight this war," and then leaves you, it doesn't give you a lot of trust. It's really bad for morale and causes a lot of people a lot of anger, and employees in any company that you're in don't work as well when they're angry. They're just not proud of what they're doing any more because your leader just gave up on you. I think he made the wrong decision. Mind you, he had been in, he did his time, he did more than he was asked to do. But he should have stuck around to show the confidence in his troops. I knew I was there, and I knew what I had to do, and I did it.

Interviewer: You do more than just your regular job on the base, right?

Veteran: I'm a member of the Langley Air Force Base honor guard. The honor guard, as a group of individuals, go above and beyond. We do military honors at funerals, such as the twenty-one gun salute and folding the flag and playing *Taps*. We do retirement ceremonies, we do the Color Guard, we do the saber team at weddings. Basically, any time they need a bunch of sharp, sharp troops, they call us. We are

held to different standards, and rightfully so. We wear an honor guard hat, our uniforms are better as far as preparation-wise. Creases are tighter, our uniforms are cleaner, they have more starch, boots are shinier. So you have to uphold different standards. A lot of people in the military see an officer walking down the road and they don't want to salute them, so they move to the other side of the road, or they pretend not to see them. An honor guard member walks right by them TO salute them, because that's the standard we hold as an honor guard member. The good thing about the honor guard is that people want to be there; therefore, we are all under the same understanding that we don't have to tell an honor guard member to polish his boots. He does it because he's got pride in his uniform. It's probably the best thing I've ever done in the military. As of right now, I'm the longest active honor guard member on Langley Air Force Base. I've been at Langley longer than the people that are in charge of it, and because of that, they come to me for a lot more. I'm held pretty much in a manager's position as far as that's concerned. I go outside the special details that require a little bit more discipline. I remember standing attention for an hour and a half waiting for the president to get off the damn plane. It's hard—hard on your body, hard on your mind—but what you pull out of it mentally and physically is so rewarding that it outweighs the bad.

Interviewer: So you got to actually meet the president?

Veteran: Yeah, I did. I met him and actually shook his hand and talked to him a little while. President Bush was coming in for the christening of the USS *Ronald Reagan*. They're still building it, but he came in to christen it. He flew into Langley Air Force Base because we have a better runway, and you know Air Force One is Air Force, so of course he flew into an Air Force base. He gave a little speech there in front of about 30 or 40 people that had gathered to welcome him. He was walking this line shaking people's hands, and I was at the very end, and I was holding the Virginia state flag for the honor guard. I went and put it up real quick and ran back out, because I wanted to shake his hand, because this was President Bush, and he's the man. He shook my hand, and I said, "Sir, I loved what you did in Texas. I can't wait to see what you'll do as president." He looked at me and got this little glint in his eye, and I thought, "Yeah!!" And he

said, "Ah, you must be from Texas." And I said, "Yes, sir, I sure am." And he said, "Where abouts?" And I said, "Baytown, Texas, sir." And he said, "Well, I've been there before. It's so good to see us out and about." I just looked up and said, "Yes, sir, it sure is." He said, "Keep up the good work."

Interviewer: You got to come home in October for a friend's wedding, and something spectacular happened while you were home.

Veteran: I met my future wife, and we've been married now for six days. We were very good friends in high school—met in our freshman year. When I was down, I called her up. She was single and I was single. We met at a gas station on 59-South, and sparks flew for both of us. Neither one of us were looking for a relationship. I didn't know how much time I was going to be back in the military, and she was coming out of a bad relationship. We met up and spent the rest of the time here together, and Thanksgiving she moved to Virginia to be with me. She moved up, I proposed to her, we got engaged, and found out a few months later that we had a kid on the way, but we were engaged first, and got married. Now, we're heading back to Virginia, and she gets to find out what it's like to be a military wife.

Interviewer: What does she think about going back as a military wife?

Veteran: I think a lot of people will tell you that we're not scared of anything. I didn't think I was scared of anything—didn't realize I had any fear; however, I think the one thing that nobody can lie about is that everybody is scared of the unknown. If you don't know about it, it kind of worries you a little bit. I know that I am. I don't like going to a new place and not knowing anybody, not knowing where anything is or what it's going to be like. I think she's a little nervous about that, but luckily when you're in the military, most people begin to bond quicker than normal. I think throughout my entire life before the military I could count my best friends on one hand, and they're not always there for me. They're lifelong friends and people that I would die for. Since I've been in the military, I've got a group of friends that are about seven or eight guys that have been as close or closer than brothers in the matter of a couple of years. So, people tend to bond a little differently because you are going through the same things, just like boot

camp. You're away from your family, so you learn to lean on people a little bit differently. So, thankfully, she's gonna have that. There's a lot of military wives out there that get a little scared and don't know what to do, and there's the older military wives that have been through it and are more than willing to share their experiences and help them get through whatever they're going through.

Interviewer: Have they set a new release date for you yet?

Veteran: My new release date is August 31st. Unfortunately, since the baby's do on September 22nd, I'm gonna extend for a year. I'll be testing for staff sergeant in May-June timeframe, so I'm gonna extend for a year, and then we're gonna see what happens from there.

Interviewer: Do ya'll have any special honor guard things coming up that we should watch for on TV?

Veteran: The honor guard isn't exactly something you plan. It's not a situation where we can say, "OK, in two months we're gonna have a funeral. Let's get ready for it now." We get phone calls the day before or two days before. A lot of people don't know about it, but right around the time that Dale Earnhardt was killed in the automobile accident, 18 Air National Guard guys died in the line of duty. They were down training in Florida, and they were flying back to Virginia, and the plane's wing fell off, and they crashed killing all of them. The sad thing is that people don't know about that. They take people like Dale Earnhardt, who died doing what he loved to do—he loved to race cars, and he made a lot of money doing it. People idolized him, and they fly his flag on cars, and they had the silent lap at auto races. And these 18 Air National Guard guys died defending their country, keeping us free, and they got one day. It was a beautiful ceremony, and it was on national TV, but not a lot of people tuned into it because not a lot of people knew about it. Being in an honor guard, you have to be able to take your emotions and put them in the back of your head. I've done well over a hundred funerals, and you have to be able to separate yourself from that and keep your military bearing, which means no crying, stand at attention, and you're there to honor. We did a very large memorial service for these eighteen guys. As an honor guard member, we were there in our uniform, and we did very good for the

entire service. All the family members came outside the church, and we had fly-by of the jets, and they did the missing man formation. There are different kinds, but this particular one is where they flew in a V formation, and one of the jets fly out. That's the true missing man formation. I was standing at attention and couldn't look up and see the jets fly over, but looked straight ahead and there was a lady standing there with two little girls—one was probably about two, and the other was probably about five…two little brown-headed girls…cutest little girls you've ever seen and both with the bluest eyes—and their eyes were filled with tears. Each one stood crying beside their mother, and I'll never forget the pain that stuck in my head of those little girls without their father, and the worst thing about it is that their father got one day, and Dale Earnhardt gets memorials every day. That was harder than boot camp or anything else I'd done in the military—I had tears rolling down my face. I'm a big man, but I'm not ashamed to say I cried. That was a very sad situation.

Interviewer: Do you feel that your son could have to go through that?

Veteran: I think about it every day. I really do. Every day, I think, "What happens if I go to war or overseas and something happens to me?" In a way, the only difference between me going in the military and me being a civilian—being a civilian, you could drive the road any day and get in a car accident and die; you could die tomorrow from a heart attack. Being in the military, I understand that I could die for my country. I accepted that when I said that oath that "I was willing to die for my country." So, yes, while it is in the back of my mind, I know that with my family and friends my son will be raised right, and he will be raised to love his country, and he will be raised to respect the American flag overall.

Interviewer: Before we go, any additional stories you want to share?

Veteran: I have thousands of stories, but if I had to pick one, there are so many experiences that you go through being in the military—more-so in the military because you leave your home and you go to a different place and you live there. Not really a story, but more-so of a cry for understanding that military people give their lives in the line of duty. They strap on a backpack and they strap on a gun, and they go into a war zone and say, "I want to protect this flag at all costs, even if I have to

die. I'm going to protect the American way of life, and I'm going to keep my country free. I would die for my mother, I would die for my father, I would die for my sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles—I'd even die for "Joe" sitting on the street corner that I don't have a clue who he is. I will still die for him." But yet when people see that uniform, they think that military members are losers. They think that everybody came into the military because they couldn't do anything else—because they couldn't survive as a civilian. But in all actuality, that's not it. They just have a different calling in life. I really hope that the American people will understand what soldiers, airmen, sailors, even the grunts in the Marines have to go through and what we do go through and respect that, just as much as they should respect police officers, and firefighters, and paramedics that don't get paid the big bucks. I could be sitting in an office with a business suit right now making $100,000 a year, but instead I'm making very little money to protect my county. I don't command or even ask for respect, but every military member when he puts on that uniform hopes for it, and I hope that people understand that. I hope that one day when somebody sees a man trying to light a flag on fire in protest, or a man just takes a flag and crumples it up and throws it away, I hope people understand why that flag is still flying and why they have the right to do that. It's because people have bled, people have died, and people have killed to keep that flag flying. We got an email at work once that was passed around, and it was talking about the destruction of the American flag. What it said was that in order to burn the American flag, I think you must first do three things. The first thing you should have to do is go to a Vietnam vet and ask for his permission to burn the American flag. The second thing you should have to do is go to a widow or a mother that lost her son in her son in the war to protect that American flag, and you should go ask her for permission to burn that flag. And the third thing you should do is to have to sit back and realize how much your life is and what it takes to keep that life that much, and what that American flag really means. Freedom is not free. It's been paid for, and it's still being paid for today by young women and men like myself who leave their home, who leave their friends, who leave their family, who go off to foreign countries, who go to deserts, who spend hours upon hours upon hours—I know people who have had to work 14 or 16 hours at a time to make sure planes are ready to go. You know,

on September 12th, all of the patriotic signs came out, and every car you saw had an American flag flying on it or a bumper sticker or something, and already—within a couple of months—now you drive down the road and you see nothing. You don't see flags flying outside houses or on cars any more. You don't see wearing patriotic shirts. You don't hear any new patriotic songs coming out. It worries me that it takes something as dramatic as September 11th for patriotism comes out, and it's already dead. That's kind of scary.

Interviewer: Thank you, Mr. Suggs.

Veteran: My pleasure.

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