

## **Loudermilk, John US Navy**

[00:00:19.48] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I was born March the 24th, 1948, and I was the oldest. I was the first child. And I have two brothers and a sister. I was born in Williamsburg, Kentucky. That's down I-75. It's probably the last exit before you get to Tennessee.

[00:00:37.38] JOE GALLOWAY: All right.

[00:00:43.45] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, when I was young, my dad was a coal miner. And back in those days, a lot of the coal mines went out of business, and a lot of the people moved to Ohio-- Cincinnati-- to seek better jobs. That's what our family did.

[00:00:57.06] JOE GALLOWAY: That's what your family did.

[00:00:57.59] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, uh-huh. We ended up in Cincinnati. I went to high school in Cincinnati.

[00:01:02.40] JOE GALLOWAY: In Cincinnati.

[00:01:03.16] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, uh-huh.

[00:01:04.17] JOE GALLOWAY: So you consider that home? Kind of?

[00:01:07.11] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Kind of home, yeah, uh-huh. Yeah, I went to high school there, and I joined the Navy there.

[00:01:12.57] JOE GALLOWAY: OK. How did you come to be in the military?

[00:01:17.91] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, it's just-- I had two uncles that were Navy career men. And they kind of had a pretty good influence on me. I would correspond with them. And then I had a grandfather that was in World War I. He was an infantry Soldier and fought those trench warfares. And he used to talk to me some growing up and tell me about all that. And as a kid, young kid, I thought, well, that's a great adventure.

[00:01:42.72] JOE GALLOWAY: Sounds good to me.

[00:01:43.98] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, I'll take part of that.

[00:01:46.29] JOE GALLOWAY: So you joined what year?

[00:01:48.99] JOHN LOUDERMILK: '65.

[00:01:49.72] JOE GALLOWAY: '65.

[00:01:50.08] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:01:51.30] JOE GALLOWAY: That's early innings. What did you know about Vietnam when you signed up?

[00:01:56.85] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I really didn't know a whole lot. I was 17 years old, and back then, I didn't watch the news or anything. Just whatever I heard people talk about, you know.

[00:02:10.54] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Signed up with the Navy, and I was sent to Great Lakes, Illinois.

[00:02:14.61] JOE GALLOWAY: Did they guarantee you medical training or anything?

[00:02:17.29] JOHN LOUDERMILK: No, I didn't have any-- no guarantees of anything.

[00:02:20.14] JOE GALLOWAY: No guarantees at all.

[00:02:22.18] JOHN LOUDERMILK: When I graduated boot camp, they gave us a week or two leave. And then I went to hospital corps school. That was the back at Great Lakes again. So that lasted several weeks. I don't remember exactly how long, but after that, I became a corpsman and advanced to E2. And then--

[00:02:43.18] JOE GALLOWAY: Was there advanced training?

[00:02:45.43] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, after a corpsman goes through graduation from school, there's a mandatory six-month ward duty at a Naval hospital. So I was sent to Portsmouth Naval Hospital to do six months of ward duty. And that's where the nurses and the doctors and the high-skill people would-- you worked with them, and you learned. You learned what D5W was, which was sugar water.

[00:03:09.40] JOE GALLOWAY: Were they good at teaching?

[00:03:09.91] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Oh, they were excellent. They were superb, yeah. They were. Well, we were treating a lot of Marines that had come home from Vietnam by the time-- in '66, by the time I got through school and through training. So I got my first look at injured Marines there. The ward was filled with mostly Marines.

[00:03:30.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you feel the training that you got prepared you for what you were about to face?

[00:03:36.10] JOHN LOUDERMILK: The training that I received, I think, gave me some groundwork. Nothing really prepared me for what I was going to see.

[00:03:45.52] JOE GALLOWAY: For what you were about to see.

[00:03:46.15] JOHN LOUDERMILK: But it did give me something to-- where I could reach into, you know.

[00:03:56.91] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I left California. I forget the name of the base. I think it was the Flying Tigers Airlines, that big, green plane. And stewardesses dressed in psychedelic clothes, and they flew us to-- Marines had to go to Okinawa first. So we spent three days in Okinawa, then we continued our--

[00:04:16.47] JOE GALLOWAY: That's so they could lose your sea bag.

[00:04:18.61] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, you got that right. And we spent three days there, and then after that, we flew to Vietnam on airlines again.

[00:04:30.78] JOE GALLOWAY: On another airline. Into Da Nang?

[00:04:33.51] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Da Nang. Flew into Da Nang. They opened the door, and it's just like opening the oven. It's just so hot and steamy. It was steamy. And I got there in September-- September 9, 1967. And there was a lot of noise, and a lot of people just yelling, and a lot of machinery. And I looked and saw the mountains and the steam over the mountains, and I-- just kind of wondering what I was in for.

[00:05:03.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. It was going to be something.

[00:05:04.56] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, it was.

[00:05:05.67] JOE GALLOWAY: Where were you assigned?

[00:05:07.41] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, and they were on Hill 51, which was in I Corps, north of Da Nang. And the only way you could get there, at that time, was to fly out.

[00:05:20.16] JOE GALLOWAY: Really?

[00:05:20.97] JOHN LOUDERMILK: There wasn't any roads to where I was--

[00:05:22.35] JOE GALLOWAY: No roads.

[00:05:22.80] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Not to where I was going. So it was like--

[00:05:25.86] JOE GALLOWAY: And once you got there, it was walking.

[00:05:28.41] JOHN LOUDERMILK: It was walking. Everything was walking, yeah. Yeah.

[00:05:37.61] JOE GALLOWAY: They were patrolling out of that base?

[00:05:39.95] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, daily patrols, nightly ambushes. I don't recall if we did mine sweeps there, but just real security. The Marines had a technique they did in the evening when it started getting dusk. Everybody would be called out. You'd stand out all around the base, elbow to elbow, I guess to give the Viet Cong the idea that you were going to be there

all night. Then after it got dark, everybody would go back. Yeah, and in the morning, you had to go back out again. So we did that every day.

[00:06:18.20] JOE GALLOWAY: I'm sure it didn't fool the VC.

[00:06:20.36] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I'm sure it didn't.

[00:06:23.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, were you a company medic? A platoon medic?

[00:06:27.35] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, I was a platoon medic. There was two corpsmen assigned to the platoon, and you went out with all the squads. They had, I think, four squads per platoon. So whenever a squad went out, a corpsman had to go.

[00:06:39.83] JOE GALLOWAY: A medic went with them.

[00:06:40.72] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, yeah. And later on-- it was like 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning, something like that-- mine sweeps before there was any traffic, OK? Had to go out on mine sweeps. Then you'd come back and maybe eat breakfast, and then you'd probably have a patrol. So you go out with a squad on patrol. Then you'd get to patrol several hours, then come back in, and then you might have an ambush that night. So you might go out with a different squad then.

[00:07:07.70] JOE GALLOWAY: They were getting their money's worth out of you.

[00:07:09.57] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Oh, yeah.

[00:07:12.80] JOE GALLOWAY: Tell me about the first casualty you treated.

[00:07:17.30] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I remember him distinctly. He had a head injury. And I had to remember-- I thought-- he was in pain, so I thought, well, should I give this guy morphine? And then I remembered my training. So morphine increases intracranial pressure, so you had to be careful with the morphine. And so that was my first one. Luckily, it was just one guy. So my first injury was one guy, so I remember that.

[00:07:47.82] JOE GALLOWAY: You got him on a helicopter.

[00:07:48.21] JOHN LOUDERMILK: So I got him on a helicopter, got him out of there, got him to Da Nang, yeah.

[00:07:53.99] JOE GALLOWAY: What were living conditions like?

[00:07:57.36] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, it varied. When we were--

[00:08:03.08] JOE GALLOWAY: Back on the hill.

[00:08:04.10] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, on the hill, it was a tent and a cot. And there was hot chow there on the hill. But then we went-- from there, we moved to Hoi An. And we went from the mountains to the swamps, the lowlands. And it was mud, and the Marines were a little angry because they were taking them out of an area they were familiar with to a totally different area, where we had to learn everything new.

[00:08:32.12] And you kind of had to work out a relationship with the villagers. And so we had to kind of move in there and learn how to communicate with them. And there was-- a terrible area for booby traps. We lost a lot of men with booby traps there. And that was one of my worst-- December 15 was probably-- you'll probably ask that question later, but that was probably one of my worst days in Vietnam.

[00:09:05.00] JOHN LOUDERMILK: We were brothers. They respected me, and I had morphine in my Unit 1 medical kit. I could set it on my rack. We had a tent at Hoi An, and I could set it right there. I could leave it with--

[00:09:17.96] JOE GALLOWAY: Nobody would touch it?

[00:09:18.76] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Nobody would touch it. I'd come back, and it would be in the exact spot where I left it. Nobody noticed it or anything because that's just how they--

[00:09:26.45] JOE GALLOWAY: That's how it was.

[00:09:27.02] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, that's how it was. We had each other's backs.

[00:09:30.92] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you form friendships with men from different racial and social background--

[00:09:36.08] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Oh, yeah.

[00:09:36.69] JOE GALLOWAY: --that you might never have in civilian life?

[00:09:38.97] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, I had-- and Hughes was-- nowadays, you would call it integrated, I guess. But I had friends there-- black friends, white friends. We didn't have any Mexican friends at that school-- at that time. But we had just mixed--

[00:09:56.75] JOE GALLOWAY: Everybody.

[00:09:57.02] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Everybody, and all you saw was green. But in Camp Pendleton, when I went through training, the one sergeant said, there's no black and white in the Marine Corps. There's only green.

[00:10:06.43] JOE GALLOWAY: That's right. And we all bleed red.

[00:10:09.41] JOHN LOUDERMILK: We all bleed red, that's right.

[00:10:13.03] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, we're talking '67, early '68. There's a lot of tension back home-- antiwar demonstrations, race riots, cities burning, people getting assassinated. Any of that come over to where you were?

[00:10:30.53] JOHN LOUDERMILK: No, I didn't hear any-- we didn't hardly get any news from home like that. The only news we got was what was in our letters, and our family didn't talk politics to us.

[00:10:40.13] JOE GALLOWAY: Stars and Stripes, or--

[00:10:41.78] JOHN LOUDERMILK: We did get Stars and Stripes occasionally. I remember the first one I saw, I think, was in January of '68.

[00:10:48.86] JOE GALLOWAY: You'd been there for months.

[00:10:50.89] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, I had a friend. Well, of course, this was in Battle of Hue City. And this guy got hit in the leg, and I had to fix his leg-- bandage his leg up. And he got his picture on the cover of US News and World Report. I went, wow. After he left me. He didn't get me in the picture.

[00:11:11.06] JOE GALLOWAY: You did Hue City.

[00:11:12.47] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, I did.

[00:11:13.52] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. Well, we got something to talk about then.

[00:11:16.04] JOHN LOUDERMILK: OK.

[00:11:18.59] JOE GALLOWAY: I don't suspect this is applicable, but what did you do for recreation off duty time, if you had any?

[00:11:26.03] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Most of the time, you laid down and rested because you were tired. And at Hoi An, they did have a horseshoe pit. Some of the guys played horseshoes, but I never played horseshoes. I just watched. I was tired most of the time.

[00:11:40.82] JOE GALLOWAY: Do you have specific memories of the popular culture at that time? By that, I mean music, songs?

[00:11:49.22] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Every once in a while, we would hear-- I think it was Chris Noel, a deejay out of, I think, Da Nang or somewhere. But we'd pick that up every once in a while. We'd hear that. It wasn't very often, but we were glad to hear it when we did get it.

[00:12:04.19] JOE GALLOWAY: She was out of Saigon.

[00:12:05.59] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Saigon, oh, OK.

[00:12:06.86] JOE GALLOWAY: Armed Forces Radio.

[00:12:07.34] JOHN LOUDERMILK: OK, OK.

[00:12:14.74] JOHN LOUDERMILK: After Hoi An, we were relieved by the Korean Marines. We were there through-- let's see-- must have been the first part of January because I was on a pretty bad ambush in December-- December 15.

[00:12:32.47] JOE GALLOWAY: Tell me about that.

[00:12:34.03] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Oh, OK. JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, we were mounted up-- 13 men. We were getting ready to go out on an ambush. Our squad leader was-- Sawaya was his name. And he was a-- he either had a college degree or a couple of years. I think he might have had a degree. He was from Utah. And everybody trusted him, respected him. And like I said in my book, if you had a question, you could ask him, and he would have the answer.

[00:13:10.69] And so we went out that night. I was with him. And we went out the gate there at Hoi An. We were walking down this dusty road. And I remember the night was real still.

[00:13:20.76] JOE GALLOWAY: Hoi An is south of Da Nang?

[00:13:23.67] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, south of Da Nang, uh-huh. And you could see the rice paddies on both sides as we were walking, and the moon was full, hitting-- the light hitting the rice paddies. And just real, real still, quiet. Nobody was saying a word. You could just hear our boots hitting the dirt, the dusty ground as we walked along. And everybody doing their thing, just looked around. And we always walked-- we called it staggered columns. We wouldn't really get into line. We've got one guy here, one guy here, like that, all down the road.

[00:13:54.03] JOE GALLOWAY: So they don't get them all in one burst.

[00:13:57.03] JOHN LOUDERMILK: So we were walking along on our way to our ambush, and all of a sudden, the loudest noise I ever heard in my life-- just the biggest boom, like a freight train falling from the air, just hitting the ground. And I saw the-- actually, I always walked behind the radioman, and the squad leader was in front of the radioman. You got squad leader, radioman, corpsman. I saw him just get picked up like that, his whole body thrown toward me.

[00:14:21.54] And as that was happening, I was getting knocked down. It knocked me to the ground. And I was knocked down. Some of them said I was knocked into the rice paddy, and they picked me up out of the rice paddy, but I don't remember that. All I remember was coming to, and my ears were just ringing. And I didn't hear any noise-- nobody talking.

[00:14:40.78] JOE GALLOWAY: What was it? A booby trap?

[00:14:42.54] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, what it was was two 105 shells packed with homemade explosives. And they formed it in a crisscross pattern, where it would go like a crisscross across the road. And one of the persons that I talked with years ago said it kind of went

like this, and it looked like I was standing right here, where it crossed. And my trousers just were tore, both trouser legs just tore all the way down.

[00:15:11.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Shredded them.

[00:15:12.21] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Shredded, yeah.

[00:15:13.50] JOE GALLOWAY: What did it do to your squad leader?

[00:15:16.20] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, what happened was after that happened, I ran to the point man. He was killed instantly. So I grabbed his M16 and opened it up on his side because I was afraid they were going to run in on us. So then I ran to the next guy, and he was dead too, KIA. And about four guys were all killed in action.

[00:15:36.63] JOE GALLOWAY: All killed by the same blast.

[00:15:38.97] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Same blast. So I emptied each M16 as I came back. Got to the squad leader. He had an M79. He carried extra rounds in his pocket, and he carried grenades too. And later on, they said they think one of the shells exploded when he got hit.

[00:15:55.47] JOE GALLOWAY: Went off on his leg.

[00:15:56.52] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, uh-huh. And then he was laying there, so I talked with him. Of course, I bandaged him up, and I can't remember exactly his wounds now. But I said, you'll be OK? I got to check the rest of these guys. He says, I'm OK, Doc. Go ahead. So I got back to the radioman, which was in front of me, the guy I saw lifted. His jaw was just hanging there. He got hit the side-- broke his jaw, just hanging like that. And he had a perforated abdominal wound, and he had a fractured femur. So I had to take care of that.

[00:16:26.28] As soon as I got that one done, the guy-- I had to go to the guy who was right behind me. And that night, he had been assigned as my bodyguard for whatever-- if we run into something and we had to get busy. So we got to him. He had a fractured femur, and so he couldn't get up. So I had to do what I could for him. Then I realized he also had a perforated abdominal wound.

[00:16:49.14] JOE GALLOWAY: Damn.

[00:16:49.74] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Big piece of shrapnel hit him. And so then got back. Machine gun team was right in there. And the only guy that was talking was the machine gun team leader. He had a fractured femur. He couldn't get up. So then, as I got back to him, I heard some talking in the back of the column. And I thought, oh, man. I said, I thought I was the only one left. And they were talking. They were whispering.

[00:17:15.21] So I got back to them, and one guy was the rear security man, and the other guy was the machine gunner. And they were new guys. They hadn't been there very long at all-- inexperienced. They were highly skilled Marines trained in training but not real, actual



experience. They said, Doc, what are we going to do? So I said, you, get on that M60. I said, spray the area all around us. And I said, you get on a radio. Call us some help in here.

[00:17:41.58] Well, they had heard the explosion. We didn't know it at the time, but later, they said they heard the explosion and had sent a group of guys out immediately. But it seemed like it took forever for them to get there because they didn't know what was coming, and he was spraying the area with the machine gun, and I was working on guys, trying to get her-- get it all together. So anyway, they gave me a Bronze Star for what I did there that night.

[00:18:06.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Did the squad leader make it?

[00:18:08.04] JOHN LOUDERMILK: No, he didn't make it. They medevacked him, but he died.

[00:18:11.70] JOE GALLOWAY: He died.

[00:18:12.12] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah.

[00:18:12.57] JOE GALLOWAY: That's sad.

[00:18:13.90] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, we lost-- three guys walked away, myself and those two Marines. But I went to-- I wanted to see if any of the guys were in Da Nang at the Navy hospital, just to clear my mind. So I asked if I could go in, and they let me go in and check him out. And I may have medevacked somebody. I don't know.

[00:18:38.34] But when I got there, the radioman was there. They had his jaw wired up and had him wounded up. He was acting fine. And he couldn't talk to anybody. I'd ask him a question. Yeah, can I get you anything?

[00:18:50.55] JOE GALLOWAY: He'd get it through a straw.

[00:18:51.12] JOHN LOUDERMILK: He'd go-- yeah. I said, can I get you anything? He'd go-- but he made it, the radioman did. And I'm not sure about the rest of the guys, but I know the radioman made it.

[00:19:04.68] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. All right. Now you're on your way to the north.

[00:19:07.38] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, we moved from there to--

[00:19:10.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Phu Bai?

[00:19:11.40] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Phu Loc 6, they called it. It was the Hai Van Pass area.

[00:19:14.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:19:15.00] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Big, high mountains.

[00:19:17.04] JOE GALLOWAY: Beautiful place.

[00:19:18.03] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah. We had bridge security-- bridge patrol. And of course we did our daily patrols in the-- that's where we did our routine. We got into a routine. We had to do mine sweeps every day, Highway 1. And then we did patrols, and then we did ambushes. Plus, we had to cover the bridge, so make sure it didn't get blown up.

[00:19:39.01] And so we did that for a while, then we got called out-- I think it was-- we moved to Phu Bai. And they were in the workings of getting us to Hue City because it happened in January, Tet. And so February 13 is when we moved to Hue City.

[00:19:58.65] JOE GALLOWAY: The battle was well underway.

[00:20:01.18] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, it was about two weeks-- going on two weeks. They underestimated the force. I know you've read in history, but they underestimated the force and the determination that the enemy had for keeping--

[00:20:15.48] JOE GALLOWAY: They're weren't going to give it up.

[00:20:16.32] JOHN LOUDERMILK: No. And so the only-- I think it was the 1/1 that went up there, only just a small bunch of Marines. And they thought, well, we'll go up there and take care of the VC, and it'd be done. But they were there in the thousands. And so anyway, we went up on the six-by trucks. We loaded up in trucks and headed north to Hue City out of Phu Bai.

[00:20:40.68] And when we got there, we got to the edge of the city. The Perfume River was flowing by. We stopped up here, and the bridge was just lying in the water, just crumbled. They'd blown the bridge. And you could see smoke rising from the city. You could hear shooting. And so you knew something was going on.

[00:20:59.59] And the only way-- they boarded us on flat-bottomed Navy boats, and-- loaded with supplies. And we didn't know anything about, at the time, what was on the boat. We knew it was supplies. But later on, as we went-- it looked like C-rations. But later on, we learned that it was loaded down with ammunition.

[00:21:22.63] JOE GALLOWAY: Of course.

[00:21:23.28] JOHN LOUDERMILK: And on top of the ammunition was the C-rations that we could see. And anyway, we boarded, and on the way over, they were shooting mortars at us. It's like that movie Enemy at the Gates, where they were crossing, and you saw them shooting at them, crossing the river. That's how it was. They were shooting mortars at us.

[00:21:39.45] JOE GALLOWAY: As long as they don't hit you, it's fine.

[00:21:41.16] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, it's fine, as long as they splash.

[00:21:45.48] JOE GALLOWAY: Same in a wet paddy.

[00:21:46.97] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, that's right, yeah, yeah. The only trouble is trying to get out of that wet paddy. That makes it tough. But we got there, and it's like--

[00:21:56.79] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, you were heading for the citadel side?

[00:21:59.34] JOHN LOUDERMILK: We were heading for the citadel, yeah. We were-- ended up being the point, I think they said. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe they said we were the point--

[00:22:07.71] JOE GALLOWAY: Into the citadel.

[00:22:08.46] JOHN LOUDERMILK: --people into the citadel area.

[00:22:11.40] JOE GALLOWAY: That was hairy.

[00:22:12.05] JOHN LOUDERMILK: It was very bad. But yeah, we-- but upon getting to the other side, they had the Vietnamese-- city-- that had been running out of the city. They were all along the banks. It was like World War II. They were--

[00:22:26.25] JOE GALLOWAY: Refugees.

[00:22:27.15] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Refugees. They were so glad that we were there. Now, we didn't know what to think. We had never seen anything like that before. But anyway, we got off and got to business, and just started going down the street. And we ended up in these houses. We were on one side of the street, then you had that little street, then on the other side was the NVA. It wasn't the VC. It was the NVA.

[00:22:50.21] JOE GALLOWAY: NVA, yeah.

[00:22:50.88] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Professional soldiers. And so--

[00:22:53.16] JOE GALLOWAY: You got to get them out of there one room at a time.

[00:22:56.01] JOHN LOUDERMILK: The thing about it-- the first three days, because of the rules of engagement, we weren't allowed to have any naval gunfire, nor air support, nor artillery. They said, you have to take the city back with small arms.

[00:23:09.39] JOE GALLOWAY: That's bullshit.

[00:23:10.17] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah. And so we ended up losing a great percentage of our guys. The first day, we lost the squad leader I was with. We had a man-- we were just told to run across the street-- try to run across the street, take a building. That's how it was-- we were supposed-- we were told to do. So Marines just do what they're told. And so we had a PFC go down. I forget his name now, but anyway, he went down.

[00:23:41.11] And so we looked around at the squad leader for a plan, and so he looked at us-- Eddie Estes. He was from Dallas, Texas, I believe. He said, I'm not going to have my men do anything I wouldn't do myself. So as quickly as he said that, he bolted out the front door, took off to where that PFC went down. A sniper got him too, and hit him.

[00:24:07.26] And he ran back in, and he just fell, and he fell right-- I remember him falling at my feet, but one of the other guys says he thought he fell at his feet. I guess we all felt that way. But anyway, he was hit, and I tried to work on him, and I couldn't save him. And so that was a--

[00:24:24.72] JOE GALLOWAY: What about the guy in the street?

[00:24:26.58] JOHN LOUDERMILK: He was killed. Yeah. Well, what they did was they shot him and wounded him. And they kept shooting him, and he kept hollering for help. And this tore us up. So we just-- that's why Eddie took off real quick. In an instance like that, he just wanted to get his guy out. So he got a Silver Star for what he did.

[00:24:53.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Posthumously.

[00:24:54.60] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, posthumously. And he's got a very brave, wonderful family that live in Dallas, and I correspond with them every once in a while. I think the hands were tied of the lieutenants that had the squads. They had to do what they were told.

[00:25:11.01] JOE GALLOWAY: Right, and do it without artillery.

[00:25:13.71] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Right. Yeah. They said they wanted to preserve their buildings because of their historic value.

[00:25:20.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Bullshit.

[00:25:21.10] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I said, there was no brick and mortar worth a man's life to us.

[00:25:24.27] JOE GALLOWAY: That's right. That's right.

[00:25:25.35] JOHN LOUDERMILK: But that's what happened the first three days. And their religion, I think-- some of their buildings they didn't want destroyed because of their religion, you know. But we went down and-- down the street after that happened. And that's when Sergeant Mullan, staff sergeant, our platoon sergeant, got hit.

[00:25:44.43] And I wasn't there when he got hit, but-- my memory goes blank on some of these things-- but I had so many guys, but I remember him, like I said, laying in the street there. And I come upon him, and he had a blood-soaked bandage on his-- he's just laying still in the street, and the guys were all around him.

[00:26:04.59] He had a blood-soaked bandage where he had been hit, and they were getting ready to take it off. And then I screamed, stop. And so I ran over to him, and I did what I could for him-- put another bandage on it. And I don't recall--

[00:26:18.36] JOE GALLOWAY: Did he make it?

[00:26:19.32] JOHN LOUDERMILK: He made it. He's here today.

[00:26:20.88] JOE GALLOWAY: He's here.

[00:26:21.54] JOHN LOUDERMILK: He's here today. He was paralyzed that side, but he's here. He's got a very good memory, too, so you'll be fortunate to talk with him.

[00:26:32.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, while this is going on, day by day, you're treating--

[00:26:38.67] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Oh, I'm just overwhelmed.

[00:26:39.47] JOE GALLOWAY: Overwhelmed.

[00:26:40.50] JOHN LOUDERMILK: All the time.

[00:26:41.13] JOE GALLOWAY: Dozens of them.

[00:26:42.09] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yes. Left and right, guys hit. I couldn't tell you how many. But we got down to where we lost so many men that they started to put us out with other people. And I was a corpsman, and we lost corpsman too. I was with people I didn't even know, so they just-- wherever they needed a corpsman, that's where they sent us. They need you over here. So, yeah, I went over to wherever I was needed.

[00:27:05.83] So then finally toward the end, I got back with Lieutenant Nick Warr. He was our platoon lieutenant. So toward the end of it, I got back with him. I think it was over March the 1st, I believe.

[00:27:20.52] JOE GALLOWAY: That sounds about right.

[00:27:21.72] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, yeah, something like that.

[00:27:23.73] JOE GALLOWAY: A lot longer than they figured.

[00:27:25.86] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, a whole lot longer. And I got medevacked there once. A squad I was with-- we were coming up on the rear to-- there was like a brick building here, and a brick building here, and a passageway right here-- just like a small alley-- and this overhanging tree coming here. You could see through to the buildings on the other side, and there was a street right there. So we kind of circled around and got on the corner of this brick building right here.

[00:27:54.06] There was a Marine here, and I was standing here, and another Marine here. They shot a rocket at us, and hit the brick, and just splattered all of us, and knocked all three of us down. And two of the guys got hit in the face, got that brick-- so I didn't even think about myself. My ears were just ringing. So I just shook it off, and I looked, and I saw these guys. I passed two of those guys up, and then here comes another corpsman running up, and he told me to lay back down. So he medevacked all three of us back to--

[00:28:24.18] JOE GALLOWAY: Where were you hit?

[00:28:25.92] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I wasn't actually hit. I was just knocked down. And my ears were-- I couldn't hardly hear anything. It just hit us right there. So I remember him putting us in a tent and tagging us. And he checked me out to see if I was hit, and I wasn't hit, just splattered with brick, just all over. But anyway, I guess he wanted to send me back to get checked out.

[00:28:49.11] So my ears were ringing. He thought maybe my ears were perforated or something. So I got back. I think it was Dr. Harris-- I think was his name-- checked me out at wherever they sent me. I can't-- one of the stations.

[00:29:02.13] JOE GALLOWAY: Phu Bai, or--

[00:29:02.52] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Wherever it was. But he sent me back to Hue. And when I came back in, I was with guys I didn't even know. And as we were walking back in-- I'll never forget how it felt-- just like death all around-- just still, and the smell, the bodies laying here, laying there-- and we learned later, of course, they killed a lot of the civilian leaders.

[00:29:23.66] JOE GALLOWAY: 3 or 4,000 that they rounded up executed. So when you wrapped up there, where did you go?

[00:29:32.25] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Phu Bai. March the 1st, I was standing there with my guys, and this corpsman started walking over. He said, are you Loudermilk? I said, yeah. He said, I'm your relief. I said, what? [LAUGHS] What?

[00:29:47.19] JOE GALLOWAY: What?

[00:29:48.09] JOHN LOUDERMILK: And his name-- I said, well, what's your name? I'll never forget it. He says, Ben Hurd. I said, what? Say that again. He said, Ben Hurd, H-U-R-D. I said, well, I'll never forget that name. So he was my relief, and they sent me to 81 mortars first. And it was on a hill outside Da Nang. There was a LAAM site on top of one of the hills, and then they were down a little bit.

[00:30:13.74] And I got bronchitis. I wasn't able to move around. I had to stay with that 81 unit. And so I ask if I could go up and get some medicine, so they let me go up to the-- they had a tent aid station or something up there. So when I got there, he said, well, I'm shorthanded. I need some help. He said, I need you to stay here and help me. I said, well, you get that cleared, and I'll stay here gladly. He even had hot food up there.

[00:30:37.68] So I got to stay there. And then I made E5. I got a field promotion. I didn't have to test or anything. They promoted me to E5. So then, when I got E5, regimental aid station needed an E5. So they moved me to the regimental aid station. So that's where I ended up with my tour. I worked for Dr. Brock, a gentleman surgeon. He was a very good leader, and we had a great regimental aid station. So I ended up there.

[00:31:09.79] I think we had very good leadership. The men were respected, and you didn't-- Dr. Brock was especially a great leader of men. I mean, he's--

[00:31:22.69] JOE GALLOWAY: That's the medical side.

[00:31:23.55] JOHN LOUDERMILK: He's the medical side. And Nick Warr was a good leader, too-- Hue City. And John Mullan was a typical Marine, typical staff sergeant, and been there, done that. And he was-- of course, you got a lot of complaints sometimes. You know how that goes. But he was--

[00:31:40.92] JOE GALLOWAY: Was he like a Korea veteran?

[00:31:43.77] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I'm not sure. I think he'd had some combat. I'm not sure where. But he was very military, you might say. And, of course, you have to be in situations like that. So he was a typical gung-ho Marine, you might say.

[00:32:05.76] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. Now, you just did the one tour.

[00:32:08.94] JOHN LOUDERMILK: One tour.

[00:32:09.54] JOE GALLOWAY: That was enough.

[00:32:10.16] JOHN LOUDERMILK: That was enough. That was plenty. They tried to get me to re-enlist, and I said, nope. I know--

[00:32:16.50] JOE GALLOWAY: I know what'll happen.

[00:32:17.31] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I know where I would go if I re-enlisted, with my experience. So I didn't re-enlist.

[00:32:27.82] JOHN LOUDERMILK: That was September 9, 1968, when I boarded the plane to fly home. [LAUGHS]

[00:32:32.36] JOE GALLOWAY: I've heard that before.

[00:32:33.82] JOHN LOUDERMILK: When we took off, we got up in the air, and the pilot said, let's say goodbye to Vietnam. We go, yay. He rocked the plane to wave goodbye. So it was-- we were gone. We were headed out there.

[00:32:44.71] JOE GALLOWAY: You were gone.

[00:32:45.06] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah.

[00:32:50.43] JOHN LOUDERMILK: We were relieved by the Korean Marines at Hoi An. And I thought they were a very professional outfit. JOE GALLOWAY: Badasses. JOHN LOUDERMILK: They were squared away, yup. And we had-- on Thanksgiving, we had kind of a wrestling match with some of them. And it was going OK. We had some big guys. And it was going pretty good until a couple of them black belt guys got out there.

[00:33:12.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. So they took care of that.

[00:33:14.16] JOHN LOUDERMILK: They took care of that. So they had to--

[00:33:15.69] JOE GALLOWAY: Taekwondo.

[00:33:16.92] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, they had to kind of call it off after that started. I forgot one important part of Hue City. Right in the middle of Hue, we were-- I can't know what day it was, but I was with Nick Warr, our lieutenant, and Benny Benn, our radioman, and a few other Marines. Well, we'd found shelter for the night, and there was a knock on the door in the middle of the night.

[00:33:39.48] And the Marine said, well, there's some people that need a corpsman. And I said, OK. And the lieutenant said, Doc, you need to go with these guys. OK, fine. I said, what's going on? I got to the door, and the guy said, well, there's a lady up here who's about to give birth. I thought, what?

[00:33:58.86] So I got up there, and sure enough this man and his wife had sought shelter in this big building. And it was one of the big buildings in Hue. Big, tall-- probably a two story, I'd guess-- or it looked like a two story-- big windows in the front. And the front room was actually-- had a bed in the back, and then the wall here, and then a mantel up above the bed.

[00:34:21.51] And the lady and her husband were in this side room, and so we-- she's sure enough going to have a baby. But I spoke French a little. I learned high school French, and so I still remembered enough to converse a little bit. So I asked her about the baby. And she said, well, she already had two children. This would be her third. I said, hallelujah.

[00:34:44.37] JOE GALLOWAY: Thank God.

[00:34:44.73] [LAUGHTER]

[00:34:45.78] JOE GALLOWAY: Somebody's got experience here.

[00:34:47.48] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, yeah. So anyway, there were two other corpsmen that were sent over, too. And the three of us delivered this little baby girl-- and successful delivery-- no problems whatsoever. And then we let the mother hold her baby for a little while, and then she needed rest because they had walked a long ways to get there. So I asked her if it was OK to put the baby in the bed in that other room, and she says, yes, please.



[00:35:11.98] And so we put the baby in the bed, and covered it up real good, and snuggled it up real good. And it was laying there, a little dark-haired little girl. And then the Marine says, you corpsmen have to provide your own security tonight because we don't have any available men because we've lost so many.

[00:35:28.20] So they gave each of us an M16. And I was at the front left corner-- a big window here. Big window here. Another corpsman on this corner, and then another corpsman at the rear. And then the little baby here in a big bed, and a mantel up above.

[00:35:44.05] And so everyone was set, and real quiet, and just kind of dozing, looking at one another. Couldn't get any sleep at all that night because the NVA were just right across the street.

[00:35:52.08] JOE GALLOWAY: They were across the street.

[00:35:53.46] JOHN LOUDERMILK: And you could see the house across the street from those big windows. We'd take a peek. And all of a sudden, we were staying real still, all of a sudden, bong, bong. We turned around, ready to fire. There was a big clock above that baby that we hadn't seen, and that thing went off right in the middle of the night. Oh, you talk about-- oh, it just-- quite an experience.

[00:36:13.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, I bet.

[00:36:14.85] JOHN LOUDERMILK: But she had a beautiful little girl, and we left them that next morning, and they went on their merry way.

[00:36:25.30] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, most of the villagers were friendly. But being in that situation, we couldn't trust anyone because they might act friendly during the daytime and turn into soldiers at night. And I believe that happened one time we were on an ambush. And we dug in really-- some of the guys thought it was too early. And there was three farmers working out in this rice paddy, and they evidently saw us digging in.

[00:36:53.26] So we were digging in, and they were over there hoeing the rice. And just a little bit after dark, we got mortared-- mortared bad. And it hit the tops of the trees, and then it hit the limbs of the trees, and we had tree limbs and shell fragments falling on us. And we had wounded guys, too. So I got out that night.

[00:37:14.12] And we had-- one of our corpsmen was killed in November. And I think I was the only corpsman at that time with the platoon. So I had double duty that night, taking care of those guys. But we medevacked all we could, and then we had one guy that had a leg-- got hit in the leg with shrapnel.

[00:37:34.27] And the chopper said, we can only take so many, because I had to put my torso injuries. That was triage right there. So I had to put my worst injuries on the helicopter. And I got them out. And we carried the last guy out, makeshift-- the guys took their--

[00:37:50.38] JOE GALLOWAY: Made a litter.

[00:37:51.69] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Made a litter out of their jerseys, their shirts, and carried him out. Yeah, so we got back OK.

[00:38:05.90] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Just a letter here and there. Got a couple packages while I was there, but I didn't have any other contact. Just letters.

[00:38:19.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Didn't get down to the MARS station to call home?

[00:38:22.53] JOHN LOUDERMILK: They did have a station there. I can't remember. I don't think I did. I don't believe-- some guys were able to.

[00:38:29.54] JOE GALLOWAY: You would remember it if you did.

[00:38:30.44] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, I don't think I did.

[00:38:31.55] JOE GALLOWAY: You had to instruct your mother on radio procedures.

[00:38:35.15] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, they told us about all that. You had to say hello, over, and--

[00:38:38.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Over.

[00:38:38.66] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah. Yeah.

[00:38:41.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. How much news did you get from home, if any?

[00:38:45.35] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, they just-- the letters I got were just family letters. And they didn't tell us-- I didn't want to hear any news, and they didn't send me any.

[00:39:00.91] JOHN LOUDERMILK: When I got to Vietnam, I had one uniform-- it was my green utilities, starched and pressed-- in my sea bag. And I said, I'm going to save these for when I go home. So I kept them the whole year in that sea bag. I don't know how I did it, but I kept them that year. And then when it was time to go, I put them on.

[00:39:21.31] JOE GALLOWAY: Put them on.

[00:39:21.85] JOHN LOUDERMILK: That's my going-home clothes. And so--

[00:39:23.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Clean, starched.

[00:39:24.29] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Clean, starched, yeah, they were--

[00:39:26.08] JOE GALLOWAY: Moldy.

[00:39:27.28] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Probably a little moldy, but I put them on. And it was--

[00:39:33.39] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you get a civilian charter out?

[00:39:36.10] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, it was another civilian-- oh, yeah, the day I left-- I remember now. We were getting ready to board the plane, and the sirens went off. We said, not now.

[00:39:47.57] JOE GALLOWAY: Not now.

[00:39:48.25] JOHN LOUDERMILK: We had to take off for a bunker. And like three hours later, they said, OK, you can go back and board the plane. And when we did, they said they had to get a clearance from the States for the plane to take off, if I remember correctly, because of the incoming and what have you. So we got back on the plane, and then we took off, and we left. I think somebody said, as we were leaving, the bridge in Da Nang was being attacked, so I was glad to get out of there.

[00:40:15.73] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, where did you fly into in the States?

[00:40:18.67] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, we flew back to Okinawa for three days.

[00:40:21.57] JOE GALLOWAY: Okinawa. You lose your sea bag.

[00:40:23.74] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, well, I had three French bayonets that I had found in Hue. And they said, well, you've got to turn all souvenirs in. They'll be given back to you.

[00:40:31.57] JOE GALLOWAY: They lied.

[00:40:32.68] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Somebody kept them. So somebody--

[00:40:34.77] JOE GALLOWAY: You never saw them again.

[00:40:35.24] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Somebody has got a great story, I guess, they're telling nowadays. But yeah, I flew into San Bernardino Airport. And when we got there, they told us to assemble in the hangar. And this senior NCO come in. We got in formation, and he says, OK. He welcomed us home and all that and thanked us for our time-- our service to our country.

[00:40:56.14] And he says, now, I got one other thing to tell you. He says, you men have to go down here to the PX and buy civilian clothes. He said, you can't go off base in that uniform. He said, uniform's not popular here. So we turned. We said, what? We couldn't believe that. We couldn't believe it. I just-- shock. So we bought civilian clothes. My nerves were shot. I couldn't fly. I said, I can't get on another plane. I'd flown on everything, all kinds of helicopters, and C-130s, and everything, and jets.

[00:41:25.47] JOE GALLOWAY: You'd had enough.

[00:41:26.56] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I said, I can't get on another plane. So I called a cab and I said, take me to the Greyhound bus terminal. So I took a bus all the way to Cincinnati from San Bernardino.

[00:41:36.10] JOE GALLOWAY: Whoa, from San "Berndoon."

[00:41:37.06] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah.

[00:41:38.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Mercy. That must have been three, four days.

[00:41:40.81] JOHN LOUDERMILK: It was, but I liked it. I got to see my country and got to see-- I remember this cowboy getting on somewhere out West. Had a saddle over his shoulder and a cowboy hat. I'm just, this is cool. This is all right.

[00:41:53.56] JOE GALLOWAY: That's all right.

[00:41:54.19] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, that was good.

[00:41:56.38] JOE GALLOWAY: And you were done with the Marine Corps?

[00:41:58.63] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, no. My last six months I had left, they sent me to Marine Corps supply in Philadelphia. And that's where I spent my last six months. It was easy duty. Then I went home.

[00:42:12.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Then you went home.

[00:42:13.48] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yup.

[00:42:15.76] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you do after the war?

[00:42:18.55] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, my first year, my nerves were shot. I had like 11, 12 jobs that first year home. I'd just work a while, and-- you know, I just--

[00:42:31.00] JOE GALLOWAY: Didn't do it for you.

[00:42:32.02] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Couldn't settle in one place. And I ended up, over the years-- they classified me now PTSD 100%. So it took me a long time to-- back then, you knew something was wrong, but you didn't know what was wrong.

[00:42:47.26] JOE GALLOWAY: They didn't know what it was.

[00:42:48.28] JOHN LOUDERMILK: They didn't know what it was.

[00:42:49.45] JOE GALLOWAY: What to name it.

[00:42:50.71] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Uh-uh. They didn't.

[00:42:52.57] JOE GALLOWAY: So this question-- was it difficult readjusting to life after combat?

[00:42:57.61] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, it was. I married my wife. I got out in March, and we were married in May, and we're still married.

[00:43:06.88] JOE GALLOWAY: She put up with you.

[00:43:07.81] JOHN LOUDERMILK: She put up with me. She's a good girl.

[00:43:15.06] JOE GALLOWAY: How did your Vietnam experience change you and affect your life afterwards?

[00:43:21.42] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, I think it's inhibited me. I went to school-- went to college in-- started in '74. My intention was to go back in as a military chaplain. So I crammed 77 semester hours in two years. But I think it was my nerves that got to me, that I just couldn't stay in one place at any time. I was doing OK in school, but I just couldn't-- back then, I couldn't stay in one place at any one time.

[00:43:53.56] So I think it's affected me all my life, what's happened to me. I used to have dreams and everything. Every once in a-- occasionally, I have a dream. It used to be bad, but it's a whole lot better now.

[00:44:09.10] JOE GALLOWAY: Obviously, you're here at a division reunion. You've kept in touch with your fellow troops?

[00:44:18.01] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, we had our company clerk, Jerry Reagan. Back in-- years back, he was trying to get everybody together. And he called-- my son was in Georgia, I think. And he's got the same name. He got a hold of my son, and then my son told me about it. But it was later, see. They had-- they were having a reunion in Cincinnati.

[00:44:43.77] And my cousin had been in Delta Company of 1/5. He called me up and said, hey, they're having a reunion. We never heard about the reunions. So I went up there, and that's where I first-- it was in '97. I hadn't seen any of the guys since '97. And they were all coming by. Their wives were coming by and giving me kisses on the cheek. I went, wow, you know, this is awesome. So it was really something.

[00:45:14.16] But since '97, I've been to a few of the reunions. But now, we've got our contact information now, so we can email each other or call or whatever if we want to. So it's great.

[00:45:28.56] JOE GALLOWAY: Did your time in Vietnam affect the way you think about the troops coming back from their wars today?

[00:45:36.48] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah. It's good to see that they're welcomed home now instead of spit upon. So that's good. It still hurts us, that we didn't. And we'll probably never forget it because it's just-- but I am glad that things have changed for them.

[00:45:55.14] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. What do you think that war meant to you and your generation?

[00:46:03.51] JOHN LOUDERMILK: We were proud to be Americans. And I think we were some of the better part of our generation. We were the ones that were patriotic, and we did our duty for God and country.

[00:46:20.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Even if the country didn't do it for you.

[00:46:22.58] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, even if the country didn't do for us-- right.

[00:46:27.38] JOE GALLOWAY: How do you think the Vietnam War is remembered in our society today? Or is it?

[00:46:33.56] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Well, I think it's remembered, but I think there's some truth and there's some false truth. You have to dig to really find out what the actual truth is. And some people are probably making money on what they write, which is not actually factual information. And maybe some movies that have been made are not factual. So I think a person has to dig to find some people who have written it, like yourself, who have been there and done that.

[00:47:08.00] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, maybe in the future, they'll be able to go to the Library of Congress and hear all these stories.

[00:47:15.89] JOHN LOUDERMILK: That'd be wonderful, yeah.

[00:47:20.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Are there lessons you took from your service in Vietnam that you'd like to pass along?

[00:47:29.97] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yeah, you have to have confidence in yourself in whatever area you're placed in. Have confidence in the training that you've had, and just in a situation, sometimes, when there's nobody above you, you're the man where the buck stops. You have to learn how to make a decision.

[00:47:58.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Have you visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC?

[00:48:02.98] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I have not. I've seen the miniature traveling Wall when it came to Somerset, Kentucky. But yeah, I want to see that, and I'm hoping that the division goes back there sometime.

[00:48:19.36] JOHN LOUDERMILK: I think it's great. I think it's great. And it's good not to be forgotten, to be remembered for what we did. Yeah.

[00:48:30.46] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, John, thank you for coming in and telling your story.

[00:48:34.47] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Yes, sir. Thank you very much.

[00:48:34.93] JOE GALLOWAY: I really appreciate it.

[00:48:35.92] JOHN LOUDERMILK: Thank you. Thank you for doing this.