

1970 Draft Remembrance

Why this? You can find it in a second on your phone. Have you?

366 dates with draft order numbers from 001 to 366. Was it a leap year? No. A scientific draw? No. Did it matter? Does it matter?

Today the 1970 Draft is 50 plus years of individual and collective memory that vanishes, reforms and revives each day. Personal memories are vanishing at a faster and faster rate. Memories are sinking deeper and deeper into our cultural collective consciousness.

Why Remember?

I have been asked if I made this because I was drafted. No – I had already enlisted several years before 1970. Was I there? No – I was stationed in California to help keep a WWII era Destroyer from sinking and prepare her for a last *firing line run* tour off the shores of Vietnam. Later, I was discharged in Hawaii after helping the building of a military baseball field – my last *duty*.

My goal is not to make a statement or “educate” – but to help ask questions. How do we remember – or not remember? How do we learn – or not learn? How do we change – or not change? I made this to help me remember, learn and change.

Nations pick and choose. As in the world’s past, today a *US Draft* is ready – are you ready? Have we learned? Changed? I made this because I told myself in 1970 to remember.

About this Installation.

I recently had a teacher who said *draw big*. Another said *talk less* and just *show* my ideas. Years ago two teachers helped to free me to live in the *world of metaphor and symbols*. They both encouraged me to make my *work turn into play*. This *play* helps me remember.

I played with common items – drop cloths, tarp grommets, house paint, cutout letter/number stencils – stuff from the hardware store. Eggshells, candy tins, newspaper print, bags of plastic toy soldiers – all found at my local supermarket. Stuff from hometown places – hardware stores, supermarkets and schools – places where *Sacrifices* are found and drafted.

I borrowed from other's rhymes, rhythms, marks, spaces, orders of colors and natural cycles-of-life symbols. I constructed a temporary place based on sideshows, sacred spaces and boot camp. A place to remember.

Step right up!

Draw your man and find his number. Journey on in and take your time. Once in you could: 1) stand on his number for a minute or two; 2) find your birth date and draft number; and, 3) use your written voice and leave a thought if you wish. Take your time. As you leave, return your man *home* with the others drafted and volunteered - you will figure it out for yourself.

Thank You.

I made this to help me remember the 1970 Draft. I made this to help me remember, learn and change. Thank you for remembering with me.

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