

Colton Etheridge
5-15-24
Adv. History - X
Vacca

Naval Pilot Helmet

The Helmet that I have drawn is based on a real fighter pilots helmet by the name of Lieutenant Joseph B. Gatewood from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. His helmet, along with many others, were personalized with painted designs unique to each squadron. On these helmets there would be a squadron specific design as well as the pilots call sign. The yellow lion on Lieutenant Joseph B. Gatewood represents squadron “VA-212” known as the Rampant Raiders.

Creating this helped me connect with the personal side of the war – the idea that behind every mission and machine there was a real person with a name, call sign, and a story. As a visual artifact, this helmet reflects the technology and humanity of the Vietnam War. Drawing it helped me understand how courage and individuality were expressed even through uniform equipment.

Dog Tag

This dog tag represents the identity and sacrifice of a U.S. Marine during the period of the Vietnam War. I created this to show how something so small and simple can carry so much meaning. Dog tags were more than just nameplates. They were a symbol of each soldier's service, their life, and sometimes even their death. The numbers, the name, the blood type all made that person even more real. Recreating this by hand made me understand how war reduces people to small little things, but also how personal and human those little details are. This tag honors not just one person, but the thousands of soldiers who served.

- Image used for Dog Tag

Premiere Relics. *U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Era Dog Tag RAPILLO A.J. 2396150 A USMC M CATH.*
<https://premierrelics.com/store-4/9b1n3cdelgtfnflilyf3i4v0ns26yy>.

- Image used for Naval Pilot Helmet

Mississippi Armed Forces Museum. *United States Navy Flight Helmet Worn by Joseph B. Gatewood.*
Accessed May 18, 2025.

<https://msarmedforcesmuseum.org/collection/united-states-navy-flight-helmet-worn-by-joseph-b-gatewood/>.