

What Veterans are Saying About the Veterans History Project

"I am profoundly proud and honored that my story will be permanently archived in the Veterans History Project with the stories of tens of thousands of fellow American veterans who, as a matter of honor and duty, served their country in time of war."

—Warren Tsuneishi, WWII Veteran

"Brian and I were honored to tell our Vietnam story for the Veterans History Project. Our reflections of our war stories, mine as an Army nurse in Vietnam and his two tours in Vietnam plus his service in the Gulf War, have made it possible to preserve our living history voices for our children and all future generations."

—Jeanne Urbin Markle, Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War and wife of Brian Cody Markle, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars Veteran

"I would encourage every veteran to participate in the Veterans History Project. I know personally that I'd never discussed my experiences with my wife and children. They were very surprised when they viewed my video, and it led us to communicate more."

—Jacob Younginer, Vietnam War Veteran

To learn more about these veterans and others, go to www.loc.gov/vets.

What Happens to My Interview and Other Donated Items?

The items you donate to the Veterans History Project (VHP) are housed in a preservation environment within the permanent collections of the Library of Congress. Your stories and collateral materials are available to you, scholars, students, and anyone else visiting the Library, following a six-month processing period.

The VHP Web Site Documents Each Collection

▶ A Web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview, memoir, or historical documents. This page includes service history and other information about each veteran. Access the database at www.loc.gov/vets (click on *Search the Veterans Collections*).

▶ As resources allow, VHP will digitize interviews and documents from its collection, which will allow Internet users to view the collections online without visiting the Library of Congress. Currently about five percent of the collection is accessible online.

The **general public** is invited to stop by the VHP Welcome Center at the Library of Congress weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. It is located in room LM-109 on the first floor of the James Madison Building (101 Independence Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20540).

Researchers are asked to call or email one week prior to a visit. Please have the correct spelling of the first and last names of the veteran. For details, visit www.loc.gov/vets (click on *For Researchers*).

Public users of the VHP collections are required to have a Reader Identification Card issued by the Library. The cards are free and can be obtained by presenting a valid driver's license, state-issued identification card, or passport at the Reader

Registration Station in room LM-140, on the first floor of the James Madison Building near the Independence Avenue entrance.

All VHP collections are served in the American Folklife Center Reading Room, which is located in LJ-G53 of the Thomas Jefferson Building. The telephone number is 202-707-5510.

Disclaimer: The Library of Congress does not verify the accuracy of the accounts described herein by participants in the Veterans History Project. Individual stories are voluntarily submitted to the Veterans History Project and are placed in the Library's permanent collections as received. These histories are the personal recollections and perspectives of participating individuals and are not intended as a substitute for an official record of the federal government nor of military service.

The Library of Congress

Web site: www.loc.gov/vets

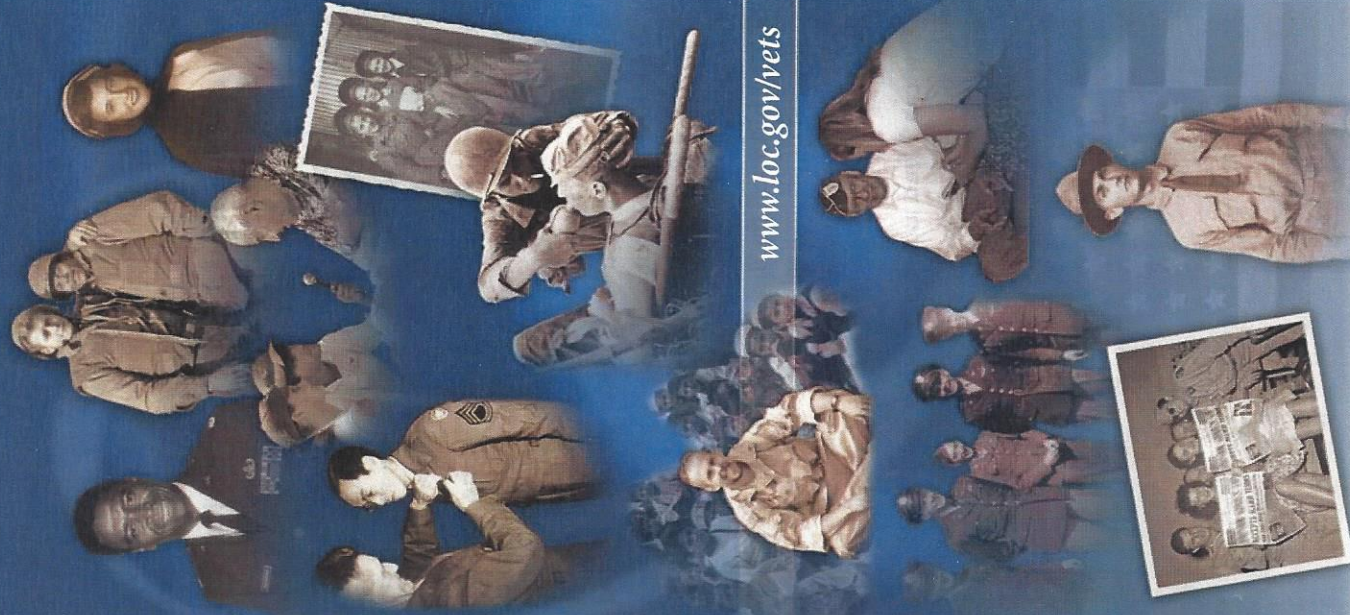
Email: vhpp@loc.gov

Toll-free message line: 888-371-5848

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VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



www.loc.gov/vets



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

The mission of the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

How can I be part of this important project? You can volunteer to conduct interviews and collect historical documents. You may also organize interview groups and teach others how to conduct interviews. Educational institutions, retirement communities, veterans service organizations, churches, and other community groups are a few good places to start.

What kinds of items are included in the Veterans History Project Collection? Collections may take the form of war veterans' first-hand oral histories, memoirs, collections of photographs and letters, diaries, and other historical documents from World War I through current conflicts.

How can I share the story of a deceased veteran? On behalf of a deceased war veteran, you may submit historical documents like the veteran's collection of photographs, letters, diaries and memoirs. You will need to complete the biographical data form and a release form for the deceased veteran.

How can I find answers to other questions? Visit our *Frequently Asked Questions* page online at www.loc.gov/vets.

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Photograph 1 courtesy of Prints & Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Photographs 2, 3, 4, and 5 courtesy of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.



Interview a Veteran. Preserve History.

By taking part in the Veterans History Project (VHP), you are contributing to the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, one of the world's most respected research and cultural institutions. When you participate, you are making history.

It's as easy as following these simple steps:

Step 1: Visit www.loc.gov/vets and download a Field Kit, which gives you guidelines for conducting interviews and for what we do and don't accept. If you don't have Internet access, complete the tear-off card to the right or call the toll-free message line at 888-371-5848 to request a Field Kit.

Step 2: Go online to our Web site to register the collection you wish to submit.

Step 3: Record a veteran's story using an audio or video recorder; assist in collecting photographs, letters, diaries, maps, etc.; and/or help write a memoir.

Step 4: Complete the required and appropriate forms (including biographical data, audio and video log, and release forms) at www.loc.gov/vets or from a Field Kit. Assemble the forms and the items you are submitting.

Step 5: We accept only original materials. Please make copies of all materials you wish to keep for yourself. Please provide the veteran with a copy of the interview. VHP does not have the resources to provide copies of any donated materials. Everything you submit to VHP will become property of the Library of Congress and cannot be returned to you.

Please refer to Web site (www.loc.gov/vets), click on *How to Participate* for Library of Congress standards of participation. We reserve the right to return materials that do not adhere to those standards.

Do send materials via FedEx, UPS, or DHL to:

Veterans History Project
The Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20540-4615
Email: volhp@loc.gov
Web site: www.loc.gov/vets
Toll-free message line: 888-371-5848

Please **do not send** your materials via the U.S. Postal Service. Postal Service mail received by the Library of Congress undergoes security screening that may result in damage and undue delays of your materials. You may also deliver materials in person to room LM-109 at the above address during weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Field Kit Request

Please use this form only if you cannot access information and forms from our Web site at www.loc.gov/vets. Supplies of printed Field Kits are limited.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please send _____ Field Kit(s).

Mail or fax this completed form to the Veterans History Project. A faxed request will be processed more quickly, since your correspondence will not be subject to security clearance delays.

Mail:

Veterans History Project
The Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20540-4615

Or

Fax:

202-252-2046

No cover sheet is necessary.

REMEMBER: Field Kits may be printed out from the VHP Web site. Visit www.loc.gov/vets.

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Veterans History Project

Library of Congress and American Red Cross

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who can be interviewed?

Any veteran who served in the U.S. military, in any capacity, and are no longer serving, regardless of branch or rank may be interviewed, as well as National Guard or Reserve who returned from deployment.

Where / When will the interview take place?

The interview can take place in any location that is most comfortable for the veteran, as long as it is a relatively quiet location with little interruption. At home, in the office, or any other convenient location is suitable for the interview. When the interview takes place is up to the veteran's schedule and availability.

What questions will be asked?

There is no set list of questions that will be asked. However, we will provide a list of typical questions that are commonly asked during the interview. We will not ask for classified information as the interview will be conducted at the unclassified level.

Can family members help the veteran?

Yes. The family can help the interview process, e.g. providing materials or helping the narrative if the veteran has trouble remembering details. They will be off-camera, but their voices can be heard and will be included in the interview.

How much time does it take?

Typical interviews run between 45 and 90 minutes, though the Library of Congress requires a minimum duration of 30 minutes. Veterans should not be discouraged by the time requirement as their interview will still be recorded and given back to them regardless of duration.

Can I show pictures or other materials during the interview?

Of course. Photos and artifacts are welcome and can be shown during the interview. Additionally, Library of Congress will accept original photographs as part of their collection. The LOC will also accept original unpublished manuscripts over 20 pages.

Is it okay if I can't recall all the details of my military career?

Yes. Any unclassified details that the veteran can remember are welcome.

Who will see this interview?

Currently, a small percentage of the submitted interviews are digitized and available for viewing online. However, a searchable entry into the LOC database is made for every eligible submission.

Will my interview be fact-checked?

No. The interviews are personal recollections and perspectives of participating individuals and are not intended to substitute for official record of the federal government or military service.

Will the interview be edited?

No. The LOC insists that submissions are complete and unedited. Interviews will be conducted at an unclassified level. Do not include classified or confidential information that should not be shared.

Can I decline to answer questions?

Of course. The interview should outline the veteran's account of his or her career. A veteran can refuse to answer a question for any reason, in which case the interviewer can move on to another question or topic.

For more information, please visit <https://www.loc.gov/vets/>



**American
Red Cross**

Steven Schultz

Veterans History Project Volunteer
American Red Cross of Colorado

1040 S. 8th Street
Colorado Springs, CO
80905
Tel (719) 963-1638
www.redcross.org/colorado

steven.schultz2@redcross.org