



★ VETERANS
★ ON THE
★ HOMEFRONT

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017



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A Founding Father Online

Sister Story: Building
An App for Veterans

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAGAZINE

Library of Congress Magazine
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The Library's central mission is to provide Congress, the federal government and the American people with a rich, diverse and enduring source of knowledge that can be relied upon to inform, inspire and engage them and support their intellectual and creative endeavors.

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This flag hanging in the Veterans History Project offices honors the military service of employees of the U.S. Copyright Office, located at the Library. Each star represents a Copyright Office member who served during World War II. *Shawn Miller*

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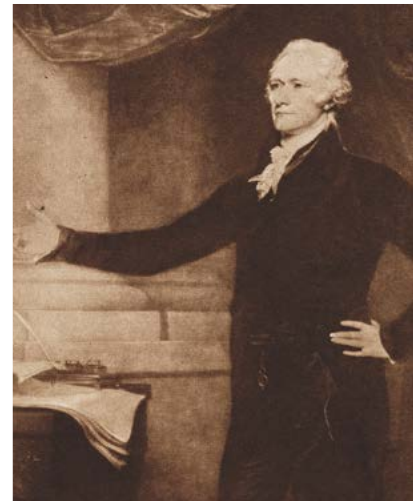
The Library makes the papers of Alexander Hamilton available online for the first time in their original format.

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The end of military service doesn't mark the final chapter in the story of any veteran. With that in mind, the Library's Veterans History Project documents not only the wartime experiences of veterans but also their lives after service.

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ON THE COVER: The cover illustration combines a 1944 Tracy Sugarman watercolor of an Army guard in Cornwall, England, with a 2008 Carol M. Highsmith photograph of Denali National Park. *Prints and Photographs Division. Photo illustration | Ashley Jones*

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Above: Visitors examine military-related items from the Library's collections. *Shawn Miller*

Right: Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden (far right) joined service-academy representatives Lucia Maziar, David Schaffter, Christopher Barth, Donna Selvaggio and Larry Clemens in signing a cooperative agreement. *Shawn Miller*

LIBRARY AND MILITARY ACADEMIES JOIN FORCES

STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT THE NATION'S SERVICE ACADEMIES NOW HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY'S RESOURCES.

The Library of Congress and the five U.S. military service academies have agreed to a cooperative arrangement that provides midshipmen, cadets and faculty members with enhanced access to the Library's vast collections.

The accord also supports growth of service-member representation in the national collections at the Library—including the Veterans History Project.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and representatives of the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy signed the agreement in a ceremony in the Library's Jefferson Building in September.

The agreement, which runs for three years, provides for cooperation in collection development, shared collection access and research services and on-site experiences.

The service academies are institutions for the undergraduate education and training of young men and women to become professional officers.

The Library and the academies will, among other things, build awareness of and participation in the Veterans History Project among academy students, faculty and alumni; develop short-



term staff exchanges; work together to ensure enhanced access to their respective collections; and identify materials being deaccessioned from the academies appropriate for transfer to the Library's collections.

The Library also can host service academy students in its academic internship and service programs.

"I fully expect that the results of this collaboration will enhance the Library of Congress' ability to serve your students and your faculty members," Hayden said. "I also look forward to the valuable support you can provide us at this Library, giving enhanced access to your collections and advice about collection development, the activation of staff exchanges and the enlargement of our collections—particularly our collections of veterans' histories."

BACK AT HOME AND ON THE BIG SCREEN

MIKE MASHON, CHIEF OF THE LIBRARY'S MOVING IMAGE SECTION, DISCUSSES SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FILMS ABOUT VETERANS.



THE ROAD BACK

German soldiers return home to find personal and professional disappointment in this underappreciated sequel to "All Quiet on the Western Front." The 1937 release kept the pacifist tone of Erich Maria Remarque's novel, but a 1939 re-release was much more stridently anti-German in reaction to the approaching war in Europe. Both versions were restored by the Library in 2015. (Universal, 1937)



THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES

The gold standard, an intensely humane film directed by combat veteran William Wyler and featuring Harold Russell, an Army veteran who had lost both his hands in a bomb detonation just two years earlier. Fredric March's homecoming scene still remains profoundly affecting, some seven decades after it was filmed. (Samuel Goldwyn, 1946)



LET THERE BE LIGHT

John Huston's sensitive documentary about soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress—made while the director was serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps—was suppressed by the Army for fear that it would hamper postwar recruitment. (U.S. Army, 1946)



THE DEER HUNTER

A controversial and emotionally devastating epic about three Pennsylvania steelworkers, all Vietnam War veterans, struggling to adjust to postwar life. The film manages to be both sweeping in scope and psychologically claustrophobic, and its raw portrayal of combat influenced many later films. (Universal, 1978)



COMING HOME

Emotionally charged story of a woman (Jane Fonda) who falls in love with wheelchair-bound veteran Jon Voight, an affair complicated by the return of her Marine husband from Vietnam. Director Hal Ashby keeps the film from turning into a sentimental tearjerker, exploring a variety of emotional nuances with a deft and sympathetic touch. Fonda and Voight each won best acting Oscars for their performances. (United Artists, 1978)

Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division

► MORE INFORMATION

National Film Registry
loc.gov/film/

THE GREAT WAR IN SONG

THE LIBRARY PRESERVES RECORDINGS AND SHEET MUSIC OF THOUSANDS OF TUNES FROM WORLD WAR I.



The Great War inspired thousands of songs, music that a century later still evokes a world at war, families separated, loved ones lost: “Over There,” “Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag,” “Keep the Home Fires Burning.”

Recordings of many of those songs are collected on the National Jukebox, a Library of Congress website that makes historical sound recordings from 1901 to 1925 available to the public for free.



The songs of the World War I period, and the recordings of them in the Jukebox, reflect the spirit of nations going to war and the men and women caught up in the conflict.

One of them was Ernestine Schumann-Heink, a Czech-born operatic singer who moved to the United States, became an American citizen and, later, strongly supported the war effort on recordings found on the Jukebox—“Just Before the Battle, Mother,” “When the Boys Come Home” and a vocal version of “Taps.”



The site also features the Nora Bayes recording that made “Over There” a hit, and hundreds more war-related songs by other artists: “Goodbye Broadway, Hello France!,” “It’s a Long Way to Berlin, But We’ll Get There!,” “When You Come Back, and You Will Come Back, There’s the Whole World Waiting for You.”

When America entered the war, popular songwriting and the music-publishing industry centered in Tin Pan Alley had reached their zenith. Over the years, the Library acquired more than 14,000 examples of war-related sheet music and eventually made them available online.

Those songs collectively reveal America at war, its confidence (“The Kaiser Will Be Wiser When the Yankees Take Berlin”), its strength (“The Yanks with the Tanks”), its acknowledgment of war’s cost (“Shrapnel Blues”) and even its humor (“Would You Rather be a Colonel with an Eagle on Your Shoulder or a Private with a Chicken on Your Knee?”).

In America, no song is more associated with the Great War than George M. Cohan’s “Over There.”

The online collection features original sheet music for “Over There” and dozens of the spin-offs inspired by Cohan’s enormously popular tune: “Over Here!,” “The Boys Over There,” “The Girls Over There,” “The Men Behind the Men Over There,” “When I Send You a Picture of Berlin, You’ll Know It’s Over, ‘Over There.’”

The reality behind the music, of course, was a brutal conflict, waged with revolutionary weapons, that inflicted tens of millions of casualties and created untold misery.

Lt. Col. John McRae served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the Second Battle of Ypres in Flanders, Belgium, in 1915. Presiding over the funeral of a comrade killed in the battle, he noticed how quickly poppies grew around the graves of the fallen.

Moved, McRae wrote “In Flanders Fields,” a poem set to music by many songwriters during the war (and which later inspired the symbolic “remembrance poppies” still worn today to commemorate war dead).

The Library’s World War I sheet-music collection holds dozens of versions, a somber reminder of millions of young lives lost a century ago:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place ...*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

— Mark Hartsell

▶ MORE INFORMATION

World War I Sheet Music Online
go.usa.gov/xRSxM

National Jukebox
loc.gov/jukebox/

Listen: Playlist of Songs in this Article
go.usa.gov/xRSag

The Library holds sheet music for thousands of the songs inspired by World War I, such as “The Liberty Wagon,” “The Yanks with the Tanks” and “How ‘Ya Gonna Keep ‘Em Down on the Farm (After They’ve Seen Patee?)”. All images | Music Division

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11.6.43.

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Prod. "Meet Me in St. Louis" Music and Lyrics
by Hugh Martin + Ralph Blane

Sadly

Have your-self A

p sostenuto thruout

Mer-ry Lit-tle Christ-mas, it may be your last.

U.S. Copyright Office

MAKING 'MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS' A LOT LESS GLOOMY

Few holiday songs strike a melancholy note quite like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," the poignant Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane tune that summons hope in troubled times and the comfort of friends and family close by.

It wasn't always so.

The original, unpublished version of the song (above), submitted to the Copyright Office at the Library in November 1943, made for a most bleak holiday:

*Have yourself a merry little Christmas
It may be your last
Next year we may all be living in the past. ...
Faithful friends who were dear to us
Will be near to us no more.*

The song debuted in the 1944 hit musical film "Meet Me in St. Louis," starring Judy Garland. In the film, Garland and her siblings learn the family soon will move across the country

to New York—devastating news that would upend romances and friendships. The script called for Garland to soothe her youngest sister on Christmas Eve by singing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

She balked: Those lines would be more cruel than comforting to a kid afraid she'd never see her friends again.

Martin resisted a rewrite but eventually altered the lyrics to those Garland sang in the film, a version submitted for copyright 11 months after the original.

The new lines, wistful but warm, offered hope—to Garland's on-screen sister, to an audience separated from loved ones by World War II. Seven decades later, they still do:

*Have yourself a merry little Christmas
Let your heart be light
From now on your troubles will be out of sight.*

—Mark Hartsell

JOHN COLE HAS ENJOYED A REMARKABLE 51-YEAR CAREER AT THE LIBRARY, CULMINATING WITH HIS MOST RECENT APPOINTMENT AS THE FIRST OFFICIAL LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HISTORIAN.

Throughout his long tenure at the Library of Congress, John Y. Cole has worked to increase public understanding of the key role that the Library has played in American history and now plays in American society. His latest position, as official historian of the Librarian of Congress, is a new focus of a lifelong interest.

“As an undergraduate at the University of Washington in the late 1950s, I was pondering an uncertain future,” he said. “I was a book-loving history major but didn’t want to teach history. When I was a senior, a library school professor persuaded me to take her course on the history of books and libraries as an enticement to enroll in the graduate school of librarianship the following year.”

It worked. “I postponed my ROTC-required service for a year and got my library degree. As a result of that degree, when I showed up for duty, I was assigned to replace the civilian head of the library at the U.S. Army Intelligence School. I stocked my little foreign-intelligence library via the Library of Congress surplus books program.”

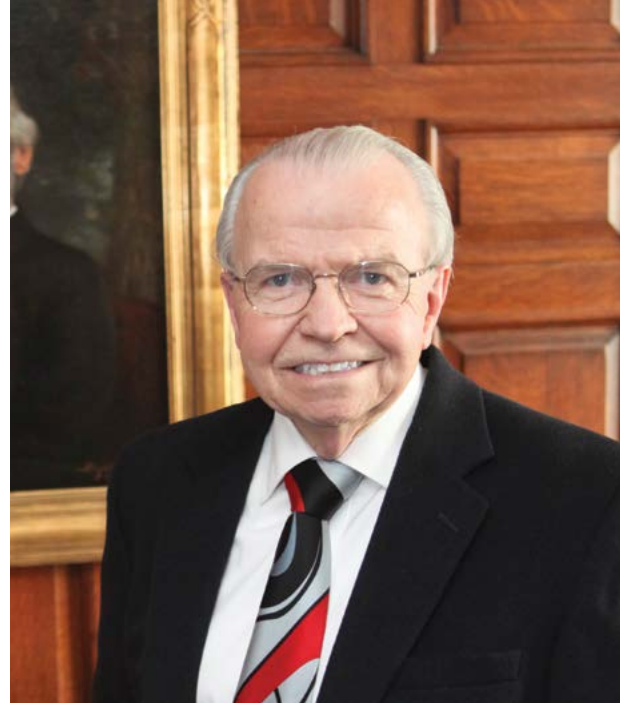
Cole finished another master’s degree while still in the service and was hired into a special recruitment program at the Library of Congress in 1966. “That’s when I really fell in love with the Library and its history, thanks in part to David C. Mearns, a historian and chief of the Manuscript Division.”

The deal was further sealed when Cole chose as the subject of his Ph.D. dissertation Ainsworth Rand Spofford, the transformative Librarian of Congress who guided the institution from a small reference library for Congress to a national institution serving the American public.

Cole began writing articles about the Library, one of which brought him to the attention of Daniel Boorstin, who began his tenure as Librarian of Congress in 1975. Based on his historical knowledge, Cole found himself heading Boorstin’s yearlong task force on goals, organization and planning.

He thought he’d end up in a new planning office, but Boorstin had other ideas. “‘You’re going to be head of the Center for the Book,’ he told me, and it turned out the center was his personal recommendation to the task force.”

Created by federal law in 1977, the Center for the Book was charged with implementing programs, awards



and prizes to nurture a culture of reading. Cole spent nearly four decades leading the center, which drove the Library’s literacy efforts via affiliated centers in 50 states, a national public-service announcement campaign (“Read More About It”), Letters About Literature, the National Book Festival, the Young Readers Center and the Library of Congress Literacy Awards.

Simultaneously, he kept writing about the Library in its various roles, including the books “Jefferson’s Legacy” and “On These Walls,” plus dozens of articles.

“But somewhere along the line, [former Deputy Librarian] David Mao noticed that the Library had no official historian. I had always been kind of an unofficial historian, but David thought it was time to change that.” The new appointment came just last year. Coincidentally, Cole had begun work on a new image-heavy update of a Library chronology originally published in 1979. The new book will be out soon (see page 26).

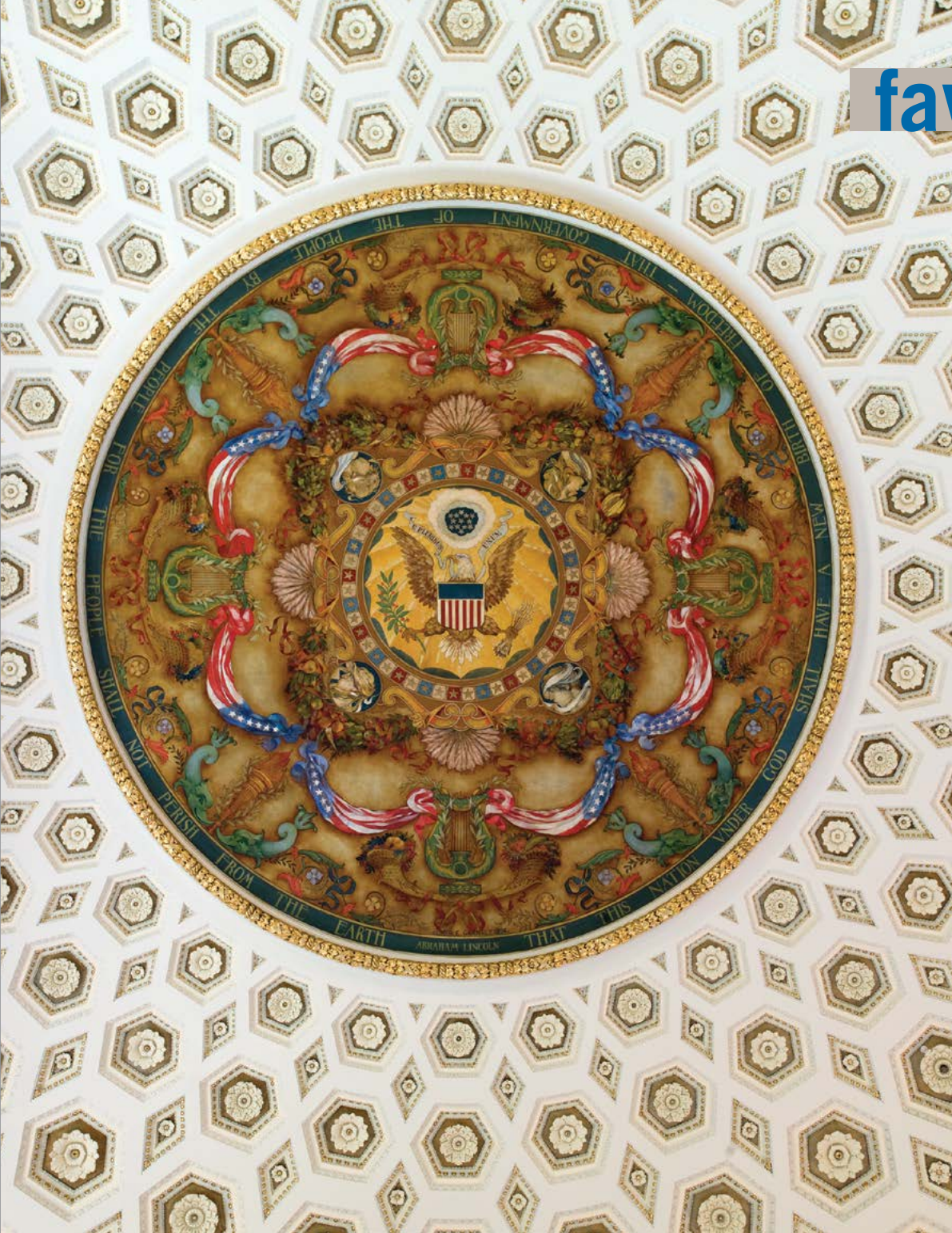
And he’s not stopping there. He has encouraged a colleague, Jane Aiken, to write a new scholarly history of the Library. Also in the works is a book profiling Library of Congress staff who have made important contributions in their various fields, from librarianship to history to preservation science and more.

In more than 50 years of service at the Library, Cole has come full circle, first as a history major who found his love in libraries, now returning as full-time historian to the world’s greatest library.

“Don’t let anybody tell you that a library degree won’t get you anywhere.”

► MORE INFORMATION

History of the Library of Congress
loc.gov/about/history-of-the-library/



Shawn Miller

MORE INFORMATION:

Thomas Jefferson Building
 10 First Street S.E.
 Washington, D.C. 20540

THE NORTHEAST PAVILION OF THE JEFFERSON BUILDING derives its name – Pavilion of the Seals – from the emblems of various executive departments in the federal government that decorate its walls. The Treasury, State, War, Navy, Agriculture, Interior and the Post Office departments all are represented.

Crowning the space is Elmer Ellsworth Garnsey’s magnificent painting of the Great Seal of the United States: a bald eagle bearing a

shield, arrows and an olive branch, set in a circle of stars representing the then 48 U.S. states and territories and surrounded by garlands of fruit and grains and red-white-and-blue bunting.

The entire composition is encircled by a border inscribed with a quotation from Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address: “That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

J. M. Edwards

A Founder, Found Again

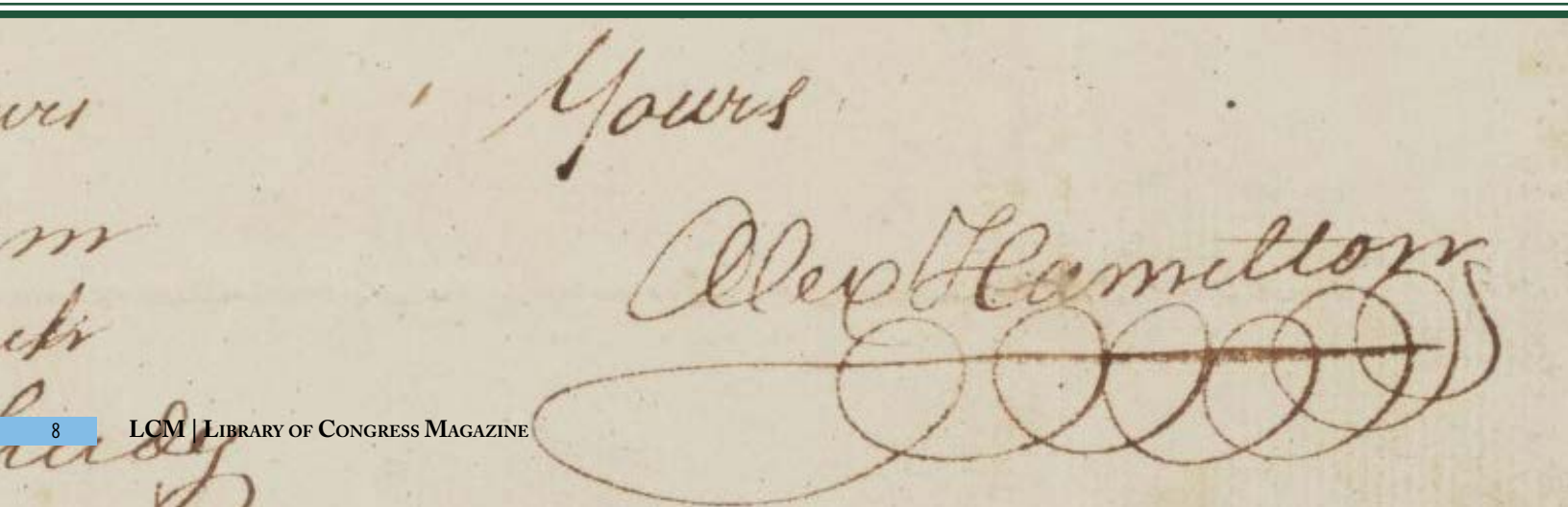
BY MARK HARTSELL

THE LIBRARY HAS MADE THE PAPERS OF FOUNDING FATHER ALEXANDER HAMILTON AVAILABLE ONLINE IN THEIR ORIGINAL FORMAT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Even as a boy, Alexander Hamilton showed in his letters the qualities—extraordinary intelligence, ambition and ability—that years later would make him a pivotal figure in the founding of the United States.

As a 12- or 13-year-old clerk for a trading company in St. Croix, Hamilton wrote about excise taxes (and how to avoid them), provided instruction to captains for unloading ships and revealed his hope to one day rise above his low station in life.

“My Ambition is prevalent that I contemn the grov’ling and condition of a Clerk or the like, to which my Fortune &c. condemns me and would willingly risk my life tho’ not my Character to exalt my Station. ... I mean to prepare the way for futurity,” Hamilton wrote to a friend in 1769.



The Library of Congress recently placed that letter and thousands more Hamilton documents online in their original format for the first time—papers that illuminate the life of the man who helped shape the Constitution and founded the nation’s financial system.

“The Library is home to millions of one-of-a-kind manuscripts that reveal America’s history directly from the minds of the individuals who helped shape it,” Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said. “Alexander Hamilton is certainly having his moment, and I am so thrilled that people can learn more about him. Sharing this history is what the Library is all about.”



A Great American Figure

The Library holds the world’s largest collection of Hamilton papers, some 12,000 items concentrated from 1777 to Hamilton’s death by duel in 1804.

Those speeches, writings and letters span the life of a great American figure—from his impoverished Caribbean childhood to his Revolutionary War service as George Washington’s aide-de-camp, his work as a Constitutional Convention delegate, his tenure as the nation’s first treasury secretary and his infamous duel with Aaron Burr.

They also include Hamilton’s correspondence with a who’s who of the era: Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and John Jay as well as his own family and friends.

Transcriptions of many of the documents have been available in print and online. Now, for the first time, the original documents—many never before published—are available to the public on the Library’s website.

The federal government has held the Hamilton papers for 169 years—113 of them at the Library.

In the decades following her husband’s death, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton worked to ensure that his legacy would live on—in part, by gathering his papers and pressing the government to buy them.

Eventually, she succeeded.

In 1848, when Eliza was 91 years old and a widow of 44 years, Congress appropriated \$20,000 to buy the papers.

The State Department held them for a half-century, along with those of other key figures, such as Washington, Jefferson

Opposite: As a 12- or 13-year-old clerk, Alexander Hamilton wrote this letter to a friend, signed with a flourish, describing his hopes to one day rise above his low station in life. | *Manuscript Division*

Right: Alexander Hamilton portrait | *Prints and Photographs Division*



and Madison, from the founding era. In 1904, at the direction of President Theodore Roosevelt, the papers were transferred to the Library of Congress. In 1981, the Library's Manuscript Division created a microfilm edition of the papers; this year, that microfilm was scanned to create the digital versions now online.

Over the decades, the collection grew as the Library acquired more Hamilton material through gifts and purchases. Just this year, Manuscript purchased a new trove at auction—mostly letters from Eliza's father, Philip Schuyler, to her and her husband. Many of those have never been published until now.



A Lifetime on Paper

The papers reveal both great deeds and everyday life, the family's happinesses and heartaches.

Alongside an outline of his Constitutional Convention speech and his drafts of Washington's farewell address reside Hamilton's rules for rearing son Philip (one rule: Get out of bed by 10 a.m.) and sister-in-law Angelica Schuyler Church's account of Philip's death in a duel years later ("His conduct was extremely satisfactory").

The papers also include Hamilton's draft of the "Reynolds Pamphlet," his response to corruption charges leveled against him in connection with his affair with Maria Reynolds—one of American politics' first sex scandals.

"My real crime is a loose connection with his wife which there is every reason to believe I was drawn into by a combination between husband and wife with design to extort money from me," Hamilton wrote.

The newly acquired papers especially reveal Hamilton's relationship with his wife's prominent family, the Schuylers—a connection important to his advancement.

"Hamilton was a poor orphan of great ability—illegitimate, no family," Manuscript Division

historian Julie Miller said. "Philip Schuyler was a major general in the Army, a huge landowner, a big political figure in New York. He saw something in Hamilton, and Hamilton benefited enormously from that relationship. Schuyler really loved and admired him."

"Oh! My dear child," Schuyler wrote his daughter in 1782, two years after she married Hamilton. "Participate afresh in the satisfaction I experience in the connection you have made with my beloved Hamilton."



Duel on the Hudson

Hamilton, the impoverished orphan who rose to power and fame, ultimately met a violent end on a rocky ledge above the Hudson River, mortally wounded in a duel with Burr.

Beforehand, he wrote a letter to Eliza, to be delivered in the event he was killed: "I need not tell you of the pangs I feel, from the idea of quitting you and exposing you to the anguish which I know you would feel. ... With my last idea; I shall cherish the sweet hope of meeting you in a better world. Adieu best of wives and best of Women."

Hamilton's father-in-law, Philip, died heartbroken a few months afterward.

More than a decade ago, the Library digitized and placed online the papers of Washington, Jefferson and Madison. To those, now add another of the Founders.

"This makes the Hamilton papers available to people to see them without coming into the Library and who might not have known to or thought to," Miller said. "And now they can have these available to see. Just at this moment there's a great upsurge of interest because of the hit Broadway musical, so there's a ready-made audience."

MORE INFORMATION

Alexander Hamilton Papers
go.usa.gov/xRSxh

Opposite: The papers include many letters exchanged among members of Hamilton's family. Among them is a letter that Hamilton wrote to wife Elizabeth before his infamous duel with Aaron Burr, to be delivered in the event he was killed. "Adieu best of wives and best of Women," Hamilton wrote Elizabeth in the letter at the center. *Manuscript Division*

Elizabeth Hamilton portrait | *Prints and Photographs Division*



VETERANS ON THE HOMEFRONT

THE LIBRARY'S
VETERANS HISTORY
PROJECT DOCUMENTS
NOT ONLY WARTIME
EXPERIENCES BUT ALSO
LIFE AFTER SERVICE.

By its very nature, the term “veteran” brings to mind an individual’s personal history. To call someone a veteran is to reference their past—their experiences, their accomplishments, and, perhaps most frequently, their military service. Thus, it can be easy to see the end of service as the final word in a veteran’s story. But what does the next chapter hold? What about life after service? What happens after a veteran comes home?

In this veterans-focused issue of the Library of Congress Magazine, we take a look at the collections of the Veterans History Project to explore these questions. There are no standard answers, just as there is no singular wartime experience. The four veterans profiled here served in a variety of branches, conflicts and roles during wartime, but all were profoundly affected by the time they spent in uniform. In their oral histories, they discuss the impact of their military service on their careers, their personal lives and their perspectives on conflict.

Established by Congress in 2000, the Veterans History Project collects, preserves and makes accessible the stories of America’s war veterans. We encourage veterans who participate in the project to discuss and document their post-service experiences, as we see them as an integral part of the narrative. Visit the Project’s website to find out how to contribute your story.

► MORE INFORMATION

Veterans History Project
loc.gov/vets/

Violet Clara Thurn Cowden

A WASP BORN TO FLY

As a farm girl growing up in South Dakota, Violet Cowden watched hawks soaring high in the sky and yearned to do the same. By the time World War II was declared, she had already obtained her private pilot's license, so the decision to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program was easy.

As she said in her 2003 Veterans History Project oral history interview, "I thought, 'Well, what better way to serve my country than to fly and do the thing that I love most, and I didn't have to pay for the gas.'"

Established in 1943, the WASP program employed female pilots to fly domestically in order to liberate men for service overseas, and Cowden was determined to take part. Both underweight and under height, she gorged on bananas and put a wrap in her hair in order to pass the physical examination.

Her determination paid off. Cowden beat the odds to be accepted into the program: Out of 25,000 applicants, only about a thousand received their wings. Serving as a pursuit pilot, Cowden was tasked with retrieving planes from the factory and flying them to the point of debarkation. She loved the visceral experience of flying the P-51, the fastest plane made at the time: She said it felt like an extension of her body, as if she had been given actual wings.

The WASP program was disbanded late in the war, as male pilots began to trickle home from



Violet Cowden aboard her plane. *Veterans History Project*

combat tours and the need for pilots was no longer so dire. Considered civil servants rather than veterans, Cowden and her fellow WASPs found themselves without veterans benefits and passed over for jobs in commercial cockpits in favor of their male counterparts. It would take decades of persistent advocacy on their part before their military service was recognized as such: They were designated as veterans in 1977.

In reflecting on her time as a WASP, Cowden said, "I certainly didn't think I was a pioneer. I was doing a job." The Women Airforce Service Pilots received the Congressional Gold Medal from President Obama in 2010. Violet Cowden passed away in 2011 at the age of 94.

—*Megan Harris is a librarian in the Veterans History Project.*

► MORE INFORMATION

Violet Clara Thurn Cowden Collection
go.usa.gov/xRSxe



Above: The WASP wings worn by Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II.

Below: The "Fifinella" patch worn by WASPs, based on a gremlin character designed by Disney.



Brock Robert McIntosh

FIGHTING FOR PEACE

Though he initially joined the Illinois Army National Guard in order to finance his education, Brock McIntosh also was drawn to the chance to participate in a cause larger than his own life and saw military service as an opportunity to help bring about peace in Afghanistan.

Requesting to help train Afghan military police, he deployed in October 2008 and was stationed primarily at Firebase Waza Khwa in the southern Paktika province of eastern Afghanistan.

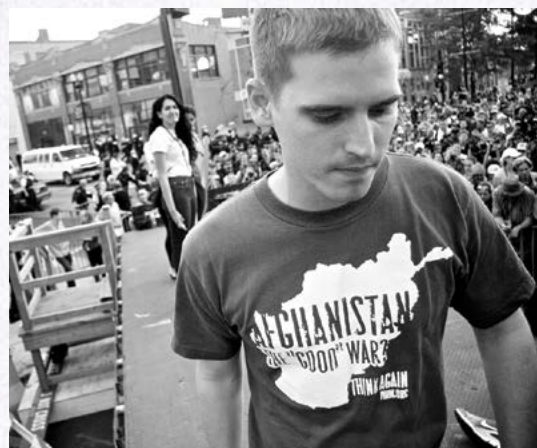
Throughout McIntosh's deployment, though he deeply appreciated the values espoused by the Army, his experiences in country felt disconnected from the ostensible mission of ending terrorism. He became increasingly disillusioned with the idea that war could bring about peace; instead, his interest was piqued by the concept of nonviolence as a tool in the struggle for social justice.

By the end of his time in Afghanistan, serving in the Army had become irreconcilable with his own sense of integrity and mission. As he said in his 2012 oral history for the Veterans History Project, "I thought, 'I can't do this anymore, I have to find another way of dealing with conflict.'"

Returning to the United States in 2009, he moved to Washington, D.C., and began the process of declaring himself a conscientious objector. In the years since he left military service, he has been active with Iraq Veterans Against the War and has taken part in nonviolence trainings around the country, including at the Highlander



Brock McIntosh in the field in Afghanistan. *Veterans History Project*



McIntosh leaves the stage after speaking at an antiwar event in Chicago. *Veterans History Project*

Research and Education Center, formerly known as the Highlander Folk School, a center for social justice leadership that trained Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights era. After finishing his undergraduate studies, he was awarded a Truman Fellowship in 2012, interned at the U.S. House of Representatives and earned a graduate degree in public administration.

—Megan Harris

MORE INFORMATION

Brock Robert McIntosh Collection
go.usa.gov/xRSxZ

Tracy A. Sugarman

WAR CREATES AN ARTIST

As a young Navy officer arriving in Normandy on D-Day, Tracy Sugarman brought with him a few secret weapons: a sketchpad, pen and watercolor paints. Throughout his service overseas, Sugarman—a trained artist and aspiring illustrator—had been busy documenting what he saw in the form of quick but evocative sketches, which he then sent home to his new bride, June. By the time he reached France, drawing became not only a form of communication with his wife but also a way to cope with the horrors of war.

Art, he said in his 2003 Veterans History Project oral history interview, was “a way to come to terms with getting through a bad time. If I could put it on paper, I could deal with it.”

After the war, art became his livelihood as well as a means of activism. While he created commercial works for publications such as *Ladies' Home Journal* and the *Saturday Evening Post*, he also served as a reportorial artist on the front lines of another war: the civil rights movement. During the summer of 1964, he joined activists organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to register African-



Pedestrians walk near a jetty in the harbor at Fowey, England, in April 1944. *Prints and Photographs Division*

Americans to vote in rural Mississippi. His time in the South yielded 100 drawings depicting “what was really happening” in the South, later used in news reports around the country.

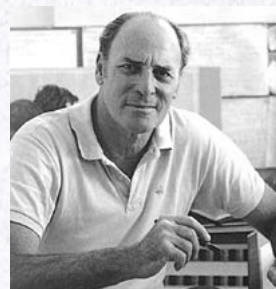
Though he had once dreamed of becoming the next Norman Rockwell, art came to occupy a much more transcendent role in Sugarman's life: As he explained in a 2012 lecture at the Library of Congress, “I first learned in Normandy that my art could be much more than a way to make a living. It could guide me to the truth, if I trusted it.”

Sugarman's Veterans History Project collection includes his oral history interview and more than 250 letters to his wife. Lyrical and passionate, the letters illustrate his experiences in war as well as the pain of being separated from June. In 2000, he published “My War: A Love Story in Letters and Drawings,” with selections from his original wartime drawings, which reside in the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. In 2012, he published “Stranger at the Gates: A Summer in Mississippi,” which tells the story of his experiences during the summer of 1964. Sugarman passed away in 2013.

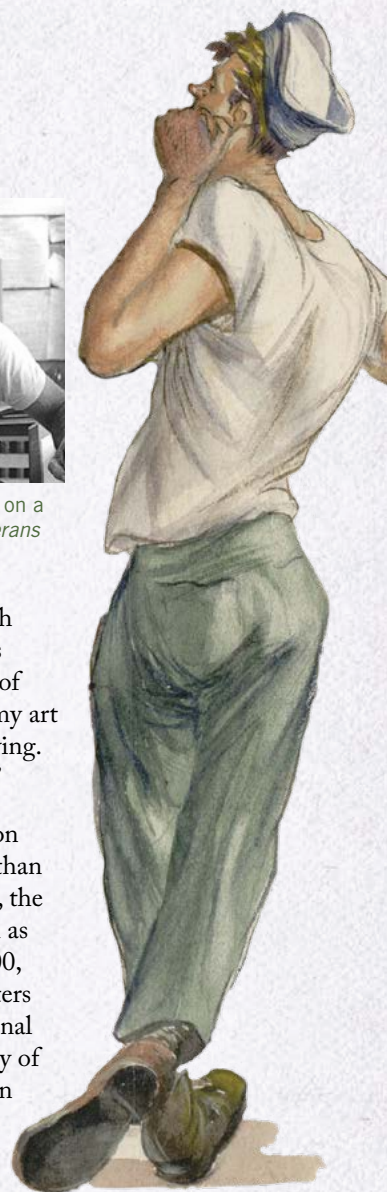
—Megan Harris

► MORE INFORMATION

Tracy A. Sugarman Collection
go.usa.gov/xRSxu



Tracy Sugarman works on a piece at his desk. *Veterans History Project*



A detail from a Sugarman watercolor showing sailors relaxing aboard ship at Normandy, September 1944. *Prints and Photographs Division*

Peter Robert Young

A LIBRARIAN IN VIETNAM



Peter Young (right) receives the soldier of the quarter certificate from Maj. Gen. O. Elliot Ursin in 1969. *Veterans History Project*

Washington, D.C., native Peter Robert Young was pursuing a master's degree at Columbia University in 1968, when draft deferments were abolished for male graduate students. A critic of the war in Vietnam, Young was not eager to serve his country in uniform. But in September 1968, shortly after completing his master's degree in library science, he was drafted into the Army.

Two weeks before he was due to ship out to Vietnam, he had a job lined up in Canada and was considering deserting. But, as he stated during a 2009 interview for the Veterans History Project, "I had recognition that I was really an American. And if my father had come to this country... if he came from China on the faith that this country would offer opportunities, then I needed to think twice before leaving."

When Young arrived in Vietnam and reported to his duty station, a commanding officer said to him, "I'm going to do something that the Army never does. I'm going to give you a job that meets your qualifications." With that, Young was sent to run a library for the 25th Infantry Division in Cu Chi. Housed in a double-wide trailer with two air-conditioning units, the library was a popular destination for soldiers to read, relax or catch up on some sleep.

By the end of his tour, his library had more than 5,000 books and newspapers being shipped in daily from

Washington, D.C., native Peter Robert Young was pursuing a master's degree at Columbia University in 1968, when draft deferments were abolished for male graduate



Annie Pleasant interviews Peter Young for the Veterans History Project. *Veterans History Project*

nearly every city in the United States, and even audio-recording stations where soldiers could record tapes to bring with them in the field. Young earned three Bronze Stars for his work building the library in Cu Chi, and his experiences in Vietnam left a deep impact, both personally and professionally.

Following his service, Young continued his career as a librarian, and found that the Army had given him some valuable skills. He had a sense of discipline that he does not believe he would have otherwise gained, and he had developed the ability to focus even in highly chaotic situations. But he had also gained a new understanding of America's place in the world and the value of libraries and education as tools to mitigate violence.

Though he did not serve in the Army voluntarily, he went on to serve his country willingly as a librarian in federal agencies for many years, eventually retiring as chief of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress.

—Rachel Telford is an archivist in the Veterans History Project.

► MORE INFORMATION

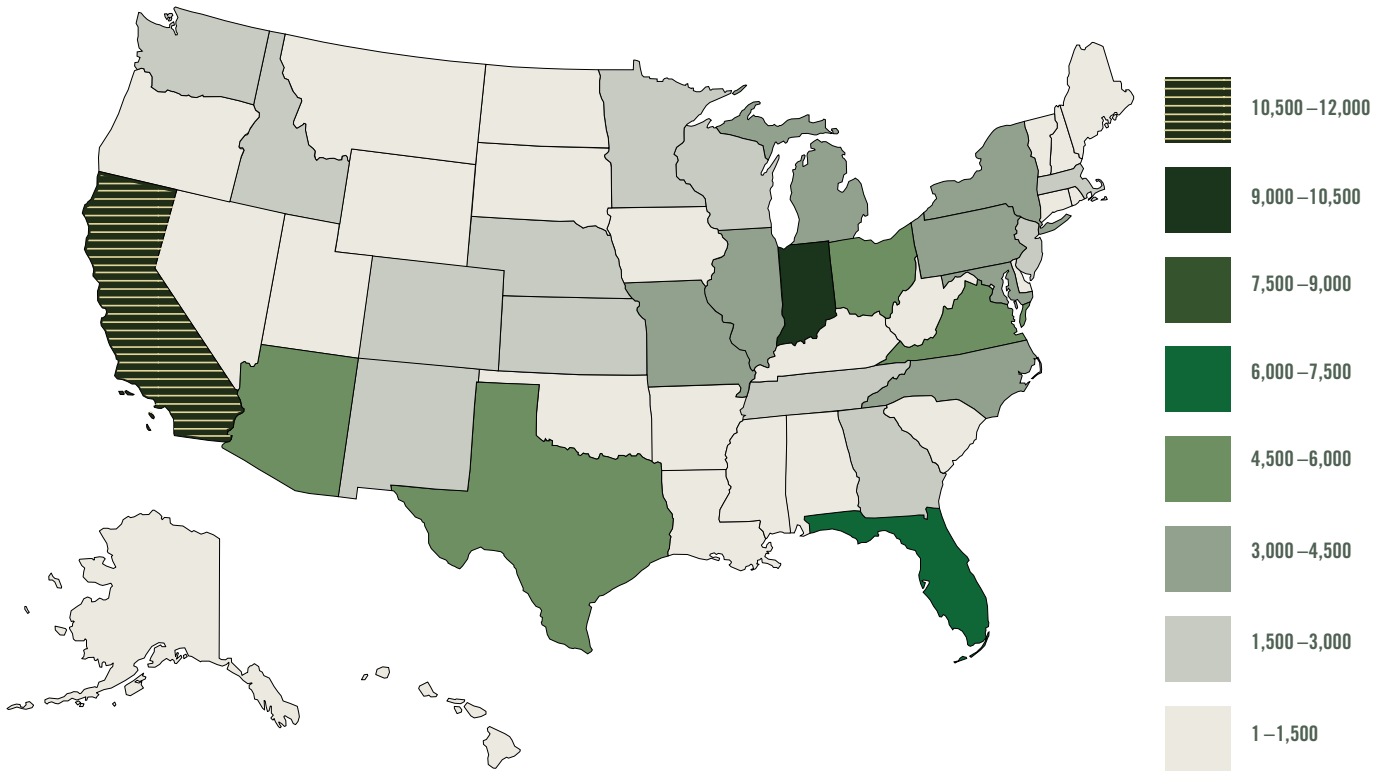
Peter Robert Young Collection
go.usa.gov/xRSxJ

KNOW VETERANS IN YOUR HOME STATE?
 You can help add their stories to the Veterans History Project collections. Learn how to participate by visiting loc.gov/vets/kit.html.

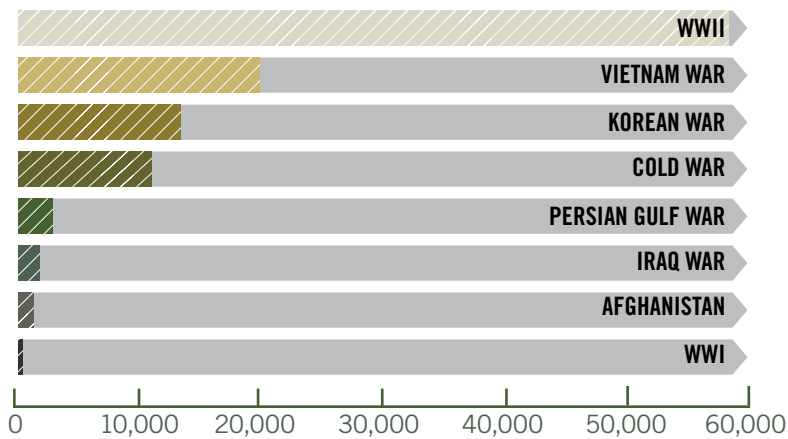
PUTTING VETERANS ON THE MAP

VHP COLLECTIONS HOLD ORAL HISTORIES drawn from all 50 states, every conflict since World War I and each branch of service.

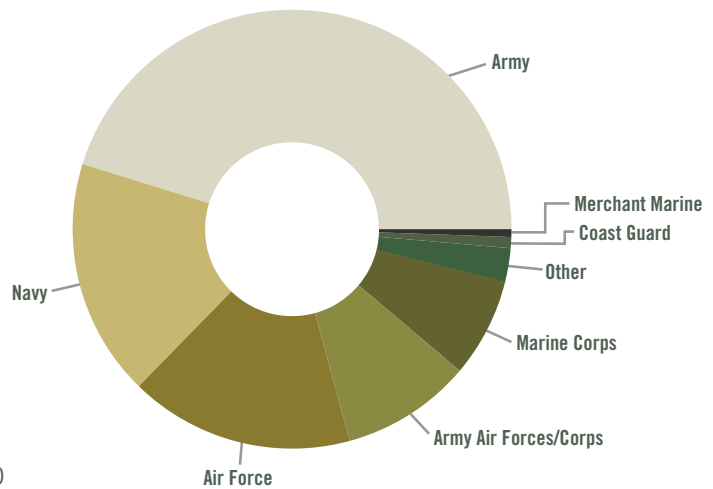
VHP COLLECTIONS BY STATE

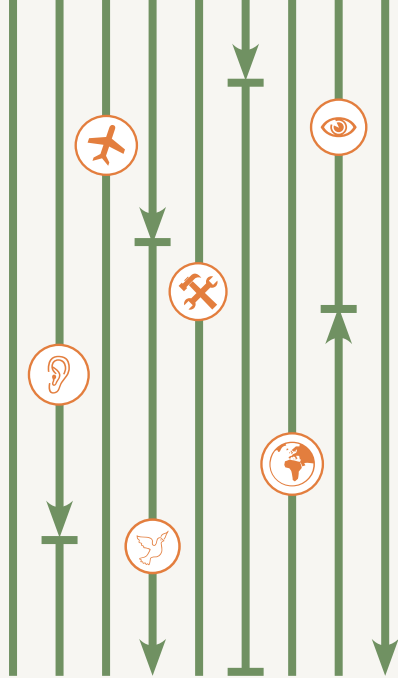


VHP COLLECTIONS BY CONFLICT



VHP COLLECTIONS BY BRANCH





AN APP FOR THEM

Two sisters have created a user-friendly tool that allows veterans to record and submit stories of their service – all on a smartphone.

BY GAYLE OSTERBERG

From a park picnic table in Wheaton, Illinois, at the National Gathering of American Indian Veterans, George Martin talks about his 20 years of service in the U.S. Army. More than 1,000 miles away in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, George Pelati, a flight engineer during World War II, tells stories surrounded by family in his home.

They are among the first veterans to contribute oral histories to the Veterans History Project using an app that enables participants to enter biographical detail, select questions, record, tag highlights and upload a finished interview—all on a smartphone.

The user-friendly tool that created these records of service is the result of a four-year passion project by two sisters from Massachusetts.

Congress created the Veterans History Project to collect, preserve and make accessible the firsthand remembrances of America's war veterans. And collect it has, more than 100,000 veterans' stories since 2000. But the collection is poised to take a big leap forward thanks to the remarkable efforts of Jean Rhodes and Nancy McNamara.

Rhodes is a professor of clinical psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and has studied trauma for the past decade. She first encountered the Veterans History Project when considering it as a tool for MENTOR, the national organization for mentoring. She jumped in eagerly and spent the following summer immersing herself in the Veterans History Project experience by conducting interviews with veterans alongside her son, Thomas Witttrup.

"We found it was really cumbersome," she says. "You have to print out all these forms, get a video camera, burn your video on DVD, manually tag interesting portions of the interview—it was an enormous amount of work."

So, she did what she often does in situations when her intellectual goals overwhelm her technical capabilities: She called her sister.

Nancy McNamara has a computer-engineering degree and for 15 years has owned a web-design company that works primarily with academics and research labs. The two have collaborated previously on professional projects, like developing a website that connects mentors with journal articles and other evidence-based information.



Above: The new app is the result of a four-year passion project by its creators, sisters Jean Rhodes (left) and Nancy McNamara.

For Rhodes, it was an opportunity to explore intergenerational relationships and the power of storytelling as a healing device for individuals suffering from trauma. For McNamara, it was a technical challenge and the opportunity to learn something new.

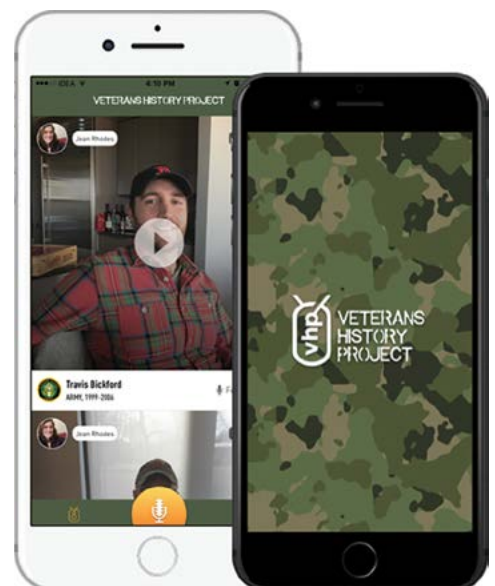
Beyond the professional and intellectual motivation, a more personal interest was also at play. The pair are the daughters of a decorated World War II Army veteran who used to sing war songs with them but rarely talked in detail about his service.

"We had a vague sense of it but never all the details," Rhodes says. "What battle? What year? Where in France? What hospital did he recover in? How did he learn to play bridge?"

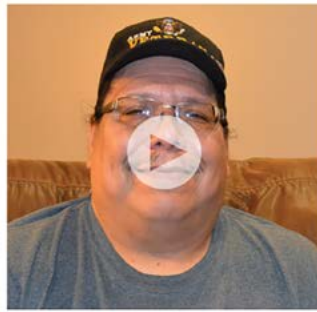
They worked together to build a pilot app—McNamara refers to it as a "homegrown" version—and after working with it and gaining confidence in its potential to transform the process and experience, decided to bring in a firm specializing in app development to take their concepts to the next level.

The resulting product—which they are donating to the Library—has been tested this summer by folklorists and oral historians from universities and the Smithsonian National Museum of the

Below: Veterans can record their oral histories and submit them to the Library of Congress using just a smartphone.




[CONFLICTS OR ERA](#)
[AWARDS/MEDALS](#)
[BRANCHES OF SERVICE](#)
[GENDER](#)
[POW](#)

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ART H
ARMY, 1985 - 1989



Juliana N
SEP 26, 2017



ERNEST S
ARMY, 1943 - 1945



Caroline M
SEP 24, 2017



ANN B
NAVY, 1945 - 1945



Benjamin S
SEP 22, 2017



ROGER P
ARMY, 1967 - 2000



Ryan W
SEP 19, 2017



VERONICA D
ARMY, 1996 - 2017



Martin E
SEP 15, 2017



JAKE A
MARINE CORPS, 2010 - 2014



Christopher G
SEP 9, 2017

Participant interviews as they appear on a website used to upload completed videos in the project's pilot phase.

American Indian, and Rep. Joseph Kennedy III (D-Mass.) and Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.), who have both used the app to interview veterans in their home states.

The app was beta tested in iOS format, with the hope that funds can be raised to design an Android version and maintain the existing pilot framework while development on interoperability continues. If the app becomes fully integrated with Library systems, the existing analog and mail method will also continue to be offered for all participants, and participants can choose to use other recording methods.

“Dad had stories but we never had the vocabulary to ask him,” Rhodes says. “Now he’s passed away and I wished we had his stories in the kind of detail you get from the Veterans History Project.”

Her work is helping ensure others won’t have those regrets. One of the interviews Rhodes and Wittrup conducted (with the pilot version) was with the father of her longtime friend Gloria. He was also a World War II veteran and had served in Hawaii.

“He actually broke down crying telling stories my friend had never heard, and that was a moment I realized it was a tool for connecting generations,” Rhodes said.

She also observed that potential for interconnectivity while viewing the process through her son’s eyes.

“We went to nursing homes and I could sort of see him thinking, ‘Oh, here comes an old person,’ but then they would start telling stories of service and they were transformed into heroes.”

Among the most impactful features of the new app is that it enables immediate upload to a website, where it can be accessed instantly. Viewers can select interviews and even jump to specific questions within the recording.

McNamara recalls one of the most special moments for her of the last four years was the first time she watched an interview that had been conducted with the app by someone at the Library.

“It was one of the first women who did an interview using the app and I clicked on the question, ‘What would you like the world to know about veterans?’ And it made me cry. It was a great moment.”

[▶ MORE INFORMATION](#)

Veterans History Project Pilot App
vhpapp.org

LIBRARY LAUNCHES LABS

CREATIVE EXPLORERS AND THE INTELLECTUALLY CURIOUS NOW HAVE A SPACE WHERE THEY CAN EXPERIMENT WITH NEW WAYS TO USE THE LIBRARY'S EXTENSIVE ONLINE ASSETS.

The Library recently launched Library of Congress Labs, a new online space that hosts experiments, projects, events and resources designed to encourage creative use of the institution's digital collections.

To help demonstrate the exciting discoveries that are possible, the new site also features a gallery of projects from challenge winners and innovators-in-residence, blog posts and video presentations from leaders in the field.

"We already know the Library of Congress is the ultimate treasure chest, but with this new site we are inviting explorers to help crack open digital discoveries and share the collections in new and innovative ways," Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said. "Whether you're tagging images from our digitized historic newspapers to help future visitors or exploring the changing nature of democracy through the 25 million bibliographic records the Library recently made public, we are providing tools and inspiration that will lead to new uses and new ways of looking at the incredible materials here at the Library."

One of the first projects on the site is Beyond Words, a website that invites the public to identify cartoons and photos in historic newspapers and provide captions that will turn images into searchable data. This crowdsourcing program grows the data set of text available for researchers who use visualization, text analysis and other digital humanities methodologies to discover new knowledge from *Chronicling America*, the Library's enormous collection of historical American newspapers.

Beyond Words also will generate public-domain image galleries for scholarship and creative play. As this data set grows, educators, researchers and artists will be able to group image collections by time frame—identifying, for example, all cartoons appearing in World War I-era newspapers.

"We're excited to see what happens when you bring together the largest collection of human



Above: Detail from a World War I poster by the Y.W.C.A.: "For every fighter a woman worker." *Prints and Photographs Division*

Left: National Digital Initiatives Chief Kate Zwaard (from right) launches labs.loc.gov with Meghan Ferriter, Abigail Potter and Jaime Mears. *Kate Zwaard*

knowledge ever assembled with the power of 21st-century technology," said Kate Zwaard, the chief of the Library's National Digital Initiatives office, which manages Library of Congress Labs. "Every day, students, researchers, journalists and artists are using code and computation to derive new knowledge from library collections. With Labs, we hope to create a community dedicated to using technology to expand what's possible with the world's creative and intellectual treasures."

To maximize the potential for creative use of its digital collections, the Library has leveraged industry standards to create application programming interfaces (APIs) to various digital collections.

These windows to the Library will make the collections and data more accessible to automated access, via scripting and software, and will empower developers to explore new ways to use the Library's collections. Information about each API is available on a section of Labs dedicated to helping users explore the Library's APIs and data sets.

▶ MORE INFORMATION

Library of Congress Labs
labs.loc.gov

Beyond Words
labs.loc.gov/experiments/beyond-words/

Library of Congress for Robots
labs.loc.gov/labs/lc-for-robots/



Ken Lopez



Judith Conklin

FOUR WHO SERVED, NOW SERVING THE LIBRARY

THE LIBRARY COUNTS MANY VETERANS AMONG ITS OWN RANKS. FOUR OF THEM DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE MILITARY.

Judith Conklin served for two decades in the Army Signal Corps and now serves as the Library's deputy chief information officer. Jeff Gangi deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa with the Marines and now works as a management and planning analyst in the U.S. Copyright Office. Ken Lopez served in Vietnam as a platoon leader and now serves as the Library's director of security. Shawn Miller deployed to Iraq as a member of a public-affairs detachment and now works as the Library's photographer. Those veterans recently discussed some of their experiences with the Library's Sheryl Cannady.

Sheryl Cannady: What life lessons did you learn in the military that proved beneficial in what you're doing today?

Judith Conklin: It taught me an appreciation of others, of people, and an appreciation of life in

general, but of our American life. There isn't a day that I wake up and I don't appreciate the easiness of life that we have. In the military, if you get deployed a lot or spend a lot of time away from home, it's a hard life doing that. When you're back at home as a civilian, I truly appreciate the wonderful life we have here in America. I appreciate the people around me a lot. I'm not sure I did that before I went in the military.

Another is responsibility. The military very much holds you responsible for your actions and, when you become a leader, the actions of those under you. The buck stops there. So, you carry out the orders of those above you. That was a big life lesson that I've carried throughout my career.

Ken Lopez: I learned real quickly what it was like to be in a leadership position in combat operations. I came back after one year as an older and wiser 24-year-old. I've used that time



Jeff Gangi

on active duty and in the Reserves to certainly learn more about leadership and leading and responsibilities, which I've carried over into my civilian career. I think what I gained out of the time in the military, both active and reserve, was being placed in positions—leadership positions, positions of responsibility—which certainly gave me that foundation to succeed in my federal civil service career.

Sheryl Cannady: What would you recommend to other soldiers returning home and re-entering civilian life?

Jeff Gangi: I would say that there's a lot of organizations out there now that help veterans work on resumes, job interviewing and other areas. If you have found your job, I would seek out a mentor. I have two—one in the agency helps me with history and background and one outside of the agency gives me an external perspective.

I would also encourage people to stay positive, because although a solution might be difficult, it's still possible. There might be a lot of work involved, but keeping in mind it's still possible to do, though. You might have to use a lot of assets or expend a lot of energy.

The other thing is to think outside of the box. That was one of the first things that, when I did my lateral move to counterintelligence—we always have to think outside the box. It's very easy just to stay within our own little world and not go outside and look for other solutions—the who-moved-my-cheese kind of perspective on life. Not everything can be contained in one small area. There's other things out there to utilize and help solve your problems.

Shawn Miller: The biggest thing for my generation, when you're transitioning out of the military, is finding your community again and finding your niche. You go from this intensely tight-knit group of people in your platoon or your squad or



Shawn Miller



wherever you are, and then you get out and you no longer have that tie. You come back into almost anonymity.

The older generations started the groups like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to address this problem. My generation has started other groups like The Mission Continues and Team Red, White & Blue. There are so many organizations now that all have their own kind of niche within the veteran community. For instance, Team Rubicon does disaster relief because they utilize veterans who have been in disaster zones and have those unique skills that lend themselves to humanitarian work. One group that I'm part of is The Mission Continues. We do public-service projects in our communities. It's a way to serve again—not in the military, but as a civilian.

My advice would just be find your community, find your tribe and find your purpose again. Everyone had such an intense purpose when they were serving, especially if you were deployed overseas. I think finding your mission again, once you return as a civilian, is pretty crucial to being successful.

▶ MORE INFORMATION

Podcast: Full Interview with Library Veterans
loc.gov/podcasts/qalcm/podcast_lcvets.html



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3



4



5

1. New U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith delivers the opening reading of her tenure on Sept. 13 in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Jefferson Building. *Shawn Miller*

2. Visitors explore the film collections at the Oct. 9 open house at the Library's National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Virginia. *Shawn Miller*

3. Members of the Association Internationale de Bibliophilie look over a special display of rare items from the Library's collections on Sept. 18. *Shawn Miller*

4. Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden meets with 8-year-old Adam Coffey of San Clemente, California, who served as "Librarian of the Day" on Oct. 11. *Shawn Miller*

5. Robert Hatch of Alexandria, Virginia, reads with his daughter and son at the National Book Festival in September. *David Rice*



6

6. National Wildlife Federation President Collin O'Mara and Ranger Rick read stories to children on the north lawn of the Jefferson Building as part of the Young Readers Center weekly story time on Sept. 8. *Shawn Miller*.

LIBRARY, ROYAL ARCHIVES TO STAGE JOINT EXHIBITION ON ‘TWO GEORGES’

The Library of Congress and The Royal Archives have announced plans for a landmark joint exhibition in 2021 that will explore two globally significant figures of the late 18th century: King George III of England and George Washington.

The joint project will draw on the collections held by the Library in the United States and The Royal Archives in the United Kingdom. The exhibition will be seen first at the Library and subsequently at a major venue in the U.K.

Linked and then ultimately separated by empire, the two Georges offer a distinctive perspective on a vital historical period. The exhibition will explore the commonalities and contrasts between the two men as well as the global political, cultural and social contexts for their lives and leadership.

The exhibition marks a significant milestone in public engagement with the Georgian Papers Program (GPP), which aims to digitize and publish online, by 2020, a remarkable collection of 350,000 Royal Archive papers from the Georgian period, only 15 percent of which have ever been published before.

► **MORE:** loc.gov/item/prn-17-092

LIBRARY AWARDS LITERACY PRIZES

The Library has announced the winners of the 2017 Library of Congress Literacy Awards honoring organizations that work to promote literacy and reading in the United States and worldwide. The awards are sponsored by philanthropist David M. Rubenstein, who originated the program in 2013.

The Children’s Literacy Initiative, winner of the David M. Rubenstein Prize, works with pre-K through third-grade teachers to improve early literacy instruction so children become powerful readers, writers and thinkers. The American Prize was awarded to the National Center for Families Learning, which works to eliminate poverty through educational solutions for families. International Prize recipient Pratham Books launched StoryWeaver, an open-source digital repository to make multilingual stories available to millions of children in India.

► **MORE:** loc.gov/item/prn-17-123

NEW CONCERT SEASON CELEBRATES BERNSTEIN, MUSICAL MANUSCRIPTS

The Library celebrates the centennial of a 20th-century musical master, welcomes three generations of important jazz figures and explores the music manuscripts of its own collections in its new concert season.

The new season offers more than three dozen concerts, lectures, performances, discussions and book talks—a mini-festival marking the Leonard Bernstein centennial in May, lectures covering Duke Ellington and Bob Marley and performances that range from jazz great McCoy Tyner to the Baltimore Symphony’s OrchKids youth orchestra project.

The series, which is made possible through the generous support of endowments given to the Library by private donors, is presented free of charge to the public but requires tickets for admission. Tickets are distributed via the free Eventbrite mobile app for iOS or Android devices and through the Library’s concert website.

► **MORE:** loc.gov/item/prn-17-114

PRIZE FOR AMERICAN FICTION AWARDED TO DENIS JOHNSON

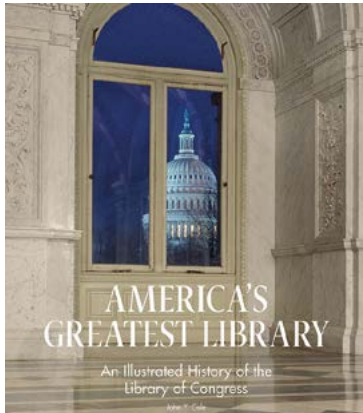
The Library posthumously bestowed its Prize for American Fiction on Denis Johnson, author of the critically acclaimed novels “Tree of Smoke” and “Train Dreams” and the collection of short stories, “Jesus’ Son.”

Johnson had been offered the prize in March and sent an enthusiastic acceptance in reply. “My head’s spinning from such great news,” he wrote. Johnson, however, died of liver cancer only two months later. The prize was accepted on his behalf by his agent, Nicole Aragi, and his editor, Sam Nicholson, at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in September.

Previous winners of the prize include Marilynne Robinson, E.L. Doctorow and Don DeLillo and under the prize’s previous name Philip Roth, Toni Morrison and John Grisham, among others.

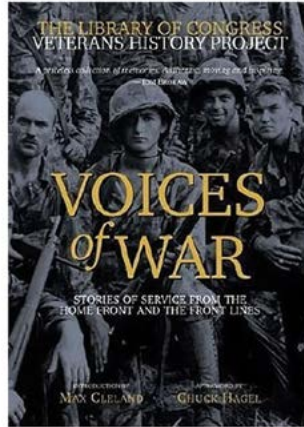
► **MORE:** loc.gov/item/prn-17-099

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SHOP contains a rich selection of gifts related to history and literature as well as lots of ideas for holiday giving.



America's Greatest Library: An Illustrated History of the Library of Congress
Price: \$19.95

The personalities, collections and events that created and sustained this singular institution in a rich collections of milestones, essays and vivid photos. Available January.



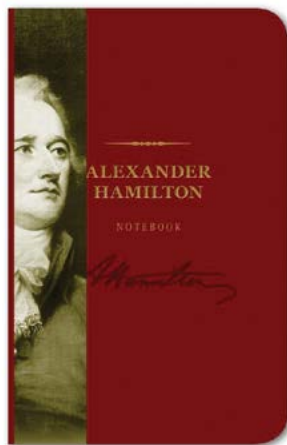
Voices of War
Product #21107094
Price: \$16.95

From our Veterans History Project comes this collection of stories of courage, friendship and sacrifice in extraordinary times.



Hamilton Socks
Product #21305027
Price: \$10

Show your appreciation for Alexander Hamilton with these cotton/polyester blend socks. Fits men's shoe sizes 8–13.



Alexander Hamilton Signature Journal
Product #21408413
Price: \$12.95

Let the words of this Founding Father encourage and inspire you as you record your daily musings. Embossed leather, 192 pages, 4"x6".



Library of Congress Reading Bear
Product #21505250
Price: \$14.95

This adorable plush bear wears a shirt reading, "I cannot live without books." Ages 3 and up.



2017 Annual Library Ornament
Product #21506123
Price: \$26.95

Our ornament takes its inspiration from a mural that decorates the ceiling in the Northeast Pavilion of the Jefferson Building (see page 7).

► **MORE INFORMATION** | Order online: www.loc.gov/shop | Order by phone: 888.682.3557

WAR STORIES

GENEROUS DONORS HAVE HELPED THE LIBRARY PROMOTE AND BUILD ITS EXTENSIVE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT COLLECTIONS.

The private sector has played a key role in the success of the Veterans History Project. When the initiative began in 2000, AARP—a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people ages 50 and older to improve their quality of life as they grow older—stepped forward as the founding corporate sponsor, providing \$3 million in grants. AARP also spread the word to its millions of members, tens of thousands of volunteers and state chapters, many of whom participated directly.

A more recent benefaction to VHP came in 2015, thanks to the generosity of Washingtonian philanthropist Buffy Cafritz and her son, Sandy Wilkes. Their gift enabled the Library to establish the William Cafritz Fund to cultivate Washington-area volunteers to conduct interviews and collect first-person narrative materials for the project.

Their gift honored the memory of longtime Washington, D.C., resident and World War II veteran William Cafritz. A successful real-estate developer and investor in Washington, D.C., Cafritz served as a member of the 88th Infantry Division in Italy and was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in combat as his unit fought to take Monterumici.

The Cafritz gift allowed VHP to develop a successful promotional campaign that included training sessions with the general public as well as organizations' D.C. headquarters, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans of Foreign Wars. The gift also enabled engagement with area high schools, colleges, libraries, historical societies and museums to record and save the stories of veterans in their families and communities.

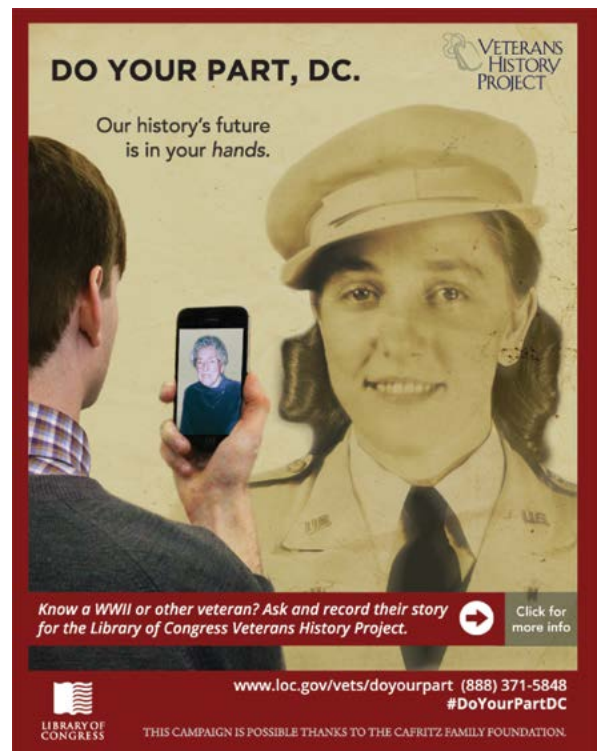
The fall campaign created a lasting legacy, yielding more than 100 collections and a series of portable displays that will enable VHP to thematically share the rich content of the overall collections for years to come.

Grassroots outreach and nationwide support, including memorial gifts from individuals, ensures VHP reflects the diverse and varied stories of our nation's veterans—from World War I through the present day, and from all walks of life, duties and branches of service.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the Veterans History Project.

◉ MORE INFORMATION

Donate to the Veterans History Project
go.usa.gov/xn3au



A gift from the Cafritz family allowed the Library to develop a promotional campaign that resulted in the collection of oral histories from more than 100 veterans.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CHIEF HISTORIAN TURKIYA L. LOWE ON WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER AND MEMORIALIZE VETERANS' SACRIFICES.

Like the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, the National Park Service plays an important role in preserving our nation's military history. The caretaker of iconic national parks such as the Grand Canyon and Yosemite, the Park Service also preserves and protects units that have direct connections to the military – the dozens of battlefields, military parks, memorials, monuments and historic sites that commemorate the service of American veterans.

One is the Korean War Veterans Memorial, a unit in the National Mall and Memorial Parks. The memorial fights against the lack of public knowledge about a conflict that's often called "America's Forgotten War" and honors the nearly 2 million men and women who answered the call to defend a faraway country they never knew and a people they never met.

Every national park, and every memorial, is part of the collective identity that defines who we are and where we came from as a nation. They are tactile reminders of the values, the ideals, the freedoms that our veterans protect – even as we sometimes struggle as a nation to live up to them.

The Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial is a poignant site that reminds us of both their dedication and our struggle. On the evening of July 17, 1944, San Francisco east bay residents were jolted awake by a massive explosion that cracked windows and lit up the night sky. At the site, 320 men were instantly killed when two ships being loaded with ammunition for the Pacific Theater troops blew up – our worst home-front disaster of World War II. Of those killed, 202 were African-American. The explosion and its aftermath became major catalysts for the United States Navy to desegregate following the war.

Our veterans have sacrificed time with their families, their bodies and their lives to courageously defend liberties we hold dear. Though the draft has been a part of our past, our servicemen and women overwhelmingly volunteer to serve their country – knowing they have committed to do so at, potentially, a great cost to themselves and their loved ones.

The Park Service preserves and protects many places that acknowledge and pay tribute to these sacrifices. The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial is one such place. Dedicated on Oct. 5, 2014, the memorial honors heroes who were disabled as a result of their service and is the first national memorial dedicated solely to disabled veterans.

National parks also promote remembrance and reflection for veterans, their families and the nation to grapple with what it means to live both during times of peace and conflict. They provide opportunities and resources for new generations to learn about and from the stories of veterans.

The National Prisoner of War Museum within Andersonville National Historic Site tells the story of POWs throughout U.S. history. The museum begins with an exhibit answering the question "what is a POW?" followed by exhibits exploring capture, living conditions, news and communications, escape and freedom. The Andersonville site also contains a national cemetery, one of the 14 currently under NPS stewardship.

Places such as these, and programs such as the Veterans History Project, help future generations understand the realities of war. Most importantly, they help us commemorate the service of our veterans, remind us of the values our veterans protect and honor their sacrifices.

Turkiya L. Lowe, Ph.D, is the chief historian of the National Park Service. Visit the Park Service's Honoring America's Veterans website at [nps.gov/planyourvisit/military-honor.htm](https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/military-honor.htm) to learn more about specific parks and programs commemorating their courageous service and sacrifice.



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This wall in the Jefferson Building pays tribute to Library of Congress employees who lost their lives in military service during World War II.
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