

## Library of Congress Veterans History Project – Transcript of audio

Please stand by for realtime captions.

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Good morning, everyone. Joe Paskoski here. Just doing a sound check. We will get started at 2:00.

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Joe Paskoski again from GPO. Doing another sound check. We will get started in five minutes at 2:00.

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Joe Paskoski here again from GPO. Just doing one last sound check. We will get started in two minutes at 2:00.

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Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the FDL P Academy. We have another terrific webinar for you today. I think a very timely webinar with Veterans Day coming up and our webinar title, Library of Congress veterans history Project. Again, my name is Joe Paskoski. I am here with my colleague Ashley Dahlen who is tech support. Our presenter today is Kerry Ward. Let me read a little bit about Kerry. A senior liaison specialist at the Library of Congress. With the veterans history Project of the American folk Center at the Library of Congress. As the part of the program coordination and communication team she focuses on program planning, developing and implementing strategies for building the archival collection, managing public and private partnerships in creating national and focused communication strategy. A Tucson native, Kerry graduated from University of Arizona where her studies centered on psychology and prelaw before coming to the library. She worked at NASA's Kennedy space Center in aviation event management technology and with veteran service programs. When Kerry isn't working she enjoys traveling, including her pilots license, scuba diving certificate, spending time with loved ones. With that, I will turn the virtual microphone over to Kerry to start the presentation.

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Thanks so much, Joe. I also want to thank Helen, Kelly, Ashley for all of your support and for the invitation to be able to come and speak with everybody today. As was mentioned, my name is Kerry Ward. Liaison specialist with veterans history Project. Before we get too far into the presentation, I wanted to just ask everybody who is here to take one moment to think about somebody you know who served in the U.S. military. It is possible this could be a family member, a friend. It could be a work colleague. It could even be the person who delivers your mail. In some instances, it could be you. The point is that even though less than 1% of our population is currently serving in the military, almost everybody out there knows somebody who at one point raised their right hand in service to our country. Every single person out there has a story to tell. This is your opportunity to take a peek behind the curtain and learn a little bit more about someone through their first-hand experiences of different individuals who may or may not have had history. You mentioned, Joe, it was entirely presentation with Veterans Day around the corner. Also a timely presentation because just yesterday marked the 125th anniversary of the Thomas Jefferson building opening to the public. We do have a special celebration tomorrow. Certainly, if anybody is interested I would invite you to check out our website at [loc.gov](http://loc.gov) on how you might partake in the festivities. I also like to show this little sneak peek of what the building looks like. Not only enticing you to come for the 125th anniversary but also to come check it out at any point in time. I may be a little bit biased but I do believe this is the most beautiful building in Washington, D.C. and it would be a great honor to have you come visit us and if you reach out, I would be honored to be able to show you around personally as well. One of the things that I love about this building is the overarching presence of storytelling that is built right into the art and architecture. You can see from the bottom corners that we actually have that to signify a little bit about storytelling and how it is essential to human existence. Common in every single culture. Even before we had WebEx

meetings, zoom meetings, cell phones, even the Gutenberg printing press we were sharing stories through oral tradition. Well that is a wonderful way for us to be able to pass down legends, it can sometimes be a little bit of that game telephone that we played as children. By the time it reaches the person at the end of the line, the stories have changed a little bit. That is why the library has such an emphasis on preserving and archiving these narratives. Because when we share and archive these stories, it helps us to preserve our culture and aids any real understanding of our past so that we can better prepare for our future. The Library of Congress is one of the oldest federal and cultural institutions, world's preeminent reservoir of knowledge providing unparalleled integrated resources to Congress and the American people. We are the people's library. A national library. We do have a lot of resources here at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.. We have quite a few available as well online at [loc.gov](http://loc.gov), I would invite you to check out some of those resources. The different items being digitized every single day. Some of you may be looking at this picture and wondering where the books are. We are the Library of Congress, libraries hold books, where are the books? We do have a magnificent collection of over 51 million books, that is only a small fraction of the over 173 million items at the library of Congress currently holds. What other items do we hold? You may have seen in the news recently, Lizzo was invited to the library recently and able to play James Madison's Crystal flu. The Stradivarius violin. Regularly do performances in our auditorium with different pieces such as that. A whole division for prints and photographs, movies, national film Registry. If we have any cartographers out there, we have a whole division dedicated to geography and maps, included on that is the map with the first time the word America ever appeared in written form. Of course, the veterans history Project, we focus on those memories. I am going to take you back in time really quickly to give you a little bit of history on the veterans history Project. Veterans history project started in the year 2000. Father's Day in Wisconsin. Representative Ron Kind was enjoying his picketing outside with his father, his children, his family, and his uncle. His uncle and his father started to swap war stories. Even though he had grown up with both of these men and thought he knew what all, he very quickly realized there were stories he had never heard before. Realizing what was going on, he grabbed the e-book it is camcorder a lot of us had and started recording. He wasn't necessarily recording for his uncle, for his father, or for himself, rather for his two young children who were toddlers at the time. He wanted to give them an opportunity to hear directly from their family members about what their experiences were. Representative Kind came back to Washington, D.C., started speaking with different members of Congress and by October 27, year 2000, we had unanimously passed into law the veterans history project act, then signed by President Bill Clinton. Organizations across the country to sit down with the veterans in their lives and communities and voluntarily submit those interviews to the library of Congress. Our congressional mandate was created with a purpose to collect, preserve, make accessible the first-hand recollections of United States military veterans and later with family members. For those who may be wondering what exactly a gold star family member is, a family whose love one gave their last measure and devotion of service to our country. As they are not able to share their first-hand narrative we ask for these individual family members to share a glimpse of who their loved one was through their words. Our collection spans from World War I up to the most recent conflicts in peacekeeping missions. They cover all sorts of personal human experiences. The reason we do this, just like representative Kind did, we do this so that future generations can hear directly from those who served and have a better understanding of a unique tapestry of events that make up our national history. To be clear, we are looking for those personal experiences and therefore we are not the official military record or archive. We are not meant to take the place of any official military record or archive but rather to supplement it. That being said, when you think about any books you have read or any movies that have or a battle as a backdrop it is not necessarily the specific campaign or battles you are focused on but rather the people. Sometimes, seemingly ordinary people help to shape our history. Really, those stories come in all different shapes and sizes. Our aim is to honor the lives of all American veterans. Whether they served in the motor pool,

mess hall, everywhere in between. The American story can really only be told through 1000 different voices, as in different pictures, thousand different memories. I love this slide because I absolutely adore the stories that accompany them. All the individuals up on this screen represent different folks who have shared their story in some way shape or form. We do have medal of honor recipients who is seen with the American flag and we also have Tucker, poets, ground breakers. We also have those who have served stateside. A perfect example of that is constant Anderson in the top right corner. Born in Calgary, Alberta. Spent her formative years experiencing World War II. By the time it was her turn during the Korean War she wanted to help in any way she could. She originally wanted to join, the only branch that would take her as a non-US citizen was the Army. She was able to take her citizenship test and become an American. In doing so her next assignment was right here in Washington, D.C. She was able to take this photo. In the right-hand corner. She said in her oral history having spent most of her life in the United States, she finally felt like she belonged. We have this gentleman here, with the red background. This is the chaplain who at one point questioned his faith. Tracy Sugarman and his wife, Judy. Amongst other things, they were newlyweds. You can probably tell from the photo. Within Tracy Sugarman's collection, we have this oral history, a lot of different love letters between the spouses, also registrations that Tracy Sugarman had done. Baker, I had mentioned earlier. Only living nest veteran awarded medal of valor during World War II. 52 years after he had wiped out for German machines on the hilltop in northern Italy. Down here, we have Jaden Kinard. Served with the Marine Corps weapons system officer. She deployed her first mission in 2002 and took part in operations during freedom flying missions over Afghanistan for six months. Wendy Kram is down here. I would really quickly visit the story. An Olympian. When it became clear that we weren't going to be hosting the Olympics, we said we were going to be involved in World War II. Decided to join the ski trip instead and able to use his skills in a different way. All these different stories really showcase the fact we are more interested in the warrior than the war. We really focus and specialize in the human experiences. Those primary resources. Again, whether they served in a cockpit or a foxhole. One of our participants was former Senator Chuck Hagel. He served in Vietnam and had done his oral history. One of the things he found to be very striking was when we think about Vietnam or other wars we tend to think of it as the unitary subject of the Vietnam war. In fact, there are 1 million different Vietnam wars experienced from different veterans. This is a screenshot of our website. We ask anybody who is looking to participate with the veteran history project to point ourselves to this very useful tool. You are getting a preview of what our new site is going to look like. It is officially being unveiled this upcoming Veterans Day. Again, it could be found at the bottom, LOC for Library of Congress, [loc.gov/vets](http://loc.gov/vets). Our portal to the veterans history project. You could find a really broad way of engaging with collections. Both on the participatory side and archival side. Veterans history Project is a complete archive of a first-hand narrative and a valuable resource to anybody who wants to learn a little bit more about our country's military history. On this website you can watch thousands of interviews. You can view photographs, read veterans diaries. Even download lesson plans and learn about how to interview the veteran in your life or community. Some of the new things we have up on here are fillable forms, access to press releases videos, a timeline of the veterans history project. Links to sample interview questions which is something we will talk about just a little bit. Step by step customizable participation instructions. I mentioned a little bit about the tools. One of the things that is really neat is we have a field kit. The field kit explains what the veterans history project is. Give a background and all of those required forms. Some of the different required forms include things like biographical information. If we have any veterans who are watching, essentially, a DD 214. We also have release forms. We are happy to send any of these information materials to you either electronically or we could send them to you in person. Just to showcase. This purple that I'm showing you, that is our field kit. Included in that is we have these draft questions. These draft questions are neat because they cover the full arc of the veterans life. We start with where were you born, tell me about your family, we talk about their service and we ground out the reflection period. We also have brochures. Happy to send

any of those informational materials to you. Please feel free to reach out at any point in time and let us know how we could be of service. Speaking of service, one of the things we're most excited about with this new website is, down here, you can see we have story maps which is really neat. What I want to showcase right now is called serving our voices. It is the veterans history project new curated collection display which enables a deeper public connection to veteran experiences and an easier way to share those collections across platforms. Again, anything within our collection really showcases a little bit more about veterans whether it is somebody who, let's go to this one. This slide will explain a little bit more about the archival resources. The search feature allows you to look through veterans experiences on a different level of granularity. Sometimes it is something that could be somebody who you know. It can be somebody who has served with somebody you know. When you search within the collection you can see, you can search for more specifics. Whether that is a name, a location. Whatever specificity you want to be able to list down if it is the person who conducted the interview. We made sure you can go ahead and do that on our search page. When you enter those specific items, what is going to come up is what is featured right here within the collection item. It is maybe hard to see on this screen but one of the things we do is each veterans collection is completely unique to them. Ultimately, Joe Smith's collection is Joe Smith collection, Jane Smith's collection is unique. I mentioned that we had been doing this since October 27th, 2000. Over the past 22 years we have been pretty busy. We have been able to collect 114,000 different memories from veterans ranging from World War I up through current peacekeeping missions. While we are very proud of that 114,000 number we are also hyperaware of another number. 19 million veterans. Estimated that we have 19 million veterans in the United States today. We need help to listen and collect those memories before it is too late. We are a grassroots effort and rely on volunteers to help us preserve our nation's most treasured memory. We are asking if you could help play a part in this historic endeavor. Everyone has a story to tell. This offers a great opportunity for you to help make history. Help preserve these stories so future generations will be able to learn from them and maybe even be inspired by them. Whether you are participating as a veteran in an interview or simply an advocate I can absolutely guarantee it will be a worthwhile effort for you. I can tell you that I personally carry many of the stories in my heart and I find I am forever changed for having heard them. All right. How do you participate in a veterans history project? While participating in a project is simple, meaningful, ultimately it does create a lasting legacy. As I alluded to in one of the previous slides, there are different ways that somebody could choose to share one story. Oral histories are at the heart of what we do. However, not everybody is going to be comfortable with sharing their stories, being on camera, or audio recording. We have been able to develop other options. The first way you could establish a collection is as I mentioned, a 30 minute or longer oral history. The second way is through 20 or more pages from unpublished memoirs, journals, or diaries. The last way, 10 or more original photographs, two-dimensional pieces of artwork, or letters. Once you hit the minimum of one of those three is considered an open collection. You can add to it at any point in time. However, those minimums go away. What I mean by that is if you have a 45 minute oral history and you want to include one photograph, that is great. You already hit that 30 minute minimum requirement. Any combination works on their. You do not have to be a professional historian or journalist, or anything, really, to conduct a good interview. The best you can do is be a good listener and follow the guidelines laid out within our field kit. The number one rule of interviewing veterans is to be respectful. You want to make sure they are comfortable. You want to make sure to ask engaging appropriate questions. Again, we have those draft questions available online, we would be happy to send to you. They are not necessarily a checklist. Please do feel free to incorporate some of your own questions as well. I get some people may be seen a 30 minute oral history, that seems a bit long. If you were to ask every question within the draft questions that we provide you would see that you would easily reach 30 minutes if you timed it that way. Sometimes the best question to ask is what happens next. Memory does not typically work in a chronological format. Prompting somebody with what happened next can be the best thing to ask. I

will advise. We are able to do oral histories with things like smart phones or smart devices now. Please do not be like my colleague Lisa in this picture. We are happy to share different tips and tricks. You may notice if Lisa is recording a 30 minute oral history, her arm may get a little tired and she is holding the phone in a vertical format. Please do feel free to reach out or check out our website for some different tips to make sure you're not hurting your arm or recording in a format that may seem a little bit wacky. You may have heard me mention original content. Original photographs, original letters. We do ask for original content. While this may be a little questionable for some folks, there are some really good reasons as to why we do that. The first is safety. Second is security. Last is to increase research value. Going to share a little bit about an individual. Albert John Carpenter. You can see photograph down here. Albert John Carpenter was a 19-year-old college student. He headed over to France to fight the great war. He took with him a diary. Like our cell phones today. In it he wrote all sorts of things. You could see behind some of the pictures, it is hard to make out that he starts his diary in October. The most eventful month of my life. He goes on and speaks about the artillery. The bloodshed. Everything we know. When he came home after service, like so many other veterans, he did not think about his service. He took his diary and he put it away. It wasn't discovered until after he had passed away. Family members thought it was such a treasured belonging they didn't know what to do with it. They put it in the hall closet with other precious documents. Wasn't until Shirley Carpenter, Albert John Carpenter's daughter-in-law decided to tell the family. It should go to a repository that can care for it. We are very lucky she chose us as the repository. There are alternate repositories out there. As you can see, Hurricane Katrina paid her home a little visit and put everything under 5 1/2 feet of water. I would hate to think what would have happened to this diary had they not had the foresight to do so. When we received the diary, it wasn't exactly in the best condition. It was looseleaf, it still had some water damage as you can sort of see from the pictures up on the screen. It had some tears in it. The library has a remarkable preservation and conservation lab that was able to repair the diary and bring it back to its original binding. We were able to use a binding machine to bring everything back together. The terrorists, repairing with Japanese tissue paper. With the ultraviolet light, for the first time ever, the family was able to read what was on these pages that were water damaged. We do have, at the library, a humidity controlled and climate controlled environment. Even during the pandemic we had folks who were walking the stacks to make sure everything was secure. Items like this even have their own specific boxes that are measured out specifically for these items to make sure their house is in a safe way. Let's say you have participated in those veterans projects. Wonderful news. You filled out all of the forms in our field kit. You conducted an interview are gathered other pieces of material. We ask that you go ahead and not only thank the veterans, please share with them. If you conducted an oral history, please share that with them. Send the original, also, to us. We ask everything to be sent via commercial courier. We are on Capitol Hill. The advanced security screening can sometimes wipe away digital materials, it may be on CDs, thumb drives. They will start to bend. Please do send it via commercial courier so they can be handled. We ask for you to give us a little bit of time. 8 to 12 months. The first thing that we do, those are great questions that I will get to. The first thing that we do is we actually review it for any of those potential conservation preservation concerns. We do send those off if that is the case. We then go ahead and start to review the materials to make sure they meet one of those minimum qualifications and we start to input the information into our website. The first thing that appears online is that biographical information. Essentially, the DD 214. Eventually, the content will get loaded onto our website. That being said, I talked about the minimum in order to establish a collection. There are no maximums in order to establish a connection. For instance, we do have a World War I collection that came in somewhat recently that had 900 photos and 700 letters. It takes a little bit of time to get some of those materials digitized and available online. Right now, that collection does have some of those materials but not everything. All right. Let's see. I can't tell you how many times I have had a veteran say to me you don't need to hear from me. My story is not important. I didn't do much. I only did X, Y, and Z.

If you know somebody like that I would like to introduce you to Heather Sandler. Heather was absolutely one of those people. When she was asked to share her story with the veterans history projects she questioned why anybody would want to hear from her. Heather does come from a long line of individuals who had served in the military. Her father, her cousin. Her grandfather, her brothers all served in various branches. Heather chose the Navy. A picture serving operation Iraqi freedom. Load ornaments on an S 18. Heather wasn't really sure she wanted to share her oral history. The volunteers who had asked her to do so reminded her what a tremendous gift this would be for her family. Specifically her two young sons. They would be able to understand a little bit more about what service meant to her. After her time in the Navy Heather went on to do great things. Worked with Veterans Affairs. After she had participated in the veterans history Project she was featured in a veterans affairs blog. Also at the Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta Airport featuring different hometown heroes. Great questions in the cat. I promise you I will get to them in just a few moments. Just yesterday, these heartfelt accounts can make us laugh, cry, ultimately remember. The stories are not a formal history but rather a treasure trove of individual feelings and personal recollections. They sometimes capture first-hand accounts that aren't often captured by books or even movies. Those human perspectives. Individuals who had served in the front lines in the battlefield to those who have performed critical support roles. As we have heard with Heather's story, I will, in case anybody has not read this, she didn't want to speak about her service to her husband, her family. Nevermind putting it out there for the entire world that her interview was one of the most cathartic experiences she has ever had and she no longer hides the fact that she is a veteran. Women in particular, for some reason, have a harder time admitting they are a veteran. We have noticed that even though Veterans Affairs has identified women are the fastest growing demographic of veterans, it is in our collection, we do not hear from as many women veterans as we would like to. If you know any women veterans out there I would encourage you to encourage them to dissipate and share their experiences. As we heard from Heather's story, the collections we received at the Library of Congress, not just acquiring dust here at the Library of Congress. Regularly used by researchers, documentarians, authors, occasionally we have an opportunity to shine a spotlight that is neglected. Another important factor is within that field kit. The purple booklet we had showed earlier. A release form. On that release form, veterans maintain the copyright of their story. For instance, if somebody wants to take their oral history and put it on YouTube they are absolutely welcome to. Perfect example of this is the story of coat girl. Written by author Liza Monday. Conducting research at the archive and came to the Library of Congress. We were able to pull collections for her from women who were serving during World War II. In the months leading up to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, United States Navy started to recruit women, predominantly college students, sometimes teachers to be analysts. After the war, they definitely increased these recruitment efforts. Part of the recruitment was that these women may have received two questions. Are you good at puzzles and engaged to be married? Depending on how they answered, they may have been able to hide this top-secret code breaking mechanism predominantly here in Washington D.C. with the Navy and also Sevillian side. Again, most of these women weren't able to speak about it for approximately 70 years. Sharing a little bit earlier as we are seeing through the veterans history project. Through that, Liza was able to illuminate these hidden figures. If anybody is familiar with Bill Nye the science Guy, his father was a crypto analyst and his father served as a P.O.W. during World War II. In one of the collections we have the good girl in the Jenkins Nye collection. The author got to know the Jenkins Nye family very well and ended up marrying Bill Nye just this year. Sharing a spotlight on neglected honor is really not into this picture over here. This is Lieutenant Colonel Charles cattle who had shares his account in Vietnam as a pilot. He was credited for saving over 40 men's lives. He shared his story with a volunteer interviewer and the interviewer did not believe. Meanwhile, there is this man rolling out these maps on his kitchen table and talking about all that he had done. How was it possible he had recorded men's lives and wasn't properly recognized? He took this issue to his member of Congress and started to

interview the different men whom he was responsible for saving. Each and every one of them said I would not be here for day if it were not for Lieutenant Colonel Charles cattle. Taken letter to his local member of Congress they were able to push through congressional action and nearly 50 years after the fact, Lieutenant Colonel Charles cattle was awarded the highest award for U.S. troops with the medal of honor. While this story is a rare example, it does showcase the power of what you are doing when you help us to interview the veterans within your lives and communities. That way others will be able to hear directly from them. The brave men and women who served. On behalf of the Library of Congress, the American people, of course, the future generations, having an opportunity to listen to and view these collections, I want to thank you so much for taking the time today. And now, I am happy to answer any of those questions. Ashley, Joe, do you want to read them out?

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Thank you, Kerry. Great presentation. Really fantastic. Let's. Brylynn asked a question. Is that water damage from World War I?

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I sure did. The water damage, let's go back to that page. Part of it is from World War I. If you think about that, this pocket diary, sitting just in a pocket out in the elements. Going from foxhole to foxhole. A part of it really was just for being out in the elements. Great question.

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Great. Let's see. Dominique says, in the case of the diaries you use the ultraviolet light on, are you skinning them and having people transcribe them?

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Yes. One of the things I had mentioned, we are going to go way back. Our new website. Our new features here. If I can make this a little bigger. Serving our voices. This was previously called experiencing war. Something on our current website. If you were to go to our current website, you click on the picture up on the screen. You would see that we have had part of our team working to transcribe letters and journals from different collections that have been repeated. Ultimately, we work with court reporters Association and foundation and we ask them to transcribe oral history for us and they do those for educational credits. Out of those, thus far, the court reporters have transcribed approximately 4500 of the oral history. Yes, we have had folks who have helped with not only the letters and diaries but also oral histories.

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Great. Hannah says my father served in World War II and was a German P.O.W. Dad wrote out his war memoirs. Is that something I could submit?

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Yes. It absolutely is. That would be something we would be honored to have. Right here, under this, 20 pieces or more, this could be journals or diaries. It could also be unpublished memoirs. The reason we ask for this, as I mentioned straight off, the copyright office is located at the Library of Congress. Read over in the Madison building. If it was a published memoir, even if it were a published memoir, you could find it already at the Library of Congress. Self published or unpublished could be submitted to the veterans history project. Yes, absolutely.

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Great. Any more questions, this is terrific. My colleague Kathy Carmichael, who set this webinar up, she is a veteran herself. Kathy, I am a veteran also. We have some veterans in our section. And throughout GPO.

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Joe, you were going to participate?

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I am kind of like that. You mention. Why anyone would want to, I would have to think about that. My service wasn't exciting or that eventful but I could think about that.

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A few things. The first thing is what I would urge you to do is take a look at some of the questions in particular. Sometimes when people review the draft questions that we have, they realize that we are not asking anything scary. Just asking for you to share your story in your words. Secondly, I don't know why anybody would want to not share this, it is a great gift to give your family. Using this for research purposes, people always think why would they want to hear about this? Research requests. Something about dear John letters, we have had someone come in complaining and also had some about computers. IBM was interested in introductions to people deployed. Kind of interesting. I think we have a couple other questions.

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Yes. That is an interesting perspective, thank you. Carl says my grandfather created a scrapbook of his time in the Army air service, 1918. He told stories but never wrote any memoirs. Would this be something I could submit?

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Under this, with the 30, 20, the oral history, unpublished memoirs and diaries, 10 original photographs. 10 or more original photographs. I would love to see some of those photographs for our collection.

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Great. Hannah says, let me see. How do I submit his memoirs? This was the earlier comments about unpublished memoirs.

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One of the things I recommend is, [loc.gov /vets](http://loc.gov/vets). From there, download, it will look like this book right here. The purple book has biographical information which you will fill out about your grandfather. It will have steps specific to memoirs. Again, everything will be a commercial career. Does that answer your question?

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This is Ashley. Joe, I think it is your microphone.

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I apologize. Sorry about that.

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Sorry. Hannah, did that answer your question? I will do a quick recap. On the website, you can download the field kit and it will have different things that you have to fill out. Included in that is the biographical information about your grandfather. We will have a page specific to the memoir. You don't have to fill out every single page in that book. Just those specific to what you are hoping to contribute. I will read the next question. Many veterans on my campus. This would be a great thing for us to have to get more materials. Yes. Absolutely. We would love to be able to do that. We could shift any information or materials. Another thing that we could do, another thing that we could do is we actually do training workshops. We can do it virtually or in person workshops with 25 individuals or more who are interested in collecting collections for the Library of Congress. We can give you some best practices to do. If some of this seems common sense, always making sure you and the veteran have something to drink. I am a terrible chair for normal oral history. As well as, you rocks. Want to make sure you have a stationary chair. Review best practices and some of those trainings. We do work with it pretty regularly and able to connect and speak to you a little more specifically on how we could help. Thank you for sharing with Navy veterans. That would be great I really appreciate that. Let's see. A lot of photos of soldiers, okay. Yes. You can absolutely reach out to me directly. I am putting my email into the chat. It is [kwat@loc.gov](mailto:kwat@loc.gov). Hannah, you bring up a really good point. It sounds like this could be considered an orphan collection. Sometimes people will come across this from World War I and it will be really cool.

They find all of these photos and different materials. They don't know what to do with them. You can reach out to us, we typically advise anybody who has considered that collection to try to find the family that it belongs to. However, there are pieces working with our legal team to check if that is something we could include within our collection. Fields of honor. That is a good one. Thanks, Hannah. That is great. Placing photos on the graves of soldiers and you work to find those. Okay. Very cool. Thanks, Hannah. I am sure we will talk more about that via email. Feel free to reach out at any point. Any other questions about the project? Going once.

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I think the question is for Kerry. I am familiar with recording. Working together, is that the sister or project?

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It is kind of funny you mentioned that. You can see here we are in the process of working on folk life with the Library of Congress. Being at the Library of Congress, it is underneath the umbrella. We are with the library of Congress, one of the ones we have, a military initiative recording a little bit different than the project. One of the things that is a little bit different is looking at the copyright stuff or the way we have that minimum of the 30 minutes or longer. We work more with researchers than they do. Both are great projects. Certainly something because you maintain the copyright to the story, you could submit it to both. Both will end up at the library of Congress.

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Great. Thank you. Let me see if we have got any more question. A great presentation. Carl says, his father-in-law was in Okinawa and sent an essay to them. Tell your father-in-law I was in Okinawa, too. David Brinkley had a greatest generation project a while back. Do you draw any material from them?

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There is a project. It is still pretty active. They still share a lot of those different histories that they have specifically on social media. We work with a lot of different organizations and individuals. Ranges from organizations like the greatest generation project or we work with specifically schools, libraries. Anybody 15 years of age and older can participate in a project. Scout troops. Members of Congress. Really pretty very, you say to ship via commercial carrier, does LOC pay for shipping or something that would have to be handled personally? Because we do ask for things to be shipped commercial carrier, we do ask you to pay for that portion. However, we are working towards a way to be able to load materials like oral history digitally so that would eliminate that cost. Sorry, Joe. I jumped in to your question. Thank you guys.

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I am having a little bit of a problem meeting and a meeting. I am glad you jumped in. If you see a question, you want to read it out, it is on the record, that helps. Otherwise, thank you. Let me see if we have any other questions here. Let's see. I don't see any. How about groups like the American legion veterans, I don't know if you reach out to those types of groups and work with them at all.

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With groups like that, we work directly with the disabled American veterans. I wanted to make sure all of those are included as well. However, one of the things that we have seen, probably true of you as well, Joe, if there is hesitancy to participation, sometimes the biggest influence are their friends and family members. While it is good for us to be able to reach out to the veterans directly and share them, it is even better when they have a brighter family member who tries to convince them to participate.

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Good point. Good point. Let's see if we have any other questions. This is great presentation, questions. I have to close out at 3 p.m. Ashley just put the satisfaction survey in the chat. Please fill that out if you would. Also, Ashley, if you did get a chance, if you could but the information on our webinar repository, this webinar, and related slides and such will be in our webinar archive tomorrow or the next day. There

it is right there. You can listen to it again or tell other people about it. That will stay up there for two or three years. Let's see. Any other questions?

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I want to thank everybody again. I want to thank those who ask questions and sharing about the family members and experiences.

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Kerry, if you don't mind, I could put the link, I didn't do it at first, but I have the link to your blog and it has all of the information about you and your postings. Would that be something you would want to share?

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Sure, great. On one of the blog posts, there are several writing for the center. You can learn a little bit more.

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Very interesting. Additional information with Kerry and what she does. I just put that chat there. There you go. If that ago, very interesting. It does have with the pandemic one of the things, we typically advise oral history in person because you could connect to somebody on a better level in person. However, with the pandemic we were able to develop best practices on conducting interviews virtually or even at a distance to make sure you're at a safe distance from the person you were interviewing, there are some resources that are available on the blog, you know specifically as well. It can be really helpful if you have veterans in mind. If they are 3000 miles away or so. Seeing other questions for now, again, I just want to thank everybody who joined and thinking Joe, Ashley, the team for the invitation and for allowing us an opportunity to share a little bit more about our projects that we are clearly very passionate about. Thanks, Carl.

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Thank you. We really appreciate it. There is a little more going on, have to be honest. Listening to some of your stories, thank you for sharing.

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Thank you so much. To the audience, come back. We have more academy webinars. We got another one tomorrow. Science resources and Smithsonian national Museum, natural history Library, don't forget. We had a recent virtual conference in October, those reporting's are on our webinar archive. If you sign up for our event alert service you will receive alerts for webinars. If you want to contact us, happy to have you host or present a webinar for us. We will see if we have any other last questions before we close it out. Thank you for the great project. Scott is saying hope to encourage many more vets to preserve their stories. Okay. Looks like the questions have run out. I would like to thank you one more time, Kerry, fantastic presentation. I really appreciate you offering to do this for us. If you want to come back at any time we would be happy to have you present on this topic or any government information topic that you wanted to present. More than happy. So thank you, Kerry, Ashley, audience, I will close things out. Have a great rest of the day. Have a great veterans day. Goodbye. [ Event concluded ]