

Rothman Urges Participation in Veterans History Project

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Washington, DC -- Responding to legislation co-sponsored by Congressman Steve Rothman (D-New Jersey), the Library of Congress, through its American Folklife Center, has begun the Veterans History Project. The project will collect and preserve audio and video recorded oral histories from America's war veterans and those who served in support of them, along with other documentary materials such as photographs, diaries and letters.

"History is not just contained in books and on film, it's in the stories of our living veterans," Rothman said. "The Veterans History Project will ensure that those stories are preserved for all time. It is a project that all of us can become involved in. Grandchildren may interview their grandparents, students interview community members, and veterans interview each other."

The project is targeted to veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars. According to figures provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are nearly 19 million war veterans living in the United States today, but 1,500 die every day.

Congressman Rothman was a cosponsor of the "Veterans' Oral History Project Act," passed unanimously last October. The act called on the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to create a national collection of war veterans' stories and documents and to create an online resource on the Library's National Digital Library to make the collection available to the public.

More information on the Veterans History Project is available on its website, or by calling (888) 371-5848.

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