



## Wisconsin Veterans Museum Oral History Program

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[wisvetmuseum.com/learning-research/oral-history/](http://wisvetmuseum.com/learning-research/oral-history/)



## THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Dedicated to the state's veterans, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum affirms, commemorates, and acknowledges the achievements and sacrifices of Wisconsin veterans. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Oral History Program seeks to document the experiences of Wisconsin veterans.

The museum's oral history collection includes over 2,800 oral history interviews with Wisconsin veterans from all conflicts, from the Spanish American War to the present day, and all branches of service. The collection is the 4th largest veterans oral history collection in the United States, preceded only by national-level collections.

The program is managed by an oral historian with the assistance of part-time staff members, interns, and volunteers. The oral history program focuses not only on creating a record of our veterans stories, but also on the preservation and easy accessibility of these stories for future generations. Interviews are made available to the public, teachers, students, researchers, the media, and veterans groups. Many Wisconsin veterans also donate other materials pertaining to their military experience to help create a well-rounded picture of their service and to help to build the museum's educational and research collections.

Trained staff members and volunteers serve as our interviewers. Interviews are conducted at public libraries, places of work, the narrator's home, the museum, or another site that is convenient and conducive to quality recording. Participants in the program sign a deed of gift form that assigns copyright of the interview to the museum.

Once recorded, the interviews are added to our archive and are processed into our permanent collection. This includes creating a searchable record for the interview within WorldCat, a universal library database, and PastPerfect, a database that is searchable on our website at <https://wisvetmuseum.com/learning-research/oral-history/>

We provide internet access thru a media player called the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS) that allows you to search the words of an interview and then jump to them. Aside from making the interviews available to the public, researchers, students, and family members, we also strive to promote these interviews by using them for public programming, exhibits, and educational activities. These interviews become a vital part of the stories we tell at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for the program, please contact:

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→The **Wisconsin Veterans Museum** is an educational activity of the **Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs**