



Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center
30 West Mifflin Street; Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 261-0537

Your Oral History Interview: What to Expect

- The interview is best performed in a private space. If you're comfortable having the interview take place in your home we will try to arrange that. Otherwise, we will arrange a meeting spot that is convenient, often this is a conference room at a public library or public building. Please let your interviewer know if there is anything they can do to make you more comfortable in the interview space.
- The interview should be a one-on-one interaction between you and the interviewer. Having additional people present makes it difficult to record quality audio and will make the transcribing process more difficult.
- Please feel free to prepare in any way you see fit for the interview. Your interviewer will have some questions ready for you and more questions will arise during the interview. But having in mind the important stories you want to tell or points you'd like to make will come in handy and will make the process run more smoothly. Feel free to jot down important names, dates, events, etc. and bring your notes to the interview.
- Feel free to bring photos, uniforms, souvenirs, or other objects related to your military service. Please let the interviewer know you have brought these in prior to starting the interview.
- Let your interviewer know if you need to take a break for any reason. We will pause the interview and restart when you are ready.
- We are not as concerned about getting exact dates and facts correct as we are about understanding your experience of serving. Interviews follow the chronology of your lifetime but it is okay to stray from that path. If you realize you've forgotten to mention something, feel free to go back and re-open a subject or discussion.
- Most interviews take between one and two hours, however some interviews take longer, others shorter. We'd like to be mindful of your time so please let your interviewer know if you have timing limitations. If you feel finished for the day but there is more to cover, please talk to your interviewer about scheduling additional interview sessions.



- In addition to your oral history interview, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum would be happy to serve as the archives for any materials concerning your service and later veteran activities. All materials are kept together under your name, organized, preserved, curated, and cataloged on a national library database for greater access. ***If you would like to make further donations or have questions about donating materials please contact the Oral Historian, who will direct you to the appropriate museum staff.***
- At the conclusion of the interview, you and the interviewer will sign a deed of gift. Please remember that once you have signed the legal release your interview becomes the property of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Please consider this before you discuss potentially sensitive topics on the record. If there are questions or concerns about the deed of gift, please contact the oral historian.

Thank you for being a part of the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum Oral History Program, the fourth largest veterans oral history collection in the United States.

Any questions or concerns please contact:

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