



OREGON VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

“Oral history is a history built around people. It thrusts life into history itself and widens its scope. It allows heroes not just from the leaders, but from the unknown majority of the people. It brings history into, and out of, the community. It helps the less privileged, and especially the old, towards dignity and self-confidence. It makes for contact—and thence understanding—between social classes and between generations... oral history offers a challenge to the accepted myths of history, to the authoritarian judgment inherent in its tradition. It provides a means of a radical transformation of the social meaning of history.”

Paul Thompson

The Voice of the Past, Oxford U. Press, 3d Ed.

2000.

Oregon State Bar
Military and Veterans Law Section
Mark Ronning, Chair
mark.a.ronning@aol.com

Oregon Court Reporters Association
Robin Nodland, President
robin@LNScourtreporting.com

Project Coordinator:
Gretchen Magarro
Gretchen@LNScourtreporting.com
503.299.6200



TELL US YOUR STORY



A Partnership for Veterans

The Oregon State Bar's Military and Veterans Law Section and the Oregon Court Reporters Association have joined forces to form an Oregon Veterans History Project. Working to create submissions to the Library of Congress, this partnership collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. In addition to audio- and video-recorded interviews, VHP accepts memoirs and collections of original photographs, letters, diaries, maps, and other historical documents from World War I through current conflicts.

Oregon State Bar

Mark Ronning, Chair of OSB's Military and Veterans Law Section, is encouraging OSB members to volunteer to interview a veteran or, if they are a veteran themselves, to volunteer to give their oral history. "Oregon has over 300,000 veterans. As time goes on, more and more war veterans pass away and the details of their stories are lost. War veterans are often hesitant to talk about their experiences, but they are often the last witnesses to the sacrifice and bravery of others who did not survive the war or have since passed. The events they witnessed firsthand and their memories of their comrades in arms need to be preserved," said Mr. Ronning.

Oregon Court Reporters Association

OCRA President Robin Nodland will be coordinating the court reporters' and videographers' support of this important project. "The members of OCRA are very excited to be a part of this effort. The firsthand accounts will be archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and to serve as an inspiration for generations to come, making accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war," said Ms. Nodland.

Share your story

The project is asking for veterans to volunteer to be interviewed and give your oral history, as well as donate your original photographs and documents for submission to the Library of Congress with your oral history. Each veteran will receive a copy of the submission, which includes video, transcript, and copies of donated photographs and documents.

Gretchen Magarro, media specialist at LNS Court Reporting & Captioning and U.S. Navy veteran, is the contact person for this project. To volunteer, please contact Gretchen at gretchen@LNScourtreporting.com, or 503-299-6200.

