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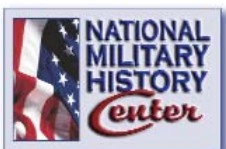
Save Our Stories! Write Your Own History Book

The National Military History Center needs YOUR help! **YOU** can write a book! **YOU** can save history! **YOU** can find out about all the cool, scary and funny things your friends or relatives did *before* they got old and boring! ☺ Ask your parents if anyone in your family is a veteran. Remember, a veteran is **anyone who ever served in the military -- in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves.** If no one in your family served, maybe a friend or neighbor can help. Once you find a veteran, tell him or her about your project. Ask if you can interview him or her. "Interview" means talk to the veteran about his or her life in the military. Maybe Mom or Dad can give you a tape or digital recorder so you can record the interview. Once you finish the interview, you can start writing your "book." **Don't be afraid to ask questions! Have fun with the project!** If you know how to use a scanner, you can scan pictures to go with your book. If you are too little to scan pictures, you can draw pictures to help tell the story of your veteran!

Ask your parents to help you with questions for your veteran. Here are some ideas:

1. The veteran's name and correct spelling (always check spelling when you are writing a book!)
2. Where and when the veteran was born.
3. Where, when and WHY the veteran served in the military (and the branch of the military.)
4. What the veteran learned in the military (especially lessons that he/she still uses today).
5. Who were some of the veteran's best friends in the military?
6. What was the funniest thing that ever happened to the veteran in the military?
7. What was the scariest thing? (Parents, make sure answers are age-appropriate!)
8. Did the veteran travel to anywhere far away while in the military?
9. Did the veteran miss his/her family and friends while in the military? Did he/she miss any holidays or special events?
10. Who did the veteran help while he/she was in the military?
11. Who helped the veteran while he/she was in the military?
12. What did he/she like best and least about military service?

Kids: You can write your book like a story, or you can just write down the questions and answers. Make sure you have all the facts right (ask your veteran to check the story once it is finished.) If you want more ideas on what to ask, go to AmericanVeteransInstitute.org/holiday.html. When you finish the book, make a copy for yourself and one for the American Veterans Research Library at the National Military History Center. **Make sure your name, address, and phone number are on the book!** Mail the book to: *American Veterans Research Library*, Project SOS, National Military History Center, P.O. Box 1, Auburn, IN 46706. We will let you know if your book is chosen for our web site. Even if it isn't on the site, we will save it in the Research Library -- and you can tell your friends "I wrote a book that's in a library!"



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