Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair

The Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair, housed in the Center for Public Policy and Social Research at Central Connecticut State University, is proud to be an archive partner with the U.S. Library of Congress in its Veterans History Project.

The Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics was established in 2000 to honor former Governor William A. O’Neill, Connecticut’s longest serving governor in modern times (1980–1991). As part of the O’Neill Chair’s mission and outreach, we have created an archival program of Connecticut public history, including an active oral history program. It is fitting that the Veterans History Project, which engages CCSU and citizens of Connecticut closer together, is an integral part of the Governor William A. O’Neill Oral History Program. It is interesting to note that Governor O’Neill served as an aerial gunner during the Korean War and was himself a participant in the Veterans History Project.

Connecticut Veterans:

There are more than 216,000 veterans living in Connecticut, (12% of the state’s population)

- More than 24,776 served in WWII.
- More than 25,518 served in Korea.
- More than 73,515 served in Vietnam.
- More than 15,205 served in the Iraq/Afghanistan.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2012 American Community Survey

“Veterans have put their hands, hearts, backs and souls into achieving their promise to protect and defend our nation… Through this project… we hear the real stories of real people, on behalf of all of Americans. The VHP now allows us to fully appreciate the depth and breadth of their accomplishments…”

Dr. Linda Schwartz
CT Commissioner of Veterans’ Affairs

For more information or to participate in the Veterans History Project at CCSU, please contact:

Eileen Hurst
Project Director
(860) 832-2976 or email hursteim@ccsu.edu

www.ccsu.edu/vhp

www.loc.gov/vets

The Central Connecticut State University

Veterans History Project

To Preserve • To Honor • To Educate
The national Veterans History Project was created in 2000, when the U.S. Congress voted unanimously to preserve and archive the oral histories of men and women who have served in any of our country’s wars or any civilian who supported the war effort. The project, housed at the U. S. Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. collects and preserves the taped interviews, photographs and documents of veterans from:

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

As an archive partner of the Library of Congress, Central Connecticut State University participates in the Veterans History Project by focusing on the oral histories of Connecticut’s residents. Photographs, military documents, field maps, journals, memoirs and letters are digitized and preserved, and videotaped interviews of Connecticut service members are conducted and archived. The vast amount of historical data collected is made available to veterans, students, scholars and researchers via the internet at our website, www.ccsu.edu/vhp. All information is also preserved in the Library of Congress and at the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library.

**What Do We Do?**

- Collecting oral histories
- Preserving photographs, documents, field maps, journals, memoirs and letters
- Conducting and archiving videotaped interviews of Connecticut service members
- Making the collected data available online

**To Preserve:**
- **VETERANS** - Do you want to participate in the Veterans History Project and have your oral history recorded and archived?
- **DONATIONS** - Do you want to help support the preservation of American history? Do you want to assist in making the invaluable eye witness accounts and primary source materials available not only to the nation, but worldwide?

**To Honor:**
- Through the Veterans History Project, we recognize and honor the men and women who have participated in the making of United States history.

**To Educate:**
- The past comes alive for CCSU students as they expand their classroom knowledge and go into the field to interview Connecticut’s heroes. By recording the firsthand accounts of history from the men and women who witnessed and lived it, we will insure that the memories, lessons, and sacrifices of war are not forgotten.

- Educational resources, curriculum units of study and a speakers bureau can be found at the “Educators” link on our website to assist middle and high school classroom teachers.

**How Can You Become Involved?**

- **VOLUNTEERS** - Do you want to become a trained volunteer interviewer and assist in collecting oral histories of Connecticut’s veterans?
- **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES** - Do you want to help support the preservation of American history? Do you want to assist in making the invaluable eye witness accounts and primary source materials available not only to the nation, but worldwide?

**To Help:**
- Yes, I want to participate in the Veterans History Project and have my oral history recorded and archived.
- Yes, I want to support the preservation of American history. Do you want to assist in making the invaluable eye witness accounts and primary source materials available not only to the nation, but worldwide?