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NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM AND STORYCORPS PARTNER TO RECORD, PRESERVE, AND AMPLIFY MILITARY VOICES

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) has partnered with StoryCorps’ Military Voices Initiative (MVI) to record, preserve, and amplify the stories of our nation’s veterans. StoryCorps, the national nonprofit dedicated to helping us believe in each other by illuminating the humanity and possibility in us all, supported the creation of a special collection for the NVMM in the StoryCorps archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. All those touched by military service — including active service members, veterans, spouses, children, friends, and community members — are invited to participate.

“We are tremendously excited about the prospects of capturing veteran stories through this partnership with StoryCorps’ Military Voices Initiative,” NVMM Acting President Bill Butler said. “This is a huge step forward in expanding our mission as a storytelling museum, to be able to collect and archive the recollections of veterans from all eras and every branch of service. It will be a priceless resource for families, genealogists, and researchers, and future generations of the American public.”

“Recording a StoryCorps conversation with a veteran or active-duty service member is a profound way to honor the selfless, courageous contributions they make for our country. It lets them know how much their service matters, and assures them that it won’t be forgotten,” said StoryCorps Founder and President Dave Isay. “We are deeply grateful to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum for partnering with us to extend this opportunity. The collection of first-person stories gathered will also help fellow Americans fully appreciate those who have raised their hands to serve us all.”

In a StoryCorps interview, two people record a meaningful conversation about their lives. The organization’s free, virtual recording tools allow anyone to record, preserve, and share their stories from wherever they are, anytime. Those interested in participating can visit the StoryCorps website for instructions and a list of great questions to ask their interview partner. Collected recordings can be found in StoryCorps’ online archive.

In the weeks leading up to the activation of the NVMM Story Collection, the NVMM and StoryCorps co-hosted a training webinar for teachers to provide insight for bringing StoryCorps’ resources for student engagement into the classroom.

NVMM-StoryCorps Release (continued)

The NVMM Story Collection and educator resources will be accessible from the Museum's website at www.nationalvmm.org/StoryCorps.

“One of the main goals of this partnership is to encourage students in grades 7-12 to connect with veterans in their families and communities through intergenerational conversations,” said Mason Farr, NVMM Education and Outreach Manager. “This is not an assignment for students, rather it’s an opportunity for them to contribute to the NVMM’s digital archive and become part of the next generation of storytellers and historians.”

About StoryCorps

Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has given nearly 700,000 people, in all 50 states, the opportunity to record conversations about their lives. The award-winning organization preserves the recordings in its archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered, and shares select stories with the public through StoryCorps’ podcast, radio broadcasts, animated shorts, digital platforms, and best-selling books. These powerful human stories reflect the vast range of American experiences, engender empathy and connection, and remind us that we have more in common than what divides us. StoryCorps is especially committed to capturing and amplifying voices least heard in the media. The StoryCorps MobileBooth, an Airstream trailer that has been transformed into a traveling recording booth, crosses the country year-round gathering the stories of people nationwide. 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of StoryCorps. Learn more at storycorps.org.

StoryCorps’ Military Voices Initiative

StoryCorps’ Military Voices Initiative honors veterans and members of the military community by gathering and preserving their stories. Millions of Americans have worked in the armed forces, and the military community knows well the pride and honor of service, as well as its unique challenges. Yet few civilians have had an opportunity to hear from service members directly about their experience. MVI illuminates these experiences and contributes to StoryCorps’ free archive by recording and preserving the stories of veterans of all wars, service members, and military families—in their own words. Since its launch in 2013, the initiative has collected more than 3,500 interviews with current and former service members from all over the country. MVI is made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

[The National Veterans Memorial and Museum](http://www.nationalveteransmemorialandmuseum.org) takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. The National Veterans Memorial and Museum pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.