

NATICK VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the Project do?

We collect and preserve interviews from veterans from World War II to Iraq-Afghanistan – men and women, all branches of the service, front line or behind the scenes. We also interview those who worked or grew up during the homefront years of World War II.

I served in the military, but didn't do much. Could I take part?

Certainly. Whether you served in the motor pool, did KP, worked in the office, your experiences are part of American history, and deserves to be preserved.

Do I have to be a Natick resident to take part?

No – even though the Project is based in Natick, veterans from inside and outside of Massachusetts are welcome.

OK, I'm interested. What's the first step?

Once initial contact is made – by phone (508-647-6400, ext. 1533), email (mlsullivan@minlib.net) or personal contact – you will be given an interview packet, which includes a list of sample questions, personal information sheet and release forms (one form permits the library to add the interview to the collection, as well as permission to use any photos or other documents; the other permits the library to take a photo for the collection; the interviewee will receive a copy of the photo along with the interview). We give you about one week to go over the questions. After that, contact is made again.

OK, I'm still interested. What's next?

We set up an interview date. Interviews are usually scheduled for Fridays at 1 p.m. in a study hall at the Morse Institute Library (some Thursdays are available); we can schedule as early as 10:30 a.m. and as late as 2 p.m. Bring your release forms, as well as any photos or documents (these will be scanned, and the originals returned to you). Casual attire is OK; if you wish to wear a uniform, by all means.

What happens to the interview after it's been recorded?

DVD copies of the interview are added to the collection at the Morse Institute Library in Natick. One copy goes to Natick Pegasus for its collection, and a copy goes to the interviewee. The interview is also posted on the Project's website, www.natickvets.org.

Tell me more about the website.

The website features more than 300 interviews, in video and downloadable audio formats, photos, documents and a searchable database. There's also information on other resources, including the Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

I'm a family member of a veteran, and he/she is unable to travel. How can they take part?

We may be able to come to the veteran's home to interview.