Having served in the U.S. Armed Forces — first as a para-trooper in the Army’s 101st Air-borne Division, then later as a member of the Illinois Na-tional Guard — I understand the sacrifices veterans have made for our country and I share their pride.

In my role as State Archivist and State Librarian, my office partnered with the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project to create the Illinois Veterans’ History Project in 2005. This effort honors Illinois veterans by documenting and preserving the memories of their wartime experiences so future generations might have a better understanding, appreciation and compassion for the sacrifices these brave men and women made in the name of patriotic duty. Since this effort was implemented, more than 6,000 Illinoisans have taken part in this historic project. Their oral and written histories are available in the Illinois Digital Archives at www.idahillinois.org. Nearly 500 interviews are also available on the Illinois Veterans’ History Project YouTube channel as IL VHP.

If you are a veteran or civilian who served during wartime, I encourage you to document memories of your service by completing an Illinois Patriot Information Form. Participants may also submit an oral recorded history to ensure that a permanent archive of your service will be kept alive for generations to come.

Thank you for your service and your participation in this important project.

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State
Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has been a partner with the Library of Congress in the Veterans History Project since November 2003 and officially launched the Illinois Veterans’ History Project in November 2005. The Illinois Veterans’ History Project began with the collection of written information about Illinois veterans through the use of the Illinois Patriot Information Form.

In September 2007, the Secretary of State’s office entered the next phase of the project, collecting oral (audio and video) histories of Illinois veterans. These histories are now available through the Illinois Digital Archives at www.idaillinois.org.

LINKS:
- Video histories may be found at www.youtube.com/user/ilveteransproject/videos
- The Illinois Digital Archives contains:
  - Veteran interview transcripts www.idaillinois.org/cdm/search/collection/ivhp/searchterm/transcript/field/title
  - World War II Poster Collection www.idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/is15
- Library of Congress Veterans History Project www.loc.gov/vets