

The History of the Projects

In 2008 nine Illinois schools accepted the challenge to assist the Illinois World War II Veterans' Memorial Board in preserving an important piece of our heritage. These young citizens created digital stories of the service and sacrifice by men and women of the "Greatest Generation" who served our country. Through their efforts, the Illinois WW II Veterans Classroom Project was born. After three years of work over 200 digital stories have been captured and saved for future generations.

2012 marks an exciting time for the project as it expands to capture the stories of Illinois Korean, Vietnam, Gulf War and other veterans. Through a partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, funding was provided to host the digital stories of all Illinois veterans in the upcoming years.



Illinois Veterans' Projects at a Glance

- 300+ digital stories preserving WWII veterans' military and 'home front' experiences
- Over 700 middle and high school students and educators statewide have participated since 2008
- 200+ Illinois digital stories were accepted by the Veterans History Project of the American Folk life at the U.S. Library of Congress since 2011 with a goal of 500+ by the year 2013

Project Websites:

IL WW II Veterans Classroom Project
<http://wwii.ltc.k12.il.us>

Illinois Veterans Classroom Project
<http://ilvets.ltc.k12.il.us/ilvets/>

Area 5 Learning Technology Center
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Illinois Veterans Classroom Project

Connecting Our Past to Our Future



Partner Project of the
Illinois WW II Veterans Classroom Project



The vision of the partner projects includes three broad goals:

- *Provide students the opportunity, training and equipment to complete personal interviews capturing the experiences of Illinois Veterans using digital storytelling and inquiry-based learning.*
- *Assist all members of our communities in understanding the service and sacrifice our veterans willingly gave to preserve our American way of life.*
- *Preserve the personal stories of Illinois veterans through the use of digital technologies for preservation at a state and national level in cooperation with the U.S. Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.*

How to Become Involved

The Illinois Veterans Project and the Illinois WW II Veterans Classroom Project depend upon the support of Illinois citizens to continue their important work. Support may be provided in many different ways.

Sponsor a School Team

Provide funding to start a local school team with the video equipment, software and training needed to capture the digital stories of our veterans. Training for schools can be provided by the Area 5 LTC listed below.

Support the Projects Directly

Non-specified donations will be used to provide maintenance and upgrades to the project websites, ongoing support and training for school teams, and promotion efforts to spread the word about our growing State historical treasure or go to the Illinois WWII Memorial Board site at <http://ww2il.com/> and **buy a memorial brick** for a WWII Veteran.

Spread the Word

Let others know of the existence of the projects through your newsletters, meeting notices and other media outreach efforts. The stories of service and sacrifice possess the ability to educate all of us about the efforts of those who have served to preserve our American way of life.

Share Your Story

Contact the Area 5 Learning Technology Center Director Vicki Dewitt at vdewitt@lth5.k12.il.us or Julie Miener at jmiener@lth5.k12.il.us by phone at (618) 692-6200 ext. 4640 to let us know of your interest in sharing your experiences.

Participating Schools

The following schools are currently contributing to the Illinois WWII Classroom Project and the Illinois

Veterans' Project:

- ◆ Astoria H.S., Astoria, IL
- ◆ Auburn H.S., Rockford, IL
- ◆ Carlinville H.S., Carlinville IL
- ◆ Carterville H.S., Carterville, IL
- ◆ Centennial H.S., Champaign, IL
- ◆ Franklin M.S., Champaign, IL
- ◆ Gillespie H.S., Gillespie, IL
- ◆ Harlem #122 H.S., Machesney Park , IL
- ◆ Ladd M.S., Ladd, IL
- ◆ Reavis H.S., Burbank, IL
- ◆ Rock Island H.S., Rock Island, IL
- ◆ Springfield M.S., Springfield, IL
- ◆ United H.S & M.S, Monmouth, IL
- ◆ Valmeyer CUSD#3, Valmeyer, IL
- ◆ Wilbur Trempe M.S., Bethalto, IL
- ◆ Williamsville H.S., Williamsville, IL

Past contributing schools & communities:

- ◆ Carlyle M.S, Carlyle, IL
- ◆ Collinsville H.S., Collinsville, IL
- ◆ Coulterville H.S., Coulterville, IL
- ◆ Manito Schools & Historical Society
- ◆ Nashville H.S., Nashville, IL
- ◆ Springfield H.S., Springfield, IL

Founding Partners

- Illinois WWII Veterans Memorial Board
- Area 5 Learning Technology Center
- Teaching with Primary Resources Projects at Quincy University & Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Illinois Central Management Services
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Illinois Learning Technology Centers
- Illinois State Library