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Veterans Legacy Program

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The Veterans Legacy Program commemorates our nation's Veterans through the discovery and sharing of their stories. The program encourages students and teachers at the University and K-12 level around the country to immerse themselves in the rich historical resources found within VA national cemeteries. Participants research Veterans interred in national cemeteries and develop educational tools that increase public awareness of the service and sacrifice of our nation’s Veterans.

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History of Veterans Legacy Program

Established on Memorial Day 2016, the Veterans Legacy Program has established itself as a leading model of community engagement. Partners from across the country have created products and events that reflect the unique impact of Veterans on their local community. The Veterans Legacy Program continues to grow and expand its reach and welcomes anyone interested in learning more to contact us.

In its inaugural year, we developed educational resources and interactive maps for Beaufort National Cemetery and Riverside National Cemetery. We partnered with three universities, engaging students and scholars in researching and sharing the histories of Veterans in their communities: San Francisco State University, Black Hills State University, and University of Central Florida.

Also for the 2016-17 academic year, the program was proud to partner with the American Battle Monuments Commission on the Understanding Sacrifice program. NCA & ABMC partnered with National History Day and George Mason University to create a unique program of teacher education. Through a competitive selection process, teachers from around the country joined the program, researching "fallen heroes" from their hometown and creating lesson plans about them. These teachers also had the opportunity to visit the gravesite of their fallen hero and give a eulogy of them.

To date, the program has facilitated the discovery of nearly 1,000 Veterans' stories which have been researched, and shared by 55 professors, 260 K-12 teachers, 200 college students, and 9,000 K-12 students. As proud as VLP is of this success, there is still much more great work to be done. We look forward to continued growth and more Veterans' stories to be shared and remembered.

Partnering with universities and colleges

The Veterans Legacy Program partners with universities and colleges, creating opportunities for students and scholars to research the histories of Veterans interred in their nearby national cemetery.

This is a unique program: it is unlike any other federally-funded program. The Veterans Legacy Program is not a national template of work; it is a national model of local engagement. NCA has 135 national cemeteries. VLP seeks to create partnerships with universities and their local national cemetery. Each program will be the sum of the Pls' collective vision, and unique within the broader VLP. But, all will have in common three things: funded, original research on area Veterans; research opportunities for undergraduates (and graduates, if applicable); and work that is proudly shared with the local community, to memorialize Veterans in this new, engaging way.

Every level of stakeholder is intended to benefit professionally from this. Scholars on previous VLP programs, for example, have presented at national conferences, written articles on their work, and develop book projects.

Our primary mechanism for this sponsored research is a federal contract. These are slightly different fiscal instruments than grants, but the result is the same: NCA will support faculty and their students in funded research that leads to something that can be shared with the general public.

While these sponsored research programs are typically attractive to historians, we have awarded funding to scholars in a variety of disciplines, to include English, American Indian studies, history, and film. NCA is interested in reviewing proposals from scholars in any discipline who can work with their students to memorialize Veterans through their disciplinary context.

Please contact Dr. Bryce Carpenter, program manager, for questions about the competitive proposal review process and how to submit.

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Need more help?

National Cemetery Scheduling Office: [800-535-1117](tel:800-535-1117)

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