

News From
SENATOR LINCOLN CHAFEE
RHODE ISLAND



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CHAFEE ANNOUNCES VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

PROVIDENCE, RI – In honor of Flag Day, June 14th, U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced a special initiative asking all Rhode Islanders to participate in the Veteran History Project. The goal of this program is to collect and preserve audio and video-recorded oral histories from American war veterans and civilians who served in support of our war efforts, along with other first-hand materials such as photographs, diaries, and letters.

“There is no better way to give thanks to our war veterans than to have their personal stories preserved as part of the permanent historical record of the nation,” said Chafee. “I believe that this generation and future Americans have much to learn from those who served.”

Senator Chafee reached out to the Rhode Island Historical Society, which has graciously agreed to store the tapes and collectibles, and the materials will be available for all Rhode Islanders to see and hear.

The U.S. Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 and it calls upon the American Folk Life Center of the Library of Congress to collect and preserve oral histories from America’s war veterans from World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars.

“Congress wants the public to be involved and I encourage all Rhode Islanders to be part of this exciting endeavor,” noted Chafee. “Grandchildren should interview their grandparents, students should interview community members, and veterans should interview each other. Families, friends, historians, teachers, senior care workers, and students are encouraged to participate and become volunteer interviewers.”

To learn more about this national initiative, call Senator Chafee’s Providence Office at 401 453-5294. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Bernard Fishman, executive director of the Rhode Island Historical Society at 401331-8575 or www.rihs.org.

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