

Pilot James Hurst & bomber crew  
(U.S. Army Air Corps)



Shawn Curreri (Air National Guard)



Katherine T. Leahy (U.S. Navy)



Vietnam (U.S. Marine Corps photo, courtesy of Michael Parker)



The Central Connecticut State University  
**Veterans History Project**

To Preserve • To Honor • To Educate

William A. O'Neill (gunner) and crew checking parachutes in Okinawa  
(U.S. Air Force)



Robert August (U.S. Navy)



Edward Gilbert (Courtesy of Edward Gilbert)

## What We Do

The national Veterans History Project was created in 2000, when the U.S. Congress voted unanimously to preserve and archive the oral histories of men and women who have served in any of our country's wars or any civilian who supported the war effort. The project, housed at the U. S. Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. collects and preserves the taped interviews, photographs and documents of veterans from:

**World War I (1914-1920)**

**World War II (1939-1946)**

**Korean War (1950-1955)**

**Vietnam War (1961-1975)**

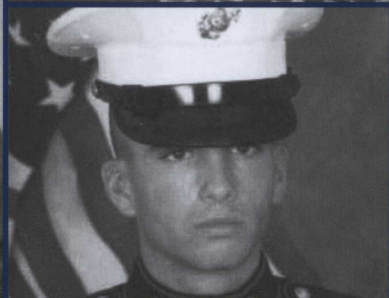
**Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)**

**Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)**

Connie Nappier Jr.  
(Tuskegee Airman, U.S. Army Air Corps)

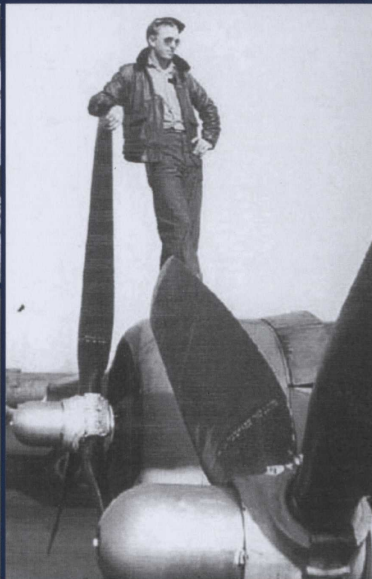


Mechanic Steven Stupak & crew  
(U.S. Army Air Corps)

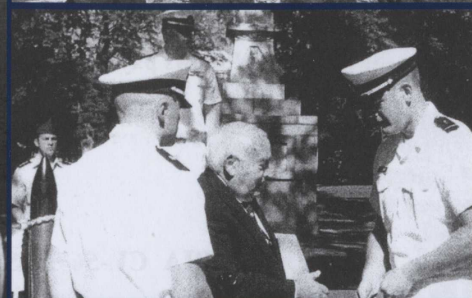


Eric Eaton (U.S. Marine Corps)

George England



L to R: SPC Stephen Mondaca, SPC Alexander,  
SPC Alex Riley, Veasna Roenun



U.S.S. Columbia CL-56 Sword Presentation:  
President Phillip Davidson presents the Sword to  
Midshipman Eric D. Metcalf on behalf of the Association.

As an archive partner of the Library of Congress, Central Connecticut State University participates in the Veterans History Project by focusing on the oral histories of Connecticut's residents. Photographs, military documents, field maps, journals, memoirs and letters are digitized and preserved, and videotaped interviews of Connecticut service members are conducted and archived. The vast amount of historical data collected is made available to veterans, students, scholars and researchers via the internet at our website, [www.ccsu.edu/vhp](http://www.ccsu.edu/vhp). All information is also preserved in the Library of Congress and at the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library.

## Why Do We Do It?

### To Preserve:

- CCSU is privileged to assist in preserving the history of the United States for future generations. By recording the firsthand accounts of history from the men and women who witnessed and lived it, we will insure that the memories, lessons, and sacrifices of war are not forgotten.

## To Honor:

- Through the Veterans History Project, we recognize and honor the men and women who have participated in the making of United States history.

## To Educate:

- The past comes alive for CCSU students as they expand their classroom knowledge and go into the field to interview Connecticut's heroes. For students, the individual veteran interviews prove to be memorable as well as enriching experiences. Students are fully engaged when learning history first hand, and they acquire a unique insight into the personal perspective of war from various standpoints ranging from life on the home front to combat on the front lines, in the air or on the sea.
- Students also assist with archiving the oral histories, photographs, documents and related materials in the CCSU Library's Special Collections. The library is open to the public, which allows access to this valuable collection not only to students and scholars, but also to veterans, their families and interested citizens.
- The Veterans History Project serves as a tremendous resource for scholars and researchers across the world.
- Educational resources, curriculum units of study and a speakers bureau can be found at the "Educators" link on our website to assist middle and high school classroom teachers.

## How Can You Become Involved?

**VETERANS** – Do you want to participate in the Veterans History Project and have your oral history recorded and archived?

**VOLUNTEERS** – Do you want to become a trained volunteer interviewer and assist in collecting oral histories of Connecticut's veterans?

**DONATIONS** – Do you want to help support the preservation of American history? Do you want to assist in making the invaluable eye witness accounts and primary source materials available not only to the nation, but world wide?

## Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair

The Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair, housed in the Center for Public Policy and Social Research at Central Connecticut State University is proud to be an archive partner with the **U.S. Library of Congress** in its Veterans History Project.

The Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics was established in 2000 to honor former Governor William A. O'Neill, Connecticut's longest serving governor in modern times (1980-1991). As part of the O'Neill Chair's mission and outreach, we have created an archival program of Connecticut public history, including an active oral history program. It is fitting that the Veterans History Project, which brings CCSU and citizens of Connecticut closer together, is an integral part of the Governor William A. O'Neill Oral History Program. Interesting to note is that Governor O'Neill served as an aerial gunner during the Korean War and was himself a participant in the Veterans History Project.

### Connecticut Veterans:

There are more than **310,000** Connecticut veterans (12% of the state's population).

More than **81,000** served in WWII.

More than **49,000** served in Korea.

More than **91,000** served in Vietnam.

More than **21,000** served in the first Persian Gulf War.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census 2000.

**“Veterans have put their hands, backs, hearts and souls into achieving their promise to protect and defend our nation... Through this project...we hear the real stories of real people, an elite order of Americans. The VHP now allows us to fully appreciate the depth and breadth of their accomplishments...”**

Dr. Linda Schwartz  
CT Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs

Sar Phouthasack (Laotian Special Guerrilla Unit)



U.S. cemetery on Guam (U.S. Navy)

**For more information or to participate in  
the Veterans History Project at CCSU, please contact:**

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hursteim@ccsu.edu

[www.ccsu.edu/vhp](http://www.ccsu.edu/vhp)

[www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)

**CPPSR**

Center for Public Policy and Social Research  
Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics



**VETERANS  
HISTORY  
PROJECT**

**Official Partner**

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