

THE VIETNAM WAR

WITF STORIES

<https://vietnam.witf.org/>

A WITF / PBS Initiative

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Veterans. Families. Protesters. Refugees. The Vietnam War left an indelible mark on millions of people. You have a story to tell. WITF invites you to share your photos, video, audio, and narrative as we gather the untold stories of the War on an interactive story wall.

The Story Wall is a part of WITF's Vietnam War Stories, an initiative aimed at inspiring central Pennsylvanians to remember and share stories, recognize bravery, express their reasons for dissent, and foster understanding around the lasting impact of war.

The Vietnam War defined a generation. It changed the lives of people who fought in it and who fought against it. It's time to remember, honor, and understand.

WHAT MAKES A COMPELLING STORY?

- **MAKE IT PERSONAL** - Consider the question: How has Vietnam impacted your life? Describe how you felt - not just the facts. Share personal anecdotes and perceptions in a conversational tone. And weave in the specific details about an experience, person, place, or thing – that way, you allow others to better imagine your story.
- **KEEP IT SHORT** - We're looking for concise, personal stories that effectively highlight a meaningful experience that made a lasting impact on you during or after the Vietnam War. If you're sharing video or audio, please try to keep it to around 3 to 5 minutes in length.
- **ADD MEDIA TO YOUR STORY** - Enhance your story by adding a variety of media, including video, photos, or audio. Get creative. Letters, maps, sketches, journal pages, documents, and photos of mementos from the Vietnam-era are also great storytelling tools.
- **QUALITY** - The best stories will include high-resolution images. Audio and video recordings should be created inside in a quiet environment, free of background noises and distractions.
- **STONE OF RESPECT** - This is a safe space for everyone to share, honor, and reflect.
- **THE RULES** - Please familiarize yourself with our **Submission Terms and Conditions** which you must agree to before submitting your story to us. We reserve the right not to include stories that violate our policies and that don't fit the tone of our collection.

HOW CAN I SHARE A STORY?

There are several ways to share your story. Just decide what is best for you.

- **ONLINE** - Share your story anytime, anywhere on our website: <https://vietnam.witf.org/> . Use the simple story-submission form on the site to add a title, text, location, photos, video and/or audio to your story. When you click the “Submit Story” button, your story elements will be sent to our digital team that’s in charge of adding your unique story into the Story Wall website.
- **EVENT** - Attend a story-gathering event with our production team that will help you create a video or audio story. They will also help you scan photos, slides, and take photos of mementos. All events will be listed at <https://vietnam.witf.org/> .

STUDENT - Under 18? Please work with your parent, guardian, or a teacher who can submit your story on your behalf.

- **What if I want to edit my story?** - Please contact our team at vietnam@witf.org or by phone 717.910.2841 and we’d be happy to assist you in editing your story.
- **What if I want to have my story removed?** - Please contact our team at vietnam@witf.org or by phone 717.910.2841

STORYTELLING WITH YOUR MOBILE DEVICE OR TABLET

Most of us have a high-quality production kit right in our pocket! A mobile device or tablet can be a great tool for creating a compelling story with photos, video, or sound.

PHOTOS - You can snap high-resolution photos with your phone or tablet’s camera. Make sure there is enough light, and try to reduce glare. Remember that you can also take photos of archival photos, maps, documents, mementos, sketches, letters, medals, etc. These are powerful storytelling tools as well.

VIDEOS - Use your device’s camera to record a high-quality video for your story. For the best video quality, please shoot videos in landscape mode (horizontal), and in a quiet place with minimal visual and audio distractions.

AUDIO - Please record audio in a quiet space with minimal background noise.

CONTACT US - We’re here to help. Please contact our team at vietnam@witf.org or by phone 717.910.2841 and we’d be happy to assist you in sharing your story. Whether you’re sharing via website or at an event, we will send you a confirmation email that we received your story, as well as an email when your story is posted on the Story Wall.