

Guide to the Veterans' History Project Collection

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Alesia McFadden Williams and the Students of African American History 101

Title: Veterans' History Project Collection

Dates: August-December 2005

Quantity: .5 cubic feet

Abstract: Contains transcripts, and recordings of interviews with local veterans conducted as part of a class project for the students in African American Studies 101 at the University of South Alabama for Fall Semester 2005.

Accession: 05-09-499

Biographical Note:

In the fall of 2005, the students in African American Studies 101 interviewed veterans as part of a class project. Students interviewed participants of every major American conflict from World War II to the Iraq War, as well as non-combat support personnel. Because of the demography of the class, the overwhelming majority of the veterans interviewed were African American. At the end of the semester, some of the interviews were sent to the National Veterans History Project. In 2000, Congress, recognizing that 1,500 veterans die per day, directed the Library of Congress to initiate a nationwide project to collect the stories of veterans, family members, defense-industry workers, and similar individuals who had served with the United States military in the 20th century. The Library of Congress assigned this task to its American Folklife Center, which dubbed the resulting program the "Veterans History Project." Copies of all material from Professor Williams' students were then donated to the University of South Alabama Archives for local use.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of seventeen interviews. Six of the interviews are preserved as video files on DVDs and seven were transcribed, with the actual interviews presumably being sent to the Library of Congress. Another four interviews are included in student reports and do

not contain exact transcripts or audio files. Also included in the collection is a brief overview of the project, written by Professor Williams.

Arrangement:

The interviews are divided into individual folders and filed alphabetically under the veterans' last name. The box inventory below also lists their branch of service and active duty dates as well. The student interviewers name is included in parenthesis.

Usage Restrictions:

None

Access Restrictions:

This collection is open to researchers.

Preferred Citation:

Veterans History Project, Library of Congress.

Content List:

1. Project Description and Overview by Alesia McFadden Williams
2. Dean E. Boller, U.S. Army 1967-1969 (Latimer Boller) DVD
3. James Phillip Burke, U.S. Army 1948-1968 (John T. Burke)
4. Augustus V. Dexter, U.S. Marine Corps 1964-1968 (Bridgette Boggan) DVD
5. Charlie B. Gordon, U.S. Navy Fireman 1943-1945 (Courtney L. Toney)
6. Ryan O'Neal Irvine, U.S. Army 1988-2005* (Robert Brown, II)
7. Robert Earl Lee, U.S. Army 1942-1945 (Robbie Lee)
8. Revera McMillan (Interview on behalf of her deceased husband, Kenneth McMillan), U.S. Marine Corps 1966-1969 (Courtney Hall)

9. Jarrod McQueen, U.S Army 1990-1991 (Nakia Williams) DVD
10. Vernon Mitchell, U.S. Army 1966-1972 (Bruce Huntly) DVD
11. Marcus Jamaal Quinnie, U.S. Marine Corps, dates not given (Tiffany A. Turner)
12. Elder Sanders, U.S. Navy, 1955-1975 (Chloe' Bozeman) DVD
13. William J. Schilling Jr., U.S. Army, 1942-1945 (Patrick Dooley)
14. Roderick Tate, U.S. Army, 1990-2005* (Shantell Edwards)
15. Nguyen Thahn, South Vietnamese Army, no dates given (Hahn Tran) This transcript is in Vietnamese.
16. James Cleophus Thames, U.S. Army, 1943-1949 (Jeannette Thames Sylvester)
17. Kenrick S. Walker, U.S. Navy, 1980-1984 (D'Antonio Walker) DVD
18. Terry Lenwood Williams, U.S. Air Force, 1970-1991 (Tamara Fowler)

*Note: These men were still on active duty when interviewed in 2005. Their current status is unknown.