



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## **PBS and Documentary Filmmaker Ken Burns Lend Support to Veterans History Project**

***Rep. Kind Authored Legislation Creating the Program in 2000***

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind today joined documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, PBS President and CEO Paula Kerger, and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington in announcing an initiative to promote the Veterans History Project (VHP), and gather the first-hand recollections of the diverse men and women who served our nation during wartime. Rep. Kind is the original author of the legislation that created the Veterans History Project in 2000, which is a major history program of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center.

The launch of the educational outreach and community engagement campaign will coincide with the broadcast of Ken Burns's new film, *THE WAR*, which is scheduled to air on PBS beginning on September 23, 2007. *THE WAR* is a seven-part series that provides a partial snapshot of the American World War II experience through the personal accounts of a handful of men and women from four geographically distributed American towns: Waterbury, Connecticut; Mobile, Alabama; Sacramento, California; and the tiny farming town of Luverne, Minnesota.

"The personal stories of America's veterans are the most powerful record that we have to document the sacrifice and hardship of our nation at war," Rep. Kind said. "As the ranks of veterans who defended our country in battle slowly dwindle, the Veterans History Project is crucial to ensure that future generations of Americans can appreciate the extraordinary sacrifices made for their freedom. Ken Burns is one of the great documentary filmmakers of our time, and a partnership with his new film and PBS will allow us to reach an unprecedented amount of veterans."

Public Broadcasting's flagship station, WETA Washington, DC, and the Veterans History Project have developed a field guide with a "how-to" conduct an oral history interview, which includes pointers from Ken Burns and co-director Lynn Novick on lighting and shooting the video. The guide will be provided to schools and organizations across the nation, and available to the public via the Veterans History Project website to increase awareness of the project and encourage people to help record and preserve the service of our nation's veterans.

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“There have been countless books and films about the Second World War,” Ken Burns said. “In THE WAR, we try to allow a small group of individuals to tell their bottom-up story. This film is as much about story telling, about sharing unique experiences, as it is about World War II, and as such we hope that it touches on the universal human experience of battle. Of course, the film only provides a small window into the much larger experience of the hundreds of thousands who have served during times of war. We hope that by providing the tools to people around the country, especially young people, we can work together to capture many more of these stories before the generation that fought in World War II has passed.”

The campaign will also involve more than 100 public television stations nationwide that will reach out to a broad range of veterans and their families to capture the stories that make up the rich mosaic of America. In total, public television stations will target thousands of individual stories to be shared locally on-air, online, and through community events and activities. For more information, people should visit <http://www.pbs.org/thewar>.

The Veterans History Project depends on volunteer interviewers – family and friends of veterans, communities, and a wide variety of organizations and institutes – to record the one-of-a-kind interviews of wartime veterans and send them to VHP where they are housed in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress. To date, VHP has collected over 45,000 individual stories.

For more information on the Veterans History Project, visit <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>.

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