

Stories that Preserve Life

(By Military and First Responders)

We are interested in providing service to our community. We are embarking on a project to preserve the stories of those in our local area who have or are currently serving in the military or as a first responder. These stories will be published in a book, some will be etched in granite at the North Park Monument site and possibly some will be preserved in oral recordings to Recollections Kansas <<http://recollectionsks.org/>> and/or Kansas Memory <<https://www.kansasmemory.org/>>.

We would like to preserve your thoughts and experiences while serving our country and/or community. You have a unique perspective, one that we in the community can learn from and will help us appreciate the sacrifice that you made. We are looking for those who would be willing share an insight, or describe an event, or tell how they felt during a particular day or night.

If you are interested in sharing, we would suggest that you write around 300 words. If you prefer someone can interview you and write the story for you to review. If you would like to be interviewed we will schedule a time for you to meet with an interviewer at the Bonner Springs Library.

It would be our honor to record your thoughts, your experiences, and your feelings regarding your service. We understand that you cannot reveal personal details for confidential reasons. We just want to capture something of the life you live or have lived in order to understand the military and the first responders better. Our desire is to appreciate the difficult job you do. Thank you for sharing your story!

Sincerely,

Linda Horvath and Anita Shikles

Guidelines

- Stories must not include specific information that should remain confidential (i.e. Names, dates, places).
- Stories should be approximately 300 words. Use your own topic or select a topic from the attached interview questions and topics.
- Stories can be submitted to horvathl@sunflower.com, or anitaz79@yahoo.com
- If preferred, interviewers can ask questions and record answers for the author to review. These interviews will be held in a quiet room located at the Bonner Springs library.
- All Stories will be reviewed by the department represented (VFW, police, sheriff, fire, EMS) and by Linda Horvath or staff for appropriate content, grammar and length.
- Stories should be by residents of Bonner Springs and surrounding areas, or by a resident who is telling a relative's story.
- Our plan is to raise funds to have copies of the book printed which could be sold at a reasonable price to the public.
- This project was conceived and will be conducted by Linda Horvath and Anita Shikles and. We will be looking for partners to help with the tasks involved and for financial assistance. If you know of a group or individual who would like to help with this project either financially or by volunteering, please contact us.
- For more information and/or questions, please contact:
 - Linda Horvath horvathl@sunflower.com (785) 843-3971
 - Anita Shikles anitaz79@yahoo.com (816) 678-3739

Stories from Military and First Responders • Interview Questions and Topics

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Service: (Branch of military, police, sheriff, fire, EMS) _____ Rank: _____

Dates of Service: _____ Deployments: _____

We hope you will consider writing your story of service. Please keep it to approximately 300 words. Use your own topic or select one below. Or you can choose to be interviewed. Contact Linda Horvath horvathl@sunflower.com (785) 843-3971 or Anita Shikles anitaz79@yahoo.com (816) 678-3739 to schedule an interview date and time to submit your story.

Thank you for sharing your story!

Story Topics

Describe a specific event or day, Give your thoughts.

Why I joined the _____

What I learned while serving

My thoughts about serving

Remembering my friend

The most difficult part of my job/service

The most rewarding part of my job/service

Dealing with PTSD

How I have coped with my memories

What I want others to know about serving

Why I do what I do

Questions

What did you do on a typical day for your job?

Please describe the most unusual day you had.

What was the most important part of your job?

Have you won any awards, medals, recognition? Describe why you earned them.

How old were you when you first thought about serving?

What was the most rewarding experience you had while serving?

Have you had to deal with bad memories? How do you deal with them?

Who helped you the most when you served?

What was the best advice you ever received about serving? What advice would you give?