Eternal Valor Network Veterans Initiative

Kansas City, MO | tracingancestors.org | 816-729-5995

Behind the Uniform: Every Soldier Has a Story

A Public Humanities & Veterans Preservation Initiative

Kansas City is home to a nationally significant project that will transform how families, students, and communities connect with veterans' stories... before they are lost forever.

The Project

Behind the Uniform is an educational guidebook and community programming initiative that teaches families, students, educators, and researchers how to locate, interpret, and preserve military records and veterans' stories.

The project makes complex archival research accessible by turning military documents, photographs, letters, and heirlooms into living family and community history.

Public programming will explore citizenship, migration, identity, sacrifice, race, and civic responsibility through the lens of military service and personal stories.

Why It Matters

Countless families in Kansas City and across Missouri hold military records, photographs, and heirlooms, but don't know how to interpret or preserve them. Once lost, these stories cannot be recovered.

Kansas City's deep military heritage, from frontier conflicts and the Civil War to generations of 20th-century veterans, gives this initiative both local urgency and national reach.

While rooted in KC, this project addresses universal themes of memory, service, and identity that resonate with audiences nationwide.

How Your Support Makes a Difference

Gifts up to $10,000 will directly fund:

Educational Guidebook	Community Programming	Veterans History Preservation
Publication design, printing, and distribution to libraries, veteran organizations, and schools across Missouri	Workshops, library outreach events, and presentations that bring veterans' stories to KC neighborhoods	Tools and training for families to digitize, interpret, and archive military records before they are lost

To learn more or express interest, contact:

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