



## Wreaths Across America “Remember Me” Service-learning Project

In recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the United States, Wreaths Across America has initiated the nationwide “Remember Me” Service-learning Project.” This commemorative research project is designed for students in grades 5-12.

As the country observes the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, participating students will honor individuals who have embodied the principles fundamental to American freedoms. Through documentation of a specific service members’ experiences, students will provide a personal perspective on “250 years of history” within the context of military service.

This service-learning project aims to foster respect among young people for the service and sacrifices made by members of the nation’s military. Wreaths Across America encourages participants to investigate and record the stories of service members whose contributions may be less recognized today, thereby ensuring these accounts are preserved and accessible for future generations.

### **Project Objectives:**

- **Conduct Primary and Secondary Research:** Investigate the life and military career of a United States service member from any historical period (1776–Present).
- **Historical Synthesis:** Integrate the individual’s service within the wider framework of American history.
- **Narrative Writing:** Develop a thorough summary that respectfully commemorates the person’s legacy and ensures the preservation of their story for future generations.

### **Step 1: Selecting a Service Member**

Students may choose a subject from three categories:

- **Family Connection:** A relative (living or deceased).
- **Local Hero:** A person from your hometown or buried in a nearby cemetery.
- **Historical Figure:** A notable Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, or Coast Guardsman from a specific conflict (e.g., the Revolutionary War, WWII, the Korean War or the Vietnam War). The service member you select may have served in multiple conflicts, for example, Korea and Vietnam.





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### Step 2: Research Requirements

To build a complete profile, students should aim to find the following information:

Category	Details to Look For
Personal Origins	Full name, birth date/place, and life before the military.
Enlistment	Branch of service, year joined, and why they served (if known).
The Service Era	Key conflicts involved in (e.g., Civil War, Cold War, Gulf War).
Daily Life	Rank, MOS (Military Occupational Specialty/Job), and where they were stationed.
Commendations	Medals, honors, or specific acts of bravery.
Post-Service	Life after discharge, career, family, and community impact.

### Step 3: The “Remember Me” Summary

Grades 5-8: The final written product should be 200-250 words, with a jpeg image when available, it should be divided into three distinct sections:

- Describe the service member’s early life and the world they lived in when they joined or were drafted into the military. What was happening in America at that time?
- Detail their military career. Use specific dates, locations, and units.
- Reflect on the person’s life after service or the impact of their sacrifice. Why is it important that we remember this specific individual today?

Grades 9-12: The final written product should be 500 words, with a jpeg image when available, it should be divided into three distinct sections:

- Describe the service member’s early life and the world they lived in when they joined or were drafted into the military. What was happening in America at that time?
- Detail their military career. Use specific dates, locations, and units.
- Reflect on the person’s life after service or the impact of their sacrifice. Why is it important that we remember this specific individual today?

### Research Tools & Resources

- **National Archives (NARA):** For requesting military service records.
- **The Veterans History Project (Library of Congress):** For oral histories and interviews.
- **Find-A-Grave:** To locate burial sites and often find biographical sketches.
- **Ancestry.com / Fold3:** Specialized databases for military documents and census records.
- **Local Historical Societies and Public Libraries** for information on hometown heroes.





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**What to do with your final project?** Wreaths Across America has created a landing page for your narratives, and we encourage you to share your service member’s story with us, to ensure their stories are preserved and accessible for future generations.

To help us in this mission, please share these stories [here](#).

**Get your community involved!** Alert your local community of your classrooms Remember Me Project and encourage them to support your students. Contact local media and town officials once the project is complete to share a compilation of the names and stories collected by students from your community. Contact the Wreaths Across America PR team at [pr@wreathsacrossamerica.org](mailto:pr@wreathsacrossamerica.org) if you need help in this outreach.

