

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2007

Contact: Molly Boyle
Front Porch Media Group
Office – 202.777.3668
Mobile – 202.345.4480
molly.boyle@fpmgi.com



Come Home AGAIN for the Holidays

*American Veterans Institute Encourages a Different Kind of
Giving this Holiday Season*

This holiday season, welcome home the veteran you love...again. It is important to recognize those that have served our country, particularly at this time of year. So why not take this time to celebrate the holidays with the veterans you love by listening to their story?

The *American Veterans Institute* and the *World War II Victory Museum* are encouraging Americans to celebrate this holiday season by giving *The Gift of Remembrance* to their loved one, and have partnered together to preserve the history of America's GI's for generations to come.

“As families gather for the holidays, it is the ideal time to sit down with the veterans in your family and record their stories of service and sacrifice,” says Tara Dixon Engel, co-founder of the *American Veterans Institute* and national co-chairman of Operation Welcome Home. “The great thing about these accounts is that the stories will be preserved for future generations in AVI's *American Veteran's Research Library*, where people can learn about our country's military history through those who actually lived and experienced it.”

If you have a loved one who is a veteran, AVI encourages you to listen to your loved one's stories and document them on audio, video or in writing. For tips on how to get started, go to <http://www.americanveteransinstitute.org/holiday.html>. Give the gift of listening to history – as experienced and recalled by the people who were *there*.

Individuals who submit their preservation efforts to the American Veterans Research Library will receive a certificate establishing that their story is now a part of the American Veterans Research Library, a cyberspace collection until 2010 when the National Military History Museum in Auburn, IN will be completed and will house the full collection of the American Veterans Research Library, dedicated to preserving the inspirational and motivational stories of America's prized veterans.

“What a wonderful gift to give a family member this holiday season,” Dixon-Engel said, “The knowledge that their legacy of service and sacrifice is being preserved for future generations. We want America to understand how military service has enriched our society since the beginning of this great country.”

Through the “Gift of Remembrance” on-line advisor, AVI and the Victory Museum will offer guidance on what to ask, how to preserve the stories, and why it is important to do so.

“Not only is this important to do for your own family, but it is also something that needs to be preserved for tomorrow's Americans. We want to archive and ultimately digitize books, journals, memoirs, letters, tapes, images...anything that offers a peek at America's rich military history from the perspective of those who actually lived it,” says Mike Jackson, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), founder and President of AVI.

“If you have a veteran in your family, please use this holiday season as a time to preserve his or her story,” says Jackson. “Future generations will thank you for it!”

For more information, go to www.americanveteransinstitute.org.