

STORIES OF ENDURING FREEDOM



SHARE THE STORY

HONOR THE MEMORY

Twenty years ago, America responded to the September 11th terrorist attacks on our homeland. In addition to the almost 3,000 souls who perished on that day, more than 2,000 warriors lost their lives over the next 13 years during OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF).

Each casualty was a beloved daughter...son...father...mother...wife...aunt...uncle...friend... fellow citizen... they are more than names on a casualty sheet. It is our sacred duty and a great honor to remember them.

We keep those we lost in our hearts and memories through the stories we share about them.

The Greater Dallas Veterans Foundation is collecting these stories to pay tribute to their sacrifice, to humanize military service, and to preserve history.

If you or a loved one served during OEF or lost someone close to you, please invest a few minutes of your day to share a memory of them that will last forever.

When you think about who didn't come home or the time you spent in the military, what comes to mind first? What—to you—truly illustrates the person you miss or the experiences you lived? Anything goes! (And, yes, you can submit more than one story, even if it is about the same person! Sometimes choosing is hard, isn't it?)

As for how long a video you should make...we think Lewis Carroll got it right when he wrote, "Begin at the beginning, go on till you come to the end: then stop."

GDVF will promote and share your stories on its website and YouTube Channel to support this year's commemoration of the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Additionally, we will share your stories with other organizations, who may use them or portions of them to enhance their missions & services, attributing content to you, the original creator.

"Stories of Enduring Freedom" is the first phase of GDVF's new storytelling mission. We will be sharing and promoting stories specifically about OEF throughout 2021, especially surrounding significant days (such as Memorial Day, July 4th, etc.) and events (such as GDVF's "Pedal to Honor" Bike Tour). Additionally, we hope to expand compelling stories, employing and training US veterans as production crew in partnership with Richie Media and the Veterans Institute for Film & Media. These veterans will create a video from submissions to air during the Dallas International Film Festival.

Sooooo...you can submit any time, but the sooner you send us your tribute, the more we can share your story, remember our warriors, and honor their service. Suggested deadlines & additional info below.

How to Participate (or, The Process in a Nutshell)

1. Record a video of yourself telling your story.
2. Scan any additional material that helps us know you or the subject of your story better.
3. Email Stories@GDVF.US and we will send you an upload link. Easy-peasy!

March 19 — To be included in promotional video

April 23 — To be included in Memorial Day activities

May 14 — To be included in Olympic Day (June 26) and/or DIFF (June 25-July 2)

June 4 — To be included in Independence Day activities

All content is due by 5:00 p.m. (CST). Deadlines for the last half of 2021 will be announced later.

Not every submission will be included, but we must have content available by these dates to be considered. GDVF reserves the right to exclude submissions deemed inappropriate.

HOW TO MAKE AN AWESOME VIDEO OF YOURSELF USING YOUR PHONE

1. Find a quiet space.
2. Change video setting to highest quality (4k, 1080, etc) and fps to 30.
3. Open Camera, slide from Photo to Video.
4. Avoid overhead lighting if at all possible; it is best to have light coming from the side or to record in a neutral, daylight situation.
5. Turn your phone sidewise.
6. Place your phone on a stable surface or stand. Do not hold it in your hand.
7. Use the lens on the back NOT front of your camera.
8. Position yourself about three feet from the phone.
9. Your phone should be at eye level; try to ensure that you are not looking up or down, but at the camera – not your picture, but at the camera lens.
10. Again, look directly at the lens.
11. Do a test so you are happy with the way you look.
12. Tell your story as if you are talking with a close friend.
13. Have a conversation with the camera, don't worry about pauses or start-overs.

Most importantly, capture the clearest audio possible...we can work around less-than-stellar images, but we need to be able to hear your tribute!

If you need more information or have questions about this project, please email:
Stories@GDVF.us