

# Veterans History Project

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## Service Through Listening

### Who we are

- A diverse coalition of GWU students passionate about health, working with the Veterans History Project, the DC VA Community Living Center (CLC), The DC Center, and veterans in the community



ISCOPE Veteran History Project Team outside the Library of Congress, in front of the Capital Building



### Learning to listen with our ears and our hearts

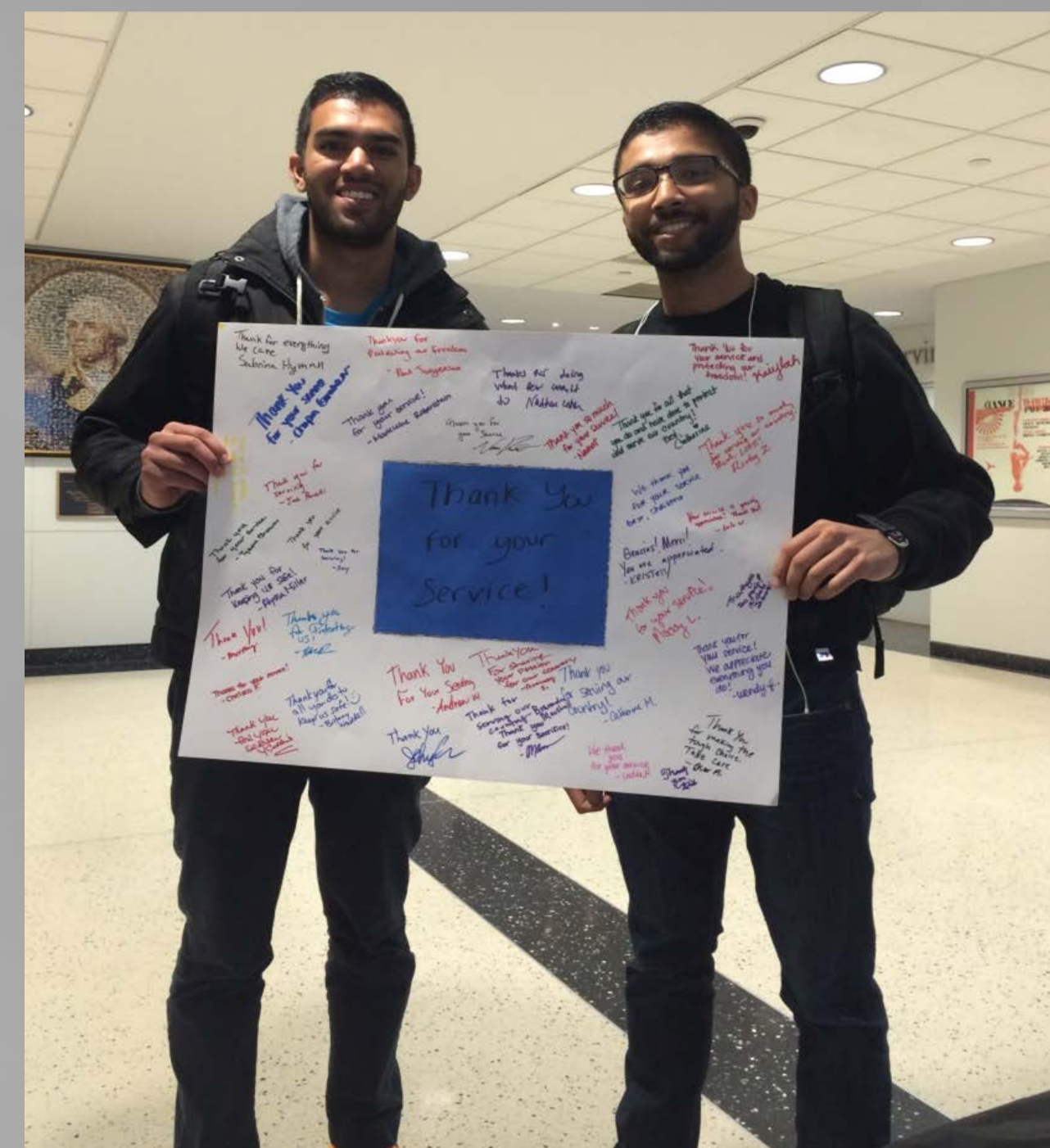
- Veterans often find it hard to talk about their time in service. We seek to give them a voice.
- Moral wounds occur when Soldiers are forced to dramatically shift their morals between civilian life and combat.
- We use story telling as a way to heal these moral wounds.

### A year long effort

- Hosted monthly birthday celebrations at the CLC
- Provided arts and crafts, played games, and served food to vets at the CLC
- Made "Thank You" posters for Veterans Day signed by GWU students
- Hosted Honor Flight screening at GWU
- Hosted a presentation from the Library of Congress staff promoting the Veterans History Project
- Connected with the DC Center and interviewed LGBT veterans
- Networked with the GW Student Veterans Association; maintained our presence on campus by spreading the word about the Veterans History Project
- Joined forces with the Healthy Teen Scholars ISCOPE Team to encourage students at Dunbar High School to engage in the Veterans History Project

### Changes in the Community

- Interviewed a total of 4 veterans
- Raised awareness for the Veterans History Project, the importance of listening, and the need for community support for veterans
- Built new relationships with organizations for future VHP teams
- Offered our ears to veterans who wanted to share their stories



Team members Jay and Ameer with our Veteran's Day Thank You Card given to the veterans at the CLC



Starter Project: Hosting the monthly Birthday Celebration at the CLC. For October we also brought baby pumpkins and paint supplies as a craft.

### Recommendations

- Speak with members of the community for tips on communicating with veterans, and more importantly, how to listen
- Reach out to the DC Center, the GWU Veterans, and any other veterans organization you can find
- Veterans at the CLC want to spend time with you, go as often as you can
- Emphasize **quality** of interviews and service over quantity
- Watch Honor Flight, it will give you a sense of why this project is important and what you can get out of it



Cover of the movie Honor Flight, about bringing veterans from all over the United States to Washington D.C. to see the memorials; Held a screening for this movie for the GWU community; Shows how much listening can mean to veterans

### What we learned

- We do a lot of thinking and talking about ourselves but taking the time to listen to what others have to say enriches all of our lives.
- Interprofessional team-based service involves navigating different communication styles, power dynamics, and values which often makes it harder to move forward but ultimately leads to a stronger final product.
- Being able to consider other perspectives is an essential life skill. We have all learned not only to work with people from different backgrounds, but more importantly to value our unique human experiences.

### Kudos

We'd like to thank the ISCOPE staff, especially our team advocate Donna Javellana; Paul Tschudi; the DC VA Community Living Center and Kathy Bixby; Monica Mohindra, Andrew Huber, and Bob Patrick from the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress; The DC Center; The GW Student Veteran Association; and the men and women who serve our country!

Find out how to interview a veteran in your life; visit <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

