



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 to present free community workshops on oral history collection

*Project is part of national initiative
connected to upcoming release of Ken Burns' **The War***

KENT, Ohio — May 22, 2007 — This summer, PBS 45 & 49 will host four free workshops to teach community members how to collect videotaped oral histories from local World War II veterans and others who have recollections of living stateside during the war. Participants in the workshops will then be invited to videotape oral histories and submit them to the station for possible broadcast and placement in the on-demand archives on the PBS 45 & 49 Web site, pbs4549.org.

The project is part of a national effort sponsored by PBS and the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project in association with the September 2007 release of Ken Burns' World War II documentary, **The War**. PBS 45 & 49 will forward all of its submissions to the Library of Congress for inclusion in the national project.

Workshop participants will learn oral history collection techniques from Ken Bindas, professor of history at Kent State University Trumbull Campus, whose academic area of specialization is oral history. The workshop will also provide a primer on videotaping techniques, including sound, lighting and shot set-up, presented by Molly Merryman, a documentary filmmaker and assistant professor of justice studies at Kent State Trumbull.

Participants are asked to bring a video camera to the free workshops, which will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is required by calling Heidi Johnson, community outreach coordinator, at 1-800-554-4549. Following are the workshop dates and locations:

- Friday, June 8: Copeland Oaks Retirement Community, Sebring
- Saturday, June 30: Stow-Munroe Falls Library
- Friday, July 13: Stark County Library, Canton
- Saturday, July 28: Kent State University Trumbull Campus, Warren

**PBS
45 & 49**

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“Our rich history makes northeast Ohio an ideal location for World War II oral history collection,” said Johnson. “We should be able to provide interesting stories about both veterans and local industries that supported the war effort, including the Ravenna Arsenal and the tire companies. As the people who lived through this era are getting older, it’s important that we act quickly to preserve their place in history.”

The War, a seven-part series directed and produced by Burns and Lynn Novick, provides a partial snapshot of the World War II experience through the personal accounts of a handful of men and women from four geographically distributed American towns: Waterbury, Conn.; Mobile, Ala.; Sacramento, Calif.; and the tiny farming town of Luverne, Minn.

Producer Ken Burns said the film “only provides a small window into the much larger experience of the hundreds of thousands who have served during times of war. We hope that by providing the tools to people around the country, especially young people, we can work together to capture many more of these stories before the generation that fought in World War II has passed.”

PBS 45 & 49 will accept any video submissions for its local Web site on **The War**, regardless of participation in one of its workshops.

PBS 45 & 49’s outreach project is funded by a \$3,000 grant from a coalition of national organizations supporting outreach around Burns’ series.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. The only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio, PBS 45 & 49 is available to 1.8 million households and 4.6 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, the organization provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 257,400 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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