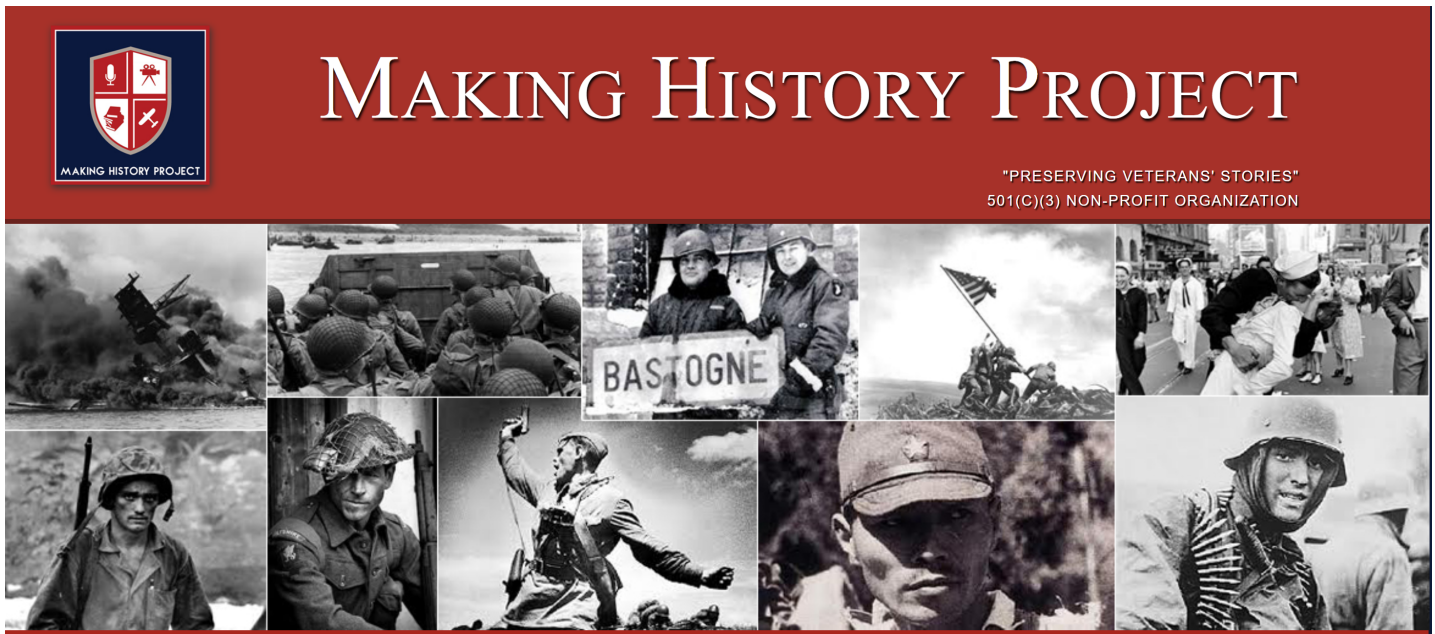


SOUTH FLORIDA MEDIATOR'S 'MAKING HISTORY PROJECT' PRESERVES VETERANS' STORIES

📅 Apr 30, 2021 📁 Top Stories



Patrick Russell's quest to record and preserve the moving stories of the nation's veterans started with a 2010 visit to France for the 66th Anniversary of the D-Day landing.



Patrick Russell

After traveling to battlefields, memorials, and veteran reunions, Russell, who is chair-elect of The Florida Bar's Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, now has interviewed veterans from World War II and the Korean, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars, and created a video library that ultimately will be archived with the United States Library of Congress and the University of Florida Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.

Russell spoke with many of the World War II veterans who were visiting Omaha Beach on June 6, 2010, and realized that more must be done to memorialize their legacies.

"When I heard the emotion in their voices and saw it in their eyes, I immediately had the sense that I should create a vehicle to preserve those memories," said Russell, an attorney-mediator with Salmon & Dulberg and Meaningful Mediation in Miami. "Our

mission is to honor veterans' service through understanding and protecting their stories.”

Russell formally launched the Making History Project in 2015 and obtained non-profit status in 2017. He regularly attends veteran reunions, commemorations, battlefields, and museums and has presented at academic conferences for the Oral History Association, the Midwest World History Association and to veteran groups.

Once an oral history interview is completed, a DVD copy of the interview is given to the veteran and his or her family.

“Every veteran has been delighted with the interview and the opportunity to share his or her experiences — and family members are grateful to have a recorded testimony of their loved one's military service,” Russell said. “More often than not, family members are hearing some stories for the very first time.”

If you are a veteran or know of a veteran who would be interested in providing an oral history interview contact Patrick Russell at **pr@meaningful-mediation.com** or 305-608-2977. To learn more about the Making History Project, visit **Making-History-Project.com**.