



A Project of Human Rights First



## What is Your Story?

To honor Freedom Day 2016, Veterans and First Responders, Entrepreneurs for North Texas has created the EFNT Freedom Day 2016 StoryCorps Campaign. Members of Veterans for American Ideals are invited to participate by sharing their stories related to 9/11 and how their service has shaped their views on the importance of upholding America's national values.

Freedom Day, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, is an annual community service event hosted by Entrepreneurs for North Texas honoring the lives lost and those forever changed by the tragic events of September 11, 2001. This year's keynote speaker is Scott Cooper, Marine Veteran and Founder and Director of Veterans for American Ideals (VFAI). A project of Human Rights First, VFAI is a nonpartisan group of veterans who believe that America is its strongest and most secure when its policies and actions match its ideals.

StoryCorps is a public service organization that has collected and archived more than 100,000 interviews since 2003. The StoryCorps app was created as a global platform for listening, connecting, and sharing stories of the human experience. The app places the ability to capture, record and archive stories in the hands of everyone with a smartphone.

Participation in the Freedom Day 2016 StoryCorps Campaign is purely voluntary. The

following guidelines are designed to lead you through the recording process, so you and your company can capture 9/11 stories.

When **specific keywords** are used: **VFAI**, **EFNT**, **EFNT911** and **FreedomDay2016**, the stories you collect and upload will become part of the success of EFNT and Freedom Day. You will also help preserve memories and stories about 9/11 that will be archived in the **American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.**

To listen to some of the 2015 interviews, visit [StoryCorps.me](http://StoryCorps.me) and search for **EFNT** or **FreedomDay**.

## How to contribute to the EFNT Freedom Day 2016 StoryCorps Campaign

### Step 1: Download the free StoryCorps app to your smartphone.

Set up your individual account inside the app.

### Step 2: Prepare for the interview— Helpful Hints

Think about whom you might want to interview or who you would like to have interview you. When you're ready to record:

- Be sure you record the interview in a quiet place.
- Set your phone on Airplane Mode so you won't be disturbed.

- Sit together and make eye contact. Your shared experience during the interview will be heard by listeners.
- Place your device between you so both voices will be heard.
- Take turns—only one person should speak at a time.
- The app will tell you how much time has passed.

### QUESTION PROMPTS

These are suggestions to help you feel comfortable as you move through the interview process.

#### Use the following prompts to start the conversation:

- Start by identifying yourself: “My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am here with \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Ask open-ended questions about 9/11: “Where were you?” “What memories do you have of that day?” “How did that experience change you?”
- Ask open-ended questions about military service: “When did you join the military?” “What was your job?” “How long did you serve?” “Why did you join the military?” “How did the military shape who you are today?”

Other possible questions:

- What is your proudest moment serving your country?
- What do you believe is the role of veterans in American society?
- As a veteran, what sort of responsibility do you feel to speak up on issues that relate to American ideals?
- Why is it important to you that the U.S. continue to lead on issues like refugee protection?

- Thank them for sharing their stories. You can always conclude the interview with a short question asking them “What other words of wisdom do you want to share today?”

### Step 3: An overview of the process within the StoryCorps app

Open the app and touch the + sign in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

- Select “**Prepare an Interview**” and **create the title**. It is helpful to include the name of the person you are interviewing: “Joe Brown Shares His 9/11 Stories.”
- The next prompt is “**What questions will you ask?**” Please use the questions listed below as appropriate (you can skip this prompt in the app).
- Click on “**Who will you interview?**” and add the person’s name. Be sure to hit “Save.”
- Click on “**How much time will you have?**” and choose one of the 3 interview lengths. Typically, these last 15 minutes or less. Hit Save.
- After completing these steps—“**Record this interview.**” It will say that you haven’t selected any questions to ask—that’s O.K. Just hit “Record” and use the questions below.
- When **you are through with the interview, hit “done.”** It will ask you whether you are finished. Hit “yes.”
- You will be prompted to **take a photo** to save with your interview.

**EDIT INTERVIEW:** this is where you can change the title of the interview and create a summary.

In the **Keywords section**, it is critical that you include one or all of the following:

- VFAI or EFNT or EFNT911 or FreedomDay2016

- This is the most important step in the entire process! The tags are the way that we can locate your interviews
- Please list EFNT as the organization. This provides another way to search for these interviews.

**HIT SAVE-** The app will upload the interview to StoryCorps.me—follow the prompts to have your interview uploaded and stored in the National Archives. ■

## Congratulations! You have just added to the “collective wisdom of humanity.”

After Freedom Day is over, visit [StoryCorps.me](http://StoryCorps.me) and use the keywords: **VFAI**, **EFNT**, **EFNT9/11** or **FreedomDay2016** to locate and hear other recordings made that day.

**Thank you for participating in  
the EFNT Freedom Day 2016 StoryCorps Campaign!**