

Residents work with veterans to save a 'generation of history'

By **VICKIE MOSS**
Herald Public Affairs Editor

Ray Talbott remembers his military service in many ways.

He spoke to Pomona students several times on past Veterans Days, telling them about his experience as a tail gunner with an Air Force bombing squad in World War II.

In the spring of 2008, he traveled with other veterans to see the national World War II memorial in Washington, D.C., as part of an Honor Flight.

He and his wife, Marilyn, help with local veterans events. Marilyn Talbott even keeps notebooks full of names and stories from veterans.

It's important to capture the histories of World War II veterans before they're gone, local veterans advocates say.

"They have the story, and unless they passed it on from generation to generation ... it's lost. We're going to lose a generation of history."

— Sherry Wright,
veterans events organizer

Ottawa VFW Post No. 5901 still has active World War II veterans, Commander Gary Ross said. But nationally, between 800 to 1,000 World War II vets die every day, he said.

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Photo by
Elliot J. Sutherland/
The Ottawa Herald

Ray and Marilyn Talbott look through shelves full of World War II records. Marilyn, who was the original treasurer of the Franklin County Veterans Memorial Association, has been collecting records for many years.

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