

**BIRMINGHAM** - Congressman Spencer Bachus today visited the Birmingham VA Hospital during his annual district tour to promote the Veterans History Project. Congressman Bachus urged attendees to interview friends and family so their vital war recollections would not be lost. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates 1,700 veterans die every day.

“Through this unique project, the heroic stories of our veterans can be preserved for future generations. Families will learn more about their loved ones’ experiences and we as a nation will learn more about the sacrifices they made for our freedom.

With the population of WWI and WWII veterans growing ever smaller, it is important that these stories are recorded before it is too late,” Congressman Bachus said.

“My office has enlisted the help of veterans’

organizations, local libraries and community groups to jumpstart this initiative. Everyone with a respect for our past and a passion for our future should be involved. By interviewing at least one veteran, each of you can preserve memories that otherwise might be lost.

My uncle was downed fighter pilot and P.O.W. in World War II, and I am looking forward to recording his story for inclusion in the project,” Bachus concluded.

John and Fran Carter joined Congressman Bachus today. John is a World War II combat veteran paratrooper and his wife Fran worked as a “Rosie the Riveter.” Fran did riveting in the production of B-29 Bombers in a plant at the Birmingham Airport and was instrumental in founding an organization of “Rosies.”

To learn more about the Veterans History Project and how you can be involved, visit the Library of Congress Web site at [www.loc.gov/folklife/vets](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets).

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