

Having served in the U.S. Armed Forces — first as a paratrooper in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, then later as a member of the Illinois National Guard — I understand the sacrifices veterans have made for our country and I share their pride.

In my role as State Archivist and State Librarian, my office partnered with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project to create the Illinois Veterans' History Project in 2005. This effort honors Illinois veterans by documenting and preserving the memories of their wartime experiences so future generations might have a better understanding, appreciation and compassion for the sacrifices these brave men and women made in the name of patriotic duty. Since this effort was implemented, more than 6,000 Illinoisans have taken part in this historic project. Their oral and written histories are available in the Illinois Digital Archives at www.idaillinois.org. Nearly 500 interviews are also available on the Illinois Veterans' History Project YouTube channel as IL VHP.

If you are a veteran or civilian who served during wartime, I encourage you to document memories of your service by completing an Illinois Patriot Information Form. Participants may also submit an oral recorded history to ensure that a permanent archive of your service will be kept alive for generations to come.

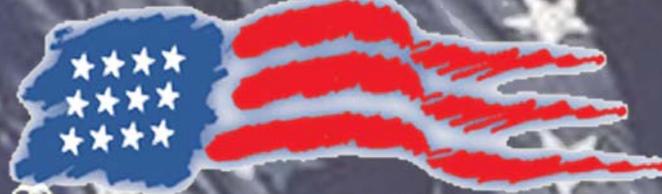
Thank you for your service and your participation in this important project.

Jesse White

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State



Illinois



Veterans' History Project



MORRIS
Born in Danville, Illinois
Lorraine Gan
attended the Windsor School.

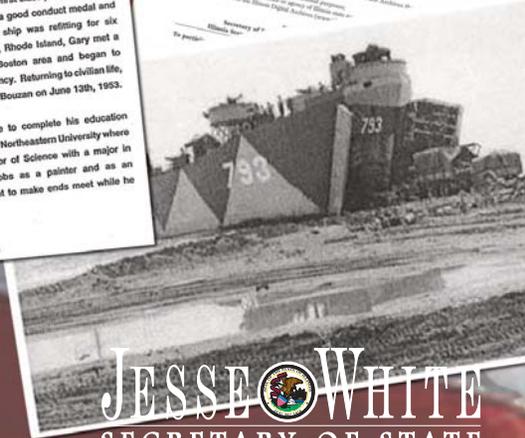
In 1948, he volunteered for active duty until 1951 in the European Theater of Operations. He earned the rank of first class petty officer and served an honorable discharge with a good conduct medal and six citations. While his ship was refueling for six months at her home port of Newport, Rhode Island, Gary met a young woman from the Boston area and began to harm her with increasing frequency. Returning to civilian life, he married his sweetheart, Gertrude Bouzou on June 13th, 1953.

Trudy's family and his desire to complete his education brought him back to New England to Northeastern University where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in accounting in 1957. He took jobs as a painter and as an apprentice building superintendent to make ends meet while he went to college days.

Illinois Veterans' History Project

Illinois Patriot Information Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____



Photos courtesy of the Illinois Digital Archives.

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JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE



Illinois Veterans' History Project



Honoring our veterans for future generations

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has been a partner with the Library of Congress in the Veterans History Project since November 2003 and officially launched the Illinois Veterans' History Project in November 2005. The Illinois Veterans' History Project began with the collection of written information about Illinois veterans through the use of the Illinois Patriot Information Form.

In September 2007, the Secretary of State's office entered the next phase of the project, collecting oral (audio and video) histories of Illinois veterans. These histories are now available through the Illinois Digital Archives at www.idaillinois.org.

To participate in the Illinois Veterans' History Project, record your history today by completing an Illinois Patriot Information Form at:

www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/ard138.pdf

LINKS:

Video histories may be found at www.youtube.com/user/ilveteransproject/videos

The Illinois Digital Archives contains:

- Illinois Veterans' History Project www.idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/ivhp
- Veteran interview transcripts www.idaillinois.org/cdm/search/collection/ivhp/searchterm/transcript/field/title
- World War II Poster Collection www.idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/isl5

Library of Congress Veterans History Project www.loc.gov/vets

Patriotic Partners
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