

What is Operation Ancestor Search?

- Operation Ancestor Search (OAS) is a free national genealogy training program for Wounded Warriors, their families, and the medical and installation staff responsible for their care.
- OAS provides participants with the knowledge and tools that allow them to conduct their own genealogy research as they recover from their injuries at military hospitals and medical centers across the country.
- OAS was developed by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) and is operated through its state societies and local chapters across the country.
- OAS participating programs are currently fully staffed by volunteers.

Operating Principles:

- OAS is open to all armed services members in a patient status, their accompanying family members and their military caregivers.
- OAS does not charge any participant for the resources or training provided.
- OAS is not a recruiting tool for the SAR; it does not limit participation based on potential eligibility to join the SAR.
- OAS is based on the premise that the genealogy expertise within the SAR is a resource that can be used to give back to the U.S. service members who were injured in their service to our nation.
- Many of the wounded soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines have a long road to recovery and spend months, if not years, recuperating from their injuries at military hospitals.
- OAS provides these brave men and women a respite from the constant reminders of their injuries.
- OAS provides injured service members with the knowledge and tools that allow them to conduct their genealogy research as they recover from their injuries.
- SAR volunteers provide genealogy training classes, work sessions and individual assistance to the OAS participants at the military hospitals.
- OAS offers genealogy resources to the injured service members – most notably, free access to the databases of **Ancestry.com**, the program's major national sponsor.

Genealogy Work Sessions:

- Conducted on a regular basis by knowledgeable genealogists and family historians.
- Basic introduction to genealogical principles and how to conduct the research.
- Online databases such as Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, Newspapers.com, Ellisland.org, etc.
- National resources such as the SAR and DAR libraries, Library of Congress, National Archives, etc.
- Local and state resources such as libraries, archives, courthouses, historical and genealogical societies.
- Handouts to get started, family tree charts, etc.

Battle Buddies:

- Local SAR and other support volunteers provide genealogy assistance to soldiers conducting research.
- Individual assistance on case-by-case basis (participants encouraged to do as much as possible.)
- Each participant is eligible.
- Reintegration Program with nationally affiliated NSSAR local chapters, in cooperation with local and state members of the national Federation of Genealogical Societies, local and regional libraries, lineage societies, and other groups and individuals who lend their support with training, reintegration and mentoring after the Wounded Warriors transition back to their local communities.