When audiences arrive March 24 and 25 to watch Voices of Valor, the play based on interviews from the Project, they’ll be in for an additional treat: an exhibit of photographs from the Project, sponsored by Humanities Texas.

Project staff won a competitive grant from Humanities Texas to organize the exhibit, which will feature photographs from the Project archives, historic and contemporary, as well as text from oral history interviews. The exhibit, Images of Valor: U.S. Latinos & Latinas and WWII, will be displayed in the lobby of the B. Iden Payne Theater, in the Winship Drama Building, at UT Austin campus in conjunction with Voices of Valor. Visitors will receive a free companion booklet as part of the exhibit.

Voices of Valor is a play being produced by UT Austin’s Performing Arts Center in partnership with Arizona State University’s Public Events and the WWII Project. The script, written by award-winning playwright/journalist James E. Garcia, was adapted from the WWII Project oral history interviews. It brings to life the words and experiences of Latinos of the WWII generation through the portrayals of six actors.

Voices of Valor will feature six stand-alone two-sided panels, covered in plexi-glass, and framed in oak. Humanities Texas is considering the possibility of taking the exhibit as part of its traveling collection, available to local communities.

Tickets for Voices of Valor are $18-$10. They are available at: www.utpac.org, (512) 477-7070, Texas Box Office outlets, Austin HEB and Central Market stores, and UT Performing Arts Center ticket offices at Bass Concert Hall (noon–6 p.m., Monday–Friday) and Hogg Auditorium (10 a.m.–2 p.m., Monday–Friday).

Also, in conjunction with “Voices of Valor,” the U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project presents its third national symposium: “World War II & Latina/o Cultural Citizenship.” The forum includes presentations by scholars, excerpts from actual oral history interviews and a roundtable discussion with WWII-era Latinos. The public is invited to attend the free forum, which takes place from 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. at the UT Performing Arts Center’s McCullough Theatre.
**Tribute**

*Refugio Miguel Vasquez*

Date of Birth: January 17, 1920  
Location: Laredo, Texas

*During the Depression, Vasquez lied about his age to join the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he worked as a blaster to help build roads and bridges in Colorado.*

He joined the Army on Feb. 2, 1942, and was assigned to the 756th Tank Battalion. Vasquez first saw combat on Sept. 17, 1943, in Paestum, Italy, attached to the 45th Infantry Division. Vasquez was wounded by shrapnel southwest of Oliveto Citra, Italy, on Sept. 22, 1943. He returned to his unit to continue fighting on Jan. 29, 1944, and his battalion was the first Allied unit into Cassino. He was shipped back to the States on March 27, 1944, to have the shrapnel removed. Deemed well enough to serve, Vasquez was again sent to Europe on April 25, 1945 — this time with the 1st Reconnaissance Troop in the 1st Infantry Division.

Since the war was already over, Vasquez served in Germany’s occupation until his discharge. He wrote to Wilhelmina Cooremans during his time overseas and married her on Jan. 17, 1946. The couple had two children, Michael and Rene.

*Refugio Vasquez passed away on Dec. 27, 1991.*

*Story based on information provided by Wilhelmina Vasquez.*

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**Tribute**

*Joe Belden*

Date of Birth: March 13, 1915  
Location: Eagle Pass, Texas

*Joe Belden was a pioneer in the polling field. His leadership roles included: founding the Bureau of Student Opinion, the first systematic nationwide survey of college students; originator of the Texas Poll, the first regular statewide polling system; leader of International Research Associates, the first market research firm in Mexico.*

He graduated from UT-Austin, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1939. After graduating he started the Texas Poll and his own market research company. He took a break from polling when war broke out and he joined the Navy in 1942. He spent almost two years in the Panama Canal Zone before being transferred to Washington in 1944, where he was director of research for the Navy’s Department of Public Affairs and created surveys of military personnel. At the end of the WWII, he left the Navy with the rank of lieutenant and returned to his work with Belden Associates, a leading research firm, from which he retired in 1980.

Joe Belden met his wife, Eugenia Nash, while attending UT and working in the University archives as a Spanish to English translator. They married on Feb. 8, 1941. The couple had three children and three grandchildren.

*Joe Belden passed away on June 16, 2005.*

*Story based on information provided by son, Tom Belden.*
Preserving Family Heirlooms
by David Gracy II, UT-School of Information

The most important things that one generation can leave to the next are documents—photographs, letters, diaries, scrapbooks, and the like—because these give roots to the succeeding generation. Time after time, the items that victims of Hurricane Katrina said they regretted the most to lose were family photographs and other documents of their parents, grandparents, and other family members. The reason was because, unlike houses, cars, furniture, and such—the one-of-a-kind documents cannot be replaced. Once lost, they and the information in them are gone forever.

To preserve documents of all kinds, there are general and specific actions than can be taken which will extend the life of any document.

**Actions one can take that will help preserve any document**

**Display copies of documents, not originals.** Light fades and deteriorates documents, especially photographs. If you want to hang a photograph on the wall, make a copy and hang the copy.

**Avoid folding documents that do not already have permanent creases.** Folding stresses the fibers of paper at the folds. This is especially true of paper manufactured in an acid process, such as newsprint. To unfold a document that has been folded for so long that the crease seems permanent, humidify the document by placing it in a high-humidity environment (as a closed, steamy bathroom) for several hours until the paper relaxes. Then flatten it.

**Store documents in as constant a temperature and humidity as you can, and where air can circulate.** Large changes in temperature and humidity from years in attics, utility rooms with washing machines and dryers, and stored in undisturbed facilitates, migration of acid between documents filed next to, or piled on top of, each other. This results in paper becoming brittle and flaking when handled. The stale air in closets, rarely opened, often is higher in humidity, which also facilitates acid migration.

**Store document in as clean an environment as possible.** Avoid storage in locations subject to a lot of gritty dust. Store documents in boxes and acid-free folders made for the purpose. Boxes of uniform size stack better. Avoid shoe boxes, because they offer little protection. Put documents in folders, because folders protect documents during handling between storage and the place where the documents are to be viewed. Acid-free folders are better than plain manila folders.

**Actions important to specific kinds of documents**

**Photographs:** Identify people and places in the image. Photographs of unknown people in unknown places have little to no value to family members, or anyone else. Write on the back of photographs using a number 2 pencil; don’t write directly on the image itself. (Write it lightly).

Avoid putting your fingers on the emulsion side of prints and slides. Oils from your hands eat into the emulsion, leaving an impression that cannot be removed. Handle photographs on their edges.

**Scrapbooks:** In making a scrapbook, be sure to use acid-free paper. Use photograph corners to put photographs and documents in the scrapbook, rather than using glue or tape. Never use cellophane tape, masking tape, electrician’s tape, or any other press-on tape.

**Letters:** Keep envelopes and letters together, but take letters out of envelopes in order to store the letters flat.

**Newspaper clippings:** Since newsprint has a shorter life than other paper, to preserve a clipping, photocopy it onto acid-free paper. Then save the photocopy.
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