TRANSITIONING VETERANS COLLABORATIVE

ISCOPES — INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDENT COMMUNITY-ORIENTED PREVENTION ENHANCEMENT SERVICE — *Collaborating For Health*

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY — WASHINGTON, DC

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Who We Are

We are the first ever undergraduate ISCOPES Learning Community representing the following disciplines:

- *Biology*
- *Chemistry*
- *Public Health*
- *Health Sciences*
- *Emergency Medicine*
- *Exercise Science*

Jackie, Liz, and Donna set-up 10,000 cups of water and gatorade at water station 1 for the Army 10 miler.

Satya and Jay celebrate a veteran's 101st birthday at the VA Medical Center.

Serving those who served us

Our team focused on serving veterans, as well as their friends and family members, who experience ongoing transition from military to civilian life. We also seek to lay the groundwork for future undergraduate ISCOPES teams.

Service Activities

Through partnerships with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Library of Congress, and GW Veteran Service Initiative, and with guidance from our faculty coach, Paul Tschudi, and key stakeholders: Courtney Gieber, Heidi Wolff, and Geoff Ball, our team participated in several activities throughout the year including:

- Service Saturday with The Mission Continues – repairing a burned down playground, painting, cleaning up a creek
- Army 10 Miler - to provide water and to support runners (many of whom were veterans and wounded warriors)
- *Alive Day* Movie Screening and Panel Discussion
- Foggy Bottom Veteran's Day Event – making rose gifts for Gold Star Moms
- Veteran's 101st Birthday at the VA Medical Center
- Making Connections with Friends and Family of Veterans – Meet and Greet Event
- Clothing Drive to support our unhoused DC neighbors and veterans
- Veteran Day of Service – organized by GW Veteran Service Initiative

New Initiative

- The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

- Our ISCOPES team and our neighbors at the National Veterans Center invited Bob Patrick, Director of the Veterans History Project, to come to GW to provide an overview of this worthy endeavor.
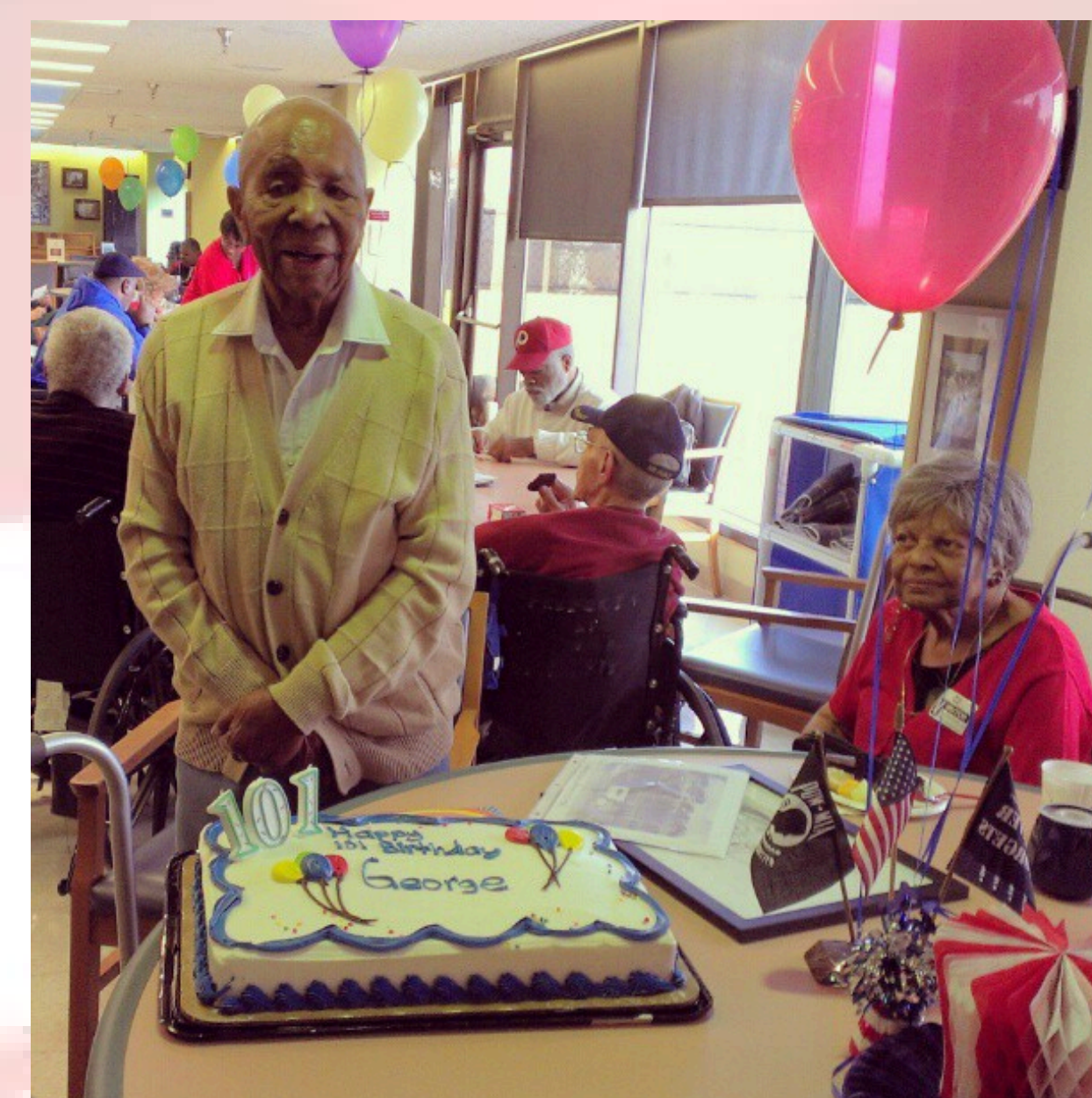
Why interview veterans?

"I learned, through working with ISCOPES, how much veterans are affected by their service. I think this is something that needs to be brought to the public eye and recorded. I think students, especially, can learn a lot from their veteran peers."

"I would like to let the public know about the 'forgotten' stories and hidden gems every veteran deserves to share."

" Sharing stories could encourage and support wives, husbands, friends, and families who may have experienced similar situations."

"Story telling, or more accurately – active listening to storytelling – builds understanding and empathy in the 'story receiver' for events, experiences, and cultures they may otherwise misunderstand. The story makes the storyteller a real person, relatable, comparable, and meaningful to the receiver. Storytelling transforms culture in a powerful way."

Happy 101st Birthday, George!

Honoring a veteran's service and life.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Recommendations

- Provide structure to support volunteers who want to participate in the Veterans History Project
- Collaborate with the VA Medical Center to serve and/or interview retired veterans
- Offer support to the new National Veterans Center through volunteer services to form a more cohesive community for student veterans on campus
- Offer support to the Veterans Service Initiative to assist with the organization and implementation of the Veterans Day of Service
- Offer support to the GW Student Veterans organization

Acknowledgments

- Our team would like to acknowledge the effort of our faculty coach, Paul Tschudi, for all of his hard work and for his contributions to our project.
- Thanks to Hien for hosting several of our team meetings and supporting us with our events.
- Geoff – Thanks for connecting us to projects and contacts.
- Courtney and Heidi - Thanks for lending your perspectives and introducing us to knew project ideas.