

Report on Operation Ancestor Search following the 123rd NSSAR Congress
Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, MO, July 7-10, 2013
Submitted by Rick Kincaid, OAS Program Director

Current Status Report:

- Rick Kincaid joined the NSSAR headquarters staff as the new OAS Program Director on April 22, 2013.
- Information toolkit has been produced and is being distributed.
- OAS website has been developed and is being revised and expanded. Dick Norris, a counselor and webmaster for the Louisville SCORE office and member of the SAR's Louisville Thruston chapter, has offered to assist as the new webmaster for the OAS website.
- An OAS information table at Congress provided the opportunity for the program director to meet state presidents, state OAS chairmen, and many others who are currently involved with the OAS program or who are interested in developing the program at facilities in their states and local communities.
- There are currently four current OAS facilities in operation:
 1. Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
 2. Brooke Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX
 3. Fort Belvoir, VA
 4. Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, DC

The following facilities should open in the near (?) future:

5. Armed Forces Retirement Home, Gulfport, MS
6. Ireland Army Hospital, Fort Knox, KY
7. VA Medical Center, Portland, OR
8. Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Tacoma, WA

Following are the remaining five largest facilities and poly-trauma centers that we are targeting to be open or in start-up by the end of 2013:

9. Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego, CA
10. Minneapolis, MN VA Medical Center (Poly-Trauma Center)
11. McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, VA (Poly-Trauma Center)
12. Haley VA Medical Center, Tampa, FL
13. Palo Alto, CA VA Medical Center

There are a number of other smaller facilities that hopefully will "piggy-back" on the opening of some of the larger ones when some local chapters see what their counterparts have done. These could easily raise the overall total number of facilities to 20 or more by the end of the year (or at least in start-up.)

Based on the responses received at Congress, I believe that Operation Ancestor Search will "snowball" during the coming year. My primary objective is to continue recruiting and cultivating state and local OAS leadership. Communication and promotion is the critical factor for increasing awareness, and I will utilize all the resources at my disposal (and any additional resources that I can solicit) to promote and cross-promote the program.

This promotion necessarily will be both internally within the SAR and externally among other groups and organizations which can provide valuable resources and assistance by partnering with our state societies and local chapters in developing and operating the program. These primarily will be local, state and national genealogical and historical societies, public libraries and research facilities, DAR chapters, and others.