

FBI Oral History Heritage Program

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Inc. is to promote the welfare of its members, preserve the friendships and loyalties achieved while Special Agents of the FBI and to support the FBI and law enforcement as positive forces in American Society.

Organization Vision Statement

- We will help members and families in distress and provide scholarship support to their families.
- We will provide publications and communications links, conventions and other social activities which will promote and preserve friendships among our members.
- We will provide membership services to include job placement, insurance plans, retirement services, and membership directories.
- We will be an active and effective supporter of the FBI and law enforcement in general by preserving the FBI's historical record, aid in investigations as requested and defend the Bureau from unfair media attacks.

With the Oral History Heritage Program, the Society has expanded its mission to include the preservation and dissemination of FBI history from the perspective of the men and women who created it.

The activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have played a major role in the development of modern American culture and society. A good portion of this vital history as it pertains to the men and women who form the organization remains hidden from view in government archives. The memories of the FBI Agents in the field as well as those who rose to be executives can bring life to government documents and their narratives are crucial to correct distortions and demonstrate the human-side of the Bureau's role in such areas as the Special Intelligence Service's work in countering Nazi and Fascist incursions in Latin America during World War II, activities in support of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s, and the battle against organized crime and counterterrorism endeavors from the 1940s to the current era.

We are committed to capture this past and make it available to scholars, students, and the general public. The Society holds the unique position of trust that is necessary to gain the cooperation and candid recollections and reflections of former Special Agents, especially those of an advanced age who possess knowledge of the Bureau before and during World War II.

In keeping with the Society's mission, the FBI Oral History Heritage Program responds to the need to preserve the FBI's story with testimony from its members. The Society is uniquely positioned to make this history available to the public. Our membership brings unparalleled access to key individuals and the knowledge of who can tell the stories being pursued. The oral histories will obtain candid and previously unattainable observations regarding the Bureau. They will address insiders' views of the overall nature of the FBI experience-including controversial endeavors and personnel, as well as its positive contributions.

To date, approximately 550 interviews and memoirs have been completed and 237 FBI oral histories are currently housed at the National Law Enforcement Museum (<http://research.nlem.org>).