



## **Fall 2017 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY RAAC Report**

### **NEH OFFERS EMERGENCY GRANTS FOLLOWING HURRICANES:**

The National Endowment for the Humanities urges libraries, museums, archives, colleges, historical societies, and other humanities institutions impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria to apply for emergency grants of up to \$30,000 to preserve and protect their collections. The NEH will award as much as \$1 million total to assist in the recovery efforts. For more information, or to apply for a grant, visit the NEH Newroom webpage at <https://www.neh.gov/news/press-release/2017-09-07>.

### **BUDGET BATTLE CONTINUES IN THE SENATE:**

Following the passage of an omnibus FY18 funding bill in the House in September, the battle to keep history, archival, and education programs adequately funded has moved to the Senate. The Senate Appropriations Committee has cleared bills covering education programs, the Library of Congress, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and more crucial programs will be considered soon.

### **VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT COMPLETES WWI WEB SERIES:**

In September, the Veterans History Project (VHP) launched “A World Overturned,” the final chapter in a 3-part, online web series titled “Experiencing War,” dedicated to U.S. veterans of the First World War. “A World Overturned” highlights 8 digitized veterans’ stories about how World War I forever changed their lives, shared through original photographs, letters, diaries, memoirs and other materials. This series is presented as a companion site to the Library of Congress exhibit “Echoes of the Great War.” See <http://loc.gov/vets/stories/wwi-part3.html>

### **TRUMP COULD BLOCK RELEASE OF JFK ASSASSINATION DOCUMENTS:**

On July 24, the National Archives released a group of documents (the first of several expected releases), along with 17 audio files, previously withheld in accordance with the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992.

This set of 3,810 documents is the first to be processed for release, and includes FBI and CIA records—441 documents previously withheld in full and 3,369 documents previously released with portions redacted. The National Archives is required by law to release the remaining government documents related to Kennedy's assassination by October 26. However, President Trump could block the release if national security or law enforcement agencies ask him to intervene. The National Archives has not said whether any agencies have appealed the release of the documents. Obviously if any records continue to be withheld it will create a great deal of controversy. Stay tuned!

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