The Florida State University is honored to be home to the nation’s largest private collection of World War II memorabilia – The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience. Items on display include a picture album once stored in Hitler’s office, a bottle of scotch perfectly preserved from the Battle of the Bulge, silk maps, and letters.

The WWII Institute is an accessible, interactive archive situated on the campus of The Florida State University within the Department of History. Founded in 1997, the Institute focuses on educating students about the most influential war in the modern world. An equally important role of the Institute is to preserve the legacies of all WWII veterans, both American and foreign alike. Additionally, the Institute conveys wartime experiences through oral histories, letters, photographs, and diaries. Most of the Institute’s memorabilia have been donated by veterans and family members.

"It has been said that we stand on the shoulders of giants," said Tom Brokaw, donor and honorary chair of the World War II Institute advisory board. "Please join my wife and me in ensuring that people of future generations will always remember this."

After the 1998 publication of his book The Greatest Generation, Brokaw received countless letters, photographs, and artifacts related to World War II that he subsequently donated to the Institute. Most recently, he and his wife, Meredith, have created an endowment with a gift of $100,000. The fund is named The Baumgarten Gibbons Endowed Fund in honor of two longtime friends who served in World War II.

What better time than now to join the Brokaws to honor your own family members or friends who served in the conflict that changed the world and defined an entire generation?

No matter the size of your gift, we are profoundly grateful to be the recipient of your philanthropy. For more information about how to support the Institute, please contact Nancy Smilowitz at 850-644-9324 or nsmilowi@fsu.edu

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