



Remarkable book that features the untold stories of WWII veterans

# THE LAST GOOD WAR

## The Faces and Voices of World War II

Photographs by Thomas Sanders | Text by Veronica Kavass | Introduction by Hampton Sides

"Every day we lose a few more of the Greatest Generation...Savor these powerful images and words, and take them as your cue. Seek out veterans close to you, talk to them, hear their stories... appreciate the fact that history is living right in front of you."

—Hampton Sides, from the INTRODUCTION

World War II remains one of the most galvanizing and defining events in the history of America. Seemingly overnight, the entire nation unified behind a singular cause. By 1945, the size of the U.S. armed forces had grown from two to twelve million men and women of every color, religion, and creed. An entire generation's identity was forged, in part, by what many still refer to as the "last good war."

Sixty years later, a young photographer named Thomas Sanders began traveling the country photographing and interviewing hundreds of World War II veterans. The more he shot, the more he listened, and the more captivated he became by their memories of the war. Veronica Kavass, a writer and interviewer with StoryCorps, joined the project and spent countless hours with these men and women, recording their vivid accounts as Tom recorded their storied faces.

*The Last Good War: The Faces and Voices of World War II* is a richly illustrated chronicle of courage and hardship, sacrifice and determination. The harsh reality of combat is tempered by tender, poignant moments. The overwhelming anguish of lost brothers-in-arms sits alongside stories of enduring friendships. The war brought Americans in touch with people from all over the world—some they fought and some they fought next to, from the beaches of Normandy to the frozen plains of Russia, the North African deserts and the mountains of Japan. They came, these volunteers and draftees, from everywhere and for every reason: from the young woman pulled from her college and covertly trained to break German submarine codes, to the soldier who stormed Hitler's castle home, these pilots, soldiers, marines, and sailors each provide a unique window into American history.

There are two million World War II veterans still alive today, but with each passing day there are fewer and fewer. The images and memories of these men and woman, collected in these pages, preserve a profound piece of America's history. Their past offers us a lasting and powerful perspective on today's world, and defines the true price of freedom.

**10 state author tour including:**  
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**Featured program at the National WWII Museum's Veterans Day celebration.**

**The Last Good War:**  
**The Faces and Voices of World War II**  
Photographs by Thomas Sanders  
Text by Veronica Kavass  
Introduction by Hampton Sides  
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THOMAS SANDERS began photographing WWII veterans while studying at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After receiving his BFA, he continued his studies in the Los Angeles studios of noted photographers while working on his veterans series, which was featured in the 2007 PDN Photo Annual among other publications. Sanders has successfully worked with a variety of clients, including Saatchi and Saatchi, BBDO, Tide, and numerous others. He resides in Redondo Beach, CA.

VERONICA KAVASS was raised in Nashville, holds a Masters in Curation and Criticism from Chelsea College of Art in London, and has trained as an oral historian through her work with StoryCorps.

HAMPTON SIDES is editor-at-large for *Outside* magazine and the author of the international best-seller, *Ghost Soldiers* (Doubleday), which was the basis for the 2005 Miramax film, "The Great Raid." *Ghost Soldiers* won the 2002 PEN USA award for non-fiction. His *Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin* (Doubleday) was just published.

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