

Historian & Media Relations Newsletter

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Photos: Tips, Tricks and Reminders

2025-2026 National Historian & Media Relations

Ambassador Kristin DiGiacomo

This is all quoted from our National Ambassador's Blog#2.
You can find all National Ambassador Blogs in: **MALTA ~ Member Resources~ National Program Blogs!**

"Use the rule of thirds

Using the rule of thirds will improve the look and feel of your photos and create balanced and visually appealing images. The rule of thirds is a compositional guideline in photography that suggests dividing an image into nine equal parts with two horizontal and two vertical lines and placing the principal elements along these lines or at their intersection points. Your smartphone allows you to enable grid lines when you take a photo, and those lines will make it easier for you to follow the rule of thirds. The grid is two vertical and two horizontal lines spaced equally apart. Professional photographers know not to center everything on the screen because it's not visually appealing. So, if you want to take your photos to the next level, use the rule of thirds and position your subject where those lines intersect.

Do not zoom

It is better to get closer to your subject than to zoom in, especially if you are using a smartphone. Zooming can cause the picture to look blurry or grainy. You also want to leave room for things to be cropped out if necessary. Tap on your subject After you frame your shot, before you touch the shutter button to take the picture, tap on your subject. This tells your phone where to focus so the image comes out sharper and less blurry.

Candid photos

While candid photos are great for capturing our members in the moment and in action, there are instances of candid photos that should not be used on social media. Those include photos where individuals have their eyes closed, photos where people are eating (or have their mouths open), photos where individuals may be cropped at their joints (ankles, wrists, elbows) and photos that are blurry."

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Historian Book Captions Continued

Beyond the Basics: (Who, What, When, Where, Why)- Make It Memorable!

Add one of these elements to transform a basic caption into a compelling story:

A quote from someone in the photo - "As member Sally Jones said, 'Seeing the veteran's face light up made my whole day.'" **The impact in numbers** - "This food drive collected 247 pounds of non-perishable goods for 18 veteran families"

A personal touch - "This was the 10th consecutive year we've held this event"

Connection to mission - "Through this activity, we directly supported 25 homeless veterans transitioning to permanent housing"

Caption Length Guidelines:

Minimum: One complete sentence with all 5 W's
Sweet spot: 2-3 sentences (5 W's + impact or quote)
Maximum: One short paragraph (4-5 sentences)