

Education Program Endowments



Executive Summary:

The National World War II Museum is a special place that encourages learning – at all ages – and millions of people have come to recognize and appreciate the significance of World War II and the men and women who led us to victory in this war that changed the world. In recognition of the Museum’s educational significance and the wide-spread appeal following its opening on June 6, 2000, the Museum was designated by the United States Congress in 2003 as “America’s National World War II Museum.” The Museum has gained national acclaim with a #1 ranking in *USA Today’s* listing of “Best Places to Learn U.S. Military History,” and is an affiliate of the esteemed Smithsonian Institution. Since its opening, membership has grown to over 180,000 people nationwide, including more than 64,000 World War II veterans.

An integral component of The National World War II Museum’s capital expansion project is the campaign to build the endowment. Gifts to the endowment will provide essential funding for the educational mission of the institution in perpetuity – attracting the best and the brightest historians, educators, and leaders to the Museum. Endowments will also support vital research, collections, and special exhibits – helping the Museum to preserve and celebrate the American

experience in the World War II years. Schools across the country will benefit from the vast resources of knowledge gathered at the Museum about World War II and its relevance today.

Center for Research and Education

The National World War II Museum features multi-faceted interactive exhibits covering the D-Days of Normandy and the Pacific, and the home front effort – including over 10,000 artifacts and 3,000 oral histories of World War II veterans and home front workers. Based on the vision of famed historian, Stephen E. Ambrose and his deep appreciation for the citizen soldier, the Museum has embraced the stories of veterans across the country. Their oral histories form a foundation for valuable cross-generational learning and sharing, and are an integral component of the Museum’s national education program.

The commitment to education at The National World War II Museum comes with an understanding that in today’s world, the use of technology in a museum setting has the potential to change the way in which information and instruction is delivered to teachers and students, and to those who want to learn more about this significant time in the history of our country and our world. New technology has allowed the Museum to bring World War II history into millions of schools and homes across America – helping us to fulfill our mission as the nation’s preeminent educational resource on World War II.