

United States Freedom Pavilion



Executive Summary:

The United States Freedom Pavilion will allow visitors to view World War II through the eyes of an American citizen who is called to war, experiencing the galvanizing effects of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the country's mobilization. This pavilion has a dual role of educating and orienting visitors both intellectually and emotionally through a series of galleries that form the context and background of events that led to the war, while immersing visitors in an experiential journey that evokes the spirit, attitudes and tone of the period. The United States Freedom Pavilion will serve as the gateway to The Campaigns Pavilion and the entirety of World War II, and all that follows.

Union Station, on the first floor, will portray our country's transformation into a nation at war. The themed galleries will illustrate how the declaration of war energized the whole country, and redirected attention and priorities. The simple, but vital, message is that the war drew young men and women from across the country, taking them from their diverse civilian lives and bringing them together in a new situation with common goals and experiences. A re-creation of a train station will symbolize the entry point from which many soldiers departed for war, and will become the starting point for a visitor's journey through the Museum – complete with actual ticketing, train car, diner, and news stand.

Prelude to War on the second floor will serve as a preamble to war – painting a picture of the world as it appeared at the outbreak of the war, and offering some insight into how it had taken shape, as well as the deep economic depression and isolationism of the American people. This gallery will also highlight the psychological impact of Pearl Harbor, and the effect this monumental event had on all who lived through it – arousing a complex mix of fear, uncertainty, anger, determination, and host of other powerful emotions that created a powerful spirit of national unity. *Prelude to War's* main purpose is to familiarize visitors with the *global* events and conflicts and American isolationist foreign policy that led to the outbreak of a *global* war.

Home Front on the third floor will allow visitors to experience the war through a citizen's eyes. This gallery will explore what it meant to be a nation fully at war, with the economy, industry, civilian life, and even the entertainment industry enlisted in the effort. *Home Front* will take visitors through the fear of attacks close to home, shortages and rationing, scientific advances of the Manhattan project, and into the heroic industrial production which fueled Allied victory.