

# Victory

Fall 2013

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR PATRIOTS CIRCLE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM  
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## The National WWII Museum Named Travelers' Choice® 2013 Winner by TripAdvisor®

TripAdvisor®, the world's largest travel site, announced the winners of its Travelers' Choice Attractions awards based on feedback from millions of TripAdvisor travelers. The National WWII Museum, currently ranked #1 in New Orleans attractions, was named a Travelers' Choice Attraction for 2013.

The National WWII Museum was named the #7 museum in the United States and #14 worldwide for 2013. Other US museums in the top 10 included the National Air and Space Museum, the National Naval Aviation Museum and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"The highest compliment we can receive is from the visitors themselves," said Dr. Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, president and chief executive officer of The National WWII Museum. "The Museum portrays the American experience of WWII with world-class exhibits that we hoped would attract the people of America and the world, and they have."

Expansion continues at the Museum's six-acre campus in New Orleans, thanks to support from the State of Louisiana and supporters across the nation. Construction



is well underway on another new pavilion, Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters, which is slated for completion in 2015.

The Museum is grateful to you for the role you play in recommending that your friends and associates become Patriots Circle members and encouraging their visits.

Ken Copper and his lovely wife, Linda, are Patriots Circle members and enthusiastic ambassadors for The National WWII Museum. The stories of America's role in World War II have fascinated them throughout their lives. Ken's father, Hubert Eugene "Cop" Copper, was a pilot on the escort carrier USS *Cabot* in Bull Halsey's fleet. Linda's dad, Harold Buckingham, served on the home front operating a trucking company in South Dakota. The Coppers' good friends, Roger O'Neil and Denny Krick, accompanied them on a recent visit to the Museum. All three guys served in the military but it's Denny, the WWII veteran, who is the centerpiece of Ken's blog, *OUT OF MY MIND*. We share it with you here.



## *The WWII Museum Will Renew Your American Soul*

*by Ken Copper*

It opened in June 2000 as a tribute to the two million men who were members of the Allied D-Day Normandy invasion, the largest military endeavor in history. Now, in 2013, it has evolved to become The National WWII Museum and it is a masterpiece. Located on Magazine Street in New Orleans, the Museum is a beautiful, multifaceted encomium to a generation of men and women who gave their all to save the world from the evil of the Third Reich and Imperial Japan. Without these individuals, most of us wouldn't be here or, if we were, we might be speaking a different language.

If you haven't already visited, put this wonderful enterprise on your bucket list and, if you can, see it with a veteran.

Veterans are special at this Museum — especially those who served in this world war.

Today, my wife and I wound up a five-day visit to the Big Easy and the Museum; truthfully, I can't recall ever having an experience equal to it. Joining us were good friends Denny Krick and Roger O'Neil. Roger, like me, is a veteran of the Vietnam era. Unlike me, he actually spent time in Southeast Asia while I protected cows and made certain that Kansas remained free of commies and Vietcong. Denny, eighty-seven on his last birthday, is a WWII vet who served in the South Pacific. All of us are members of the same local California gym and had talked of making the trip to New Orleans for quite some time before finally putting it together. Now we all want to go again. It's that good.

Historian and author, the late Stephen Ambrose, dreamed of the Museum and brought it to life with Nick Mueller, who carries on the mission with ever-expanding exhibits and new pavilions including the recently dedicated US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. It will take you more than a full day to see it all, including the John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, where you can view the continuing restoration of PT-305 and eventually other WWII-era boats like the Higgins boat, conceived and built by Andrew Jackson Higgins in

*WWII vets like Denny Krick get special treatment at the Museum.*



*Visitors are thrilled to meet America's WWII veterans. This family is seen thanking Denny for his service and their freedom.*



New Orleans. The Higgins landing craft was critical to our victory at Normandy and other combat theaters.

World War II cost 65 million lives. Try to grasp the enormity of it if you can. America was one of the more fortunate participants, as we lost slightly more than 400,000 of our best and brightest. Sixteen million men and women served. Then there were those who served on the home front, working tirelessly in factories, hospitals and a multitude of other jobs to support our troops. We all know these people and their service and should thank them in every way we can.

The perfect means to show your appreciation would be to escort a member of America's Greatest Generation to The National WWII Museum in New Orleans. There are only 1.2 million of these wonderful selfless Americans left and we are losing somewhere between 700 and 800 of them a day. Do it before you and they run out of time.

Like hot soup on a cold winter's day, The National WWII Museum will warm you and renew your American soul.

*Victory* is published quarterly by The National WWII Museum, Inc. as an exclusive benefit to members of the Patriots Circle. We invite your input and correspondence. Send all comments, queries and address changes to: The National WWII Museum, Attn: Patriots Circle, 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130-3813; 1-504-528-1944, ext. 305; toll-free 1-877-813-3329, ext. 305; or email: [sue.lampton@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:sue.lampton@nationalww2museum.org).

## Featured Artifact

Original items related to the “E” award are part of the Museum’s collection. Kimberly Guise, Curator/Content Specialist, provided this explanation of the “E” award in an earlier post on the Museum’s website:



### Higgins Receives “E” Award

Seventy-one years ago, on 13 September 1942, Higgins Industries in New Orleans received the Army-Navy “E” Award for excellence in production. The presentation ceremony was held on a Sunday afternoon, at the company’s Industrial Canal plant and was to serve the dual purpose of dedication of this new plant.

The “E” Award was given between July 1942 and December 1945 to businesses that achieved a high standard in war production, training, plant safety and labor management. The company received a ceremonial pennant for display and each employee received a silver lapel pin. Like certain military awards, additional distinctions in the form of stars could be added to the initial award. Only around 4% of all companies engaged in war production received the Army-Navy Production Award, as the “E” Award was also known.



“E” Award from Lester G. Briwa, Sr., engine tester at Higgins Industries. Gift of Lester G. Briwa, Jr. 2001.148.003

Our collection consists of objects ranging in size from tiny uniform buttons to large military aircraft. Our artifacts and documents are enormously important to bringing history to life. Through your annual support in the Patriots Circle, we have been able to begin digitizing our collections of artifacts and oral histories to offer greater access to these invaluable pieces of WWII history. For more information about donating items to the Museum, go to: [www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org) and click on the GIVE tab or call 504-528-1944 ext. 601.



Patriots Circle members support the ongoing operations of the Museum, with an important emphasis on the Museum’s educational programming. Here’s a great idea from one of our members and one in which we hope you’ll participate:

### PASS IT ON!

This past spring, Patriots Circle members Tony and Karen Buckingham from Maryland called our Director of Education, Kenneth Hoffman, with an offer to return their complimentary Museum passes that are provided to give away to friends and associates (one of the many Patriots Circle member benefits). Tony asked that the passes be given to some deserving teachers or students. Kenneth readily accepted the offer and the Education Department gave those passes to a public school that had to stop taking field trips due to budget constraints.

Tony’s generosity has inspired us to offer you an opportunity to return your complimentary Museum passes as well. Our Education Department will use these passes as prizes for student contests, incentives for teachers using our lesson plans, and to help underserved schools bring their students to the Museum. We’re calling it the **Patriots Circle School Pass program**.

#### Here’s how it works:

If you don’t intend to share your passes with friends this year, write your membership name and number on the back of the tickets and mail them to us. You can use the pre-paid envelope included in this mailing or send directly to:

*Patriots Circle, The National WWII Museum  
945 Magazine Street • New Orleans, LA 70130*

Remember, you do not need these passes for admission to the Museum. Your Patriots Circle membership includes admission for you and your immediate family as long as your membership is active. There is no tax benefit available for sharing your complimentary passes.

Our Education Department produces nationally recognized programs and lessons for students throughout the country, including our award-winning distance learning videoconferences, Operation Footlocker artifact trunks, and our new and growing STEM curriculum for math and science classes. Your membership in the Patriots Circle makes all this possible. Thanks for making a difference in the lives of students and teachers eager to explore the history and lessons of WWII.

Tony and Karen, thanks for your great idea and for **passing it on!**

## What's On at the Museum?

Here are just a few of many exciting events this fall at The National WWII Museum. Remember to check out our website at: [www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org) for more happenings and details! While you're on our website, sign up for eNEWS. Stay connected:



### **Bob Hope: An American Treasure**

Now through October 27th.

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Special Exhibits Gallery

Presented by the World Golf Hall of Fame, this 2200-square-foot exhibit tells the story of Guinness World Records' "most honored" entertainer through a series of 15 themed exhibit display units that celebrate his comedic contributions, achievements in entertainment, relationships with a number of US Presidents and his other passion — golf.

### **Living History Corps**

September 21 and every 3rd Saturday of each month

For more information, call 504-528-1944 x 243.

The Museum's World War II re-enactors, collectively known as the Living History Corps, are local volunteers who enrich the visitor's experience with their wealth of information and stories.

### **Pub Quiz**

September 25 and the last Wednesday of each month

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Stage Door Canteen

For more information, call 504-528-1940.

Test your knowledge of an array of topics, including World War II, at the Museum's Pub Quiz in the Stage Door Canteen. Play one round, or all six. The American Sector restaurant's Happy Hour specials will be extended to players, who can also order off the restaurant menu.

### **Family Workshop: Airborne School**

Saturday, November 16

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Louisiana Memorial Pavilion

Pre-registration is required for workshops.

For more information, call 504-528-1944 x 229.

*Geronimoooooo!* Design, build and test your own parachute, learn about Normandy drop zones and practice hitting your drop zone, go on a behind-the-lines recon mission. Workshops are designed for children ages 8-12 with one adult per three kids required.

## PERFORMANCES AT STAGE DOOR CANTEEN

Purchase tickets at [www.stagedoorcanteen.org](http://www.stagedoorcanteen.org) or call 504-528-1943. Reserve today — performances sell out quickly. Patriots Circle Members receive a discount.

Standard Performance Times

Matinee: 11:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday Brunch: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Evening: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

### **Big Band Hits of the 30s and 40s**

Evening: September 7th and 14th

Our own Victory Big Band presents an evening of dining and dancing. Swing to the greatest hits of Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Harry James, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington and many others. Fine dining provided by Chef John Besh.

### **Thanks for the Memories: Bob Hope and his All-Star Pacific Tour**

Evening: September 20, 21, 27, 28 and October 11, 12, 18

Brunch: September 22 and 29 and October 13 and 20

We are paying tribute to the incredible shows and stars Bob Hope took to war-zone islands during WWII. You are there as a cast of 14 recreate Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, The Andrews Sisters, Dianna Durbin, Carmen Miranda, Frances Langford and Bob himself along with our Victory Swing Band.

### **The Victory Belles Present Spirit of America**

Matinee: September 18 and 25; October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and November 6, 13, 20

Brunch: October 6

This uplifting musical revue will have you beaming with pride and patriotism. Add spectacular dining by Chef John Besh and the American Sector restaurant for the ultimate experience!

### **Jump, Jive & Wail!**

Evening: October 25 and 26

November 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23

Brunch: October 27 and November 3, 10, 17 and 24

Named "Best Original Show" by the Big Easy Theater Awards and now back by popular demand, *Jump, Jive & Wail* features a spectacular cast of ten who bring to life Louis Prima's legendary songs, musicians, vocals and dance. Enjoy such timeless Prima classics as *Sing! Sing! Sing!*, *Just a Gigolo*, *Oh Marie*, *That Old Black Magic*, and *Basin Street Blues*.