Annual Report
2018
On June 10, 2017, The National WWII Museum unfolded a new chapter in fulfilling its mission to tell the complete story of the American experience in the war that changed the world. On this day, the Museum opened its newest permanent exhibit, The Arsenal of Democracy: The Herman and George R. Brown Salute to the Home Front, which explores the events that led to our nation’s involvement in World War II, and how the war was won through the ingenuity and labor of patriotic Americans. Through the exhibit’s personal narratives and evocative artifacts, stories are told of how everyday civilians helped the United States become the world’s arsenal of democracy, and how World War II affected American culture, from rationing to the draft to civil rights.

Before the first visitors even entered The Arsenal of Democracy’s introductory gallery, they were introduced to a narrative that truly embodied the patriotic spirit of the millions of Americans across the Home Front: the story of the Brown Shipbuilding Company. A red and navy blue pennant flag—emblazoned with a large white “E” at its center—immediately grabbed visitors’ eyes at the exhibit’s entryway. The flag represents the great achievements of brothers and engineers Herman and George R. Brown, who together transformed their construction company Brown and Root into a massive production hub—called Brown Shipbuilding Company—capable of turning out high-quality ships at a rapid pace during World War II, despite the fact that the company had never built one. The brothers’ “can-do” spirit inspired the men and women who worked at their newly created Brown Shipbuilding Company, the corporation’s collective endeavors turning out over 350 warships from its Greens Bayou shipyard in Houston. Less than 5% of companies involved in war production received an Army-Navy “E” Award, but Brown Shipbuilding Company received four for their great achievement, and this gifted flag flew proudly upon the shipyard’s mast. Not only did the flag serve as a visible source of pride and inspiration for the workers who had earned it, but it also served as a growing symbol at other factories across the Home Front of how essential the nation’s civilians were to America’s victory. This theme of Americas’ perseverance and resilience spirit continues through stories revealed to visitors as they explore The Arsenal of Democracy’s nine galleries.

Following the opening of The Arsenal of Democracy, the Museum launched a series of initiatives to deepen examine the exhibit’s content. Throughout Fiscal Year 2018, Museum staff hosted various public programming events exploring the American Home Front, opened a special exhibit focusing on Louisiana’s role in the war, and broadcast a distance-learning program about the African American experience in the war, and braze ground on a hotel and conference center named for famed New Orleans boatbuilder Andrew Jackson Higgins. For thousands of visitors, the American Home Front is now at the forefront of their Museum experience, whether in-person at the institution’s campus or via digital outreach.

Through this annual report, we look back at how Fiscal Year 2018’s milestones furthered the Museum’s mission to better engage and interact with current and new audiences. Its pages also visually track the journey visitors make through the immersive The Arsenal of Democracy exhibit itself, demonstrating how the Museum now teaches essential components of the larger war narrative—the road to war and how it was experienced and supported on the US Home Front. In its galleries, visitors learn about the efforts behind the production, innovation, and volunteerism that made Allied victories possible on battlefields all across the globe. In this Annual Report, readers will learn about the engines of investigation, imagination, and presentation that built unforgettable learning experiences for our audiences—through the Museum’s galleries and public programming, and in homes, offices, and classrooms across the country.
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From ingenious discoveries to manufacturing efforts across the Home Front, in Fiscal Year 2018 the Museum’s galleries welcomed new stories and voices of the WWII generation. By incorporating this vital narrative into the Museum experience, we’ve stepped closer towards telling the full story of the American experience in the war that changed the world, and I’m excited to encourage our supporters to continue this journey with us.

Having started my tenure as Board Chairman on July 1, 2018, I am honored to help advance the efforts of my predecessor, Immediate Past Chairman Jim Courter, and I thank him for his dedication and work guiding our Board of Trustees. Through Jim’s leadership, the Museum gained national popularity and international recognition, with the 2017 TripAdvisor Travelers’ Choice® awards ranking the Museum as No. 2 in the nation and No. 2 in the world. By further enriching the visitor experience, new audiences took notice, and I couldn’t be more proud to help take our world-class Museum to its next chapter.

If you’ve visited the Museum recently, you know that construction is well underway on future campus additions, including the Bollinger Canopy of Peace, The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center, and the Hall of Democracy—which will house the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy and the WWII Media and Education Center.

With your support, the Museum’s final pavilion, the Liberation Pavilion, will be completed by 2021. Exploring the end of the war and its lasting legacies, the three-story pavilion will be the capstone to our campus and capture the last leg of our mission—what the war means today. As we move into this crucial period of completing our campus, we must remain focused on reaching our $400 million capital campaign goal and helping connect our supporters with available naming opportunities that offer a unique way to pay tribute to their loved ones who served our country, and help us share personal stories of the war with even greater audiences.

Beyond New Orleans, we continued to expand our educational travel program last year as we took WWII enthusiasts to the very sites where history was made. I was honored to experience the Museum’s inaugural Victory in the Pacific program in March, where guests explored historical sites from Pearl Harbor to Iwo Jima and interacted with WWII veterans, including Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams. Having served in the South Pacific myself, I was able to share with travelers the immensity of the theater and the importance of humor in the face of hardship.

Upon returning from the trip, commemorating the American spirit took center attention as the Museum held its annual American Spirit Awards in June. At the celebration’s capstone gala, philanthropist and WWII veteran Maurice R. “Hank” Greenberg, US Senator John McCain, and Museum and veterans champion Gary Sinise were honored with the American Spirit Award, the institution’s highest honor. The memorable celebration surpassed our fundraising goal of $1 million, a feat made possible by the unwavering support of our entire Museum family.

Looking ahead, I’m thrilled to be part of future milestones, particularly this June when we commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day with two charter cruises to Normandy, a Museum-produced documentary, a new book authored by President & CEO Emeritus Nick Mueller, and an entire slate of programs at the Museum. It is sure to be a moving tribute to what remains the largest, most complicated invasion in history.

As always, I want to thank you—our friends and supporters—for your ongoing commitment to complete one of the most inspiring museums in the world. Together, our efforts will continue to soar.
Letter from the President & CEO

Over the past 18 years, The National WWII Museum has been dedicated to building a world-class campus to honor and share the stories of the brave men, women, and children who all came together to contribute to the war effort and help secure the freedom we enjoy today. Their personal stories of service and sacrifice, tragedy and loss, ingenuity and progress, as well as celebration and inspiration continue to guide our efforts as we near the completion of our physical Museum campus in New Orleans and begin planning for our next phase of growth beyond bricks and mortar.

During this pivotal time for our institution, it is particularly fitting for us to have a WWII veteran leading our efforts as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. As a former radio man and gunner who flew 45 combat missions in SBD Dauntless Dive Bombers, Paul Hilliard deeply understands the urgency and importance of raising the remaining funds needed to finish our exhibit halls and expand our educational initiatives to reach even more students, teachers, and lifelong learners across the country.

Thanks to our great Board leadership and your generous support, the Museum made incredible progress toward reaching these milestones over the past year. We opened two special exhibits on Louisiana’s wartime contributions and the legacy of Bob Hope while also breaking ground on the Hall of Democracy, Bollinger Canopy of Peace, and The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center with all three dedication ceremonies planned for 2019. We continued to break visitation records—attracting 754,465 visitors this year and marking the 13th consecutive year of visitation growth. Over 62,000 students in classrooms across America also participated in our distance-learning programs, several of which highlighted the lesser-known stories of the critical roles that African Americans and Latinos played in the war.

Meanwhile, our Institute for the Study of War and Democracy along with our WWII Media and Education Center are fully established and already developing new programs that will help shape the future of our expansion efforts. This winter, we launched the nation’s first online master’s degree in World War II Studies with Arizona State University, and for the past year we have been partnering with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to assist in locating, identifying, and ultimately returning the remains of WWII veterans still unaccounted for. To help families learn the stories of their loved one’s WWII service, our staff historians and researchers have also introduced WWII Research Services to find and translate military records for the public. As time marches on, we understand that these programs and the entire mission of our Museum will only grow more important each day.

In this year’s Annual Report, we are proud to highlight our newest permanent exhibit, The Arsenal of Democracy: The Herman and George R. Brown Salute to the Home Front, which not only tells the story of why the war was fought but also celebrates the American spirit that inspired the can-do, all-in-this-together movement across the country. It is that same spirit that has made this Museum the success it is today. None of the efforts highlighted in this report would be possible without the dedication of our Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers, and growing number of supporters—now including over 176,000 Charter Members. Thank you for helping us reach these milestones and inspiring us to keep expanding our efforts to share the story of the war that changed the world.
The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.
Museum Unveils The Pelican State Goes to War: Louisiana in World War II

“Wasn’t it wonderful that women got a chance to work and earn, and bring some money into the house? That was marvelous.”

—Rosemary Elfer, Higgins Industries worker and Women’s Army Corps

On July 27, 2017, over 400 guests packed the Museum’s Louisiana Memorial Pavilion for the opening of its original exhibit The Pelican State Goes to War: Louisiana in World War II, presented by The Alta and John Franks Foundation. Museum Curator James Linn collaborated with historical experts across the state to create an exhibit illustrating Louisiana’s contributions to American victory during World War II. Highlights of the state’s efforts displayed in the exhibit included the Louisiana Maneuvers held in 1940 and 1941—when nearly 500,000 American troops trained for war throughout the central part of the state—in addition to Louisiana’s wartime manufacturing efforts, including Higgins Industries’s construction of more than 20,000 vessels and Thibodaux Boiler Works production of over two million artillery shells.

The exhibit not only told the story of Louisiana’s contributions to military training, civilian defense efforts, and wartime manufacturing—which far exceeded that of other states its size—but it also revealed the faces of Louisianans who were instrumental in Allied victory. Those highlighted included well-known figures, such as entrepreneur and boatbuilder Andrew Jackson Higgins, and those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, like Delta Shipbuilding welder Beulah Dugas. Both played important roles in manufacturing naval craft necessary to win the war, and in helping to change public perception about women and African Americans in the workforce. The Pelican State Goes to War visitors learned how Higgins Industries’s seven plants throughout New Orleans were the first in the city to fully integrate a diverse workforce of women, men, African Americans, and Caucasians, all receiving equal pay for equal work. Dugas’s profile also exemplified how gender stereotypes in the workforce were changed during the war, the former seamstress becoming one of thousands of Louisiana women to take part in the wide variety of jobs in vital industries across the state. Altogether, the exhibit showed the role that Louisiana workers played in helping to power a massive effort to support the war through defense industries—despite any differences or hardships—which helped the state become a significant contributor in transforming the nation.

During the course of the exhibit’s run at the Museum, the institution hosted a series of free public programs that complemented the exhibit and educated the public about the multifaceted ways in which Louisiana contributed to the war effort, and how the war itself affected the lives of Louisianans. Made possible by The Alta and John Franks Foundation, the exhibit’s programming held a common connection with the Foundation’s namesake John Franks, who served in World War II and whose family members...
experienced the war firsthand in their town of Haughton, Louisiana.

Displayed in The Joe W. and Dorothy D. Brown Foundation Special Exhibit Gallery, the exhibit ran through April 29, 2018, and will now travel to at least 10 cities across Louisiana, bringing the story of this critical part of the state’s history to the places where it happened. Through its journey, the exhibit will bring another chapter of America’s Home Front efforts to even larger audiences, joining the Museum’s other current traveling exhibits Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy and Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II.

Carole Cotton Winn joins more than 400 guests in the Museum’s Louisiana Memorial Pavilion for the grand opening of The Pelican State Goes to War. Winn provided remarks about artifacts from her father, Lt. Colonel William Davis Cotton, which are featured in the exhibit.

Higgins Industries worker Louis Lanza’s red hard hat is a featured artifact in The Pelican State Goes to War. Hard hats were an important piece of equipment for workers because of the dangers associated with constructing thousands of craft so quickly.

Pamela Cotton Winn addressed more than 50 guests in the Museum’s Louisiana Memorial Pavilion for the grand opening of The Pelican State Goes to War. Winn provided remarks about artifacts from her father, Lt. Colonel William Davis Cotton, which are featured in the exhibit.

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The Alta and John Franks Foundation is proud to sponsor The Pelican State Goes to War: Louisiana in World War II exhibit, which opened at the Museum in July 2017. After its run at the institution, the traveling exhibit made its first stop at the R.W. Norton Art Gallery in Shreveport, Louisiana, the hometown of The Alta and John Franks Foundation, in August 2018. The exhibit pays tribute to the role Louisiana citizens played in World War II. By engaging visitors through the exhibit’s interactive displays, oral histories, and artifacts, guests will have a deeper understanding of Louisiana’s contribution to victory in World War II.

The war made a huge impact on the life of a young John Franks. His story began in 1925 on a 50-acre Haughton, Louisiana, farm. The youngest of six children, Franks graduated from Haughton High School in 1942, and that same year, enrolled in Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, entering its School of Journalism as a budding young reporter. But his newspaper plans never bloomed as the call for young men in World War II reached Franks; he entered the service, becoming a bombardier and radar specialist. Possibly spared by the surrender of Japan shortly before Franks was to be deployed in 1945, he returned to LSU. Franks decided to cancel his journalism plans and enrolled in the School of Geology, because of the job opportunities available at the time. However, he later discovered that the demand for geologists had minimized since his enrollment. Through perseverance and sacrifice, he built a successful oil and gas exploration business, which allowed Franks and his wife, Alta, to create The Alta and John Franks Foundation to pursue important community philanthropic opportunities.

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Distance-Learning Initiatives Help Share Stories of Struggle and Triumph

In Fiscal Year 2018, the Museum’s Distance Learning program explored the wartime experience of African Americans and Latinos. Through these educational offerings, students across the nation gained deeper insight into war-era racial injustices. By examining artifacts from the Museum’s collections and exploring World War II historic sites, webinar viewers were able to better understand the adversity encountered by victims of discrimination at home in America and the heroism of these individuals.

In addition to the Museum-produced webcasts, the Museum also presented the Virtual Field Trip Los Veteranos: Latinos in World War II to students throughout America during National Hispanic Heritage Month. Modeled after footage from Pan-American’s special gift, the Museum’s Latino American Life Insurance Group, Los Veteranos connected classrooms to a live Museum educator who helped examine the significant impact that Latinos and Latinas made during World War II.

In spring 2018, Pan-American Life Insurance Group generously donated $1 million to the Museum in support of the Institution’s Virtual Field Trip, Los Veteranos: Latinos in World War II. Through this free virtual experience, students throughout the nation were able to connect live with a Museum educator during National Hispanic Heritage Month.

As part of the Museum’s K-12 Distance Learning program, Los Veteranos explores the history of more than 500,000 Latino Americans—including 350,000 Mexican Americans and 53,000 Puerto Ricans—who fought in segregated units throughout the European and Pacific theaters during World War II.

The Virtual Field Trip highlights wartime contributions made by Latino American men as well as Latina American women. Due to their bilingualism, many Latina found important work in cabling, communications, and interpretation, breaking through both gender and cultural barriers to serve their country. Thousands of Latinos and Latinas also supported the war effort by working on railroads, in mines, shipyards, and airplane factories, as well as crucial agricultural workers.

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On February 22, 2018, more than 40,000 students in 1,471 schools in all 50 states and Washington, DC, took part in the Museum’s live interactive Electronic Field Trip. Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II, produced in partnership with The National WWII Museum and PBS, connected classrooms to a live Museum educator, and student reporters Mizani Ball and Maceo Carney, who throughout the webinar interviewed special guests about their personal struggles for first-class citizenship during the war. Carney interviewed National Park Service Ranger Kelli English and WW II Home Front worker Betty Reid Soskin at historic sites in California, giving students a chance to look inside the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial and The Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park. Johnson and Ball spoke with Tuskegee Airman George Hardy back at the Museum in New Orleans. During one segment, they specifically focused on the United but Unequal gallery in the Museum’s The Arsenal of Democracy exhibit, and examined the changes in discriminatory hiring practices during World War II after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 in 1941.

In addition to sharing the WWII personal stories of African Americans, the Museum also presented the Virtual Field Trip Los Veteranos: Latinos in World War II to students throughout America during National Hispanic Heritage Month. Modeled after footage from Pan-American’s special gift, the Museum’s Latino American Life Insurance Group, Los Veteranos connected classrooms to a live Museum educator who helped examine the significant impact that Latinos and Latinas made during World War II despite discrimination, from sacrifices made on the battlefields overseas to manufacturing and agricultural efforts made across the Home Front.

The wartime movement toward social and economic equality for both African Americans and Latino Americans proved to be less transformative after the war, as the federal government’s interventions failed to completely break the persistent hold of racial discrimination. Yet, through the Museum’s Distance Learning program, students were able to gain newfound knowledge on the contributions made by all Americans during the war, and how the determination and extraordinary efforts of every American became key factors in the nation’s ability to secure victory.

The Museum’s Fighting for the Right to Fight Electronic Field Trip was generously supported by Paul and Delli Reilly in honor of Paul J. Reilly, US Marine Sergeant, WWII, the Dale E. Johnson and Janice Davis Johnston Family Foundation in honor of Dr. Earl R. Davis and his service aboard the USS Tranquility, the Albert and Ethel Horstain Charitable Foundation, Alan & Diane Franco, and the O. Jay Morthland Foundation. Additional support was provided by Fabenco Founding Fellers Foundation and Anonymous. A collection of the Museum’s past distance-learning programs are available for viewing on demand at nationalww2museum.org/distance-learning-videos.

“The significance of that happening, just think, to be the honor man of Struggle and Triumph..."

—Edgar Cole, Member of the Montford Point Marines, the nation’s first African American Marines who received basic training at Montford Point Camp, North Carolina.
Summer Teacher Institute Explores Home Front Story

“I was sitting in a theater in Detroit, and suddenly the movie went off—everything went black. The manager came out, and he announced that the Japanese naval and air forces had attacked our naval base at Pearl Harbor, and it was just stunned silence. And then all of a sudden, there was a woman...stood up with the most bloodcurdling scream I've heard in my entire life. I will never forget it. And she started screaming 'My boy! My boy! He's stationed in Pearl Harbor! I'll carry that to my grave.'

—Frederick Hollis, civilian

Throughout Fiscal Year 2018, production was underway on Volume 3 of the Museum’s curriculum guide series, From the Collection to the Classroom: Teaching History with The National WWII Museum. As thousands of students in classrooms around the country were benefitting from the first two installments from the series—Volume 1, focusing on the Pacific theater of the war, and Volume 2, focusing on the war in Europe—members of the Museum’s Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, Education Department, WWII Media and Education Center, and Marketing & Communications teams were developing content focused on the struggles and triumphs of the 116 million Americans who experienced the war on the Home Front.

The guide also tells the story of how all Americans played a part in the Home Front war efforts, demonstrating a level of involvement, commitment, and sacrifice not shown in previous conflicts. As told in the guide’s essays “Becoming the Arsenal of Democracy,” “Gender on the Home Front,” and “The Double V Victory,” women and African Americans stepped up to the challenge to fill factory jobs previously held by young white men who had quickly filled the ranks of the US military instead.

By the war’s end in 1945, the United States had fulfilled President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s admonition to become the great arsenal of democracy. American manufacturers had turned out more than 96,000 bombers, 86,000 tanks, 2.4 million trucks, 6.5 million rifles, and billions of dollars’ worth of supplies to equip a truly global fighting force, all while challenging social-cultural perceptions and gender stereotypes. Through these accounts, students learn that without the sacrifices made by Americans at home, US soldiers, sailors, and airmen could not have fought and defeated our enemies abroad.

The curriculum guide was distributed in summer 2018 when participants of Team Home Front—the third cohort of the Museum’s Summer Teacher Institute—gathered at the Museum’s campus for the first day of an intensive one-week training program. Made possible through A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation—who supported the production of the Institute’s...
curriculum guide as well—Museum and university scholars were able to bring the story of the Home Front to life for educators from around the nation. Teachers from 27 different states were selected from a competitive applicant pool of over 400 educators to visit the Museum and to be introduced to the third volume of the Museum’s curriculum series. The 30 participating teachers took the Home Front curriculum materials back to their local schools and districts to share with their peers this past fall, but more importantly, with their students.

The Museum is grateful to A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation for supporting the third Summer Teacher Institute cohort, as well as the David I. Oreck Foundation for supporting the Museum’s first cohort, and the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation for supporting the second.

Thirty teachers from across the nation participate in the Museum’s 2018 Summer Teacher Institute, which is focused on the American Home Front.

Volume 3 of the Museum’s curriculum guide series—From the Collection to the Classroom: Teaching History with The National WWII Museum—will help teachers put the institution’s innovative exhibits and extensive collection of artifacts to work in their classrooms.
When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared in his Fireside Chat on December 9, 1941—two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor—that “every single man, woman, and child is a partner in the most tremendous undertaking of our American history,” communities all across the country united behind the war effort, performing all kinds of tasks to help the Allies, no matter how large or how small.

Contribute to those efforts were scientists, technicians, and inventors, who supplied a steady stream of new products that helped make victory possible. From businesses like Firestone, Goodyear, Goodrich, and US Rubber Company sharing patents and scientific information with one another so that they could help solve the nation’s rubber crisis, to young scientist Harry Coover discovering the active ingredient in Super Glue while searching for a clear plastic he could use to make gun sights, all played a significant part in helping the United States find the strategic goods necessary for fighting the war.

To educate the public about how science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) contributed—and advanced—in World War II, the Museum launched its STEM education program in 2012 and currently offers STEM education field trips and summer science camps to over 1,000 students annually. The Museum’s STEM Innovation Gallery, now housed in the John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, offers visitors, educators, and students the opportunity to engage in tactile learning and exploration through hands-on experiments and authentic WWII macro-artifacts.

In addition to STEM learning opportunities for students, the Museum also offers STEM workshops and professional development programs for teachers through a curriculum aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. Supported by a grant from the Northrop Grumman Foundation, the Museum hosts a weeklong learning program for middle school math and science teachers that explores key STEM concepts using actual WWII examples. In Fiscal Year 2018, 28 teachers from across the country were selected to experience the Real World Science Summer Teacher Seminar’s fourth cohort, which gathered in New Orleans in July to explore how necessity, knowledge, perseverance, and skill lead to inventions, innovation, and careers in STEM, just as they did in World War II.

Additionally, in May 2018, the Boeing Company pledged $1.5 million to support the Museum’s STEM initiatives, including the Museum’s annual Robotics Challenge, which will expand to a multistate regional competition, allowing a larger student population to develop problem-solving techniques through applied science and engineering. The donation will also lead to more staffing resources and three
The leading manufacturer of commercial airplanes, military aircraft, and space and security systems, in addition to serving as a provider of international services, Boeing Company connects, protects, explores, and inspires the world. It also strengthens communities across the globe through its programs that supports and key partnerships, including with The National WWII Museum.

In 2018, Boeing pledged $1.5 million to support the Museum’s education and innovation programs aimed at advancing student knowledge in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math—collectively known as STEM.

Through this gift, Boeing is recognized as a lead supporter of the STEM program in perpetuity in the institution’s STEM Innovation Gallery, helping to create more staffing resources and three new interactive exhibits within it. Additionally, through this gift, the Museum’s annual Robotics Challenge will expand to a multistate regional competition, allowing a larger student population to develop problem-solving techniques through applied science and engineering.

As the manufacturer of the military’s famed B-17 Flying Fortress, Boeing also donated $15 million to the Museum in 2010 to complete the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, which opened in 2013. This collaboration helped make it possible for the Museum to provide visitors with pavilion-high catwalks to see up-close views of ceiling-suspended authentic aircraft, including a B-17E Flying Fortress, a P-51 Mustang, and the forward fuselage of a B-24 Liberator.

“Boeing is committed to moving the world forward and being a leader of educational opportunities that provide a foundation for the21st century workforce,” said Dennis Muilenburg, Boeing Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, and member of the Museum’s Board of Trustees. “I’m proud of our longstanding relationship with The National WWII Museum and our Boeing team members who dedicate their unique skills and passion, along with their time and financial resources, to communities across the globe.”

new interactive exhibits in the STEM Innovation Gallery: Gears and Generators, Internal Combustion and Turbochargers, and Exponential Growth of Bacteria.

Earlier in May, middle school students were already eager to put their innovative skills to use when the Museum held its sixth annual Robotics Challenge in the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. The competition attracted 37 energetic teams of 4–8 grade students—nearly 400 students and coaches—who all came armed with displays on WWII people, places, and objects in their community and with robots programmed to complete some of the 14 tasks on competition mats.

To coincide with the Museum’s most recent traveling exhibit, the Robotics Challenge is also supported by Osanum, Motorola Solutions Foundation, and The Bruce J. Heim Foundation.
Throughout Fiscal Year 2018, the Museum’s Education and Programming teams hosted a series of events at its campus to connect with audiences—from students to local history buffs to culinary aficionados—by exploring themes centered around various Home Front efforts, particularly rationing.

World War II put a heavy burden on US supplies of basic materials like food, shoes, metal, paper, and rubber due to the nation’s effort to aid its allies overseas. However, civilians still needed these materials for consumer goods as well. To meet this surging demand, the federal government took steps to conserve crucial supplies, including establishing a rationing system that affected virtually every family in the United States. Children also played a critical role in civilian defense, collecting scrap paper and metal for recycling, and even leftover cooking fats to be turned into glycerin for explosives and ammunition. Every civilian contributed in some way, and their united efforts ultimately helped make victory possible thousands of miles away.

To demonstrate the sacrifices that Americans made to aid these endeavors, the Museum held events and sponsored learning activities to display in real time what everyday life was like for civilians on the Home Front. Through fun and engaging programs, audiences got to taste and even see firsthand how these efforts affected lives and communities.

One of the more popular programs, Ration Wars, featured a fast-paced, Iron Chef-style, WWII-themed cooking competition, demonstrating to guests how civilians had to be quite inventive when it came to preparing nourishing meals when food was rationed and even basic items were scarce. Even for those not able to make it to the Museum’s campus during the year, the institution offered myriad opportunities for students and educators to interact in activities centered around the country’s rationing efforts. Get in the Scrap! is just one example of these programs. A national service-learning project inspired by the scrapping effort of students during World War II, Get in the Scrap! offers students a chance to complete fun and educational classroom activities while learning important lessons about environmental stewardship.

“[T]hese great big drives to see which kids could collect the most pots and take them down to the schoolyard, so the military could come and take these truckloads of aluminum and make airplanes out of it. Sure, it’s a sacrifice, give away your best pots, you know, but it’s war: you just did it.”

—Robert “Bob” Gurr, civilian

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Liberty: The Louisiana Home Front through Historical Fiction Student Webinar
—October 6, 2017

Higgins Reunion Day
—October 21, 2017

Dinner with a Curator: Patrick Stephen presents “Baseball and World War II: Playing Through the Years”
—March 20, 2018

Rosie the Riveter Day
—June 2, 2018

Garden to Glass
—June 13, 2018

Josh Goodman, PhD, presents “Victory on the Menu: Dining out in World War II”
—September 6, 2017

Charles Chamberslin, PhD, presents “New Orleans Manufacturing: Simplex Motorcycles and Higgins Industries”
—October 16, 2017

Edward Branley presents “Krauss at War: Krauss Department Store, Canal Street, and the War Effort, 1941-1945”
—January 3, 2018
Drafts for Crafts, Presented by IBERIABANK, Helps Put History In Motion

“We used to have air raids, whereas before we used to have fire drills and they didn’t scare anybody because you could look up and see there was no fire. But when the air raids came, we didn’t get out of the building at all, instead they would put us under the tables in the cafeteria. And I remember thinking, ‘If I’m bombed, who will tell my mother?’ And I thought every time was the real thing.”

—Adelaide Benjamin, civilian

On March 16, 2018, guests packed the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion for a night of food, music, and fun to help keep the wheels of the institution’s restoration and preservation efforts turning. The evening’s celebration, Drafts for Crafts, presented by IBERIABANK, was dedicated to the refurbishment of an authentic 1943 Ford-American LaFrance Fire Truck, which was donated to the Museum in April 2009. The multiyear restoration project will preserve the truck as a vital piece of WWII history and help Museum visitors better understand challenges on the American Home Front during wartime.

During the raid on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, one of the first Japanese targets was the fleet of brightly colored, red fire trucks, as Japan’s goal was to debilitate response efforts following the attack on the US Navy fleet. After that day, the military ordered all military fire trucks to be painted green to help prevent such future devastation. The Museum’s Ford-LaFrance, which was donated by Steve Owen of Pell City, Alabama, will be restored as an Army fire engine and repainted in its original green color.

Once the Ford-LaFrance is restored, the macro-artifact will help teach visitors about the innovative efforts used to solve complex problems on the Home Front, as well as the broad range of occupations and tasks needed to win the war. Throughout the war, the LaFrance Class 500 Fire Truck—manufactured by American LaFrance—was the most common fire truck used on military posts to combat structural fires. They could be found on all types of bases and air bases, and several were even reportedly sent out to Tinian Island in the Pacific to provide fire protection for structures on the US airbase where preparations occurred for the atomic bombing of Japan.

Due to the high demand of fire trucks for the Army’s wartime fighting needs, the Quartermasters Corps—who constructed most fire equipment used at Army installations in the 1930s—turned to the nation’s fire apparatus manufacturers to supply the much-needed vehicles. By November 1941, the Army Corps of Engineers assumed responsibility for Army fire protection, and expanded the classification of fire equipment as new types of fire trucks were developed and placed in the field. Hundreds of contracts for fire apparatus and fighting equipment were awarded to fire-truck manufacturers. Once again, American industries stepped up to the nation’s efforts in meeting wartime defense and security needs, with almost 1,800 Class 500 Fire Trucks, for example, being produced for the Army during the war.

The Museum’s Ford-LaFrance brought many supporters out to this year’s Drafts for Crafts, all eager to see her restored to former glory. Organized by The National WWII Museum’s Young Benefactors, a committee of young professionals whose mission is to cultivate the Museum’s next generation of support, the event carried into the late evening hours with guests enjoying live music, samplings from local restaurants, and even a wine raffle. Guests also had the unique opportunity to preview the restoration project with Museum Senior Curator & Restoration Manager Tom Czekanski and local firefighters.
With PT-305 now fully operational and back on home waters of Lake Pontchartrain, Drafts for Crafts has shifted its focus to a 1943 Ford American LaFrance Fire Truck, a macro- artifact in the Museum’s collection that will be used to educate the public about service on the American Home Front.
Soaring Efforts to Grow Museum’s Oral-History Collection

“The uncle Jack was a navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress, flying 30 missions over Europe. He was a true inspiration in my life. When he passed away at the age of 90, it was comforting to know that his story was part of the Museum’s oral-history collection, and that he had the opportunity to visit such a remarkable institution.”

—Gary Sinise, actor, humanitarian, and Founder of the Gary Sinise Foundation

The heart of the Museum’s mission is to share the full story of the American experience during World War II, from the voices of those who lived through it. From firsthand accounts of Pearl Harbor to the D-Day invasion to the Home Front, the collection and preservation of these invaluable and treasured stories helps expand the understanding of the WWII generation’s sacrifices, which were made to ensure the freedoms we enjoy today.

To collect these oral histories, two Museum historians travel across America to conduct interviews in the homes of WWII veterans, the resulting discussion becoming a permanent part of the Museum’s collection. These stories serve as an educational tool for Museum audiences, whether experienced through its exhibits in New Orleans or online through its digital collections. To help support these efforts, the Gary Sinise Foundation—founded by actor and humanitarian Gary Sinise—sponsors one of the Museum’s Oral-History Collection.

The Soaring Valor trip includes a robust tour of the Museum, a hero’s welcome from the local community, entertainment, celebratory meals, and an opportunity for connecting with fellow veterans. Not only do these visits serve as an occasion to honor and recognize our veterans, but they also provide the chance to record their stories so they can be preserved and shared for years to come.

One of these personal stories was collected in 2018 during an unlikely encounter in the Museum’s newest permanent exhibit, The Arsenal of Democracy. Last spring, a fortunate chance visit to the Museum in New Orleans by Historian Hannah Dailey for the Museum’s Oral-History collection, and also met with Assistant Director for Curatorial Services Kim Guise, to whom Janota presented a hammer she’d manufactured to add to the Museum’s collection of wartime artifacts. Following her interview in the gallery, a crowd gathered around Janota to hear her tell stories of her wartime life, experiencing the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear an oral history live, in person, and directly from the source.

One of these personal stories was collected in 2018 during an unlikely encounter in the Museum’s newest permanent exhibit, The Arsenal of Democracy. Last spring, a fortunate chance visit to the Museum in New Orleans by Historian Hannah Dailey for the Museum’s Oral-History collection, and also met with Assistant Director for Curatorial Services Kim Guise, to whom Janota presented a hammer she’d manufactured to add to the Museum’s collection of wartime artifacts. Following her interview in the gallery, a crowd gathered around Janota to hear her tell stories of her wartime life, experiencing the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear an oral history live, in person, and directly from the source.

Stories like Janota’s help the institution offer an intimate, up-close view of the war, providing visitors with a museum experience like no other.

- The Museum is able to continue to grow its oral-history outreach program to record even more memories of WWII veterans.
- In addition to collecting oral histories, the Gary Sinise Foundation partners with the Museum to bring groups of WWII veterans from around the country to visit the Museum in New Orleans several times every year. The Soaring Valor trip includes a robust tour of the Museum, a hero’s welcome from the local community, entertainment, celebratory meals, and an opportunity for connecting with fellow veterans.
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- Since the Museum began its partnership with Soaring Valor in 2015, the program has made the following possible:
  - 690 oral histories collected by historians sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation
  - 14 Soaring Valor Flights to the Museum and 62 individual trips, for a total of 392 WWII veteran visits to date

In addition to veterans and their guardians, the program has also started bringing high school students along for the journey, offering them the unique opportunity to connect with WWII veterans.

To date, over 140 high school students from four schools have traveled with Soaring Valor.

With support from donors and partners like the Gary Sinise Foundation, the Museum collected 293 new personal accounts in Fiscal Year 2018, with many more stories waiting to be uncovered. 150 accounts are expected to be added in Fiscal Year 2019. To date, the Museum’s collection holds nearly 10,000 personal accounts from the WWII generation.
“It was the most enjoyment we’ve had—in fact, it is the only one.”

—From a letter written by Andy Stumpf to his mother, Mrs. A.A. Stumpf. Andy served with the First Marine Division and was killed in action on Peleliu soon after seeing Bob Hope’s troupe perform.

During World War II, the entire country sought to mobilize every available resource in the united effort to defeat our enemies. These endeavors also involved many famous Hollywood figures who were anxious to contribute to the war effort. One entertainer in particular—radio and film star Bob Hope—took his talents on the road to military camps and bases across the country and then around the world to perform for what became his most cherished audience: American troops.

To explore Hope’s unique place in the history of World War II and beyond, and the contributions he made that still reverberate more than 70 years later, the Museum brought his story to life on the evening of May 24, 2018, when it opened its special exhibit, So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope. To celebrate the exhibit’s opening, the Museum welcomed more than 400 guests for a presentation and reception in the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion with special guest speakers Linda Hope, daughter of Bob and Dolores Hope and Chair/CEO of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation, and Kim Guise, Museum Assistant Director for Curatorial Services.

Following the opening of So Ready for Laughter, the Museum launched a diverse series of free public programs to complement the exhibit, all supported by the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation, with special thanks to the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum. Programs include a free film series in BB’s Stage Door Canteen featuring classic Bob Hope films, in addition to unique daytime and evening programs—from a family miniature golf tournament to a comedy-writing workshop—that spotlight Hope’s lasting impact on American popular culture.

After closing at the Museum in February 2019, So Ready for Laughter hits the road as a traveling exhibit that will tour the country, bringing Hope’s WWII story to audiences in as many as 10 cities over a three-year period.
American entertainer Bob Hope was one of the most significant stars of the 20th century, and his tireless commitment to supporting the men and women who served our country epitomizes the best of what our nation can be. Hope’s legacy is central to the story of World War II and vital to the lessons that The National WWII Museum teaches each day.

Recognizing this natural partnership, the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation began collaborating with the Museum in 2016 to introduce a comprehensive Bob Hope legacy program across and beyond the Museum’s campus. While the Museum’s special exhibit on Hope’s unique contribution to the American war effort, *So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope*, is the capstone of these efforts, numerous other initiatives have shared Hope’s spirit of levity and patriotism with visitors young and old.

The annual Bob & Dolores Hope Summer Theater Camp has helped children aged 8–12 hone their skills in theater arts, while the Museum’s Skype in the Classroom program, *A Call to Service: Bob Hope in World War II*, has taught students across the world about the contributions of the Home Front during the war. The Bob Hope Dog Tag Experience has allowed visitors to experience Hope’s inspiring WWII journey while immersed in the Museum’s world-class exhibits, and the Bob & Dolores Hope Tickets for Troops program continues to provide free admission for veterans and their companions to shows at BB’s Stage Door Canteen. Additionally, an endowment from the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation ensures that the songs, style, stars, and spirit of the WWII era are brought to life each day through the Museum’s entertainment series.
The Museum Breaks Ground on The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center

“The one man in the South I want especially to see is Andrew Jackson Higgins. I want to tell him, face to face, that Higgins’s landing boats such as we had at Guadalcanal are the best in the world. They do everything but talk; honest, they do.”

— Warrant Officer Machinist James D. Fox, quoted in The Shreveport Times, March 6, 1943

On December 8, 2017, the Museum and its Board of Trustees officially broke ground on The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center—a luxurious property that will feature 230 guest rooms and more than 18,000 square feet of conference space. Scheduled for completion in 2019, the development will support the institution’s expanding educational programs while offering Museum visitors accessible accommodations in the booming Warehouse District neighborhood.

The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center’s name reflects the contributions of the extraordinary entrepreneur Andrew Jackson Higgins, who designed and built over 20,000 boats in New Orleans that were used in every major amphibious assault of World War II. The unique property will be inspired by the war era and feature a striking art deco style designed by renowned architects Nichols Brosch Wurst Wolfe & Associates from Coral Gables, Florida, and Los Angeles interior design firm Kay Lang + Associates.

The Higgins Hotel will operate as part of the exclusive Curio Collection by Hilton, one of Hilton’s 14 market-leading brands. The daily operations of the privately-funded project will be managed by Hostmark Hospitality Group, and hotel revenue will help fund the growth of the Museum’s endowment and educational initiatives. The Museum looks forward to guests having the opportunity to enhance their visitor experience when the property celebrates its grand opening later this year.
For Museum Trustee David Nierenberg, honoring the memory of the WWII generation serves as a personal tribute to his loved ones who fought bravely in World War II.

Nierenberg’s father, Ted, and his uncles, Jay and David, volunteered to serve during the war—Ted and David served in the US Navy in the Pacific theater, and Jay joined the American Field Service as an ambulance driver in North Africa and Italy.

Although the brothers faced danger on land and sea, their stories ended happily. At war’s end, Ted and David enjoyed an improbable reunion as their ships berthed together in Tokyo Bay, and Jay survived his service as an ambulance driver, and married a Holocaust survivor he met while in North Africa—Inge Gutenberg—who escaped Germany the day of Anschluss.

Hearing his father’s and uncles’ stories from the war is an experience that Nierenberg hopes will continue for future generations. His wife Patricia also had three uncles who served in the war—John, Mario, and Andy Cambou—all born in the United States to 20th-century French immigrants. “The Museum transforms the lessons of the past into guideposts for our future,” he said. “If we do not remain vigilant and prepared to fight for our freedoms—and if we do not lead the fight—we will dishonor the life lessons of our parents and grandparents.”

In addition to supporting the Museum’s endowment and educational mission, Nierenberg played a significant role in the Museum’s expansion endeavors through his efforts in spearheading a matching gift program in 2017 to kick-start fundraising for The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center. He also chairs the Museum Board’s investment committee and serves on the institution’s long-term strategic revisioning task force to develop plans for engaging future generations on the lessons of the war. “It’s important that we continue to educate all youth and adults that freedom is precious and worth fighting for,” he said. “This is why funding educational programs at the Museum is so tremendously important.”
Ron and Becky Parker of Cornelius, North Carolina, have been Partners Circle Members since 2008. After many travel tours on the beaches of Normandy, reading Stephen Ambrose and Tom Brokaw, and watching contemporary films like Steven Spielberg’s Saving Private Ryan, they knew they wanted to be part of documenting and preserving the stories of the WWII generation, and The National WWII Museum fit all those marks.

Ron’s stepfather, John Johnson, Jr., served as a second lieutenant in the 325th US Army Air Force in the European theater. While in Europe, he performed the invaluable service of cooking and preparing meals for thousands of American troops. “My stepfather returned home to Plymouth County, Massachusetts, in 1945, applying those skills that he first learned in the ‘cooks’ and ‘baker’s’ schools in Fort Lux, Virginia,” said Ron. “I learned from him the importance of doing meaningful work, earning a good living, and being a respected, reputable citizen.”

Johnson also worked as a public servant and volunteer, becoming an example of citizenship to his family. “It was John’s work ethic and self-discipline that inspired and motivated me to ‘keep on keeping on’ regardless of obstacles,” Ron continued.

Becky’s dad, Lewis K. “Kenny” Phillips, was 14 years old in 1942 when he started working at what became known as “Atomic City” in Oak Ridge, Tennessee—a production site for the Manhattan Project. “Daddy literally worked from the ground up, helping to build the roads and dormitories, driving laundry trucks in the huge complex of 75,000 workers, and helping construct four of the major industrial facilities,” said Becky. “He later became a machinist apprentice and worked his way up to the position of foreman at the Y-12 plant for enriching uranium, the K-25 uranium separating facility, and K-31 nuclear reactor.”

Phillips retired from Oak Ridge and passed away at age 82, the oldest survivor of his unit. Like most Tennesseans who worked in Oak Ridge, also known by the nickname “Secret City,” he died still holding many secrets of his work on the Manhattan Project. Although Becky’s father was too young to enlist during World War II, she explains that he “still held many secrets of his work on the Manhattan Project because he ‘keep on keeping on’ regardless of obstacles,” Ron continued.
A Second Shipbuilder Leaves His Mark on the Museum

“We Americans walk big, we think big, we talk big….We think up so many things that are probably the most unique in the world. We have Toyo Hattori to thank for creating so many of them. We have the Home Front. Through various learning resources, the legacy and lessons of the Museum's Home Front Generation will tell the story of those Americans who served and supported the war effort on the Home Front. The Museum's Outreach initiatives inspire a New Home Front Generation—A generation of future citizens who will remember the history of World War II and the contributions of those who lived it.

In Fiscal Year 2018, students across the country participated in the Museum's educational outreach efforts, and the Museum helped support the institution's expansion, as its Charter Members have helped build its campus.

The Museum's Outreach initiatives include Virtual Field Trips, webinars, and workshops. Through these initiatives, the Museum is reaching millions of students and educators, and helping to create a New Home Front Generation—A generation of future citizens who will remember the history of World War II and the contributions of those who lived it.

The Museum's Outreach initiatives inspire a New Home Front Generation—A generation of future citizens who will remember the history of World War II and the contributions of those who lived it.
Among the most loyal supporters of The National WWII Museum, Patriots Circle Members contributed $2.7 million to the Museum in Fiscal Year 2018—an all-time record, which reflects an astonishing commitment to the institution’s mission.

In addition to their financial support—which ranges between $1,000 and $10,000 annually—these Members are exceptional in their involvement with the Museum. Many serve on various committees, act as sponsors for the Museum’s fundraising events, participate in the Museum’s travel programs, and attend The International Conference on World War II. They serve as national ambassadors for the institution.

We remain honored by the 1,118 Patriots Circle Members who supported the Museum from across the country in Fiscal Year 2018. Among those are 57 Members of the Museum’s Board of Trustees and two staff members who are Four Star Patriots Circle Members. Their generosity is evidence of the importance of understanding the American experience in World War II and honoring the generation who sacrificed so much to secure our freedom.

Thank you to all of our Patriots Circle Members for demonstrating the American spirit through their generous and continued giving.

The staunch support of over 176,000 Charter Members is the foundation of The National WWII Museum’s growth. Their loyalty throughout Fiscal Year 2018 exemplifies a strong commitment to the mission of America’s National WWII Museum.

Combined, our Members provided the Museum with over $10 million in operating revenue to help fund educational programming and preservation initiatives. As we continue our efforts to expand the Museum, their commitment and generosity are an inspiration.

WWII veterans helped establish this Museum. With the passage of time, the torch has passed to the sons and daughters of our treasured WWII veterans—Americans who are invested in ensuring that their family’s contribution to our collective history and the war that changed the world is preserved for all future generations.

Thank you to all of our Members across the country for supporting The National WWII Museum.
Low Rapaport describes himself as always having been a patriot and a historian—studying our country’s foundational figures to the present. He served as a lieutenant in the US Army during the early 1960s and was a graduate of the US Army Military Academy and Missile School at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Family and service to country have always been important to Rapaport. He grew up in the Forest Hills neighborhood of Queens, New York, where the entire Rapaport family was involved in World War II. With two nephews in the US Army and his uncle serving on a destroyer in the US Navy, Rapaport’s family remained proud of their military service.

“My father, Stanley Rapaport, was an architect and was contacted by our Department for a special assignment,” said Rapaport. “Dad moved us to Norfolk, Virginia, during this period to help our nation who were not their country at home, just like his father. There family who fought, and also those who served during this period to help our nation who were not their country at home, just like his father. There family who fought, and also those who served during this period to help our nation who were not.

Rapaport visited the National WWII Museum through the Patriots Circle because I believe it is the station of our democracy and a community of a nation that died, and as those Home Front warriors who gave of themselves to win the battle and preserve our freedom,” he concluded.


Mr. Joseph M. McGarrity, WWII Veteran

Lt. Col. Henry D. Murphy, Jr., WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. Jack M. Tidwell, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. William T. Faye, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Folsom, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. James J. Skinner, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Furgason, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Foy, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Fall, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. William W. Faith, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Foy, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. William W. Faith, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Field, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Foy, WWII Veteran
Robert “Mac” McKibbin, MD
Two Star Song

Robert “Mac” McKibbin, MD has been a member of Patrons Circle since 2014. His father, Stanley B. McKibbin, was a first-generation immigrant from Scotland who came to the United States in 1920. A welder by trade, Stanley participated in the Manhattan Project, working on the development of fissionable materials and light water moderators for atomic bombs.

Stricken by the success of his project, the government didn’t do what I expected of them, but they did create the Manhattan Project, which led to the development of different materials and light water moderators for atomic bombs. After the war, the Manhattan Project was given their commendation for their efforts and participation in the project.

McKibbin feels it’s important to sustain and grow the Patrons Circle. “The stories and the trauma of World War II, as well as the use of industry in warfare, creating a meaningful connection to his father’s role in the war. However, McKibbin’s greatest lesson about the war came from his childhood. He was inspired by his father’s stories about his experience in World War II, and those stories inspired me and my siblings to focus on life through hard work and dedication. McKibbin feels it’s important to sustain and grow the Patrons Circle. “The stories and the trauma of World War II, as well as the use of industry in warfare, creating a meaningful connection to his father’s role in the war. However, McKibbin’s greatest lesson about the war came from his childhood. He was inspired by his father’s stories about his experience in World War II, and those stories inspired me and my siblings to focus on life through hard work and dedication.
purchase candy, cigarettes, and other items. "Our facilities in North Carolina that also housed small town of Hoffman, North Carolina. war broke out. They pitched in on the Home Front and his aunt, Cornelia Snider Yarrington (both of service to home and country. was deeply patriotic and instilled in him the value of my mother, aunt, and the entire Trembly family said Trembly. "His sacrifice along with all that even kept the secret of the federal agent who was As further explained by Grevilda, "We children stationed in our father's general store to watch and me, and the Trembly family to write the letters that were mailed to our father in New Orleans. and Dr. Susan D. Borchers

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Thibodeaux
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde A. Tew, Jr.
Ms. Nancy Sweetland
Wallace A. Swanson, Jr.
Michael A. Swanner
Drs. Edwin and Dorothy Sved
Estelle B. Sullivan
Spencer Stubbs and Joan Pedrotti
Robert M. Rather
Harriett R. Watson
Richard M. Sullivan, WWII Veteran
Lt. (j.g.) Terry W. Smith, WWII Veteran
James H. Stimulation, USAF, WWII Veteran
Mr. Rich H. Spinks
James H. Santo, WWII Veteran
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Warner
Mr. and Mrs. John Charles Wohlstetter
Mr. Jay Winfield
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Stegbauer
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Stege, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Stegman, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Stewart
Mr. Langdon Van Norden, WWII Veteran
CPT Wallace A. Swanson, USA, WWII Veteran
MSgt. Rocco W. Turso, Sr., WWII Veteran
LCDR. Jules Brown, WWII Veteran
Captain Richard S. (Sam) Bowers, USN, WWII Veteran
Captain Cyrus Falconer Fitton, and Beth Williams, USN (Ret.)
Sgt. George Garitty, WWII Veteran
Ralph E. Crump, WWII Veteran
Ralph J. A. and Mrs. Harry A. Swanson
Robert M. Rather
Harriett R. Watson
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Sgt. George Garitty, WWII Veteran
Ralph E. Crump, WWII Veteran
Ralph J. A. and Mrs. Harry A. Swanson
Road to Victory Capital Campaign
Society of American Spirit

Through the Road to Victory Capital Campaign, The National WWII Museum tells the entire story of the American experience in World War II. When completed in 2021, this $400 million expansion project will quadruple the size of the original Museum, allowing it to share the entire story of the American military experience in World War II. The expanded Museum will allow the Society of American Spirit to tell the story of the American military experience in World War II.
Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society

Our Mission. Your Legacy.

The Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society recognizes 150 individual couples, families, and organizations who have made gifts to The National WWII Museum in their will, trust, life insurance policy, retirement assets, or other estate plans. These Legacy gifts support our mission to preserve and share the history of the American experience during World War II.

We remember with special gratitude the individuals whose Legacy gifts to The National WWII Museum have been recorded.

Paul J. Kranic
IMO Frank E. Kranic, MA 1945

H. H. Lay
Mrs. Viccit S. Michaels
IMO Anthony Michaels

Charles E. Murray
 IMO - KIA Sicily 1945

TAD TAUBE

Tad Taube's story with the Museum began in 2006 when he was introduced to the institution by close friend Pete Wilson, former Governor of California and current Museum Trustee. His passion for preserving and teaching history strongly connected with the Museum's mission, and ultimately led to his recent establishment of the Taube Family Holocaust Education Program at the Museum. Through this effort, he hopes to extend the Museum's initiatives to share the important story of the Holocaust and its ties to American history, including the US Army's liberation of Nazi concentration camps, Jewish American families who lost loved ones at the hands of Nazi Germany, and the survivors who relocated and rebuilt their lives in America.

Tad's personal family history ties closely to his educational endeavors at the Museum. Born in Kraków, Poland, he escaped the country just months before the Nazi invasion of 1939, and lost a significant number of family members in the Holocaust. His parents created a new life for their family in the United States, and through hard work and perseverance, their efforts allowed Taube to attend Stanford University, helping lay the foundation for his future career ambitions—from real estate to his philanthropic work. As he explains, “in the minds of refugees such as myself who have been embraced by this great country, there exists a level of gratitude for the opportunities we have had that is somewhat analogous to a debt to be repaid. Some refer to it as a feeling of ‘giving back,’ but I prefer to call it wanting to ‘share opportunity.’”

Through a planned giving commitment to the Museum, Taube and his wife, Dianne, are confident that their estate plan will carry their legacy of expanding public awareness of World War II and its consequences that still impact lives today. “The Museum is a national treasure, and I encourage others to sustain its efforts through a legacy gift that will have a lasting purpose for future generations,” he said.

Tad Taube’s story with the Museum began in 2006 when he was introduced to the institution by close friend Pete Wilson, former Governor of California and current Museum Trustee. His passion for preserving and teaching history strongly connected with the Museum’s mission, and ultimately led to his recent establishment of the Taube Family Holocaust Education Program at the Museum. Through this effort, he hopes to extend the Museum’s initiatives to share the important story of the Holocaust and its ties to American history, including the US Army’s liberation of Nazi concentration camps, Jewish American families who lost loved ones at the hands of Nazi Germany, and the survivors who relocated and rebuilt their lives in America.

Tad’s personal family history ties closely to his educational endeavors at the Museum. Born in Kraków, Poland, he escaped the country just months before the Nazi invasion of 1939, and lost a significant number of family members in the Holocaust. His parents created a new life for their family in the United States, and through hard work and perseverance, their efforts allowed Taube to attend Stanford University, helping lay the foundation for his future career ambitions—from real estate to his philanthropic work. As he explains, “in the minds of refugees such as myself who have been embraced by this great country, there exists a level of gratitude for the opportunities we have had that is somewhat analogous to a debt to be repaid. Some refer to it as a feeling of ‘giving back,’ but I prefer to call it wanting to ‘share opportunity.’”

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HANCOCK WHITNEY

Hancock Whitney has been a champion of the museum since its beginning as the National D-Day Museum, helping to support the institution’s capital campaign efforts. In 2005 the company became a patron of the museum’s programming initiatives by sponsoring its Victory Ball. Their support later continued through sponsorship of the Museum’s 70th anniversary of D-Day on-site events in 2014 and, most recently, as the presenting sponsor of the American Spirit Awards for the past three years.

Additionally, Hancock Whitney executives have generously committed their time to serving on the Museum’s Board of Trustees as well as its committees, which help carry on the legacy the museum celebrates. World War II also played a role in the lives of many Hancock Whitney associates and executives. Some of them served during the war or are children of WWII veterans. President and CEO John Hairston’s father, Mitch Hairston, was an ammunition loader on the USS Fletcher CR-445 in the Pacific theater.

When asked what drove Hancock Whitney to sponsoring the American Spirit Awards, Hairston said, “The American Spirit Awards are broader than honoring only World War II. The ceremony recognizes those who share the values and spirit of the greatest generation and uses that commitment to keep our country a wonderful place to live and promote opportunities for all Americans. Hancock Whitney supports the American Spirit Awards because we faithfully believe in the American spirit.”

This past year the museum honored Maurice R. “Hank” Greenberg, Senator John McCain, and Gary Sinise for their outstanding achievements that reflect the values of teamwork, optimism, courage, and sacrifice and for their expression of the American spirit through the impact of their lives and work.

Hancock Whitney embraces its own set of core values to carry on the American spirit in the communities where the company serves: Honor, Integrity, Strength and Stability. Commitment to Service, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility.

Haitson continues to be inspired by how the museum, through veteran volunteers, brings to life the firsthand experiences of patriotism and spirit that rallied our entire nation to fight for freedom during the war.

“What the Greatest Generation achieved has allowed every generation since to grow and prosper,” he said.
The National WWII Museum thanks the following donors for purchasing a seat in the Solomon Theater. This seated donor recognition attracts new members and is a great way to celebrate the birthday of your loved one. To celebrate the birthday of your father, a WWII veteran, O'Neill purchased a commemorative brick in his honor. Only after telling him of her gift did she learn he was one of the founding donors to The National D-Day Museum.

O'Neill is committed to expanding the Museum’s educational mission so that younger generations can learn about the importance of the war. "It is critical that we continue to tell the story of World War II to our children and generations to come," she said. "By giving all of this knowledge each time we lose a vet, we need to move next quickly to gather what we can from who we can." By sponsoring a seat in the Museum’s Solomon Theater, the national WWII Museum is proud to honor Blass and other WWII veterans within the Solomon Theater.

Tom Hanks

In Honor of William P. Rutledge, IHO

In Memory of Clarence Wayne Shreve, IHO

In Honor of William P. Rutledge, IHO

In Memory of Paul Nimtz, IHO

In Honor of William P. Rutledge, IHO

In Memory of Louis O. Neely, US Navy

In Memory of William P. Rutledge, IHO

In Memory of Captain Robert E. Green, US Army

In Memory of Captain Lewis J. Albert, USMC

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In Memory of Captain Lewis J. Albert, USMC

In Memory of Captain Lewis J. Albert, USMC
### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The National World War II Museum, Inc. and Subsidiaries

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 30, 2018

(with comparative totals for 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS SUPPORT AND REVENUES</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>52,304,314</td>
<td>44,942,627</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Investments</strong></td>
<td>20,880,402</td>
<td>20,400,920</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unconditional promises to give:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign, net of allowances</td>
<td>13,301,346</td>
<td>17,000,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment, net of allowances</td>
<td>3,446,064</td>
<td>2,190,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, net of allowances</td>
<td>1,039,699</td>
<td>1,296,976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes receivable</td>
<td>13,135,630</td>
<td>12,419,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift shop inventory</td>
<td>834,643</td>
<td>665,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>7,039,557</td>
<td>1,929,352</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>194,226,425</td>
<td>173,972,303</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Collections</strong></td>
<td>13,062,464</td>
<td>13,054,559</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>218,892,455</td>
<td>209,403,061</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accounts payable trade</strong></td>
<td>2,816,387</td>
<td>1,939,478</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Construction projects payable</strong></td>
<td>3,798,433</td>
<td>1,699,750</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accrued expenses</strong></td>
<td>2,969,792</td>
<td>1,791,152</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred revenue</strong></td>
<td>6,810,277</td>
<td>3,018,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line of credit</strong></td>
<td>1,906,072</td>
<td>3,002,145</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Notes payable</strong></td>
<td>22,341,652</td>
<td>17,586,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>40,021,993</td>
<td>29,080,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS SUPPORT AND REVENUES</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board designated</td>
<td>29,217,653</td>
<td>7,469,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>310,044,525</td>
<td>312,259,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>339,862,178</td>
<td>320,328,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>20,460,199</td>
<td>23,173,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>19,933,116</td>
<td>16,821,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>379,260,493</td>
<td>360,223,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>220,122,958</td>
<td>201,403,061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

The National World War II Museum, Inc. and Subsidiaries

New Orleans, Louisiana

For the year ended June 30, 2018

(with comparative totals for 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
<td>227,483</td>
<td>4,744,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
<td>12,607,609</td>
<td>12,607,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>2,111,751</td>
<td>2,111,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>2,105,027</td>
<td>910,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax credit incentives</strong></td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Memberships</strong></td>
<td>10,709,142</td>
<td>10,709,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Admissions</strong></td>
<td>14,259,062</td>
<td>14,742,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilities and property rental</strong></td>
<td>1,334,488</td>
<td>2,480,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sponsored events and conferences</strong></td>
<td>13,834,491</td>
<td>9,760,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gift shop</strong></td>
<td>3,709,040</td>
<td>3,709,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment income</strong></td>
<td>3,200,239</td>
<td>3,200,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sponsorships</strong></td>
<td>207,280</td>
<td>207,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
<td>1,099,581</td>
<td>1,062,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets released from restrictions</strong></td>
<td>21,038,973</td>
<td>22,538,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenues</strong></td>
<td>79,075,837</td>
<td>77,475,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital Campaign fundraising and other</strong></td>
<td>1,822,577</td>
<td>1,926,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depreciation</strong></td>
<td>8,119,025</td>
<td>7,728,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>2,605,931</td>
<td>2,300,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General and administrative</strong></td>
<td>4,279,765</td>
<td>2,727,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gift shop merchandise sold</strong></td>
<td>1,205,682</td>
<td>1,703,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest — amortized</strong></td>
<td>371,221</td>
<td>271,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest — other</strong></td>
<td>474,356</td>
<td>3,727,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Museum expansion</strong></td>
<td>1,185,654</td>
<td>1,140,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programs and operations — personnel costs</strong></td>
<td>13,749,571</td>
<td>11,379,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programs and operations — other costs</strong></td>
<td>24,049,406</td>
<td>16,866,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>58,456,188</td>
<td>47,804,792</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS SUPPORT AND REVENUES</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning of Year</strong></td>
<td>13,820,178</td>
<td>20,465,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End of Year</strong></td>
<td>339,403,116</td>
<td>289,403,061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The National World War II Museum, Inc. and Subsidiaries

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 30, 2018

(with comparative totals for 2017)
Female "chippers" remove weld excess at the Marinship Corporation shipyards near San Francisco, 1942.