

Annual Report



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100 Financials



Our Mission

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.

LEFT

Summer campers get a hands-on learning experience with a Museum volunteer.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



2023-2024

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*In Memory

c

Museum Welcomes Seven New Trustees

N 2023, THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM appointed seven new members to its national Board of Trustees, bringing the Board's total membership to 57 business and philanthropic leaders representing 21 states and Washington, D.C.

The Board of Trustees works to advance the Museum's mission and offers guidance and support of strategic priorities including the development and continued success of the Museum's educational initiatives and the endowment. The new Trustees joined the Board at a pivotal time in the Museum's history as the institution opened its capstone exhibition hall, Liberation Pavilion; dedicated the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground in the heart of the campus; and celebrated the completion of the \$400 million Road to Victory Capital Campaign that fueled the Museum's expansion over the past two decades. We are honored to welcome these leaders to our distinguished ranks of Trustees.



James N.
Gianopulos
Founder/CEO of Muses
Media Enterprises
Los Angeles, California

Gianopulos has played a prominent role in the entertainment and media industry for over 40 years. Most recently, he served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Paramount Pictures, overseeing all feature film production, marketing, and global distribution of film and television in all media. Gianopulos was also previously the Chairman and CEO of 20th Century Fox. He serves as Chairman of the Motion Picture & Television Fund, as a Board member of the X Prize Foundation, and as a member of the Board of Trustees and Adjunct Professor of the USC School of Cinematic Arts.



J. Tyler
Herbert
Founding Partner of
Gravel Road Partners
Washington, D.C.

Herbert is a Founding Partner of Gravel Road Partners, a real estate development and investment firm focused on workforce and mixed-income housing in emerging US markets. Herbert was formerly the Global Head of Real Estate for Convene, a leading meetings/events and workplace hospitality company, where he served as a member of the executive team and focused on strategic growth and construction. Prior to that, he worked with Invesco Real Estate and Deloitte Real Estate Consulting. While pursuing his MBA at the University of Oxford, Herbert was the Chairman of the Venture Capital Fund and was awarded the Robert H. Hayes Award for Operations Management.



Jeffery D.
Hildebrand
Executive Chairman & Founder of Hilcorp Energy Company
Houston, Texas

Hildebrand is the Executive Chairman and Founder of Hilcorp Energy Company, the largest privately held energy exploration and production company in America and the largest operator and gas supplier in Alaska; Harvest Midstream Company, a leading, privately held midstream services provider; and JDH Capital, a private investment firm. He belongs to several professional associations and is active in the Houston community, serving on the boards of Central Houston, Inc.; the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; Houston Police Foundation; Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy; and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.



Gregory
Kowalski
President & CEO of
The RK Group
San Antonio, Texas

Kowalski is President and CEO of The RK Group, a family-owned company that has grown to be a global hospitality company. In 1946, Kowalski's father, WWII veteran and Burma Hump pilot Henry "Hank" Kowalski, used his mustering-out pay from the US Army Air Corps to purchase Uncle Ben's BBQ in San Antonio. Gregory Kowalski began working as a dishwasher at age six and later returned after his schooling to join the family business, which by then had grown to a full-service catering company. Kowalski has been an active community supporter of numerous nonprofit and veterans organizations, including K9s For Warriors, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Friends Foundation, and others.



Jessie J.
Knight Jr.
CEO & Managing Director of Knight Angels

Charlotte, North Carolina

Knight is CEO and Managing Director of Knight Angels, a family private equity fund devoted to anonymous philanthropy and financial support of grassroots leaders who improve their local communities with innovative long-term solutions. Knight serves on the boards of the Hudson Institute, the US Chamber of Commerce, and Saint Louis University, and he is Chairman of the Board of the Timken Art Museum in San Diego. He is an active homeland security member of InfraGard and the FBI Citizens Academy, and is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was formerly Executive Vice President of Sempra Energy and Chairman/CEO of San Diego Gas and Electric, a diversified Fortune 150 energy company serving over 40 million customers.





Glenn
Solomon
CEO & Founder of Simbol Commercial
Dallas Texas

Solomon is CEO and Founder of Simbol Commercial, a commercial real estate development and management company. Real estate holdings consist of raw land, shopping centers, and commercial office buildings across the Midwest, South, and Southwest. Solomon also founded Coyote Theaters, which develops and operates state-of-the-art drive-in movie theaters. Previously, Solomon served as President of Gulf States Theaters, a privately held corporation involved in commercial theater development and management in New Orleans. Solomon actively supports several charitable organizations, including the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of North Texas and the Dallas Historical Society.



Massey
Villarreal
President & CEO of Precision
Task Group, Inc. (PTG)
Houston Texas

Villarreal is known for his work in economic development, his service to numerous advisory boards, and the leadership positions he has held across local, state, and national chambers of commerce. He has served three Texas governors as an appointee to the Economic Incentive Oversight Board, the governing board of the Texas Economic Development Corporation, and to the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System. He also serves on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) National Council, the Texas Association of Community Colleges Business Advisory Council, the Excelencia in Education Board of Directors, and the Memorial Hermann Hospital System Board.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Chairman of the Board

2023 was a milestone year for The National WWII Museum. After a two-decade-long journey, we reached the successful conclusion of the \$400 million Road to Victory Capital Campaign with the opening of the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground and Liberation Pavilion. This ambitious—and sometimes seemingly impossible—campaign has transformed our Museum from a single pavilion dedicated to sharing the story of the Normandy invasion into a leading destination attraction and world-class educational institution. Simply put, what we have accomplished is nothing short of remarkable.

It has been an honor to serve as Chairman of the Board during this pivotal time for the Museum, and I am humbled and inspired by so many who have dedicated their time and talents to our efforts. First among those are my fellow Trustees, past and present, whose leadership and generosity have paved the way for our success. I especially want to recognize Trustee Emeritus Louis Freeman, who served as the inaugural Chair of our Capital Campaign Steering Committee. Those first dollars are often the most difficult, but his tenacity allowed us to gain early momentum. I also want to recognize my fellow Trustee Governor Pete Wilson, who took over the reins and chaired the committee for 15 years, ensuring we would meet—and ultimately surpass—our goal. And to all of the Capital Campaign donors, Members, program supporters, partners, staff, and volunteers, thank you for your incredible commitment that has made our journey possible.

Together, we have fulfilled the vision laid out in our original campus Master Plan. Our seven-acre, seven-pavilion campus now shares a more complete story of the American experience in World War II and is equipped to educate and inspire Americans of all ages for generations

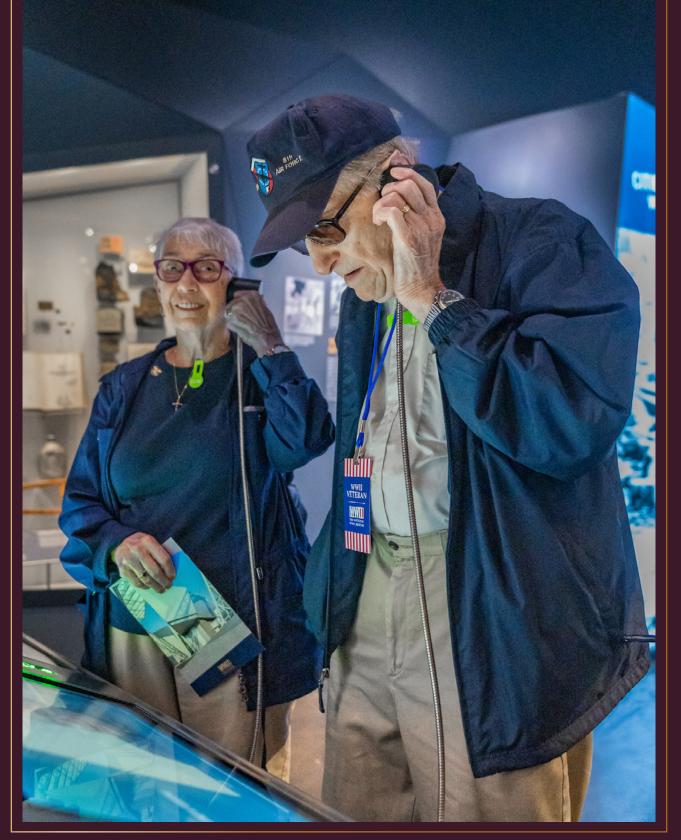
to come. But we have also built more than buildings and exhibits—we have created a permanent tribute to the service and sacrifice of the WWII generation. This is truly their museum, built in their honor to preserve their legacy. It has been a distinct privilege to have been entrusted with this responsibility.

This has been a transformational year, indeed, but our work is far from over. Sharing the lessons and legacies of World War II has never been more important. We have established a bold vision to become the most accessible resource for trusted knowledge on the American experience in the war. As you'll see in the coming pages, we have made great strides toward this goal over the past year and have much on the horizon for the future.

As I prepare to pass the gavel to the new Board Chair, I am incredibly proud and grateful for what we have accomplished. We have far exceeded Stephen Ambrose's original vision and kept the history of World War II alive and relevant even as the war becomes a more distant memory. Thank you to each of you for the role you have played in our success, and I look forward to all we will accomplish in the years to come.

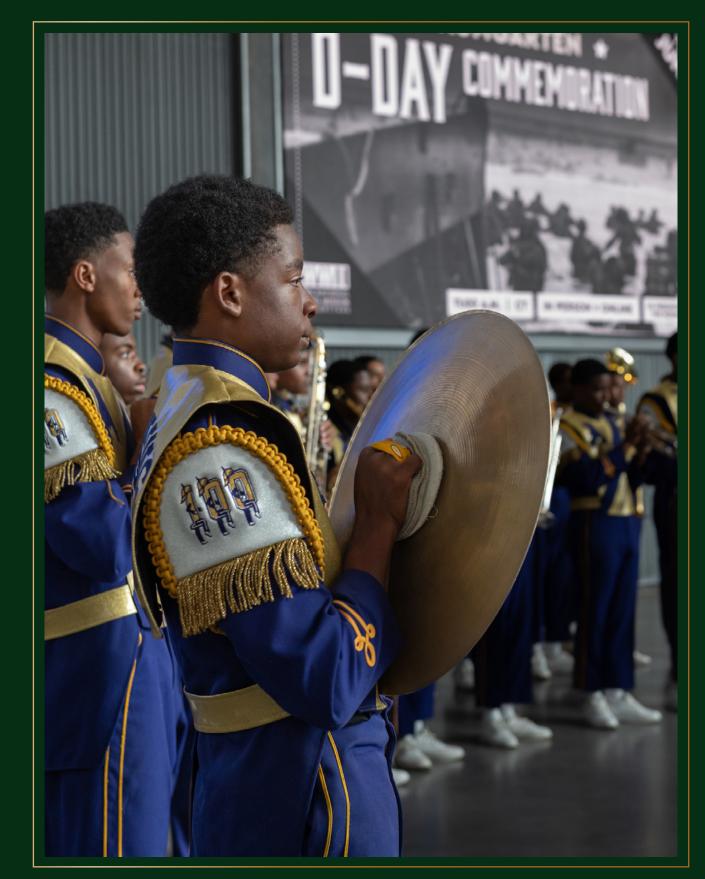


Ted Weggeland



ABOVE WWII Army Air Forces veteran Norman Bussel listens to his oral history at a station in Liberation Pavilion.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



ABOVE Members of the St. Augustine High School Marching 100 perform during the annual Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration.

Letter from the President & CEO

This past November, I had the privilege of joining with friends, partners, supporters, members of the WWII generation, and countless others to celebrate the opening of the Museum's Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground and capstone exhibit hall, Liberation Pavilion. This was a special moment to reflect on our institutional journey and to pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much for Allied victory.

With less than I percent of the I6.4 million Americans who served during World War II alive today, there is a sense of urgency to our work. We committed early on to open our final pavilion in time for members of the WWII generation to be with us, and we were proud to welcome 40 WWII veterans, Home Front workers, and Holocaust survivors to see what has been built in their honor. The Grand Opening and dedication of these new additions to our campus was the culmination of a nearly weeklong series of events that rivaled the fanfare, excitement, and reverence of the opening of The National D-Day Museum nearly 24 years ago. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who made this possible—from our Liberation Pavilion donors and other Capital Campaign supporters to our current and former Trustees and event sponsors, our staff and volunteers, and so many more.

The opening of a new pavilion is always a significant milestone, and Liberation Pavilion has been our most challenging and important one yet. Liberation Pavilion explores the final leg of our mission: What does World War II mean today? That's a big question, and to answer it, the Pavilion helps visitors understand the stakes of the war, the cost of our victory, and the changes ushered in—at home and abroad—in its wake. Through their experience, we hope our visitors come away with a deeper appreciation of the cost of the freedoms they enjoy today and the role each of us plays in strengthening our democracy.

The Pavilion's opening occurred alongside the 2023 Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention. As Chair of this year's Convention, I had the privilege to join with the State of Louisiana and City of New Orleans

to host 40 recipients of our nation's highest military honor. Their participation served as a powerful reminder of the ongoing service and sacrifice required to preserve those hard-won freedoms born out of World War II. The Convention also offered an array of educational programs that shared an important message of courage, sacrifice, integrity, commitment, patriotism, and citizenship with our local students, veterans, and other community members.

Amid the planning and execution of these major events, we continued to expand the scope and impact of our educational outreach. The past year has seen significant growth in our production of original, thought-provoking content across a variety of digital platforms. From podcasts to Electronic Field Trips, shareable videos to online teacher professional development, we are continuing to reach beyond our walls to tell the ongoing relevance of WWII history. And we are finding new ways to bridge the virtual world and our on-site offerings, welcoming 67 graduates of our online Master's in World War II Studies program to our campus for the first time.

It has been a tremendous year, and I am grateful to our vast network of supporters from across the country who have made it possible. I'd also like to recognize and thank our Chairman of the Board Ted Weggeland whose leadership, passion, and vision pushed us to achieve a new standard of excellence. We have so much to be proud of and so many exciting things on the horizon for the year ahead.



Stephen J. Watson

80TH ANNIVERSARIES 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The War in 1943

2023 MARKED THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY of several key turning points in the Soviet Union and North Africa, as the Allies began to see success in 1943. The Soviet defeat of the German 6th Army at Stalingrad was a significant moral victory, in which Germany lost the initiative on the Eastern Front. In North Africa, American, British, and Free French forces drove Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's army out of Tunisia by the

spring. In the southern Pacific, the Allies began Operation Cartwheel, inaugurating their new island-hopping strategy in June and invading the Solomon Islands in November. Meanwhile, the Allies invaded Sicily in July, liberating the island by August and exerting pressure on Italy, leading to Prime Minister Benito Mussolini's arrest and Italy's exit from the Axis powers. Still, the war in Italy continued, with Allied landings

at Reggio Calabria and Salerno, beginning a campaign that stretched into 1945. While much fighting remained before ultimate victory, the progress made in 1943 allowed Allied leaders at Tehran and Cairo to contemplate long-term strategies for the defeat of Japan and Germany, and policy for the establishment of a postwar world order. The end of the war, while distant, was finally beginning to come into focus.

CONFERENCES

Casablanca Conference

JANUARY 1943

The Casablanca Conference was a high-profile, 10-day conference between US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. and their high commands. This Anglo-American conference established the Allied military strategic priorities for the coming year: strike at Hitler's "soft underbelly" in the Mediterranean through Italy, develop the Combined Bomber Offensive, and delay an amphibious invasion of France until 1944. At the close of the conference, Roosevelt announced the Allies' policy of unconditional surrender.

CASABLANCA



The Battle of Kasserine Pass

FEBRUARY 19, 1943

Following the Allied advance,
Field Marshal Erwin Rommel
counterattacked against
American units to retake central
Tunisia. Known as the Battle of
Kasserine Pass, the initial German
gains were halted upon the arrival
of American reinforcements.
The battle provided important
lessons to the fresh-faced
American units in one of their
first engagements with veteran
German troops.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

APRIL 19, 1943

The single largest revolt by Jews against the Nazi regime in World War II, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was a final act of resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto when German SS officers attempted to deport the remaining inhabitants to extermination camps at Treblinka and Majdanek. The uprising concluded that May with a total I3,000 Jews murdered by German troops.



WARSAW GHETTO

KASSERINE PASS

Invasion of Sicily

JULY 10, 1943

Code-named Operation Husky, the amphibious invasion of Sicily began the Allied advance into Italy and the "soft underbelly" of Hitler's Fortress Europe. From liberated North Africa, American and British forces invaded with 3,000 ships, 150,000 ground troops, and over 4,000 planes over the course of three days. Within 38 days, Sicily was liberated, and the Allies set their sights on the Italian mainland.

SICILY



Invasion of Salerno

SEPTEMBER 9, 1943

Following the Sicilian invasion, American forces conducted an amphibious assault, code-named Avalanche, on the Italian shores near the town of Salerno. The US VI Corps landed hours after the Italian government signed an armistice with the Allied powers. Regardless, German troops occupied their former ally and engaged Allied forces as they landed. Despite German counterattacks, the Americans successfully established a beachhead and began their drive up the Italian peninsula.



During a series of strategic bombing raids deep into German territory, the US Eighth Air Force lost 148 bombers and 1,500 aircrew—an overall loss rate of 13 percent—over the course of a single week. Without fighter escorts, loss rates for American bomber crews became both strategically unsustainable and detrimental to morale, and the US Army Air Corps gave up long-range, deep-penetration missions until the introduction of the P-51 Mustang fighter.

In the first tes

In the first test of the US Marine Corps' amphibious assault doctrine, the 2nd Marine Division landed on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll. Defending an airfield, 4,500 Japanese troops awaited in prepared and well-constructed positions. Despite the introduction of amphibious tractors, many Marines had to wade hundreds of yards to shore while under fire. Despite pre-D-Day fires and air support, the combat eventually devolved into a hand-to-hand struggle, with Marines securing the island in three days.

Operation Galvanic

NOVEMBER 20-23, 1943



Cairo Conferences NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1943

At a series of high-profile meetings in Cairo, Allied leaders discussed their war aims and the postwar world. The First Cairo Conference took place November 22–26, focusing on postwar Asia and the fate of Japanese colonies. At the Second Cairo Conference, December 2–7 leaders discussed the invasion plan for Normandy in 1944.



TARAWA

PRESERVING THE LEGACY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





TOP

The Joint Armed Forces Color Guard presents the colors during the Grand Opening of Liberation Pavilion.

LEFT

Local servicemembers welcome WWII veterans traveling traveling to the Museum with the Gary Sinise Foundation's Soaring Valor program as they arrive at the New Orleans airport.

Preserving the Legacy of the WWII Generation

FTER NEARLY 20 YEARS, The National WWII Museum concluded the final phase of the Road to Victory Capital Campaign and completed its campus Master Plan in 2023, fulfilling the vision for an institution dedicated to telling the full story of the American experience in World War II. From opening our final permanent exhibit hall, Liberation Pavilion, and hosting the annual Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention, to expanding our educational mission to reach audiences in New Orleans and around the world, this year provided ample opportunity for celebration and reflection.

This special moment in the history of our institution reinforced our continuing commitment to carry on the legacies of the American men and women who helped secure freedom and democracy across the globe. Throughout the year, special visits from members of the WWII generation highlighted the growing importance of our mission, as we celebrate them in their final years and capture their stories to share with future audiences.

Forty WWII veterans, Home Front workers, and Holocaust survivors were guests of honor at the Grand Opening of Liberation Pavilion and Dedication of the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground. Other members of the WWII generation traveled to New Orleans to participate in commemorative ceremonies, receive awards, and celebrate milestone birthdays. Romay Johnson Davis and Virginia Leeman Wilterdink, two veterans featured in the Museum's new special exhibition, *Our War Too: Women in Service*, attended the

Veterans Day debut of the exhibit, which includes an interactive experience that allows guests to hold conversations with these trailblazing women, keeping their stories alive for years to come through innovative technology.

While we celebrated the expansion of our campus in New Orleans with those whose sacrifices we honor, the Museum also continued to establish itself as the most accessible source for trusted knowledge on the American experience in World War II. Our growing research and educational mission has reached new audiences through virtual programming like the Electronic Field Trip; conferences, symposia, and educational travel programs; new and updated digital content; and a one-of-a-kind graduate degree program through the Museum's partnership with Arizona State University. These important developments position the Museum as a leading resource on the lasting

legacies of World War II, ready to educate audiences as firsthand memories of the war start to disappear.

The National WWII Museum has the enormous responsibility to preserve and tell one of the most important stories in not only American history but also human history. In growing from a single exhibition hall to a seven-pavilion, seven-acre campus, the fully expanded Museum now stands as a permanent tribute to the service and sacrifice of the WWII generation. Of the 16.4 million Americans who served in World War II, just 119,550 are alive as of 2023, according to the US Department of Veterans Affairs statistics. With the passage of time, we strive to carry on the stories of the men and women who served their country—both at home and abroad—in a way that bridges the gap between generations and ensures that their place in history is never forgotten.

LIBERATION PAVILION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Museum Opens Capstone Exhibit Hall and Dedicates Parade Ground

LIBERATION PAVILION PAYS HOMAGE TO THE WWII GENERATION AND THEIR ENDURING LEGACY

N NOVEMBER 3, 2023, The National WWII Museum debuted its final permanent exhibit hall, Liberation Pavilion, and dedicated the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground with a powerful ceremony that paid tribute to the significant milestones in this institution's history and represented the culmination of the more than 20-year journey to expand our campus to tell the full story of the American experience in World War II.



LIBERATION PAVILION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



As the Museum's capstone exhibit hall, Liberation Pavilion is a powerful addition to the Museum experience, made possible through the generous support of private donors and the State of Louisiana. By exploring the ongoing relevance of World War II today, the stunning three-story Pavilion encourages visitors to contemplate the joys, costs, and meaning of liberation and freedom. Adjacent to Liberation Pavilion, the 24,000-square-foot Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground is an impressive outdoor space at the heart of the Museum's campus. Its dedication comes almost two decades after the first major donation to the Museum's Road to Victory Capital Campaign by Donna and Jim Barksdale, then a Museum Trustee, who earmarked the funds for a future parade ground in honor of his uncle Colonel Battle Malone Barksdale (1916–2009), a US Army officer in World War II.

The D-Day to Liberation: Road to Victory
Celebration, which coincided with the
Congressional Medal of Honor Society
Convention, not only provided an opportunity



"We are blessed that we live in the United States of America, where that concept of liberating the oppressed, no matter how long it takes, is part of our national fiber."

TOM HANKS





to thank the supporters who made the campus expansion possible but also served as one of the last major gatherings of living WWII veterans, Holocaust survivors, and Home Front workers to experience what was built in their honor. The Grand Opening ceremony began with a powerful display of the Museum's mission as active military members and Medal of Honor Recipients escorted 34 WWII veterans, three Holocaust survivors, a war orphan, a Polish Home Guard veteran, and a USO performer in a procession through the Parade Ground. Also in attendance were 27 Gold Star Families, whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the US Armed Forces.

Poignant reflections from special guests and dignitaries, including Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards; Museum Trustee and war orphan Sharon Estill Taylor; and actor-filmmaker Tom Hanks, recounted the Museum's incredible growth from one exhibit hall to seven pavilions and decades of commitment to honoring the service and sacrifice of the WWII generation. A local high school student, Ja'Kobe McSwain, recited excerpts of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms speech

as a reminder of the nation's wartime ideals that are now a cornerstone of the Pavilion. Following a performance by the 82nd Airborne Division All-American Chorus and a flyover by the Louisiana National Guard Bayou Militia, guests were able to tour the completed Pavilion.

The D-Day to Liberation: Road to Victory
Celebration continued with a Family and
Military Appreciation Block Party on Saturday,
November 4. Families from across the
Greater New Orleans community explored
the fully expanded campus and enjoyed live
entertainment, local military displays, games and
activities, and more. Hundreds also attended
the Building The National WWII Museum:
From Conception to Capstone Symposium,
a half-day event celebrating the history of the
Museum, from the founders' original idea to the
completion of Liberation Pavilion.

The memorable slate of *D-Day to Liberation:* Road to Victory Celebration events would not have been possible without the generous support of the Past and Present Board Chairs of The National WWII Museum, Timber and Peggy Floyd, and Hancock Whitney.



IMAGE

OPPOSITE Members of the WWII generation receive a hero's welcome during a procession through the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground.

TOP LEFT The 82nd Airborne Division All-American Chorus performs "God Bless America."

TOP RIGHT Medal of Honor Recipient Ryan Pitts shakes hands with WWII Army Air Forces veteran Norman Bussel.

ABOVE Actor Tom Hanks, a longtime Museum supporter, speaks during the Grand Opening.

LIBERATION PAVILION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT







IMAGES

ABOVE LEFT

Board Chairman Ted Weggeland (from left), Founding President & CEO Emeritus Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD, Jim and Donna Barksdale, and President & CEO Stephen J. Watson gather on the Parade Ground.

ABOVE RIGHT

WWII Navy veteran Hank Szlepcsik is escorted through the Parade Ground by a local servicemember.

BELOW

WWII veteran David McCarthy holds a photo of himself with four of his brothers, each of whom served during the war.





"I, along with the other WWII orphan children who are here today, [am] grateful for the mission of this Museum and the way it makes a place for those who return from war and those who didn't. Today I am proud, as always, to stand here as my father's daughter."

SHARON ESTILL TAYLOR





IMAGES

TOP LEFT

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards (from left), Tom Hanks, Nick Mueller, and others stand for the national anthem.

TOP RIGHT

Museum Trustee and Gold Star Daughter Sharon Estill Taylor, PhD, reflects on the sacrifice her father made during the war.

ABOVE LEFT

Robin Barnes performs "The Star-Spangled Banner."

ABOVE RIGHT

Guests pack the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground for the Grand Opening ceremony.

LIBERATION PAVILION EXPERIENCE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Liberation Pavilion Explores the Costs, Meaning of Freedom

CAPSTONE EXHIBIT HALL OFFERS TWO FLOORS OF GALLERIES AND NEW THEATER EXPERIENCE

A STHE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM'S final permanent exhibit hall, Liberation Pavilion explores the end of World War II, the Holocaust, the immediate postwar years, and the war's continuing impact today. Two floors of exhibit space feature personal experiences, iconic imagery, impactful artifacts, and immersive settings, and a third-floor theater offers audiences a brand-new cinematic experience. Together, these spaces allow the Museum to tell a more complete story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world* and fulfill the final pillar of the institution's mission: what does World War II mean today?

FIRST FLOOR

Trott Family In Honor of David W. Trott

Finding Hope in a World Destroyed

IBERATION PAVILION'S FIRST FLOOR, Trott Family In Honor of David W. Trott Finding Hope in a World Destroyed, recognizes the sacrifices of the WWII generation and explores the immense cost of war with exhibits on the Holocaust, Anne Frank, faith in wartime, and the Monuments Men and Women. Over 16 million Americans donned their country's uniform during World War II, and more than 414,000 of them did not return to their homes and families. Stories of both loss and liberation reveal the true horror of the conflict as victors and vanquished alike began the tough task of rebuilding their shattered world.



The "And Then They Came for Me" gallery examines the Holocaust and its tragic legacy. The gallery features re-creations of the Secret Annex where Anne Frank and her family hid in Amsterdam and bunks in the Buchenwald concentration camp, as well as a projection highlighting the liberation of the camps and a listening station with testimonies from survivors.

Through powerful personal testimonies, the 30-minute production in the Pam and Mark Rubin Liberation Theater captures the complicated emotions felt by Holocaust survivors and the US servicemembers who liberated them.



LIBERATION PAVILION EXPERIENCE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



During World War II, a group of Allied scholar-soldiers established a program to protect monuments and other cultural sites as well as locate and return stolen objects to their rightful owners.

The Monuments Men and Women gallery includes an immersive "salt mine," a narrated film, and a room filled with re-creations of recovered art.

The human cost of World War II was enormous, with at least 65 million people dead, cities demolished, and entire continents ravaged. This coffin crate in The Cost of Victory gallery was used to transport the remains of US Army Private First Class Gerald Williams, who was killed in action in Germany on January 15, 1945, and initially buried overseas.





For many American servicemembers, religious faith, faith in each other, and faith in themselves sustained them through the horrors of combat. Featured prominently in the Faith in Wartime gallery are the Four Chaplains, who sacrificed their lives to aid their brothers-in-arms during the sinking of the SS *Dorchester*. Adjacent to the gallery, the Frank and Paulette Stewart Interfaith Chapel honors the critical role of faith in World War II and provides a space for meditation and contemplation.

SECOND FLOOR

The Goldring Family Foundation and Woldenberg Foundation

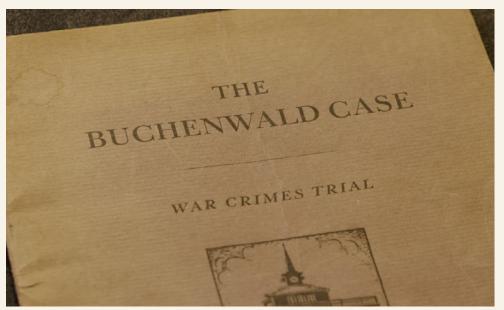
Forces of Freedom at Home and Abroad (1945-Present)

The **Restoring Justice** gallery highlights the first-ever international trials of war criminals, where Allied nations prosecuted thousands of German and Japanese defendants accused of crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Prepared by the Dachau Military Tribunal, this booklet details

the history of the Buchenwald concentration

camp and the charges brought for crimes

committed there.



impact on foreign policy.

THE SECOND FLOOR of Liberation Pavilion, The

■ Goldring Family Foundation and Woldenberg Foundation Forces of Freedom at Home and Abroad (1945–Present), explores

the war's impact in the postwar period and its lasting legacies

destroyed, the war crimes trials, the emergence of the United

States as a world "superpower," movements for social change

and civil rights, new technological innovations, and the war's

today. Exhibits examine the rebuilding efforts of a world



The **Prosperity and Change** gallery explores how wartime innovation and military production propelled the United States into an era of unparalleled economic prosperity, while dramatic changes were also underway, as servicemembers of color and women demanded equal rights.



In the interactive **What Does World War II Mean Today?** gallery, visitors can leave their own personal reflections on the meaning of the war and see their responses appear on a large screen alongside comments from other guests.

LIBERATION PAVILION EXPERIENCE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

THIRD FLOOR

Priddy Family Foundation

Freedom Theater

The first part of the Freedom Theater experience provides insight into about how America became involved in World War II and emphasizes President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms: freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from want and fear. The sacrifices made by the WWII generation in defense of these ideals are then laid bare as the audience platform revolves, taking guests through scenes of wartime destruction into the postwar era of hope, justice, and prosperity.

THE THIRD-FLOOR Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater offers audiences a multimedia experience focused on what was at stake during World War II and the meaning of Allied victory. It highlights how freedom almost vanished from the world in the 1930s and 1940s, efforts to protect and promote freedom during and after World War II, and how each generation has a responsibility to defend democracy, protect freedom, and advance human rights.





ludith W. and Louis M. Freeman

Liberation Terrace

RISING BETWEEN Liberation Pavilion and Campaigns of Courage pavilion, the Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman Liberation Terrace is a prominent outdoor space overlooking the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground. The terrace is also home to a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which honors not only the ultimate sacrifice of the fallen but also the enduring sacrifices of their families and loved ones. The Monument was made possible thanks to the Woody Williams Foundation, which has established these monuments in all 50 states and US territories.

BY THE NUMBERS

33,610

1

MULTIMEDIA THEATER

OODS OF IMMEDSIVE

FLOORS OF IMMERSIVE EXHIBITS

13
GALLERIES

300+

72
ORAL HISTORIES

Special Thanks to Our Liberation Pavilion Donors

Trott Family In Honor of David W. Trott Finding Hope in a World Destroyed

Made possible through a gift from Trott Family Philanthropies

Those Who Served

Made possible through a gift from David and Rosemarie S. DeVido and DeVido Family — John, JoAnn, Phyllis, Raymond, Carol, Shana and Lara Martin DeVido, Leela and Meena Ramakrishnan, and the Stirnimann Family — Katharina, Clara, Antoinette, Hans, Joseph, Elsbeth, Rita, Karl and Albin, in Honor of Beatrice and Joseph DeVido, USN, Brigitta and Johann Stirnimann, Hosted Refugees in Switzerland.

Liberation and Loss

Made possible through a gift from Perry and Marty Granoff

The Cost of Victory

Made possible through a gift from
The Swieca Family, New York,
NY, in Memory of the Swieca
and Lieberman family members
who perished in the Holocaust.
Additional support provided by
John and Evonne Yonover and
Mrs. Betty B. Dettre in Memory
of Major General Rexford H.
Dettre Jr.

"And Then They Came for Me"

Made possible through a gift from The Lupin Foundation in Memory of E. Ralph Lupin, M.D., BGen LA National Guard. Additional support provided by Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust; Kay and Fred Zeidman, In Memory of 1st Lt. Irving Hubert Selber, US Army Air Forces, and Staff Sergeant Morris Benjamin Zeidman, US Army Corps of

Engineers.
Additional support provided by The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future, and the German Federal Ministry of Finance.

Pam and Mark Rubin Liberation Theater

Made possible through a gift from Pam and Mark Rubin, a child survivor of the Holocaust and Trustee of The National WWII Museum. Additional support provided by Morris Family Foundation.

Faith in Wartime

Made possible through a gift from Baptist Community Ministries. Additional support provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Frank and Paulette Stewart Interfaith Chapel

Made possible through a gift from Frank and Paulette Stewart. Additional support provided by Baptist Community Ministries.

The Monuments Men and Women

Made possible through a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tucker Hayes. Additional support provided by Levy Rosenblum Family Foundation, Jay H. Frankel, The C. Jeffrey & Katherine J. Knittel Charitable Foundation, Deborah G. Lindsay, and the Monuments Men and Women Foundation.

The Goldring Family Foundation and Woldenberg Foundation Forces of Freedom at Home and Abroad: 1945–Present Made possible through a gift from

lade possible through a gift from The Goldring Family Foundation and Woldenberg Foundation

Restoring Justice

Made possible through a gift from The Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation in honor of D. Paul Spence. Additional support provided by Jane and Ron Olson.

Great Responsibilities Theater Made possible through a gift from Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Prosperity and Change *Made possible through a gift from*

The Fight for Freedom

Iennifer and Phil Satre

Made possible through a gift in recognition of The Honorable John McCain, generously funded by Richard C. Adkerson & Freeport-McMoRan Foundation

What Does World War II Mean Today?

Made possible through a gift in recognition of The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger, generously funded by Richard C. Adkerson & Freeport-McMoRan Foundation

Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater

Made possible through a gift from the Priddy Family Foundation

Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman Liberation Terrace

Made possible through a gift from Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman

Ann and John E. Koerner III Liberty Bridge Made vossible through a gift from

Made possible through a gift from Ann and John E. Koerner III

Thanks to The Starr Foundation for their generous support of the Celebrations Stairway.

The oral histories throughout Liberation Pavilion were made possible through a gift from Iron Mountain.

ROAD TO VICTORY CONCLUSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Road to Victory Capital Campaign Concludes after Nearly 20 Years

MORE THAN \$420 MILLION RAISED SINCE 2004

2023 SAW THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION of the Road to Victory Capital Campaign that has propelled the growth of The National WWII Museum's campus and educational programs over nearly two decades.

When The National D-Day Museum opened in 2000, founder Stephen E. Ambrose, PhD, and Founding President & CEO Emeritus Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD, thought they had achieved their goal of opening a museum to preserve the stories of the Normandy invasion. But soon, the Museum was pressed to expand its mission; a new Master Plan was developed in 2004 with architects Voorsanger Mathes and exhibit designer Gallagher & Associates to cover every facet of the American experience in World War II, and the Road to Victory Capital Campaign was launched with an original fundraising goal of \$150 million.

Over the next 20 years, the goal was increased to \$400 million, and the Capital Campaign ended with more than \$420 million raised to fund new buildings, exhibit galleries, and infrastructure; an oral history program preserving the firsthand stories of the WWII

generation; and digitization efforts of our vast collection—all while multiplying the size, scope, and impact of this world-class institution.

In addition to support from our many Members, partners, friends, and funding from US Congress and the State of Louisiana, nearly 400 members of the Society of the American Spirit each invested \$25,000 or more to ensure that the Museum fulfilled its mission in telling the story of the American experience in World War II.

While the Road to Victory Capital Campaign has reached its successful conclusion, the Museum's next phase of growth and innovation is already underway. We continue to bring innovative special exhibits, interactive experiences, educational programming, original content, and more to audiences on campus and online to ensure the stories of the WWII generation live on for future generations.



"It has taken a vast network of generous supporters, Capital Campaign partners, historians, community members, and more to become the extraordinary institution we are today. It is inspiring and humbling to have reached this milestone and be able to celebrate with so many of our closest friends."

STEPHEN J. WATSON





TOP Museum Trustees, leaders, and partners break ground on Liberation Pavilion in October 2019.

ABOVE Since opening in 2000, the Museum has expanded its mission and campus to tell the full story of the American experience in World War II.

ROAD TO VICTORY CONCLUSION

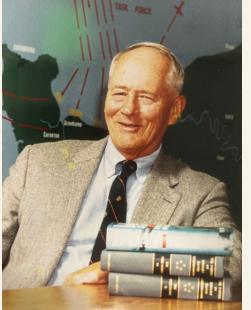






"Steve Ambrose ... would be so proud and so pleased at what great Americans have done to make this [museum] a reality. So to friends and staff and volunteers and veterans, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

GORDON H. "NICK" MUELLER



\$420+ million

RAISED, WITH NEARLY 400 DONORS
GIVING \$25,000 OR MORE

10+ million

VISITORS SINCE OPENING
IN 2000

7

PAVILIONS OPENED ACROSS 7 ACRES

12,000+

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE WWII GENERATION





IMAGES

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT

Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD, and Stephen E. Ambrose, PhD, at the 2000 Grand Opening of The National D-Day Museum.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT

In 2004, Congress designated the Museum as America's official national museum for World War II. The Road to Victory Capital Campaign launched the same year.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM

The soaring Bollinger Canopy of Peace, completed in 2021, unifies the Museum's architecturally unique campus.

TOP LEFT

Stephen Ambrose (1936–2002) first approached his friend and colleague Nick Mueller about creating a D-Day museum in New Orleans over a glass of sherry in 1989.

ABOVE LEFT

Founders Plaza, dedicated in 2017, creates an impressive entryway to the Museum campus.

ABOVE RIGHT

Nick Mueller and Tom Hanks toast with glasses of sherry during the Road to Victory Celebration Dinner on November 2, 2023.



ABOVE The American and Congressional Medal of Honor Society flags fly together during the weeklong Convention on the Museum's campus.

Museum Hosts Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS
REUNITE IN NEW ORLEANS AND
CONNECT WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

HE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM hosted 40 Medal of Honor Recipients and their families in New Orleans for the 2023 Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention, the largest annual gathering of Medal of Honor Recipients and one of our country's most prestigious and patriotic events. Presented by Stephen G. and Regina Oswald Foundation, the Convention took place from October 31 through November 4, 2023, with Recipients reconnecting with one another and sharing their stories of service with the local community. Through the Convention, the Museum and Society worked together to advance our missions and educate and inspire audiences, ensuring that the values of the Medal of Honor are fostered in all generations.

CONVENTION EVENTS HOSTED BY THE MUSEUM OVER 6 DAYS

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS WHO ATTENDED THE 2023 CONVENTION

PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENTS

8,250

STUDENTS AND 87 TEACHERS ACROSS LOUISIANA REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT SHARED THE VALUES AND LESSONS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

During their time in New Orleans, Recipients engaged with local leaders, students, and community members during the Medal of Honor Community Forum, where four Recipients spoke about their personal experiences and the values of the Medal of Honor; during five school visits and livestreamed sessions for the Society's Character Development Program; during trips to Tulane University and NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility for the Society's Valor Outreach Program; and during the Museum's Family and Military Appreciation Block Party.

Other Convention events included a private Memorial Service at St. Louis Cathedral honoring two Recipients who passed away in the last year, the dedication of the Museum's new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, and the Mardi Gras-style Parade of Patriots through downtown New Orleans to Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World, where Recipients gathered for a festive reunion.

A highlight was the Society's annual Patriot Awards Gala on November 3 in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. Presented by the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, the 2023 gala honored four accomplished Americans for their life's work promoting the values of the United States and the Medal of Honor. The honorees included WWII veteran, Museum Trustee, and retired business leader Paul Hilliard; acclaimed actor, producer, director, and writer Tom Hanks; broadcast journalist and producer Robin Roberts; and renowned actor and community activist Wendell Pierce.

Special thanks to 2023 Convention Presenting Sponsor Stephen G. and Regina Oswald Foundation; Event Sponsors TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Ochsner Health, Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, Kevin G. Clifford Family, and Bruce R. McCaw Family Foundation; and Official Travel Sponsor American Airlines.

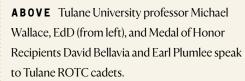
ABOVE Tulane University professor Michael Wallace, EdD (from left), and Medal of Honor to Tulane ROTC cadets.

Recipients ride in a Mardi Gras-style parade through New Orleans's Warehouse District.

Orleans City Council Member Eugene Green

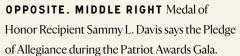
OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT Medal of Honor Recipient James McCloughan salutes after performing during the Gold Star Memorial Service.

(from left), Robin Roberts, Museum Trustee and WWII veteran Paul Hilliard, and Wendell Pierce were honored at the Patriot Awards Gala.

















COURAGE SACRIFICE HONOR CITIZENSHIP



Holocaust-Era Instruments Showcased at Museum

VIOLINS OF HOPE COLLECTION MAKES ITS FIRST APPEARANCE IN NEW ORLEANS

N JANUARY 2023, The National WWII Museum partnered with Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra to host Violins of Hope, a project of concerts based on a private collection of violins, violas, and cellos all collected since the end of World War II. The instruments, which belonged to Jewish musicians before and during the war, were collected and lovingly restored by father-son team and renowned violin makers Amnon and Avshi Weinstein, who live in Tel Aviv and Istanbul. The instruments were donated by or bought from survivors or family members, and several are decorated with Stars of David as an identity tag.

Violins of Hope has become a major force in Holocaust education, and Avshi has traveled the world visiting schools and introducing young people to the history of



"We have to know our history in order not to make the same mistakes we did or our grandparents did. ... Hopefully [Violins of Hope] makes people learn and see different things about the Holocaust."

AVSHI WEINSTEIN

the Holocaust. The project's first appearance in New Orleans was held in commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2023, which was sponsored by Taube Philanthropies as part of the Taube Family Holocaust Education Program.

Five violins from the collection were on display January 24–28 in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, giving Museum visitors the opportunity to view these priceless instruments and learn about their history as well as the Weinsteins' efforts to preserve these instruments as an educational resource and memorial for generations to come. Additionally, guests had the chance to experience two performances by classical violinist Philippe Quint in partnership with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, one at the Orpheum Theater and one at the Museum, featuring forbidden music—music of Jewish

composers banned by the Nazis during World War II.

Violins of Hope is a moving tribute to the more than six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. The Weinsteins' expertise and passion ensure that these instruments will be preserved for future generations to enjoy and reflect on their significance and message of survival and resilience.

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT













Museum Hosts Exhibit on Disney's Contributions to Allied War Effort

SPECIAL EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS OVER 500 RARE HISTORICAL OBJECTS AND FILM CLIPS

IMAGES

TOP LEFT Museum Curator and Restoration Manager Cory Graff guides a guest through the exhibit.

TOP RIGHT Donald Duck wears a US military garrison cap in this title card art from circa 1942.

MIDDLE *The Walt Disney Studios and World War II* special exhibit ran from March 17 through September 24, 2023.

BOTTOM LEFT *The Gremlins*, a 1943 children's book written by Roald Dahl about mischievous creatures who were part of Royal Air Force folklore, is prominently featured in the exhibit.

BOTTOM RIGHT First Lieutenant Robert Conrad Lehnerts's Marine Corps aviator jacket features a patch showing Disney's Peg Leg Pete, an original insignia created by Walt Disney Studios in 1943.

TTHE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM—
its only venue outside the Western United
States—The Walt Disney Studios and World
War II traveling exhibit highlighted the lesserknown wartime history of one of America's
most popular entertainment companies, as
seen through rare and iconic design sketches,
posters, cartoon cels, film clips, and other
unique artifacts.

Walt Disney and his troupe of talented artists pledged their support for the US war effort without hesitation—and without profit. The story started the day after Pearl Harbor, when the US Army moved into Disney's Burbank, California, studios to protect nearby war industries. On the Home Front, the US government quickly learned to leverage the company's forte: animation. The Walt Disney Studios devoted over 90 percent of its wartime output to producing training, propaganda, entertainment, and public service films, publicity and print campaigns, and over 1,200 unique unit insignia that were used all over the globe.

The expansive exhibit, organized by The Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco, California, was displayed in the Museum's Senator John Alario Jr. Special Exhibition Hall from March 17 through September 24, 2023. Appealing to visitors of all ages, it featured wartime films produced by Disney, on subjects

as varied as weather, patriotism, tactics, and even the proper way to rivet, often seen through the eyes of Disney's famous cartoon characters. The exhibit also highlighted Disney's influence on wartime Latin America, a corps of talented Japanese American artists, women employees at Disney, and the female aviators who adopted the Disney-made gremlin character Fifinella as their mascot.

For the exhibit's run in New Orleans, the Museum contributed artifacts from its own collection such as matchbooks, patches, wartime equipment, and a one-of-a-kind aviator's jacket adorned with Disney-made artwork that was created the day before its owner shipped out to the Pacific. Exhibit visitors also had an opportunity to view Disney's 1943 Academy Award won for the anti-Nazi propaganda animated short Der Fuehrer's Face, along with magnificent and rarely seen artworks and a plethora of compelling and colorful insignia that could be explored through a unique digital interactive.

The Museum is grateful to the generous supporters who sponsored the exhibit in New Orleans including: Bob and Sheryl Merrick; TruWealth Advisors, LLC; David DeVido; Dale E. and Janice Davis Johnston Family Foundation; Richard and Kathy Ramsey; Bobby and Sheila Weil; and The Honorable Christine Whitman.

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LEGACY IN PORTRAITS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo-Driven Exhibit Captures Experiences of Japanese American WWII Veterans

POWERFUL EXHIBIT PAYS HOMAGE TO 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

THE PHRASE "GO FOR BROKE," derived from Hawaiian gambling slang, means risking everything to win big. It was the rallying motto adopted by a segregated combat unit of Japanese American soldiers during World War II and the inspiration for one of The National WWII Museum's latest special exhibits.

Displayed in The Joe W. and Dorothy D. Brown Foundation Special Exhibit Gallery from June 30, 2023, through March 31, 2024, *The Go for Broke Spirit: Legacy in Portraits* blended contemporary art photography, wartime artifacts, and oral histories to tell the story of the estimated 33,000 *Nisei* (American-born children of Japanese immigrants) veterans of World War II. The photo-driven exhibit

explored the service and enduring legacy of this marginalized group, tracing the history of the exclusion and incarceration of Japanese American citizens after the attack on Pearl Harbor to the long-overdue recognition of their service with the awarding of 20 Medals of Honor in 2000 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011. The exhibit was generously supported by Catherine and David Edwards. Through the lens of Japanese American photographer Shane Sato, the exhibit captured the essence of the Nisei experience through intimate and personal stories. His portraits, complemented by artifacts from incarceration camps, wartime service, and postwar reunions, provided a comprehensive narrative of personal struggle and shared trauma, as well as perseverance and triumph.

One of the highlights of the exhibit was the homage paid to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and its component unit, the 100th Infantry Battalion; the members of the 100th/442nd embodied the "Go for Broke" spirit and became the most decorated unit for its size and duration of service in the history of the US Army. Awarded more than 50 years

after the war, 100th Infantry Battalion member Yeiki Kobashigawa's Medal of Honor rounded out the exhibit's exploration of the legacy of *Nisei* veterans. Additionally, the exhibit shed light on the *Nisei* linguists of the Military Intelligence Service and their crucial role in helping to expedite the end of the war in the Pacific.

IMAGES

TOP LEFT Women's Army Corps and Military Intelligence Service Corporal Terry Nakanishi (1921–2020) dons her WAC uniform in her portrait.

TOP RIGHT Photographer Shane Sato, second from left, attends the opening of the special exhibit.

BOTTOM LEFT The Go for Broke Spirit: Legacy in Portraits showcased powerful images of Japanese American WWII veterans, supplemented with artifacts and oral histories from the Museum's collection.

BOTTOM RIGHT Classification cards and other documents identify their owner as an "enemy alien."



OUR WAR TOO 2023 ANNUAL REPORT







TOP Dozens of recruitment posters line the wall of the special exhibit.

ABOVE An interactive digital scrapbook allows visitors to explore some of the treasures within the Museum's archive of wartime albums and memory books.

LEFT Romay Davis, Museum Senior Curator and Director for Curatorial Affairs Kim Guise, and Virginia Wilterdink officially open *Our War Too* to the public.

Museum Opens Groundbreaking Special Exhibit on Women's WWII Service

EXHIBIT RECOGNIZES SERVICEWOMEN'S WARTIME EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE SPECIAL EXHIBIT Our War Too:
Women in Service opened on November
II, 2023, in the Senator John Alario, Jr. Special
Exhibition Hall. Two centenarian WWII
veterans featured in the exhibit, Romay
Davis and Virginia Wilterdink, joined the
ribbon-cutting, and servicewomen of all
ages participated in the opening celebration
on Veterans Day.

During World War II, nearly 350,000 women worked against expectations, challenging themselves and others, to volunteer and serve their country in wartime. The Army and Navy Nurse Corps accounted for more than 73,000 of these volunteers, who provided critical care around the world. By 1943, all US service branches had established women's units: the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps/Women's Army Corps (WAAC/WAC); the Women Accepted for Volunteer

Emergency Service (WAVES) of the Navy; the Coast Guard SPARs; and the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. Despite their contributions going largely unrecognized, the record of service of these women and of the 1,000 civilian Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) laid the groundwork for the 1948 Women Armed Services Integration Act and ever-increasing possibilities for women in the military.

Presented by the Gayle and Tom Benson
Charitable Foundation, with additional
support from Don and Sharon Jones, the
artifact-rich *Our War Too* showcases nearly
200 items—many on display for the first
time—from standard-issue gear to personal
memorabilia. A Marine mechanic's coveralls,
WASP flight suit, and rugged combat boots
stand alongside a flowing evening gown made
from a parachute by an Army nurse. Dog
tags, desk nameplates, lipstick, and heels

all tell stories of the pioneering American women who forged new paths in service during World War II.

Curated by the Museum's Senior Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs Kim Guise, *Our War Too* also includes original films produced for the exhibit, environmental archival footage, and a digital scrapbook drawn from treasures within the Museum's archive. At the *We Were There* interactive oral history stations, visitors converse with WWII veterans thanks to artificial intelligence technology, hearing firsthand about the trials and triumphs of women's service in World War II.

After the exhibit concludes at the Museum on July 21, 2024, a national tour begins, carrying the story of America's trailblazing servicewomen to new audiences at partner institutions for the next five years.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Museum Holds 16th International Conference on World War II

ANNUAL EVENT FEATURES ROSTER OF LEADING EXPERTS ON WWII HISTORY

THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD WAR II

brought together more than 30 authors, scholars, and eyewitnesses to history from around the world. Over 350 attendees convened in New Orleans for the December 7–9, event, including history enthusiasts, local high school and university students, historians, and WWII veterans.

The 2023 Conference coincided with the Museum's Pearl Harbor Commemoration presented by Bank of America, included a preconference symposium on WWII Liberations & Legacies, and provided conference attendees an opportunity to explore the Museum's newest permanent exhibition hall, Liberation Pavilion. The three-day program featured 16 panels of expert-led discussions examining influential personalities, strategic decisions, and controversies of World War II. Highlights included the Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Distinguished Lecture on World War II, featuring historians Jeremy Black, PhD, and Rob Citino, PhD, on "Rethinking World War II" and a special session "Dauntless: Paul Hilliard in WWII and a Transformed America," featuring

WWII veteran and Museum Trustee Paul Hilliard in conversation with author Citino. The two discussed Hilliard's service as a radioman/ gunner in SBD Dauntless dive bombers in the Pacific, as well as his life following the war.

The conference concluded with an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the making of the Apple TV+ series *Masters of the Air* with co-producer Kirk Saduski and author Donald L. Miller, PhD, whose book on the Eighth Air Force in World War II served as the basis for the show. The evening concluded with inperson attendees watching sneak-peek clips of *Masters of the Air*.

Along with in-person attendees, the International Conference reached audiences around the globe with over 12,000 live virtual views that weekend and 160,000 on-demand views since. The 2023 Conference was a great success, due in large part to the support of Presenting Sponsor Pritzker Military Foundation, on behalf of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, and plans are already well underway for the 2024 Conference on November 21–23.

IMAGES

TOP

Author Donald L. Miller, PhD, and Playtone producer Kirk Saduski give an inside look at the making of *Masters of the Air*.

LEFT

Alexandra Richie, DPhil, and Christopher Browning, PhD, discuss the Holocaust and its legacy in Eastern Europe.

RIGHT

WWII veteran and Museum Trustee Paul Hilliard signs copies of his biography, *Dauntless*.



350+
IN-PERSON GUESTS

30+
AUTHORS, SCHOLARS, AND

AUTHORS, SCHOLARS, AND EYEWITNESSES TO HISTORY

16 EXPERT PANELS

16,000+

93,000+
ON-DEMAND VIRTUAL VIEWS







ABOVE

Nearly 70 graduates of the Museum's master's degree program with ASU were recognized during a ceremony in June 2023.

RIGH:

Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy Executive Director Michael Bell, PhD, and ASU Director of the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies Richard Amesbury, PhD, present a certificate of completion to a master's program graduate.



WWII Scholars Celebrated in Ceremony at Museum

ONLINE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERS LEARNERS NEW INSIGHTS INTO WORLD WAR II

N JUNE 3, 2023, The National WWII Museum's Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy recognized graduates from its collaborative World War II Studies master's degree program with Arizona State University in the Museum's first-ever Celebration of Graduates. Joined by their families and friends, 67 graduates from across the country were recognized in a public ceremony held in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center and were gifted special certificates to commemorate their hard work and academic achievement in the program. In all, more than 150 guests attended the ceremony, where they heard congratulatory speeches by former Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Historian Rob Citino, PhD; Museum President & CEO

Stephen J. Watson; ASU Director of the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies Richard Amesbury, PhD; and the ceremony keynote speaker, Museum Founding President & CEO Emeritus Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD.

The World War II Studies online master's degree program—as well as the online WWII continuing education program—is taught by Museum scholars, Jenny Craig Institute historians, and ASU faculty, providing students of all backgrounds with in-depth insights into the war and its legacies. As of the end of 2023, 196 WWII scholars have graduated from the Museum's partnered degree program, and more than 1,000 lifelong learners have enrolled in continuing education courses.

DIGITAL REACH 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Expanding Our Digital Reach

PODCAST AND VIDEO SERIES VIRTUAL LEARNING **OPPORTUNITIES CONNECT MUSEUM** WITH AUDIENCES WORLDWIDE

HILE THE DEVELOPMENT of The National WWII Museum's

campus has been at the forefront, advancing our digital educational programs has always been crucial, offering students of all ages and backgrounds new ways to connect to history and honor the generation that sacrificed so much to secure our freedom. The Museum's growing collection of educational content and original scholarship—including virtual programming for students, new digital content, livestreamed events, online teacher training, and courses offered through the Museum's partnership with Arizona State University has reached newer and more diverse audiences than ever before and will be a key component of the Museum's future growth, ensuring that the war's most significant lessons continue to be shared well into the future.

IMAGES

ABOVE

Museum Associate Vice President of Collections and Exhibits Erin Clancey explains the history of the Gilbert U-238 Atomic Energy Lab as part of the *From the Collection* series.



Overall Digital Reach

The Museum's original digital content published on its websites, social media feeds, and streaming platforms—continues to bring the stories of World War II to new, broader audiences. In 2023, the Museum's digital engagements across all online platforms exceeded 19.6 million.

Sessions on the Museum's website reached over 14.4 million. Historical articles alone attracted more than 8.3 million users in 2023, with articles on Adolf Hitler, the Holocaust, Pacific theater strategy, and Queen Elizabeth's WWII service generating the most attention. To add to the website's growing archive of content, the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy team wrote and published 86 new articles throughout the year, including well-read pieces on the

19.6+ million

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENTS ACROSS MUSEUM WEBSITES AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTS

14.4+ million

WEBSITE VISITS

Manhattan Project and Trinity nuclear test, the Battle of Kasserine Pass, Heinrich Himmler's Posen speeches, and the Allied firebombing of Hamburg, as well as several profiles of Medal of Honor Recipients of World War II.

The Museum also debuted two new video series, World War II in 2 and From the Collection; 27 episodes garnered hundreds of thousands of views and engagements across YouTube and other social media platforms in 2023. World War *II in 2* examines fascinating topics like the Battle of the Bulge, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Project Paperclip. From the Collection offers a behind-the-scenes look at the artifacts in Liberation Pavilion including Lieutenant Clair Cline's handcrafted violin created at Stalag Luft I in Germany and "the most dangerous toy ever"—the Gilbert U-238 Atomic Energy Lab.

516,438

FOLLOWERS ACROSS SOCIAL AND DIGITAL CONTENT PLATFORMS

8.3+ million **WEB ARTICLE READERS**



Manufacturing Victory Electronic Field Trip

The Museum's spring Manufacturing Victory Electronic Field Trip brought the inspiring story of the American Home Front to classrooms across the globe. Students learned how Americans at home contributed to Allied victory overseas and brought the country out of the Great Depression. Museum educators and student reporters highlighted stories of women and people of color who came together to bring the United States to the forefront of manufacturing during World War II.

CLASSROOMS AND INDIVIDUALS

46,333 STATES AND 8 INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES



CENTURY'S WITNESS: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF WALLACE CARROI

Webinars and Courses

The National WWII Museum engages with learners from across the globe through a variety of distance learning programs including webinars, teacher workshops, professional development courses, and Virtual Field Trips. These online learning experiences provide access to opportunities for students, educators, and other professionals to learn significant WWII stories, wherever they are in the world.

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS AS OF 2023

NEW WWII HISTORY-BASED WEBINARS AND ONLINE **TEACHER COURSES IN 2023**

World War II On Topic Podcast

The Museum released the fourth and fifth seasons of its signature podcast, World War II On Topic, in 2023.

Season 4, subtitled Veteran Voices, highlighted firsthand accounts from those who lived through the war. Six episodes published in the spring included interviews and panel discussions featuring WWII veterans Alan Moskin and Medal of Honor Recipient Woody Williams along with French Resistance member Nicole Spangenberg.

Season 5, *Oppenheimer and the Manhattan Project*, explored the history, development, and ramifications of the atomic bomb. Debuting in July, this podcast included discussions on General Leslie Groves, firsthand accounts from people who experienced the bombing, and an analysis of the blockbuster biographical film Oppenheimer.

NEW EPISODES PUBLISHED

TOTAL PLAYS ACROSS APPLE PODCASTS.

SPOTIFY, AND YOUTUBE



TOP LEFT Behind the scenes of the Manufacturing Victory Electronic Field Trip.

TOP RIGHT Historian Steph Hinnershitz, PhD, right, speaks with author Mary Llewellyn McNeil during a webinar.

ABOVE Museum Historians John Curatola, PhD, and Jason Dawsey, PhD, record a podcast episode discussing the film *Oppenheimer*.

SUPPORTING TEACHERS AND STUDENTS





ABOVE

Warren Easton Charter High School Talented Theater students perform an original production, Fighting *Then and Now*, inspired by WWII veteran Lawrence Brooks, at BB's Stage Door Canteen.

LEFT

Warren Easton Charter High School student Ja'Kobe McSwain recites President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms during the Grand Opening of Liberation Pavilion.

Museum Uniquely Supports Local Teachers and Students

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES EDUCATE STUDENTS ON WWII HISTORY

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM serves teachers and students from across the country with a variety of classroom resources, professional development offerings, and student programs. Although our mission and scope are national, the Museum is also uniquely positioned to work closely with schools in the Greater New Orleans area to support local educators in their instruction on World War II and encourage students to participate in special opportunities on our campus.

One example of the Museum's local outreach is its partnership with social studies teacher Mike Arvites of Holy Cross High School. Arvites participated in the 2017 and 2018 War in Europe Summer Teacher Institute and then traveled with teachers from across the nation to Normandy, France. With his expertise and content knowledge, Arvites created a yearlong WWII elective course at his school, which allows students to become Museum

Members and take monthly field trips to explore Museum galleries, learn about special exhibits directly from curators, get up close with authentic artifacts, and discover careers in history and museums. For their culminating experience, the students guide their parents through the Museum to showcase everything they have learned.

The Museum also works closely with Warren Easton Charter High School. In 2023, students were able to participate in a career day at the Museum and hear from Medal of Honor Recipients as part of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Character Development Program. Additionally, students in the Talented Theater program and their teacher, Brittney Crayton, wrote a production titled Fighting Then and Now based loosely on the life of Lawrence Brooks, beloved friend of the Museum and, at the time of his passing in 2022, the nation's oldest WWII veteran. The group staged a performance at the Museum on September 12 in honor of Brooks's birthday.

Many of the Talented Theater students also participated in the Museum's Student Leadership Academy, a one-week intensive that challenges young people to contemplate strategies large and small, inspired by the WWII generation, to use in their own lives as they encounter ethical dilemmas and face nowin situations. The Museum selected Ja'Kobe McSwain, lead actor in Fighting Then and Now and Student Leadership Academy participant, to share President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms during the Grand Opening of Liberation Pavilion on November 3. It was a proud moment for the Museum education team, McSwain's family, and Crayton to see him shine on stage in front of WWII veterans, Medal of Honor Recipients, and local and state dignitaries.

These meaningful partnerships are just a few of the many ways the Museum works with schools and educators to ensure students today and in the future continue to be inspired by the lessons of the WWII generation.

EVOLVING OUR PHYSICAL CAMPUS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A New Chapter Begins

CAMPUS CONTINUES TO EVOLVE WITH NEW EXPERIENCES AND UPGRADES

2023 WAS A TRANSFORMATIONAL
YEAR for The National WWII Museum
as we opened our final permanent exhibit
hall, Liberation Pavilion, and celebrated
the successful conclusion of the Road to
Victory Capital Campaign that has made
our campus expansion possible. While
these are significant achievements, our
work is far from over. We are constantly
looking ahead to ensure all aspects of the
visitor experience on our New Orleans
campus are well maintained to the highest
standards, evolving to remain at the
forefront of technology and preserve
our reputation as one of the world's
top museums.

The Museum recently opened the newly renovated Malcolm S. Forbes Rare and Iconic Artifacts Gallery in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion. Plans had been in place since 2017 to renovate the space as a gallery for rare artifacts with the support of the Timothy Forbes Family, who also donated artifacts related to entrepreneur and politician Malcolm S. Forbes's service

in the European theater of World War II as a US Army machine gunner. The renovated space now highlights more than 50 artifacts from the Museum's vast collection—from the one-of-a-kind to the ever-present, the personal to the universal.

The gallery also features *Voices from the*Front, a new interactive experience that helps visitors connect with the WWII generation in a high-tech yet personal way. Made possible thanks to generous support from Margie and St. Denis J. "Sandy"

Villere, the experience allows guests to hold conversations with more than a dozen interviewees with the help of artificial intelligence—putting real faces to history, offering unique and intimate perspectives, and bridging the gap between generations.

Also in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, the main front entrance is transforming into the Peter and Mary Kalikow Entrance Plaza, and planning is in progress to completely renovate *The D-Day Invasion of Normandy*, which opened in 2000 as part

of The National D-Day Museum. In the next year, the Museum will also make significant upgrades to *Beyond All Boundaries* to ensure that the signature experience continues to offer an unforgettable visitor experience.

Meanwhile, in John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, the Museum's patrol torpedo boat, PT-305, will soon be back on public display. Guests will see and experience its unique history from a custom-built observation deck and through below-deck guided tours. In the near future, guests will be allowed a behind-the-scenes view of the restoration and preservation of other macro-artifacts.

As the Museum continues to evolve and add new experiences, we want to thank you, our dedicated supporters, for your continued commitment to preserving the story of the American experience in World War II for future generations. Your support makes all our achievements possible, and we look forward to sharing more of our progress with you in the years to come.



ABOVE *Voices from the Front* allows Museum guests to interact with members of the WWII generation using innovative technology.



Our Members

LEFT

Guests fill US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Patriot Awards Gala.





Members

152,060 CHARTER MEMBERS

\$10.4 MILLION IN CONTRIBUTIONS

The National WWII Museum would not be where it is today without the significant contributions of our Charter Members. Thanks to their generous support, the Museum's educators, historians, and curators have continued to pioneer innovative ways to share the full story of the American experience in World War II with audiences far beyond the Museum campus. The loyalty of our Members and their unwavering commitment to the values of the WWII generation help us fulfill our mission as America's WWII Museum.

For more than two decades, Charter Members have generously propelled the expansion and enrichment of our educational outreach and programming initiatives. In Fiscal Year 2023, 152,060 Charter Members played a pivotal role in extending our reach to new audiences, sharing the vital and ever-relevant stories of World War II. The Museum received over \$10.4 million from our Charter Members in Fiscal Year 2023.

THANK YOU TO EACH OF OUR CHARTER MEMBERS for their steadfast support throughout Fiscal Year 2023 and beyond. As we continue to advance and adapt, we remain committed to ensuring that audiences of all ages understand the sacrifices made to safeguard the freedoms we enjoy today.

Patriots Circle

1,509 PATRIOTS CIRCLE MEMBERS

\$4.1 MILLION IN CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions from Patriots Circle Members enable the Museum to continue its vital work, including digitizing collections and artifacts, developing new spaces and interactive exhibits on the New Orleans campus, and expanding our reach through digital content and distance-learning programs. Through the advocacy of this esteemed group, the Museum is able to engage and inspire more students and adult learners worldwide with the profound lessons and enduring legacies of World War II.

Among the most ardent supporters of The National WWII Museum, Patriots Circle Members contributed \$4.1 million to the Museum in Fiscal Year 2023—exceeding all previous years of giving from this distinguished group.

THANK YOU TO EACH OF OUR PATRIOTS CIRCLE

MEMBERS for supporting our institution during such a critical time and for demonstrating the American spirit in such profound and meaningful ways. Because of your generosity and dedication, we are able to continue advancing the Museum's mission and inspire new generations with lessons of freedom, bravery, and courage.

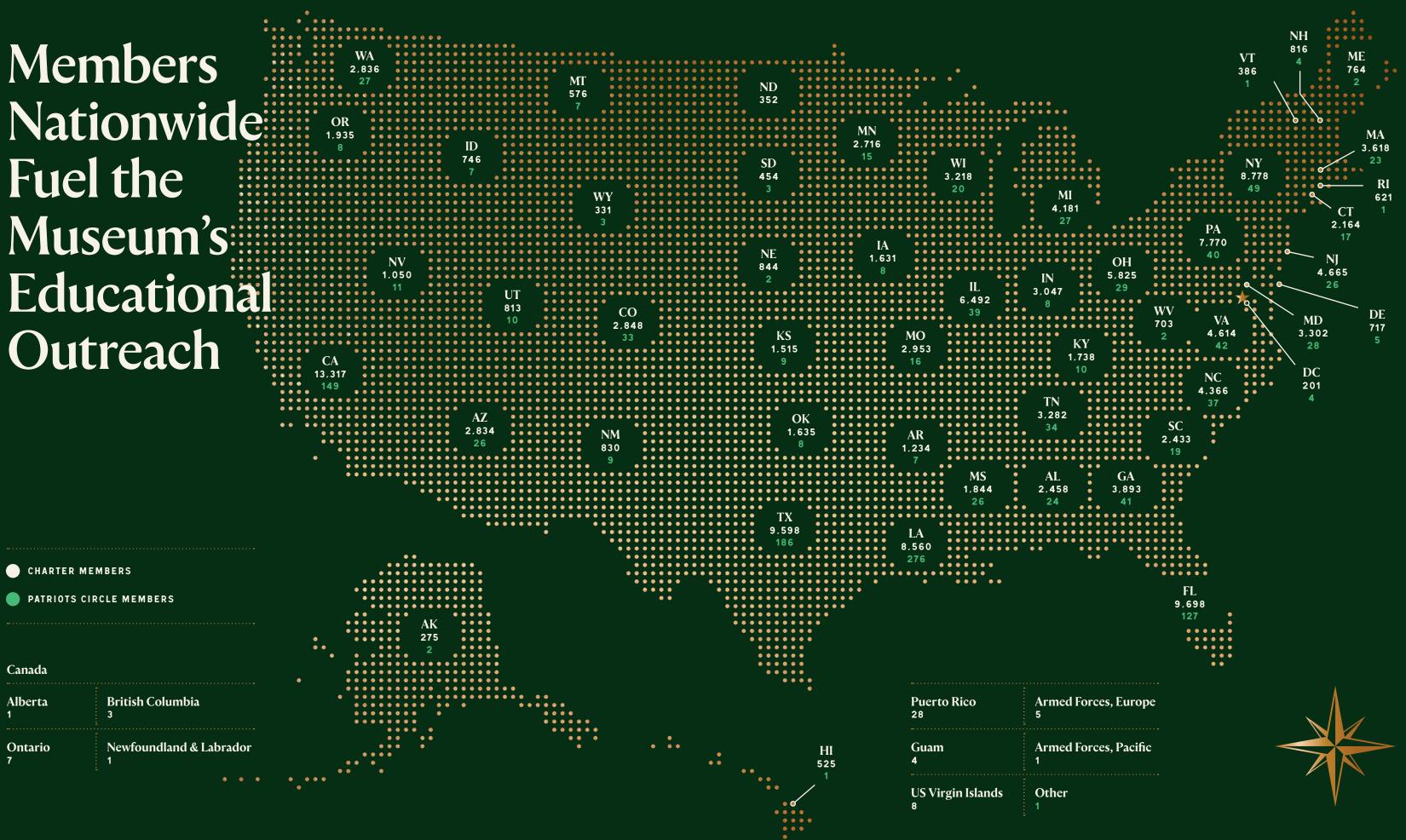
OPPOSITE, LEFT

A local servicemember tolls the Normandy Liberty Bell during a tribute to the WWII generation.

OPPOSITE, RIGHT

WWII Army veterans George Reitmeier and Dominick Critelli remove their caps for the national anthem.

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Virginia Eason Weinmann



Four-Star Patriots Circle Member Virginia Weinmann has played a vital role in the Museum's growth in the past two decades. As a member of the Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2010, she remained active in fundraising efforts for the Capital Campaign even after her time on the Board ended. Virginia says of helping create the campus Master Plan: "That was such an exciting time to be a part of the Museum because it was really taking shape."

Virginia remembers hearing about the bombing of Pearl Harbor over the radio as a 12-year-old girl. Even at that young age, she understood the gravity: the devastating loss of life and that the country would soon be at war. Everyone's lives would change completely. Later in life, as Virginia discovered the Museum, its mission connected with her. "I was interested to learn that one of the goals of the Museum is to keep people from forgetting," she says. "It's easy to slip out of the public's mind."

Virginia is extremely proud of what the Museum has built and how it showcases America's story in the war. "If the cause is just, and people join together under good leadership, amazing things can be accomplished. It shows what sometimes must be done to preserve our freedom and liberty," she says. "At the time, our Armed Forces were far inferior to even much smaller countries, and yet in the course of the war we were able to build up our military to overcome our enemy. I am glad this is well documented at the Museum and visitors can take home that lesson."



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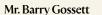
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Sam McKeel

GLADWYNE, PENNSYLVANIA

Not many people can say they locked eyes with an enemy bomber pilot diving toward their ship and lived to tell the tale—but Sam McKeel can. As a WWII US Navy veteran, he was inspired by the Museum's mission and joined the Patriots Circle in 2018 and is now a Three-Star Member. Sam walked out of his first Museum visit saying, "Every American should be made to go here and see what wars look like—how do wars start, and where do they end up?"

Sam's experiences during World War II shaped the rest of his life. He joined the Navy two weeks shy of his 17th birthday in 1943 and served on a tank landing ship (LST) in the Pacific. His job assignment in the gunnery department gave him the valuable lesson that one must "do the job

right, or not at all." He attributes his successful postwar career as a newsman to the work ethic he learned aboard his ship.

Decades later, Sam's daughter planned that special Museum visit. "What blew my mind was the airplane hanging overhead in the entrance when I walked in!" he says. For a man who spent his entire career communicating with the American people, Sam now has this message: "The Museum presents war in a different way than you've ever seen before—it communicates more, you see things in there that show you how they happened and why they happened. It's tremendously positive for the [American] people to see; they leave there knowing why it all started and the cost of war."

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When Charlie Smith, a US Army veteran who survived Battle of the Bulge, first walked through the Road to Berlin galleries in 2015, he stopped cold, looked around, and said to his wife, Pam, "This is where I was." The memorabilia, the photos, the artifacts—they all brought to life his experiences as a young infantryman in Europe almost 80 years ago. Charlie remembered the bitter cold, trees turning into bombs from enemy fire, and digging foxholes into the icy ground with his fingers. He and Pam knew they needed to support the Museum since their first visit in 2011 when they made a five-year commitment to the Road to Victory Capital Campaign, and they joined the Patriots Circle after that moving visit in 2015.

99, and Pam fervently believed in the Museum's

experience in World War II. What began as a personal journey for Charlie to rediscover his past grew into their shared objective to encourage everyone to visit the Museum. As Pam says, every time they came they were reminded what a human experience it is to go through the galleries: "You are sharing it all with the person next to you, even if you don't know them."

World War II to understand the world today."

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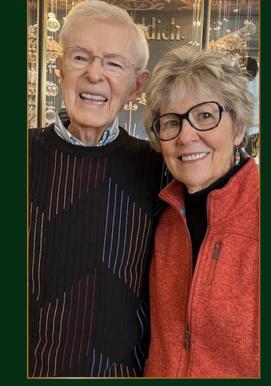
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Charlie and Pam Smith

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Charlie, who passed away in February 2024 at age

mission of sharing the story of the American

Charlie leaves behind a legacy of gratitude for the great men and women who served with him—a legacy Pam is able to carry on as a Two-Star Patriots Circle Member. Charlie wanted the world to know that it would be a different place today without America's participation. "World War II defined our future." he said. "One must understand

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WWII MIA

WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

USAF (Ret.)

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WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

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DONORS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Yoshio "Yosh" Nakamura

WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

A WWII veteran wearing his Army uniform subtly smiles at Museum guests with his eyes closed, chin resting gently on his perched hand. The portrait, taken by photographer Shane Sato of 442nd Regimental Combat Team soldier and One-Star Patriots Circle Member Yoshio Nakamura, is featured in the Museum's special exhibit The Go for Broke Spirit: Legacy in

On hand for the exhibit's opening in June 2023, Yoshio—or "Yosh"—felt fortunate to be in attendance and proud of how the Museum highlighted the story of the Nisei, or secondgeneration lapanese Americans. As a longtime Charter Member, Yosh says his visit reaffirmed his recent commitment to join the Museum's Patriots Circle: "This was some of the most impressive research done by the Museum. Not only did it tell about our internment when the war broke out, it also gave a very good

background on what happened to Japanese Americans during the war and what they accomplished when they were sent overseas."

In 1944, at 18 years old, Yosh enlisted in the US Army to show his loyalty to his country; he was assigned to the segregated 442nd. He met lifelong friends during his service and has reunions with his comrades to this day. "I'm very proud I was able to serve in that unit," Yosh says. "I was able to stand on the shoulders of soldiers who did a remarkable thing."

A lifelong educator, Yosh understands the power of knowledge. He encourages every American to visit The National WWII Museum to learn about their own history. "Going through the Museum," he says, "visitors can take pride in the fact that men and women were willing to give their lives for the freedoms we have today."

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WWII Veteran

Jacob Schukman Jr., WWII Veteran

Marcellus Schukman.

WWII Veteran

Ralph Schukman,

WWII Veteran

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Rowland Fletcher

Joseph W. Fletcher, WWII Veteran

Rowland T. Fletcher Sr., WWII Veteran

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Robert Flores, WWII Veteran

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Evelyn Fotiades Poulos

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Nick Demas, USAAC,

WWII Veteran

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WWII Home Front Captain Charles W. Frank,

WWII Veteran

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Robert Lee Gifford, WWII Veteran

Mrs. Ruth Friedman and Mrs. Beth Amy Hopkins

1st Lt. Justin Friedman, WWII Veteran

Sheldon and Golda Friedstein Major (Dr.) Joseph Lieberstein

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Henry and JoAnn Gagain

Joseph Alix, US Army,

WWII Veteran

Moses Attaya, US Air Corps, WWII Veteran

Alfred Karmen, US Navy. WWII Veteran

Edward Karmen, US Navy,

WWII Veteran

Eugenia Karmen, WWII Veteran

Frank Karmen, US Navy,

WWII Veteran

Howard Gagain, US Army, WWII Veteran

William Gagain, US Army, WWII Veteran

PFC Oscar E. Zoss, US Army, WWII Veteran

Captain Anthony C. Zucca, US Army, WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veteran

William J. Gallagher, Colonel, US Army (Ret.)

John F. Ganahl

LEFT

Mae Krier, an original WWII Rosie

the Riveter, visits her museum on

National Rosie the Riveter Day in

Fortress and B-29 Superfortress

aircraft during the war and helped

lead the way for Rosies to receive

the Congressional Gold Medal.

March 2023. Krier built B-17 Flying

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Mr. Butch Elroy Gartzke Jr.

Dr. George J. Gataky

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WWI Veteran

Edward J. Greene, WWII Veteran

Rebecca Gates

Richard Craig Wilkie Sr., WWII Veteran

Ms. Mindy A. Gates

Richard Henry Trone, WWII Veteran

E. William Gates, WWII Veteran

Bonnie Gatling

Arthur E. Matter, US Navy, WWII Veteran

Warren Matter, US Army Air Forces, WWII Veteran

Gayden Francis Gauthier and Janell Lorio Gauthier

Roy Anthony Gauthier,

WWII Veteran

Ferrell John Lorio,

WWII Veteran Maurine G. Gauthier

Mr. and Mrs. Norman C.

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Donald Doll, WWII Veteran Mathias (Buddy) Doll,

WWII Veteran

Clyde Gauthreaux,

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Earl Gauthreaux,

WWII Veteran

Robert Gauthreaux, Korean and

Vietnam War Veteran

Roy N. Gauthreaux,

WWII Veteran Joseph R. Surgi, WWII Veteran

Ronald and Sharon Gembler

Charles E. Crain Jr.,

WWII Veteran

Alfred F. Gembler,

WWII Veteran

Elam George Gembler,

WWII Veteran

Emil Frank Gembler, WWI Veteran

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Bruce B. Williamson Mr. and Mrs. Gerard V. Gething

John Parise, WWII Veteran Nicholas Parise, WWII Veteran

Mr. William Gibson

Roger E. Gilbert and

Joan J. Gilbert

Earl Jacob Gilbert

Mr. Allen Dale Gillette and

Ms. Kathleen Zimmerman

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Maida J. Johnson,

WWII Veteran Michael Gilliland

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USN, WWII Veteran

LT CMDR Frederick Alexaner McAbeer, USN,

WWII Veteran

Emma Frances Kotis Phillips, Thomas Gardiner, US Army,

T/SGT Robert Paul Phillips, Samuel Rawls, US Army, USAF, WWII Veteran WWII Veteran

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John George Zuurbier,

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WWII Veteran **Christine Gray**

> Major Wesley Neil Pettigrew, USAF, WWII Veteran

Cathy Green

Sarah Green

Clarence S. Greene Jr., MD and MiMi Browne-Greene

Alvarez Browne, US Army,

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WWII Veteran Charles Haley, USAF

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WWII Veteran

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SSGT. Howard N. Hanberry,

Mrs. Esther R. Hankin Henry Hankin, WWII Veteran

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Kathleen Kress Hanson John J. Kress, WWII Veteran Ruth McNerney Kress,

WWII Veteran Mr. Duane D. Harms

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Delbert F. Wombacher.

Richard Immler, US Army,

WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

Frederick S. Landis,

WWII Veteran

James Albert Altman,

Malcolm Lamar Landrum,

Fert Daigle, WWII Veteran

Conward Henderson,

WWII Veteran

Eddie Landry Sr., WWII Veteran

John Hugh Nixon,

WWII Veteran

Dr. and Mrs. Jordan Harry

Needham W. Langston

Marylou Langston,

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Henry Lapa, WWII Veteran

Max Lapa, WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

Mr. N. Craig Lane

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lames Larkin

Ms. Jerri Lasser

Ken Latham

Norman A. Pittluck,

WWII Veteran

William Leonard Lauer,

WWII Veteran

Charles H. Lawson Jr.,

Edmund Lyons Leach,

WWII KIA

WWII Veteran

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Helen H. Laughery

Phillip Lawson

Thomas Leach

WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

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William Raymond Lewis

John Faber Miller III

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Sherry Lowry

Neil Lubarsky

Robert Brister Lowry, US Navy,

Gerald Lubarsky, US Army,

WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

Susan Michele Lewis

Missie Lindsey

WWII Veteran

John and Cindy Lindstedt

Iames H. Lindstedt.

WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

Sgt. Samuel Dantone,

Christopher J. Lockwood

Robert C. Lockwood,

WWII Veteran

Erle Erdman, USN,

WWII Veteran

Bob Christiansen,

WWII Veteran

lanette Loeb

Mark Loechelt

WWII Veteran

Mr. Joe Locascio, USAF (Ret.)

Capt. Joseph Dantone, US Army,

Donald F. Pollitt, WWII Veteran

Herman Loeb, WWII Veteran

Donavon and Glorianne Loeslie

David Fort, WWII Veteran

Capt. Charles Philip Lehman,

RIGHT The Victory Belles greet a WWII veteran arriving in New Orleans with the Soaring Valor program. In 2023, the program brought 101 WWII veterans to their museum.

Scott Lustig

Thomas Maas

WWII Veteran

Orien MacDonald,

WWII Veteran

Karen MacDonald

Mrs. Rebecca Mackie

WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

Col. Russell Mayeur, US

Merchant Marine,

Io Anne MacWilliam Janice K. Marques, PhD Lena Matranga

Mrs. Christine B. Lurk Aviation Cadet William C. Roy O. Coppock, Barnum, US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran WWII Veteran James H. MacWilliam Jr., WWII Veteran Major Leonard Lustig, Georges Maillot US Army, WWII Veteran Frederick and Nick Lynn and Lorrie DuPont Linda R. Mangelsdorf Robert V. Siebel Theodore A. Mangelsdorf William G. "Bill" Newnam, Virginia and Francis S. Maas WWII Veteran William V. Sullivan, Geno Marconi WWII Veteran Eugene (Geno) Marconi, US Donald A. MacDonald Army, WWII Veteran Stanley E. McDonald, Mr. Joseph Margolis WWII Veteran Mr. Mark Markovic Stuart W. MacDonald, Daniel Flynn, US Air Force,

Lt. Dorothy Flynn, Clifford Stover, WWII Veteran Richard Albrecht Sr., US Navy,

US Coast Guard Joseph Gregus, USA, WWII Veteran Michael Markovic, USN, WWII Veteran Charles D. Marks Major Sidney L. Marks. WWII Veteran Private Harry Otter, WWI Veteran

WWII Veteran

Clyde Earl Buchhanan Jr., WWII Veteran Major General Robert Marquette, USAF (Ret.) Ben Marriner Roy M. Martin O. V. Martin, WWII Veteran James and Shirley Martin James R. Martin, WWII Veteran C. L. Peterson, WWII Veteran Dorothy P. Martin Lee Martin Henry Victor Martin Jr., WWII Veteran Audrey M. Martino John A. Martino, WWII Veteran Mr. Thomas L. Mason Joseph Eazer, WWII Veteran Thomas Eazer, WWII Veteran William Massey Mr. Carl Masterson Jack Kaufmann, WWII Veteran Hugh N. Masterson, WWII Veteran Regina Sowell and

Norman Hugh Mathews

Iames Arnold Mathews.

James Nathaniel Sowell,

WWII Veteran

WWII Veteran

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Julien L. McCall Jr.

Mr. Julien L. McCall,

WWII Veteran

Ms. Randi S. Mills Mr. Michael Moss William and Gloria Nielsen Scott Olsen, RM2 USCG Judy F. Payne Ellen Young McClain Mr. Henry E. Meadows Billy Bruce Hirsch, USN, O. A. Aaker, WWII Veteran Walter S. Young Jr., US Army, SM2/C Victor Giandana, Arthur Frisby, WWII Veteran WWII Veteran Claude W. Meadows Jr., Evelyn Mills, WWII Veteran Biff and Barbara Motley WWII Veteran Col. David K. Mulkey Fred Gula, WWII Veteran WWII Veteran Arthur W. Peabody Jr. US Navy, WWII Veteran James S. Mills, WWII Veteran Dr. Leon Miles Hyatt Jr., Sgt., Henry E. Meadows Jr., US Air James Redmond, Duncan McPherson, USMC Arthur W. Peabody Sr. **Charles Edward Milner** Mary Mullervy US Army, WWII Veteran Drs. Sam and Charles Milner, Terence F. Mullervy, WWII Veteran HMG 605, WWII Veteran William Pedrotti George Woodrow "Woodie" Katherine McClugage Force, Vietnam War Veteran Don Noblitt Jr. and Holley Noblitt George W. Olsen, USN, USS Alvin C. Pedrotti, Lyle St. Amant, WWII Veteran Capt. Joshua S. 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Museum Trustee and Gold Star Daughter Sharon Estill Taylor, PhD, attends the dedication of the Museum's Gold Star Families Memorial Monument on the Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman Liberation Terrace. The Monument is one of more than 130 established by the Woody Williams Foundation across the nation.

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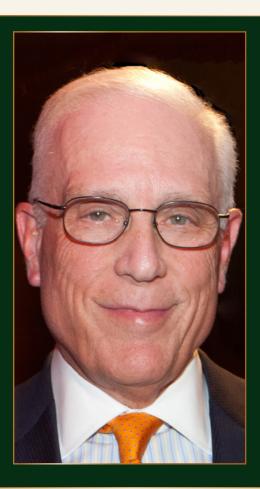
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DONORS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Peter Kalikow

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

As the Museum's first donor. Peter Kalikow has long demonstrated his reverence for the WWII generation and has continued to generously contribute to the institution over the past three decades. His father, Harold J. Kalikow, served in the Pacific with the US Marine Corps during the war, and Peter's curiosity about WWII history led him to the work of Dr. Stephen Ambrose. The two men first connected when Ambrose visited New York in 1991.

"Steve said something about Higgins boats, and he was surprised that someone from my generation knew what Higgins boats were," Peter recalls. "This cemented our friendship, and he started telling me about his dream of a D-Day Museum." Peter then became the very first donor by supporting a feasibility study for what would grow into The National WWII Museum.

Since helping the Museum find its footing over 30 years ago, Peter has been a steadfast advocate of the Museum's expansion. A member of the Board of Trustees from 2003–06, he understands the importance of the Museum's mission. His contributions have supported numerous Museum initiatives, including the Road to Victory Capital Campaign, the American Spirit Awards, and most recently, the remodeling of the main entrance in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion. For his dedication, he received the American Spirit Award Silver Service Medallion in 2007.

Peter's belief in Ambrose's vision to build a museum to preserve the American stories of D-Day helped lay the foundation for the seven pavilions the Museum has today. What began as a conversation about Higgins boats led to a friendship and, eventually, the building of America's National WWII Museum.

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Gayle Benson

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Gayle Benson carries the spirit of the WWII generation in all she does throughout the City of New Orleans. The owner and chief executive officer of the New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Pelicans has supported the Museum since its inception, along with her late husband, Tom Benson.

"The Museum means so much to me, particularly because my husband was a WWII veteran and a member of the Board of Trustees," says Gayle.

Tom enlisted in the Navy at just 17 years old and served aboard the USS *South Dakota* in the Pacific in 1945. "He was so proud to serve our country."

As Presenting Sponsor for the new *Our War Too: Women in Service* special exhibit, Gayle continues her commitment to preserving the legacy of the WWII generation by helping ensure that female veteran voices are not forgotten: "Being able to

share their stories and allow future generations to realize the sacrifices that were made to keep our freedom is invaluable." She believes what is most inspiring about the Museum is being immersed in so many different stories from Americans of all backgrounds who came together to fight for freedom.

Over the years, Gayle and Tom have helped spotlight the Museum on many occasions, including hosting the Victory Belles at halftime performances and sending national television networks to produce video spots inside the Museum. Gayle echoes her husband's WWII service in her ongoing support to the Museum and her leadership: "In everything we do—whether it is the Saints, Pelicans, Benson Capital, Corporate Realty, or the car dealerships—we all strive to embody the work ethic and unifying commitment that the WWII generation established."



Stephen and Regina Oswald

SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

Stephen and Regina Oswald have deep respect and gratitude for the WWII generation. Both have relatives who served in the Allied forces—Stephen's father, Edwin Oswald, enlisted in the US Navy at 18 years old, and Regina's great-aunt Margaret Melkumova served as a battlefield doctor for Russian troops.

As Presenting Sponsors for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention in November, the Oswalds also wanted to extend that respect and gratitude to those who received the highest honor in the American military. Both Stephen and Regina look back on the week of events as one of the most profound experiences of their lives.

The couple sees their investment in the Museum as an investment in the future. "It's a wonderful job that everybody has done since the founding,

to continue to teach and inspire," says Stephen, who also serves on the Board of Trustees.

"It's important because we've had a lot of tough times in the past, and the Museum shows we can overcome them," says Stephen. "It's an important lesson for youth but also for adults." Regina adds, "I hope for more kids to get educated and have trips to the Museum. These stories will be very inspiring—a great message of unity, bravery, and democracy."

Regina describes one of their most poignant moments at the Museum as meeting WWII veteran Romay Davis, who at IO4 is the oldest remaining member of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion: "She carries so much life in her eyes." Moments like these remind Stephen and Regina how grateful they are to be a part of the community who support the Museum's mission to preserve the legacy of the WWII generation.

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Legacy Society

EGACY GIFTS support mission and serve as a lasting tribute to the courageous men and women of World War II.

The Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society recognizes special individuals, couples, and organizations who have included The National WWII Museum in their estate plans. These gifts support the Museum's efforts to preserve and share the history of the American experience during World War II. Members of the Society ensure their legacy and that of their loved ones are secured forever at The National WWII Museum.

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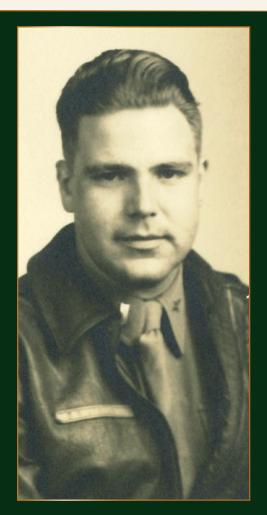
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LEGACY SOCIETY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Byron Johnson *in memory of* Thomas Ralph Johnson Jr.

DEPOE BAY, OREGON

Thomas Ralph Johnson Jr. was a pilot with the US Army Air Forces during World War II and the US Air Force during Korea and Vietnam. Serving in the European theater of World War II, he received credit for 35 missions as a member of the 407th Bombardment Squadron, 92nd Bombardment Group (Heavy), flying the Boeing B-I7.

Born in Missouri on October 30, 1921, Johnson finished Wellston High School and began college at the Missouri School of Mines before being inducted to the Army Air Forces on July 9, 1942, at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. He became a commissioned officer on July 28, 1943, and following flight training, he reported to the 407th Bomb Squadron on April 10, 1944.

The 407th was part of the 92nd Bomb Group, known as "Fame's Favored Few." The 92nd

was the first group of bomb squads to make the transatlantic flight nonstop from the United States to England, which was a great point of pride. Johnson received numerous decorations and citations for his military service. Johnson retired permanently from the US Air Force in 1968 following 26 years of active and reserve duties. He married Dorothy Edna Pfarr in 1951 and was the father of Gale Kenneth Johnson and Byron Ralph Johnson.

Byron is preserving the legacy of his father at The National WWII Museum through his membership in the Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society. Although his dad spoke extraordinarily little about his service to save democracy, Byron is in awe of all that he accomplished during the war. "This is not about me, but of the heroism of my father," he says.

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The Louisiana National Guard performs a flyover during the Grand Opening of Liberation Pavilion.

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Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$61.735.555	\$67,667,467					
Unconditional Promises to Give							
Capital Campaign, Net of Allowances	\$17.180.023	\$16,449,205	REVENUE AND	WITHOUT DONOR	WITH DONOR		
Endowment, Net of Allowances	\$2.907.503	\$907,187	OTHER SUPPORT	RESTRICTIONS	RESTRICTIONS	2023	2022
Other, Net of Allowances	\$7,134,572	\$151.648	Operating Revenue	\$66,047,658	-	\$66,047,658	\$53,626,614
ERTC Receivable	\$2,533,028	\$4,012,896	Financial Contributions and Grants	\$15,706,617	\$21,846,480	\$37,553,097	\$38,373,834
Retail Stores Inventory	\$1.098.508	\$1.022.556	In-Kind Contributions	\$141,648	-	\$141.648	\$82,908
Other Assets	\$7,667,411	\$7,320,903	Net Return on Investments	\$7,017,716	(\$990,666)	\$6,027,050	(\$6,591,923)
Endowment Assets			Hilton Franchise Debt Forgiveness	\$65,000		\$65,000	\$65,000
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	\$595,066	\$2,399,415	Insurance Proceeds	-	-	-	\$2,700,000
Investments	\$47,496,090	\$39.842.196	Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness Income	-	-	-	\$3,540,000
Property and Equipment			Employee Retention Tax Credit Revenue	-	-	-	\$4,012,896
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	\$291,419,346	\$284,240,784	Investment Tax Credit Revenue	\$1,344,312		\$1,344,312	-
Collections	\$14,629,725	\$12.998.177	Other Income	-		-	\$103 <i>.</i> 125
Interest Rate Swap Asset	\$455 <i>.</i> 168		Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$15,908,048	\$(15,908,048)		
Right-of-Use Assets – Operating Leases, Net	\$1,841,631		TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	\$106,230,999	\$4,947,766	\$90.042.332	\$95,912,454
Right-of-Use Assets – Finance Leases, Net	\$22,528			. •		* ***********************************	4 00/01 2 /101
TOTAL ASSETS	\$456,716,154	\$437,012,434	EXPENSES AND LOSSES				
Liabilities			Program	\$75,811,975	1 -	\$75 <i>.</i> 811 <i>.</i> 975	\$58,624,371
Accounts Payable Trade	\$3,132,929	\$2,899,266	General and Administrative	\$7,486,372		\$7,486,372	\$6,872,376
Accrued Expenses	\$6,238,225	\$4.965.871	Fundraising	\$6,743,985		\$6,743,985	\$6,753,666
Unearned Revenue and Deposits	\$8,202,608	\$5,913,654					
Taxes Payable	\$360,911	\$310,977	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$90,042,332	•	\$90,042,332	\$72,250,413
Other Liabilities	\$1.049.628	\$1,279,145	Loss on Damage of Property and Equipment	-	-		\$420,967
Notes Payable	\$51,508,054	\$58,889,778	TOTAL EXPENSES AND LOSSES	\$90.042.332		\$6.753.66 6	\$72,671,380
Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	-	\$55,373	TOTAL EXPENSES AND ESSES	ψ30,042,332		ψ0.133,000	Ψ12,011,300
Lease Liability – Operating Leases	\$1,855,611	·					
Lease Liability – Finance Leases	\$22,844	•	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS				
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$72,370,810	\$74.314.064	Change in Net Assets Before Change in Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	\$16.188.667	\$4,947,766	\$21.136.433	\$23,241,074
Net Assets			Change in Liability on Interest Rate				•
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions			Swap Agreement	\$ 510,541	-	\$510,541	\$1,535,607
Designated	\$50,953,787	\$48.378.227	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$16,699,208	\$4,947,766	\$21,646,974	\$24,776,681
Undesignated	\$263,724,754	\$249,601,106		ψ10,033,200	ψ τ, 3 τι 1 0 0	Ψ21,040,314	Ψ27,110,001
Total Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$314,678,541	\$297,979,333					
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$69,666,803	\$64.719.037	NET ASSETS				
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$384,345,344	\$362,698,370	Beginning of Year	\$297,979,333	\$64,719,037	\$362,698,370	\$337,921,689
TOTALS	\$456,716,154	\$437,012,434	End of Year	\$314,678,541	\$69,666,803	\$384,345,344	\$362,698,370

