



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
NEW ORLEANS

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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A N N U A L
R E P O R T



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ABOVE

American servicemen wade onto a beach in Normandy, France, as seen from the deck of a LCV (landing craft, vehicle, personnel), June 1944. Official US Coast Guard photo, Gift of Jeffrey and Mary Cole, 2002.119.029

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Photography by Frank Aymami, Thomas Damgaard, Chris Granger, Jeffery Johnston, and Julien Lecomte

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.

2024-2025

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*In Memory

LEFT

Immediate Past Board Chair Ted Weggeland passes the gavel to newly elected Board Chair Suzanne Mestayer at the start of her term in 2024.



Museum Welcomes Three New Trustees

In 2024, The National WWII Museum appointed three new members to its national Board of Trustees, bringing its total membership to 54 business and philanthropic leaders representing 18 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. We are honored to welcome these leaders to our distinguished ranks of Trustees.



Jacquelin Sewell Atkinson

Co-CEO, Sewell Automotive Companies
DALLAS, TEXAS

Atkinson is Co-CEO at Sewell Automotive Companies, where she has worked for 20 years. She serves on the Cadillac Dealer Council and the Dealer Executive Board for General Motors, and as Education Chair of the Dallas Chapter of Young Presidents’ Organization. Atkinson has previously been a member of the boards for The Hockaday School, the AT&T Center for the Performing Arts, and The Arts Community Alliance (TACA), and served on the Audi Customer Experience Council.



H. Merritt Lane III

Chairman of the Board, President and CEO, Canal Barge Company, Inc.
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Lane is Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO of Canal Barge Company, Inc. He joined the company in 1986 and was appointed President in 1994. He serves as Board Chair of The Water Institute of the Gulf. Lane also is a member of the boards of Hancock Whitney Bank, the National Waterways Foundation, the US Coast Guard Foundation, and the Blue Sky Maritime Coalition. He previously has served as Chairman of the boards of the Bureau of Governmental Research, American Waterways Operators, and Waterways Council, Inc.



Jason De Sena Trennert

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Strategas Research Partners
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Trennert is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Strategas, which he founded in 2006. He is a member of the advisory board of Hollow Brook Wealth Management and previously served as Chief Investment Strategist and a Senior Managing Director at International Strategy & Investment (ISI) Group. A regular guest on business news television, Trennert is the author of three books about investing and the investment business.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF Jackie Clarkson



The National WWII Museum mourned the passing of the Honorable Jacquelyn “Jackie” Brechtel Clarkson, Trustee Emerita and a Founders Society Member of the Museum, on June 26, 2024.

A member of the Museum’s Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2007, Clarkson dedicated much of her life to public service and the success of the City of New Orleans. She served three terms as a member of the New Orleans City Council, including a stint as President, and two terms in the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Clarkson’s longtime support of the Museum, particularly in its early years, was critical to its later success. As a state representative in Baton

Rouge, Clarkson played a key role in working to secure the first state funding for The National D-Day Museum before its doors opened in 2000. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Clarkson assisted in the recovery efforts of the Museum and many other community institutions. Her unceasing advocacy and staunch commitment to the Museum’s mission and values consistently elevated its standing, making it possible for the institution to become one of the top museums in the nation—and the world.

We will remember Jackie Clarkson as a friend and mentor to many, with a legacy as a champion of New Orleans and dedicated ambassador of the Museum from its earliest days.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

TO MARK THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY of the D-Day landings in Normandy in June 2024, I had the privilege of traveling alongside eight WWII veterans, one Holocaust survivor, and hundreds of other guests to historic sites across Europe as part of The National WWII Museum’s commemorative cruise. It was truly a remarkable experience to follow in the footsteps of Allied forces and see firsthand how D-Day changed the course of the war in Europe, putting the Allies on the path toward safeguarding the democracy we enjoy today. Being able to have conversations with some of these veterans made the trip especially meaningful. Special moments like these highlight the continued global significance of this anniversary and the growing importance of the Museum’s educational programming, and I am proud to take the reins as Board Chair at such a crucial time for this institution.

As always, honoring the WWII generation remains at the core of our mission, and our 2024 American Spirit Awards celebrated the values and spirit of those who served our country during the war. I was proud to have the American Spirit Awards Selection Committee bestow the Museum’s highest honor on four-star General Ann Dunwoody, USA (Ret.), acclaimed filmmaker Steven Spielberg, and the iconic Tuskegee Airmen, represented at the ceremony by WWII veteran Lieutenant Colonel George Hardy, USAF (Ret.). These individuals undoubtedly share the sense of courage, sacrifice, initiative, and generosity that helped America win the war, and we were delighted to welcome them to our campus and recognize their leadership.

Throughout the year, the Museum continued to receive significant recognition for its seven-pavilion campus and educational programming. From being named one of the top attractions in the country and world by Tripadvisor and *National Geographic*, to receiving entertainment industry awards for our student Electronic Field Trip and Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater, it is impressive to see that our impact is far-reaching, and our work is resonating with young people, teachers, and Museum visitors. We look forward to building upon this success while celebrating the grit, tenacity, and vision that brought us to where we are today.

The Museum’s 25th anniversary on June 6, 2025, is an extraordinary moment to reflect on our humble beginnings and the decades-long journey to become the world-class institution we are now. With the successful conclusion of our \$420 million Road to Victory Capital Campaign and the completion of our campus Master Plan, we tell the full story of the American experience in World War II like never before. But we know that embracing our responsibility as America’s National WWII Museum means we must do more to ensure the history and legacies of this monumental time are never forgotten. Over the past year, we have continued to invest in our galleries, enhance our ability to preserve and grow our artifact collection, and develop trusted content for audiences on our campus, online, and in schools and higher education institutions across the country. As we celebrate our silver anniversary, we honor all that we have achieved with a bold promise to dramatically expand our educational impact in the years to come.

The year ahead will offer many opportunities for reflection, celebration, and impact. Our team at the Museum, led by Stephen Watson, is exceptional, and I am grateful for their contributions each and every day in fulfilling our mission. I’d like to thank my predecessor, Ted Weggeland, for his steadfast dedication and leadership over the previous two years; all my fellow Trustees, past and present; and our vast network of members, donors, and friends across the nation for their unwavering support as we reach this milestone year. It’s sure to be an exciting one.

Suzanne Mestayer

Suzanne Mestayer



ABOVE

WWII veteran Henry Jackson, who served in the Pacific theater as a machine gunner with the Montford Point Marines, and Major General Andrée Carter, Commanding General of US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), participate in the Museum’s Veterans Day ceremony in November.



ABOVE

The National WWII Museum marked a major milestone August 10, 2024, by welcoming the 10 millionth visitors to its New Orleans campus. Sady Arocha, Carmen Leon, Carmen Chauvin, Ryan Chauvin, Emily Chauvin, and Sophie Mesa from Cuba and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were greeted with a celebratory welcome from Museum staff.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

THIS PAST AUGUST, the Museum had the great privilege of welcoming its 10 millionth visitor. It was a proud milestone for all of us here—one that reflects the significance of our reputation as a leading cultural institution, the quality of our visitor experience, and the enduring relevance of our mission. This special moment is a reminder of how far we’ve come since our Grand Opening on June 6, 2000, and serves as just one example of the many significant achievements reached this past year.

2024 remained a year of expansion and progress, with a number of additions enhancing our seven-acre, seven-pavilion campus in New Orleans. The Malcolm S. Forbes Rare and Iconic Artifacts Gallery, which opened in March, gives visitors the chance to explore a rotating display of unique items in the Museum’s collection that offer fascinating insight into different perspectives of the war effort. Inside the gallery, our *Voices from the Front* interactive experience brings oral histories to life like never before by allowing visitors to have digital conversations with members of the WWII generation. At a time when we are rapidly losing firsthand memories of the war, we can now ensure that visitors to come will always have an opportunity to interact with a WWII veteran, Home Front worker, or Holocaust survivor.

We were also pleased to reopen John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, once again making the Museum’s patrol torpedo boat, PT-305, a signature part of the visitor experience. We hope her presence on campus pays proper tribute to her unique journey during and after World War II as well as the hard work and dedication of the Museum’s volunteers, who generously donated more than 120,000 hours of their time over 10 years to complete her restoration.

Beyond our permanent exhibits, we continue to highlight significant aspects of the American experience during the war in new, compelling ways. In November, we opened a refreshed and expanded version of our most popular traveling exhibit, *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II*,

which honors the important role millions of Black servicemembers and Home Front workers played in securing Allied victory and explores their challenges and accomplishments before, during, and after the war. It has been meaningful to share the exhibit’s content with students, teachers, scholars, and lifelong learners, and we look forward to bringing this story to communities across the country later in 2025.

This past year was truly a testament to the enduring public interest in World War II. From the 80th anniversary of significant WWII battles, including the D-Day invasion of Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, and numerous offensives in the Pacific, to the release of new popular film and television projects, like Netflix’s *The Six Triple Eight* and AppleTV+’s *Masters of the Air*, World War II continues to captivate and inspire. Throughout the year, we produced a wide range of digital resources, podcasts, conferences and symposia, classroom-ready materials, and even international educational travel programs to bring trusted content to audiences across the world.

It has been an impactful year, and I am thankful for our many supporters whose commitment to our mission has made all this possible. Never has there been a more important time to expand our mission beyond our walls, and I look forward to what we will accomplish in the years ahead.

Stephen J. Watson



MUSEUM CELEBRATES LEADERSHIP OF NICK MUELLER AND BOB FARNSWORTH



NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM Trustees, staff, friends, and guests gathered in June 2024 to mark the retirement of Senior Vice President for Capital Programs Robert W. “Bob” Farnsworth and to celebrate Founding President & CEO Emeritus Dr. Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller’s three decades of leadership and accomplishments as he devotes more time to family and personal endeavors.

Together, Farnsworth and Mueller devoted a combined 55 years to building the Museum. They worked together to finalize the designs and content for all the Museum’s permanent pavilions and exhibits while serving as strong leaders and advocates for the Museum, members of the WWII generation, and the City of New Orleans.

Farnsworth joined the Museum in early 2004, shortly after its congressional designation as America’s National WWII Museum and the expansion of its mission. Drawing on his years of experience in construction projects and regulatory processes, Farnsworth spearheaded the development of dozens of capital projects, including The E.J. Ourso Discovery Hall, the Solomon Victory Theater complex, John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, the Campaigns of Courage pavilion, Hall of Democracy, the Bollinger Canopy of Peace, and Liberation Pavilion, among others. He also conceived the idea for *Expressions of America*, an immersive sound and light show that combines cutting-edge technology and special effects with the stories of everyday people who made an impact during World War II. To mark his retirement, the Museum unveiled the “War Dog and Handler” sculpture on Founders Plaza, gifted by the Board of Trustees and dedicated to Farnsworth in recognition of his years of leadership.

Mueller—who was first approached by his friend and colleague Dr. Stephen Ambrose about creating a D-Day museum in New Orleans—worked diligently for more than a decade to make their vision a reality. A few months after The National D-Day Museum opened on June 6, 2000, Mueller became its first President & CEO, a title he would hold for the next 17 years as the institution went through a remarkable transformation. He led efforts to expand the Museum’s mission and develop an ambitious Master Plan as it became The National WWII Museum. Over the years, he expanded the Museum’s campus, developed various educational programs, and established the Museum as one of the nation’s top cultural institutions. In 2017, Mueller stepped into his role as Founding President & CEO Emeritus and continued to play an important part in advancing the Museum’s educational mission. More recently, he has focused on documenting the history of both World War II and the Museum, and his latest book, *Preserving the Legacy: Creating The National WWII Museum*, was published in conjunction with the Museum’s 25th anniversary celebration.

Through their ingenuity, determination, and dedicated service, Farnsworth and Mueller have left an indelible mark on the Museum. Their legacy will continue to be seen throughout the Museum’s campus and educational programs for years to come.



TOP

Bob Farnsworth and Nick Mueller were recognized in June 2024 for their invaluable contributions to the Museum.

ABOVE LEFT

Nick Mueller raises his glass as Museum Trustees, staff, friends, and guests toast to his years of leadership.

ABOVE RIGHT

Bob Farnsworth poses with the “War Dog and Handler” statue that was dedicated in April 2024 in recognition of his leadership of the Museum’s campus expansion.

THE WAR IN 1944



BATTLE OF ANZIO

JANUARY 22 – JUNE 5

As part of Operation Shingle, Allied forces executed amphibious landings near the town of Anzio to advance further into Italian territory. Stiff German resistance and counterattack in February forced Allied forces to defend their beachhead. While the German counterattacks failed, the Battle of Anzio was further proof that Italy was not going to be the “soft underbelly of the Axis.”

D-DAY LANDINGS IN NORMANDY

JUNE 6

D-Day was the largest amphibious assault in military history. With naval and air support as part of Operation Overlord, nearly 160,000 Allied troops landed on five beaches and in nearby fields in Normandy, France. Despite fierce German resistance and heavy casualties at Omaha Beach in particular, the Allies successfully established a beachhead, which facilitated the liberation of France—and, ultimately, northwestern Europe.

BATTLE OF CARENTAN

JUNE 10 – 14

Following the D-Day landings, the US 101st Airborne Division moved to capture the town of Carentan, France. Over a period of five days, American forces fought German paratroopers and defended their gains against counterattacks. Securing Carentan linked Utah and Omaha Beaches, allowing the Americans to further advance inland, though difficult fighting still awaited in the hedgerows of the bocage.

WARSAW UPRISING

AUGUST 1 – OCTOBER 2

With the Red Army’s advance on the Eastern Front, the Polish Home Army launched an uprising. Planning to coincide with the Soviet Union’s assault on Warsaw, the Polish Home Army, assisted by the civilian population, hoped to play a role in the liberation of their city. Yet the Red Army stopped its advance before entering the city. As a result, an estimated 200,000 Poles were killed, with the great majority being civilians, and tens of thousands more were sent to German labor, concentration, and death camps.

OPERATION DRAGOON

AUGUST 15 – SEPTEMBER 14

Only 10 weeks after D-Day, Allied forces landed in southern France. Simultaneously, French Resistance fighters rose up against occupying German forces. Outmatched by Allied ground and air forces, the Germans began withdrawing from the region, and Free French units liberated the cities of Marseilles and Toulon by the end of August.

BATTLE OF PELELIU

SEPTEMBER 15 – NOVEMBER 27

The US 1st Marine Division was tasked with securing the airfields on the island of Peleliu as part of island-hopping efforts to recapture the Philippine Islands. Instead of utilizing futile banzai infantry charges, the Japanese garrison built beach obstacles and block houses and put up fierce resistance. American forces struggled in a two-month battle against the entrenched defenders and suffered heavy losses. While Peleliu was eventually captured, Japanese forces would replicate these tactics on Iwo Jima and Okinawa, achieving similarly deadly results.

BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF

OCTOBER 23 – 26

The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest naval engagement in history. Days after General Douglas MacArthur’s return to the Philippines, Japan’s navy moved to trap and destroy the US Seventh Fleet supporting American landings. After heavy fighting, the American Seventh and Third Fleets dealt a decisive blow to the Japanese, destroying 26 ships, including three battleships and four aircraft carriers. However, the battle also saw the first Japanese kamikaze attack on an American ship with the sinking of the escort carrier USS *St. Lo*.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

DECEMBER 16, 1944 – JANUARY 22, 1945

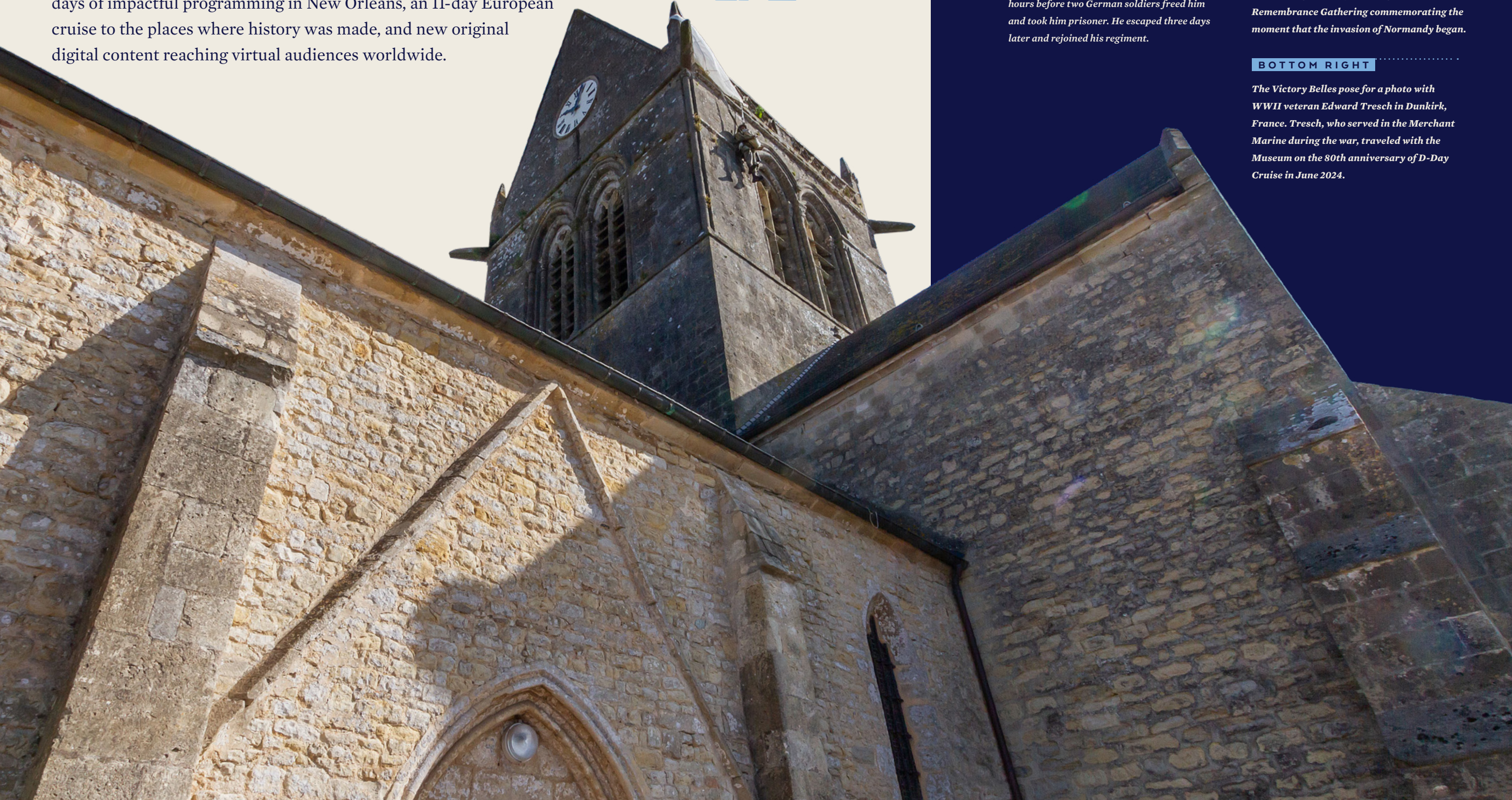
The Battle of the Bulge was Germany’s last major offensive against the Allied forces in Western Europe. In an attempt to split the American and British armies and force negotiations, the *Wehrmacht* launched a massive counterattack on December 16 that created a “bulge” in the American lines. Thousands of American soldiers were killed or captured in the opening days of the offensive. However, fierce resistance and an Allied counterattack ended Nazi Germany’s final gamble in the West. The Battle of the Bulge remains the largest engagement ever fought by the US Army.




MUSEUM COMMEMORATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

HISTORIC BATTLE OF NORMANDY REMEMBERED WITH PROGRAMMING IN NEW ORLEANS, EUROPE, AND ONLINE

EIGHTY YEARS after the Allied forces launched the massive invasion of Normandy, France, The National WWII Museum commemorated the anniversary of D-Day and explored the epic Battle of Normandy with two full days of impactful programming in New Orleans, an 11-day European cruise to the places where history was made, and new original digital content reaching virtual audiences worldwide.



 This milestone anniversary was particularly poignant, serving as one of the few remaining opportunities to pay tribute to the members of the WWII generation who are still with us. Less than half a percent of the 16.4 million Americans who served during the war are still living, and the Museum upheld its commitment to honoring and carrying on their legacy by centering its D-Day 80 commemorations around those who served and sacrificed to secure freedom for generations to come.

LEFT

A figure representing US Army paratrooper John Steele hangs from a church steeple in Sainte-Mère-Église, France. A member of the 82nd Airborne Division, Steele was hit in the foot by a burst of flak during the Allied invasion of France. He landed on the steeple and tried to free himself for more than two hours before two German soldiers freed him and took him prisoner. He escaped three days later and rejoined his regiment.

TOP RIGHT

Cruise travelers stand on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach.

MIDDLE RIGHT

Experience the Victory tour guest Kim Goetz places a rose on the Museum's Atlantic Wall during the early morning H-Hour Remembrance Gathering commemorating the moment that the invasion of Normandy began.

BOTTOM RIGHT

The Victory Belles pose for a photo with WWII veteran Edward Tresch in Dunkirk, France. Tresch, who served in the Merchant Marine during the war, traveled with the Museum on the 80th anniversary of D-Day Cruise in June 2024.





From the early morning H-Hour Remembrance to the Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration Ceremony, thousands participated in events on the Museum’s campus in New Orleans and via livestream on June 6 to mark the anniversary of the greatest amphibious landing in history. Eight WWII veterans—including three D-Day veterans—as well as a French Resistance member and a Holocaust survivor all received a standing ovation as they processed through a packed US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center before the Commemoration Ceremony. The next day, hundreds more attended and thousands tuned in to the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy’s daylong symposium, Beyond the Beaches: D+1 and the Battle for Normandy.

In Europe, more than 460 travelers joined our Educational Travel team to set sail on a cruise across Germany, the Netherlands, England,

and France that converged at the official commemoration event in Normandy on June 6. Joined by eight American WWII veterans—including two D-Day veterans—and a Holocaust survivor, guests on the 80th Anniversary of D-Day Cruise: D-Day & The Bomber War enjoyed a custom itinerary highlighting the land, sea, and air campaigns of World War II.

Online, hundreds of thousands engaged with the Museum’s historical content, including videos, articles, podcasts, and livestreams—with June 6, 2024, breaking the Museum’s record for highest daily website traffic. The eyes of the world were also on the Museum as its historians, curators, and visiting veterans were featured in nearly 1,500 print, online, TV, and radio segments with over 2 billion media impressions—reinforcing the Museum’s position as a leading resource on D-Day and WWII history for audiences worldwide.



OPPOSITE, TOP

American and French flags adorn grave markers in the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, on the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT

WWII veterans Jack Appel (left), who landed in France on D+28 with the US Army’s 17th Signal Operation Battalion, and Edgar Buffman, who served in the US Navy aboard the USS Missouri (BB-63), attend a town hall reception in Dunkirk, France, as part of the Museum’s 80th Anniversary of D-Day Cruise.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT

Traveling on the Museum’s 80th Anniversary of D-Day Cruise, WWII veteran Chuck Richardson, a B-17 radioman and gunner in the 390th Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force, smiles after signing the memorial chapel wall at Parham Airfield Museum in England where he was stationed.

ABOVE LEFT

Museum visitors hold framed photos of loved ones who served in the Allied invasion of Normandy during the Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration Ceremony.

ABOVE RIGHT

WWII French Resistance member Nicole Spangenberg (left) joins hands with Holocaust survivor Anne Levy. Spangenberg and Levy, along with eight US WWII veterans, three of whom served on D-Day, were honored with a standing ovation as they made their way to their seats prior to the Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration Ceremony at the Museum.



JOHN E. KUSHNER RESTORATION PAVILION REOPENS, SHOWCASING PT-305

PAVILION ALSO OFFERS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES AND DISPLAYS WWII-ERA MACRO-ARTIFACTS

JOHN E. KUSHNER RESTORATION PAVILION reopened to the public over the summer of 2024, offering up-close views of restored WWII macro-artifacts and exploring the scientific advancements of the era.

The Museum’s patrol torpedo boat, PT-305, is now on display as the centerpiece of the renovated Pavilion. A new viewing terrace allows visitors to view the fully restored vessel from top to bottom, and related artifacts and interactive digital elements explore her wartime crew and tours of duty. The Pavilion also houses the STEM Innovation Gallery, an educational space where visitors can engage in tactile learning and exploration.

Originally built in New Orleans by Higgins Industries, PT-305, nicknamed *USS Sudden Jerk*, was a critical asset for the US Navy during World War II, serving in Mediterranean waters from 1944 to the end of the war. After years of civilian use, PT-305 was obtained by the Museum in 2007, and volunteers worked to restore her for the next 10 years, dedicating more than 120,000 hours of labor. In

March 2017, the iconic vessel began offering rides and tours on Lake Pontchartrain, where she was originally tested by Higgins Industries. In 2022, PT-305 returned to the Museum as plans were developed to make her more accessible to wider audiences on campus.

Building on the Museum’s successful STEM line of student programming, the STEM Innovation Gallery features hands-on experiments and authentic WWII-era macro-artifacts to show how science, technology, engineering, and math contributed to—and advanced—the Allied effort during World War II.

Future plans include guided tours of PT-305’s interior and a dedicated facility for the restoration and preservation of the Museum’s priceless collection of WWII macro-artifacts, including aircraft, boats, tanks, and vehicles. The restoration work will be performed by Museum staff and volunteers, in full view of the public—with an observation space providing a unique peek into the maintenance of WWII-era vehicles and other artifacts.

BELOW

The National WWII Museum’s fully restored patrol torpedo boat, PT-305, is on display in Kushner Restoration Pavilion. Originally built in New Orleans by Higgins Industries and nicknamed USS Sudden Jerk, the vessel was a critical asset for the US Navy during World War II.

TOP LEFT

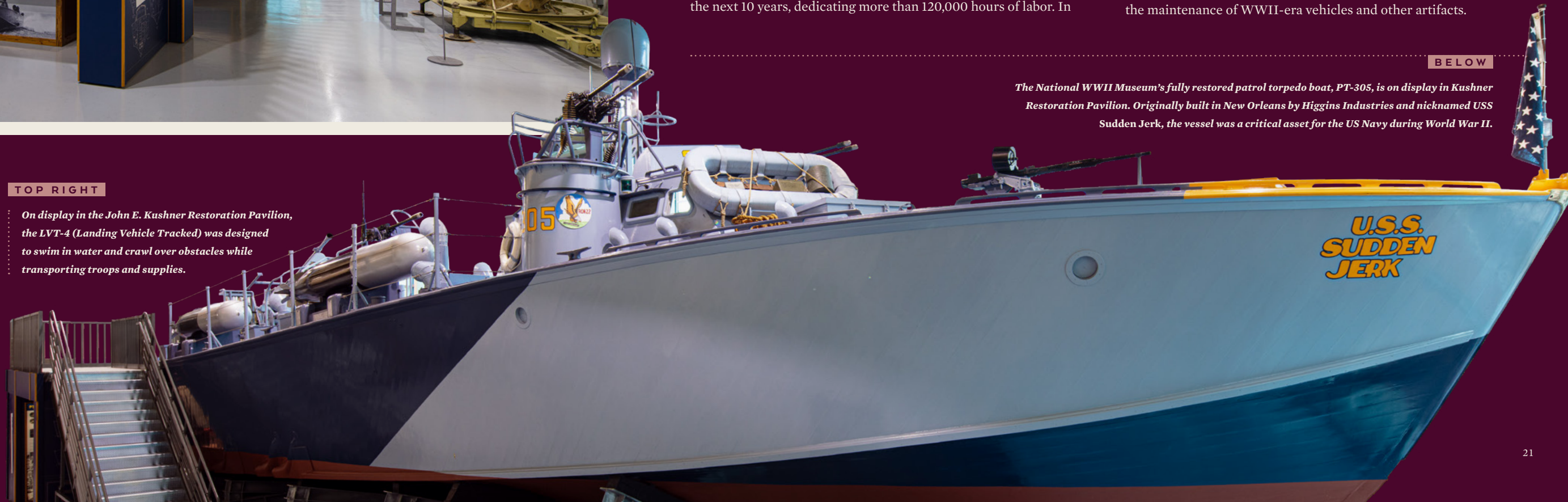
The STEM Innovation Gallery features hands-on experiments that show how science, technology, engineering, and math contributed to—and advanced—the Allied effort during World War II.

ABOVE

John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion explores the service history of the Museum’s patrol torpedo boat, PT-305, and other authentic WWII-era macro-artifacts.

TOP RIGHT

On display in the John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, the LVT-4 (Landing Vehicle Tracked) was designed to swim in water and crawl over obstacles while transporting troops and supplies.



MUSEUM OPENS MALCOLM S. FORBES RARE AND ICONIC ARTIFACTS GALLERY

GALLERY
FEATURES
POWERFUL
VOICES FROM
THE FRONT
INTERACTIVE
ORAL HISTORY
EXPERIENCE



IN MARCH 2024, The National WWII Museum officially opened the Malcolm S. Forbes Rare and Iconic Artifacts Gallery, a newly renovated space offering displays of more than 50 artifacts—both uncommon and seemingly ordinary objects symbolic of the WWII era—and housing *Voices from the Front*, a new interactive experience that allows guests to hold conversations with 19 members of the WWII generation.

Located in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, the Forbes Gallery highlights hidden gems from the Museum’s vast collection of more than a quarter of a million objects and a wealth of archival materials and oral histories. These objects give fascinating insight into different

perspectives of the war effort and reveal the details behind some of the most monumental events in World War II.

The space originally opened as the Forbes Theater in 2000 as part of The National D-Day Museum. Since 2017, plans had been underway to reprogram and renovate the space as a gallery for rare artifacts with the support of the Timothy Forbes Family. The Forbes family also donated artifacts related to entrepreneur and politician Malcolm S. Forbes’s service in the European theater of World War II.

At the heart of the Forbes Gallery, *Voices from the Front* interactive video stations help visitors connect with members of the WWII

OPPOSITE

A guest converses with a video display of D-Day veteran Tolley W. Fletcher at the grand opening of the Forbes Gallery.

RIGHT

The third son of Bertie Charles Forbes, founder of Forbes magazine, Malcolm Forbes enlisted in the US Army in 1942 and, despite having an Ivy League education, served as a machine gunner with the 334th Infantry Regiment, 84th Infantry Division, on the front lines in Europe. Forbes rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant and received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Both medals are on display in the Forbes Gallery, along with other awards and Forbes’s war-weathered field jacket. Gift in Memory of Malcolm S. Forbes, 2021.001-.004, .006-.007

BELOW LEFT

Museum leaders, members of the WWII generation, and supporters celebrate the March 20, 2024, opening of the new Malcolm S. Forbes Rare and Iconic Artifacts Gallery.

BELOW RIGHT

Pictured are a map and patch collection from El Paso’s Union Depot train station and the wedding gown of Antoinette “Toni” Cilberti, refashioned from a WWII nylon parachute. Patch Collection: Gift in Memory of Maude Band Stevenson, 2002.169.001; Gown: Gift of Toni Cilberti, 2023.317.001



generation in a high-tech yet personal way. Made possible through generous support from Museum Trustee St. Denis J. “Sandy” Villere and his late wife, Margie, *Voices from the Front* allows visitors to verbally ask any question to the video display of a WWII generation member and then hear a real-time response in the interviewee’s own words and voice—pulled directly from a repository of prerecorded answers to hundreds of questions.

Produced by StoryFile, a leader in immersive technology and video capture, each interview includes as many as 1,000 questions about the subject’s life and wartime experience. To integrate the interactive interviews into a user-friendly interface, the Museum

worked with Ideum, an experience design firm that has collaborated on past exhibits.

Voices from the Front includes interviews with 19 individuals representing a diverse range of experiences in World War II, including servicemembers, Home Front workers, and Holocaust survivors. In November 2024, the Museum added the oral history of film and television star George Takei, a Japanese American who lived with his parents in US government-run incarceration camps during the war. Museum visitors asked these members of the WWII generation more than 88,000 questions in the first 10 months of the exhibit being open.



LEFT

Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II showcases extraordinary stories of service, sacrifice, and fortitude that paved the way for change.

BELOW

A silhouette with a quote by Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion reads, “I have opened a few doors, broken a few barriers, and I hope, smoothed the way to some degree for the next generation.”



LEFT

Museum leaders, members of the WWII generation, and exhibit advisers and supporters celebrate the opening of Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS IN WAR EFFORT

NEWLY EXPANDED & REIMAGINED EXHIBIT OPENED AT THE MUSEUM ON VETERANS DAY

ON VETERANS DAY, The National WWII Museum debuted a newly expanded and reimagined version of its *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II* special exhibit honoring the significant role millions of Black servicemembers and Home Front workers played in securing Allied victory, even as they faced discrimination. This groundbreaking exhibit explores the challenges faced by and accomplishments of African Americans before, during, and after World War II, emphasizing the fight against fascism abroad and racism at home.

The original *Fighting for the Right to Fight* exhibit opened at the Museum in July 2015 and then spent six years traveling to institutions across the country, reaching audiences in 12 communities including Los Angeles, Dallas, and Omaha. The exhibit was reimagined and expanded by Guest Curator Krewasky A. Salter, PhD, a military historian and retired US Army Colonel, and Museum Curator & Restoration Manager Cory Graff, along with advisory committee members John H. Morrow Jr., PhD; Adrian R. Lewis, PhD; Marcus S. Cox, PhD; Traci Parker, PhD; and Gregory S. Cooke.

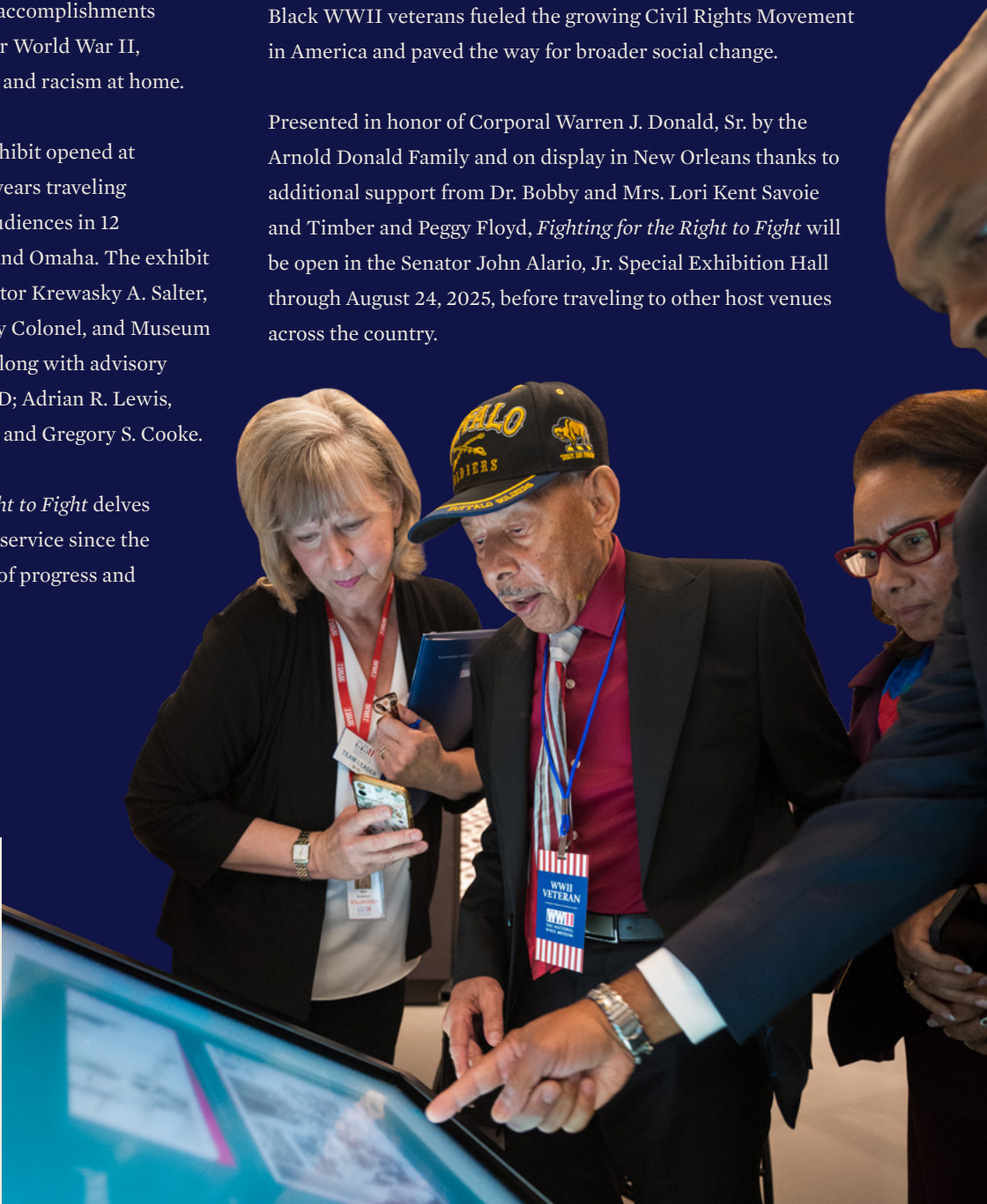
With its expanded scope, *Fighting for the Right to Fight* delves deeper into the rich history of Black military service since the American Revolution, the turbulent decades of progress and

setbacks between Emancipation and the outbreak of World War II, and the iconic “Double Victory” campaign that emphasized African Americans’ simultaneous wartime fight against fascism abroad and for equality in American society. Although the Allies had achieved victory over fascism, the fight for civil rights and justice raged on in the postwar era as frustrated yet determined Black WWII veterans fueled the growing Civil Rights Movement in America and paved the way for broader social change.

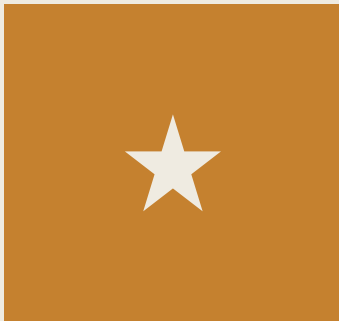
Presented in honor of Corporal Warren J. Donald, Sr. by the Arnold Donald Family and on display in New Orleans thanks to additional support from Dr. Bobby and Mrs. Lori Kent Savoie and Timber and Peggy Floyd, *Fighting for the Right to Fight* will be open in the Senator John Alario, Jr. Special Exhibition Hall through August 24, 2025, before traveling to other host venues across the country.

RIGHT


Museum volunteer Beth Kliebert (from left) watches as WWII US Army veteran Roy Caldwell views an interactive world map highlighting the contributions of African American units and servicemembers.



2024 AMERICAN SPIRIT AWARDS CELEBRATE THREE ESTEEMED HONOREES



RECIPIENTS INCLUDED ACCLAIMED FILMMAKER STEVEN SPIELBERG, FOUR-STAR GENERAL ANN E. DUNWOODY, AND THE TRAILBLAZING TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

 The National WWII Museum honored past, present, and future leaders at the 2024 American Spirit Awards on May 23–24, celebrating individuals who exemplify the outstanding qualities of the American spirit and inspire these values in others. The festivities kicked off with a patron reception presented by Ochsner Health and culminated in the American Spirit Awards gala presented by Hancock Whitney.

The 2024 recipients of the Museum’s highest honor included acclaimed filmmaker Steven Spielberg, four-star General Ann E. Dunwoody, and the trailblazing Tuskegee Airmen represented by Lieutenant Colonel George E. Hardy.



“When I think about the fellas who flew before me and with me at Tuskegee and the fact that we did prove that we could do anything that anyone else could do and it’s paid off today . . . it’s hard for me to believe that I’m here receiving this award— with them.”

GEORGE HARDY



ABOVE
Retired US Army General Ann Dunwoody delivers remarks after accepting the American Spirit Award.

Spielberg, one of the most popular and successful American filmmakers in history, was honored for inspiring audiences worldwide through his work to preserve WWII history and advance Holocaust education as a storyteller and philanthropist. One of the earliest supporters of the Museum, Spielberg’s graphic and poignant depictions of World War II have garnered international acclaim, and his USC Shoah Foundation and Righteous Persons Foundation help support Holocaust survivors and history preservation as well as Jewish culture and communities across the nation.

The Museum recognized Dunwoody for exemplifying what it means to lead with the American spirit, making history as the first woman in the US Armed Forces to achieve the rank of four-star General. The fourth generation of her family to serve in the US Army, Dunwoody led a highly decorated military career for 37 years before retiring in 2012, with a list of achievements and notable firsts that helped break down gender barriers in the US Army.


The Tuskegee Airmen, one of the most celebrated WWII units, were recognized for their bravery, accomplishments, and patriotism in the face of discrimination. These pioneering servicemembers were part of an experimental US Army Air Forces training program that enabled African Americans to fly combat aircraft for the first time in American military history. Hardy, one of the group’s last surviving members, accepted the award on behalf of the pilots and support personnel who served as a beacon of patriotism for future generations.

The Museum also bestowed the annual Billy Michal Student Leadership Award to students from each state and the District of Columbia who embody the American spirit in their community through strong records of volunteerism, school and community involvement, and implementing creative solutions to recognized problems. These 51 students were recognized during the Student Leadership Forum presented by Kevin G. Clifford Family and participated in a community service project to help beautify the playground of the local L.H. Marrero Middle School.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA INSPIRE LIFELONG LEARNERS ON-SITE AND ONLINE

EVENTS
FEATURED
MUSEUM
HISTORIANS,
LEADING
WWII
EXPERTS

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, The National WWII Museum’s Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy offered several opportunities for audiences, both on-site and virtual, to engage in discussions on various aspects of World War II. From its signature International Conference on World War II to special symposia exploring women’s service and the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the Jenny Craig Institute’s top-notch public programs attracted hundreds of in-person attendees and tens of thousands more via livestreams—emphasizing the Museum’s efforts to reach audiences wherever they are and to ensure that the stories of World War II continue to be shared in meaningful ways.

 In March, the Institute presented a scholarly symposium featuring topics expanding upon the Museum’s *Our War Too: Women in Service* special exhibit and providing program guests with additional content about women’s role in the war. The symposium opened with retired US Army Colonel Edna Cummings speaking on the legacy of African American women in the military. The program explored women’s contributions to World War II and included a behind-the-scenes discussion on the creation of *Our War Too* and a viewing of the special exhibit.

RIGHT
Retired US Army Colonel Edna W. Cummings kicks off the symposium with the Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Distinguished Lecture on World War II on the legacy of African American women in the military.

OPPOSITE, TOP
Historian Robert M. Citino, PhD, and Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Atkinson lead a discussion during the *Beyond the Beaches: D+1 and the Battle for Normandy* symposium.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM
Museum Military Historian Bradley Hart, PhD (left), joins historian and retired US Army Colonel Gregory Fontenot in conversation about intelligence in the Ardennes during the pre-conference symposium focusing on the Battle of the Bulge.



“A great museum, like a great library, can be a time machine of sorts, allowing us to travel into the past in hopes of better understanding who we are and how we got here.”
RICK ATKINSON

In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy, the Institute hosted the *Beyond the Beaches: D+1 and the Battle for Normandy* symposium at the Museum on June 6–7. The free public program featured Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Atkinson discussing Operation Overlord, as well as presentations by leading historians on the challenges, battles, and victories that followed the June 6, 1944, Allied landings and made the liberation of Europe from Nazi oppression possible. Sessions covered the struggles of fighting in the Normandy bocage, the bitter battle for Caen, how Allied air power assisted the advance, and the ultimate breakout from the Normandy region.

The 17th International Conference on World War II, presented by the Pritzker Military Foundation on behalf of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library with additional support from the Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr. Distinguished Lecture Series on World War II Endowment Fund and the George P. Shultz Forum on World Affairs, brought together top scholars, authors, historians, and witnesses to history in November for expert discussions of *the war that changed the world*. Featuring new and compelling scholarship, the program included a pre-conference symposium, *Battle of the Bulge Revisited: 80 Years On*, and 18 engaging panels that explored pivotal battles, key figures, critical decisions, and enduring debates about World War II. Attendees included academics, history buffs, and veterans, creating a unique space where shared experiences and expertise came to life. Highlights included lively Q&A sessions that connected speakers and audience members for meaningful conversations.

266,000+

TOTAL VIRTUAL VIEWS OF CONFERENCES
AND SYMPOSIA IN 2024

MUSEUM’S CONTENT ENGAGES AUDIENCES WORLDWIDE



OVERALL DIGITAL REACH

29 MILLION+
DIGITAL ENGAGEMENTS ACROSS MUSEUM WEBSITES AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTS

15 MILLION+
WEBSITE VISITS

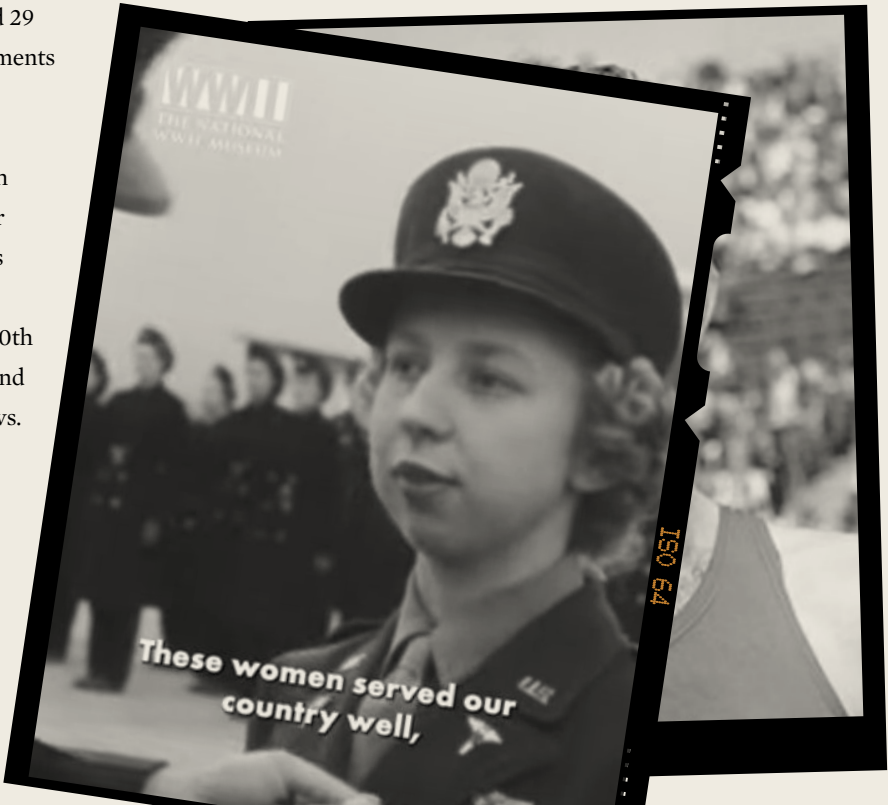
1.5 MILLION
FOLLOWERS ACROSS SOCIAL AND DIGITAL CONTENT PLATFORMS

8.8 MILLION
VISITORS TO WWII ARTICLE AND RESEARCH TOPIC WEB PAGES

In fiscal year 2024, the Museum continued to reach new, broader audiences with original digital content published on our websites, social media feeds, and streaming platforms. Digital engagements across the Museum’s websites and social accounts exceeded 29 million—a significant increase from the 21.8 million engagements seen in 2023.

Sessions on the Museum’s website exceeded 15 million, with historical articles attracting more than 7.5 million users. Our historians and curators wrote and published 85 new articles throughout the year, including 16 on the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Pieces on Lieutenant Curtis R. Biddick of the 100th Bomb Group, the origins of Holocaust Remembrance Day, and the airborne invasion of Normandy generated the most views.

The Museum also engaged audiences with our video content, garnering 2.9 million views on YouTube alone. The most-watched new videos were the *Making of Masters of the Air* International Conference session and a YouTube Short about women’s service in World War II.



PODCASTS

685,000+
TOTAL PLAYS OF ALL MUSEUM PODCASTS IN 2024

In 2024, the Museum debuted a new limited podcast series, *Making Masters of the Air*, and six new special episodes of our signature podcast, *World War II On Topic*, which discussed subjects such as the 80th anniversaries of D-Day and Battle of the Bulge and the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Masters of the Air, a miniseries from Apple TV+ following the airmen of the 100th Bombardment Group during World War II, premiered in January. Presented by Boeing and co-hosted by Playtone’s Kirk Saduski and Donald Miller, author of the book *Masters of the Air*, the *Making Masters of the Air* podcast dives deeper into the making of the show and explores the history behind it. The podcast was recognized as Listener’s Choice in the Signal Awards’ Television & Film category and was a silver winner in the same category.

AS WORLD WAR II RECEDES IN PUBLIC MEMORY, The National WWII Museum remains committed to ensuring that the history and importance of the war remain accurate, relevant, and easily accessible to audiences not only on our New Orleans campus but also around the world. The Museum’s collection of high-quality educational content and original scholarship—such as distance learning programs,

new digital content, and online continuing education courses through the Museum’s partnership with Arizona State University—provides students of all ages and backgrounds new ways to connect to history and deepen their understanding of the war, ensuring that the WWII generation’s legacy continues to educate and inspire Americans now and into the future.

DISTANCE LEARNING

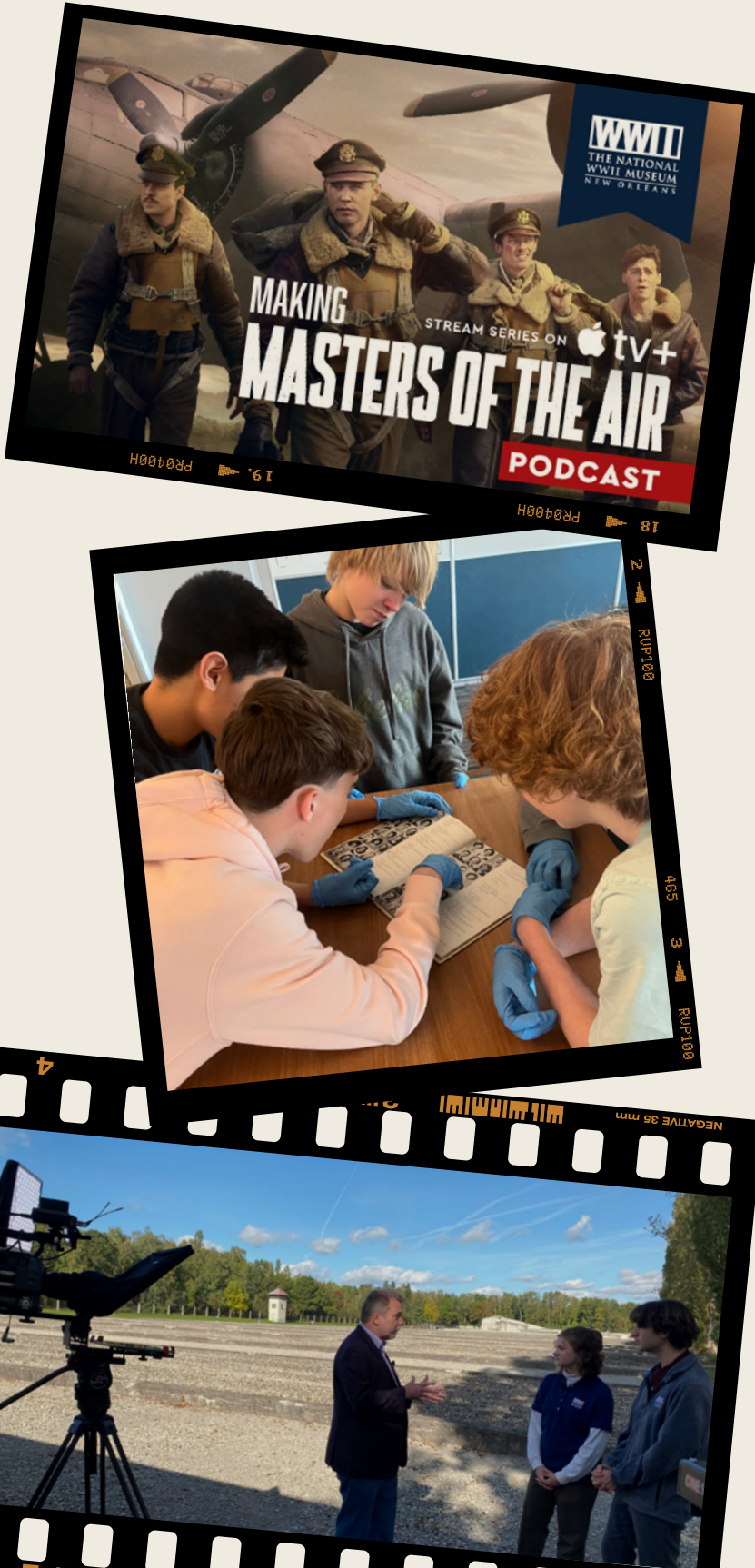
900,000+
STUDENTS REACHED THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS FROM 2000–2024

773
TEACHERS SUPPORTED THROUGH 2 ONLINE COURSES AND 4 WORKSHOPS IN THE 2023–24 SCHOOL YEAR

The Museum offers a variety of distance learning programs that connect learners of all ages with WWII history. These learning experiences—which include webinars, teacher workshops, professional development courses, Virtual Field Trips, and an online master’s program and continuing education courses through a partnership with Arizona State University—allow students, educators, and other professionals to learn significant WWII stories, wherever they are in the world.

The Museum’s spring Electronic Field Trip helped classrooms around the globe discover the broader context of the Holocaust by understanding how it happened and recognizing its tragic legacy. Students heard firsthand accounts and testimonies of child victims and survivors, and they explored the galleries of Liberation Pavilion and artifacts from the Museum’s collection as well as Holocaust sites across the Atlantic.

The program was made possible through support from the US Department of Education, Dale E. and Janice Davis Johnston Family, the Iserman Foundation, and Dow Chemical. The Museum would also like to acknowledge Taube Philanthropies, as part of the Taube Family Holocaust Education Program, and the Mark Rubin Family Endowment for Holocaust Education for their continued support of The National WWII Museum’s Holocaust educational programming.




OUR MEMBERS

BELOW

The iconic LCVP, or Higgins boat, and a restored C-47 aircraft are featured prominently at the Museum's main entrance in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion.




MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

 The National WWII Museum stands as a beacon of remembrance and education, thanks in no small part to the extraordinary generosity of our **CHARTER MEMBERS**. Their enduring support empowers the Museum’s educators, historians, and curators to innovate and bring the American experience of World War II to life for audiences well beyond our campus. This unwavering dedication to preserving the legacy of the WWII generation fuels our mission as America’s WWII Museum.

For more than two decades, Charter Members have been the driving force behind the Museum’s operations as well as the growth and enrichment of its educational programs. In Fiscal Year 2024, 140,389 Charter Members played a crucial role in expanding our reach and connecting more people than ever to the profound lessons of World War II. Together, they contributed nearly \$10 million, enabling us to share these essential stories with future generations.

To each and every one of our Charter Members, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your steadfast commitment this year and beyond. As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to inspiring audiences of all ages so that they may understand the sacrifices and triumphs of the WWII generation.

 Contributions from **PATRIOTS CIRCLE MEMBERS** enable the Museum to continue its essential 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 continues to engage and inspire more students and adult learners worldwide with the meaning and enduring legacies of World War II.

Among the most ardent supporters of The National WWII Museum, Patriots Circle Members contributed \$4.5 million to the Museum in Fiscal Year 2024—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 exemplifying the American spirit in such impactful and meaningful ways. Your generosity and commitment enable us to continue advancing the Museum’s mission and inspiring new generations with stories of freedom, bravery, and courage.

Charter Members

140,389

CHARTER MEMBERS

\$10,000,000

IN CONTRIBUTIONS

Patriots Circle Members

1,833

PATRIOTS CIRCLE MEMBERS

\$4,520,000

IN CONTRIBUTIONS

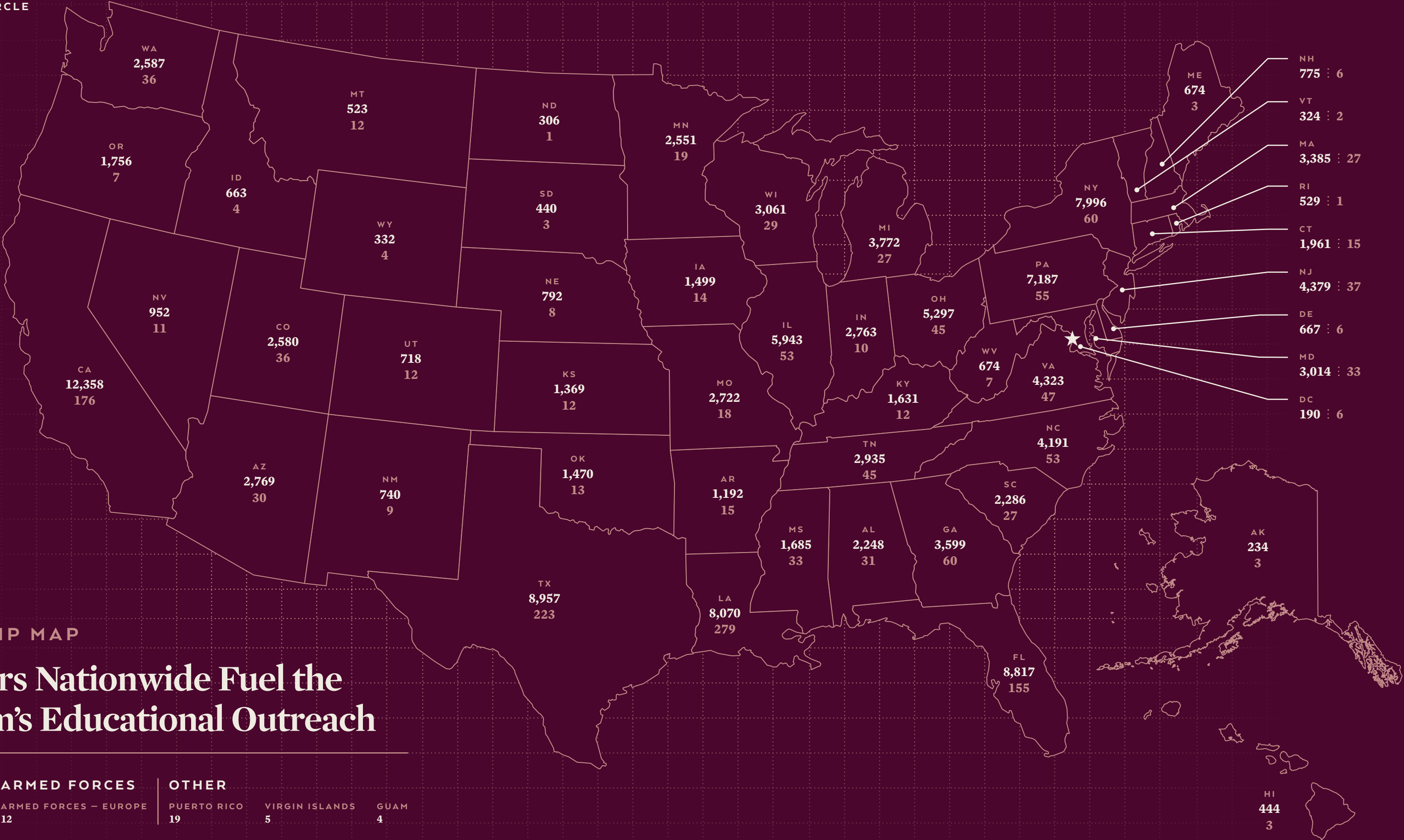
ABOVE

Members of the 101st Airborne Infantry Division and the 4th Infantry Division crowd aboard an LCT on the way to Utah Beach, June 6, 1944.

LEGEND

CHARTER MEMBERS

PATRIOTS CIRCLE MEMBERS



MEMERSHIP MAP

Members Nationwide Fuel the Museum’s Educational Outreach

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★★★★★
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\$25,000+

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S SGT Leonard E. Schopfer, USAAF, WWII Veteran

★★★★★

Matthew and Beth Saacks Covington, Louisiana

Growing up in the New Orleans area, Patriots Circle Member Matthew Saacks is proud to have witnessed firsthand how the Museum has grown into the world-class institution it is today. He and his wife, Beth, recently upgraded their One-Star Membership to the new Five-Star level to reinforce their commitment to the Museum. Years ago, on a trip to the Museum with his sons, he saw plans for the visitor capstone experience, Liberation Pavilion, on display. He recalls, “The campus continued to expand year after year—it didn’t stay stagnant. The Museum has succeeded beyond what I ever expected, and that inspired me to be a part of it.”

For Matthew, a lifelong history buff, the realism of the exhibits shows visitors the true horrors of war. Walking through the *Road to Tokyo* galleries in Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters, one artifact deeply impacted him: a watch worn by Paul Tibbets, the pilot and mission commander of the *Enola Gay*, on the day his crew dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima. “When you really understand what happened, you realize there is nothing romantic or glorious about war. This Museum lets us know that we never want to go through this again.”

Matthew and Beth are dedicated to the Museum’s mission, and they turn their dedication into action by bringing many people to visit campus and experience it all for themselves. As their own children have grown into adults, they realize the vital need to share these lessons with the younger generation. “They’ll be growing up in a time when there are no WWII veterans left to tell their stories—we can’t let their sacrifice fade away.”



★★★★
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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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★★★★

David Boundas
BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

For Four-Star Patriots Circle Member David Boundas, the Museum is much more than a place to visit—it’s where he can create lasting memories with his three sons as they grow into young men. Dave and his wife, Liz, looked for an outlet that would teach their boys Lloyd, Thomas, and Charles meaningful life lessons outside of the classroom. They realized that the Museum would show them perseverance, strength, and the spirit of the WWII generation—all of which run in their family.

Dave’s mother, Pat Boundas, grew up in Greece under German occupation during the war, where his grandfather, Ioannis (John) Zaharis, supported resistance efforts in their village. Dave is proud of his family’s resistance heritage: “My mother is the toughest person I know, and she is incredibly humble. She represents the spirit of that generation.” To connect his sons with these values, Dave plans a father-son trip to New Orleans for each of them in their early teens, where they spend multiple days experiencing the Museum together. For his eldest son, seeing the hundreds of pavers in the heart of campus put into perspective the staggering effort of Americans to win World War II. “I saw realization on his face—a true growth moment.” As he begins to plan his middle son’s upcoming visit and looks forward to his youngest’s trip in a few years, Dave believes the Museum’s role in educating younger audiences not directly connected to the war will only become more valuable. “The past is our best guide for the future.”



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Paul and Kathleen Barletta

FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

Paul Barletta still remembers the lyrics to the iconic wartime song “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree.” When he was a child, his mother played the peppy tune in their home, fostering a lifelong love for WWII-era entertainment that he shares with his wife, Kathleen. They attend as many Museum shows and events as possible, even sponsoring Victory Ball in 2022. As Louisiana natives, the couple watched the Museum grow from The National D-Day Museum into America’s National WWII Museum, visiting each time a new pavilion opened. Their support also grew over the past 25 years—they began as Charter Members but have since progressed to a Three-Star Patriots Circle Membership to deepen their connections to the Museum.

Both have close family ties to WWII veterans: Kathleen’s father, Edwin Cordilla, served in the US Army in Germany until 1947, and seven of Paul’s great-uncles served throughout the Pacific and European theaters, all of whom came home. The Barlettas have honored Edwin’s service with a paver on the Museum’s campus. “He exemplified the Greatest Generation—he was committed to the Army and his country,” said Beth. “After he came home from Germany, he joined the Army Reserves and served until the 1970s.”

Paul and Kathleen have passed down these stories to their own four children and hope that all children come to understand the lessons of World War II. “If we lose what the Greatest Generation did, our freedoms are at stake,” said Paul. “Their sacrifices during the war are the genesis of how we continue to have the freedoms we enjoy today.”



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Mark and Karen Ostrowski

MAINEVILLE, OHIO

It’s the personal stories that keep Two-Star Patriots Circle Members Mark and Karen Ostrowski coming back to the Museum year after year. On their first visit in 2007, they were struck by how smoothly the exhibits wove together the complex narrative of D-Day. Both have family connections to the war—Mark through his uncle, Staff Sergeant Frank Ostrowski, who was a gunner on 35 bombing missions over Germany and enemy-occupied Europe, and Karen through her father, Corporal Edward Kwiatkowski, who served in the China-Burma-India theater. Karen recalls her father taking her to air shows as a child, beginning a lifelong appreciation of the war. Mark also grew up with an understanding of the war that he and Karen pass along to their own children. “We have to know this history if we don’t want to repeat it,” said Karen.

Each time the Ostrowskis visit campus, they connect to the individuals who served through the Dog Tag Experience, choosing a new story to follow as they explore the galleries. The WWII generation continues to inspire them: “No one was patting himself on the back—there was a job to be done, and they did it,” said Mark.

It’s important to both Karen and Mark that the stories of World War II remain in the public’s mind, and they are encouraged by the Museum’s continued efforts to reach audiences across the nation with the history of the war. Mark considers ongoing research crucial to keep the legacy alive. “It’s amazing that even after 80 years, we still find new information about the war. Keep telling the stories as we discover more!”



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Diane D. Canavan,
WWII Veteran
Willard L. Dernoncourt,
WWII Veteran
Patrick T. Canavan
William J. Canavan,
WWII Veteran
Thomas A. Lenahan,
WWII KIA
Mrs. Kay P. Cannan
William M. Thacker,
WWII Veteran
The Cappa Family
Wilmer Carter,
WWII Veteran
Richard C. Yow,
WWII Veteran
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Carbaugh
Glenn Carbaugh,
WWII Veteran
Leighton Stansbury,
WWII Veteran
Jerry and Darleen Carlisle
Kurt and Michaela Carlson
Kathy Carothers
Orville M. Prater,
WWII Veteran
Sandra R. Carter-Green
Merwin Randall Riblet,
WWII Veteran
Robert F. Case DVM, WWII Veteran
Edgar Morton, WWII Veteran
Wilbur Morton,
WWII Veteran
Sara Casey
Forrest D. Carley,
WWII Veteran
Joel Catalano
George R. Catalano, US Army,
WWII Veteran
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Cebelak
Norman Robert Cebelak,
WWII Veteran



LEFT

Anna Garcia Afkham and Maryam Afkham place white roses on a paver honoring Anna's father, TS/ CPL Joseph Garcia, during Paver Visitation Day on January 27, 2024. Garcia was a rifleman in the 613th Field Artillery Battalion and served in the China-Burma-India theater.

George G. Cervenka

George Williams, US Navy, WWII Veteran
John Williams, US Navy, WWII Veteran
Rose Williams, US Navy, WWII Veteran
Burr Williamson, US Navy, WWII Veteran

Andrew B. Charlton III

Fred L. and Kirsti E. Charlton
CPO Fred E. Charlton, WWII Veteran

Shirley Lo Chen

Lo Xu Liang, WWII Veteran
Yung Shao-Ning, WWII Veteran
Wei Zhi Ping, WWII Veteran
Chen Wei Shu
General Lo Yi (Di Fan)
Wei Zhi Yu, WWII Veteran
Tsai Yun, WWII Veteran

Craig A. Cheramie

Charles Cheramie, WWII Veteran
Edmund Duet
Levy Guidry

Jim Chong

Rita M. Christianson

Bryce T. Christianson, WWII Veteran
Gordon L. Neslund, WWII Veteran
Robert R. Wackerli, WWII Veteran

Mr. James L. Chrivia

MSgt. Vern Melvin Chrivia

Scott Cielewich and Jamie Cielewich

Lt. Donald E. Cielewich Sr., USAAF, WWII Veteran
Capt. Nyme Farage, USAAF, WWII Veteran

Richard and Rebecca Clapp

Richard N. Clapp, WWII Veteran

Mary B. Clark

George M. Clark, WWII Veteran

Mr. Stephen W. Clayton

Judy Beggs and Jamey Clement
George Beggs III, WWII Veteran

James H. Clement, WWII Veteran

David G. Clemons

Homer Pierce, WWII Veteran

Doris Coakley

James Coakley
Dick Richter, WWII Veteran
Jim Richter, WWII Veteran
John Richter, WWII Veteran

Ambassadors Sue and Chuck Cobb

Bill Cochran
John Cochran, WWII Veteran

Ms. Caroline S. Cockerham

Dr. and Mrs. Walter D. Cockerham
Kirby Lee Cockerham, WWII Veteran
Robert Rife Saunders, WWII Veteran

Roy C. Coffee Jr.
Herschel Abbott

James P. Coffin

Ensign Charles Coffin, US Navy, WWII Veteran
PFC Hector Coffin III, WWII Veteran

Marilyn Coffin

Lt. Col. Leigh F. Coffin, US Army, WWII Veteran

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Cohen

Bob Cole

Jane Coleman

Raymond J. Coleman Jr., WWII Veteran

Judith Coleman

James William Coleman, WWII Veteran
Ted Hughey Matsel, WWII Veteran

Kathleen Collins
Lewis Buechler, WWII Veteran

David Collis
Keith and Lynda Collison
Duane E. Collison, WWII Veteran

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John Russell Condit Sr., WWII Veteran

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Gerald Contento Sr., WWII Veteran

Mr. Steven Conti
Vincent L. Conti, WWII Veteran

Debbie Cook
William R. Stuart, WWII Veteran

Diana Cook

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John Roache Cook III, MD
Lt. Stanton L. Middleton, MD, WWII Veteran
Edwin C. Strong, WWII Veteran

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Fred J. Corales

Mr. Gary Corales

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Edward H. Gerry, WWII Veteran

Col (R) Steven and Col (R) Laura Corbett

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Mary S. Ingrassia, WWII Veteran
Jack Keefer, WWII Veteran
Arnold W. Paradis, WWII Veteran

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C. Lee Crean

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William L. Crenshaw, WWII Veteran
E. E. Kelly III, WWII Veteran

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Francis B. Critchlow, WWII Veteran

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June Boyls, WWII Home Front
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George H. Lester Jr., WWII Veteran

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Anthony D'Angelo, WWII Veteran
Del D'Angelo, WWII Veteran
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Jones Smith, US Army, WWII Veteran
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CDR Leahman Joseph Holt, USN, WWII Veteran
CPL Richard Lafayette Holt, WWII Veteran
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LT Donald Edwin Matthieu, USN, WWII Veteran
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Antoine Hotard, USA
Harriet Hotard, USA
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Steve Hess, US Navy, Holocaust Survivor
Leroy Olask, US Air Force, WWII Veteran

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Eugenia Karmen, WWII Veteran
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Earl T. Garrett, US Navy, WWII Veteran
Charles Goss, US Army, WWII Veteran
Wilton Rudolph, US Army, WWII Veteran

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David Gottesman, US Army, WWII Veteran
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Jack Mallepell, WWII Veteran
Antoinette Guerland
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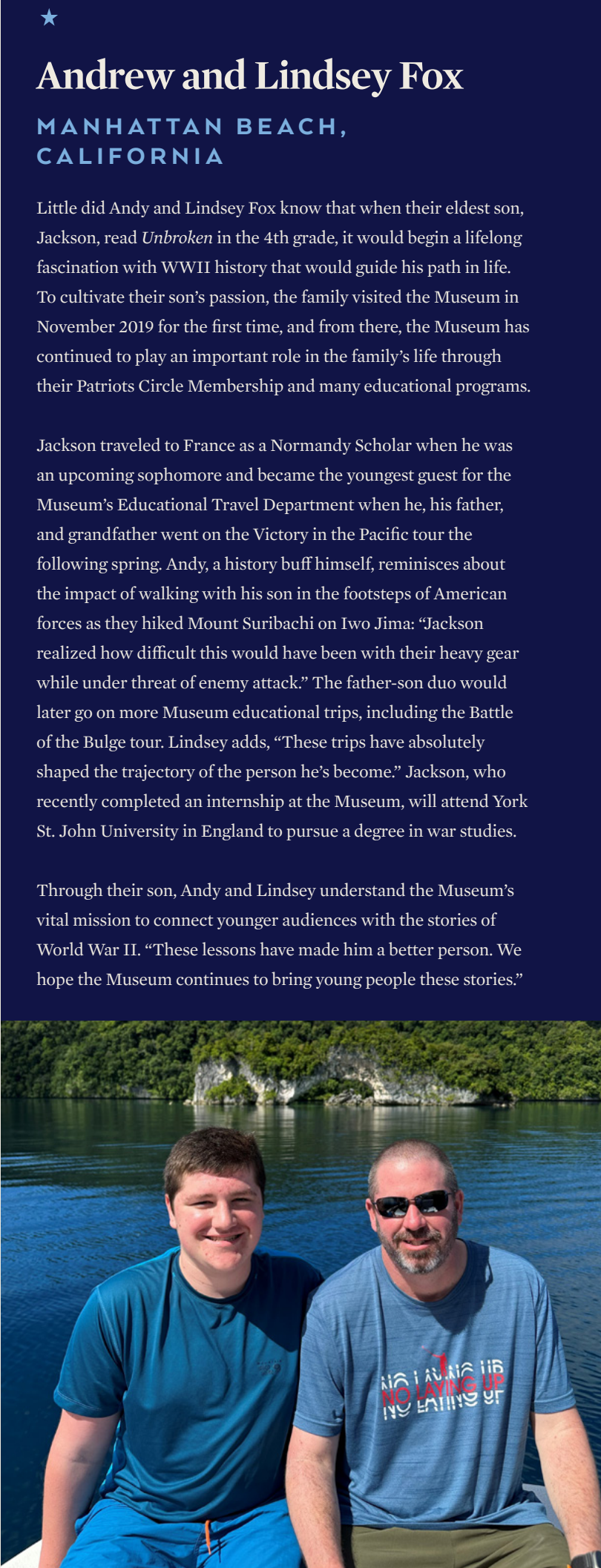
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Andrew and Lindsey Fox

MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Little did Andy and Lindsey Fox know that when their eldest son, Jackson, read *Unbroken* in the 4th grade, it would begin a lifelong fascination with WWII history that would guide his path in life. To cultivate their son’s passion, the family visited the Museum in November 2019 for the first time, and from there, the Museum has continued to play an important role in the family’s life through their Patriots Circle Membership and many educational programs.

Jackson traveled to France as a Normandy Scholar when he was an upcoming sophomore and became the youngest guest for the Museum’s Educational Travel Department when he, his father, and grandfather went on the Victory in the Pacific tour the following spring. Andy, a history buff himself, reminisces about the impact of walking with his son in the footsteps of American forces as they hiked Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima: “Jackson realized how difficult this would have been with their heavy gear while under threat of enemy attack.” The father-son duo would later go on more Museum educational trips, including the Battle of the Bulge tour. Lindsey adds, “These trips have absolutely shaped the trajectory of the person he’s become.” Jackson, who recently completed an internship at the Museum, will attend York St. John University in England to pursue a degree in war studies.

Through their son, Andy and Lindsey understand the Museum’s vital mission to connect younger audiences with the stories of World War II. “These lessons have made him a better person. We hope the Museum continues to bring young people these stories.”

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Donald T.S. Lee, Harry G. Jung, Wing Fook, Joseph Li, Wai Hoo Tong, and William Shih Yin Ching received the Congressional Gold Medal during a special commemoration on March 9, 2024, at The National WWII Museum in partnership with the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project. The veterans were part of a group of nearly 20,000 Chinese American WWII veterans who were collectively honored with the medal in 2018 in recognition of their dedicated service in the face of prejudice.

Arona McNeill-Vann Luther C. McNeill, WWII Veteran William D. McNeill, WWII Veteran Michael J. McNurney Lani McWilliams and Cynthia Rico Mr. Henry E. Meadows Claude W. Meadows Jr., US Navy, WWII Veteran Henry E. Meadows Jr., US Air Force, Vietnam War Veteran Capt. Joshua S. Meadows, US Marine Corps, Operation Enduring Freedom, KIA Robert R. Meadows, US Marine Corps, Vietnam War Veteran Charles E. Seay, US Army Air Forces, WWII Veteran Lt. John B. Thomas Jr., US Army, WWII KIA Jon and Becky Medved Joseph P. Medved, WWII Veteran	Paul Meeker and Ann M. Michaels Capt. Ralph E. McIntyre, WWII Veteran Ms. Peggy Mehl Staff Sgt. Samuel Allen Cross, US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran Col. Arthur C. Meier II Col. Arthur C. Meier, WWII Veteran Col. and Mrs. Robert J. Melchior CCM Maurice A. Melchior, US Navy, WWII Veteran Martha and Jeff Melvoin James R. Hartnett, WWII Veteran Dr. David G. Menard, DVM John and Marilyn Mendoza Marland M. 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WWII veteran Samuel Meyer is named a Chevalier of the French National Order of the Legion of Honor on February 27, 2024. Corporal Meyer served in the 485th Fighter Squadron, 370th Fighter Group, Ninth Air Force, across the European theater—including in the liberation of France. When the war ended, he was discharged from service and returned home to New Orleans, where he has worked for his family business, Meyer the Hatter, ever since.



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THE ROAD TO VICTORY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN launched in 2004 and reached its successful conclusion in FY24, with more than \$420 million raised in support of the Museum’s campus expansion. Thanks to the generous support from Society of the American Spirit donors who contributed to our Capital Campaign, the Museum has quadrupled the size of the original campus and raised endowment funding for future educational programs, research, collections, and exhibitions.

AMERICAN SPIRIT \$20 MILLION+	Jenny Craig, Jenny Craig Family Foundation, and Peter and Denise Merlone	Pam Rubin and Family	K.A.H.R. Foundation	Mr. and Mrs. Terence E. Hall	Foundation	what it looked like.” David’s remarkable service also included being part of the first unit to liberate a German concentration camp and serving as an honor guard at General Patton’s funeral.
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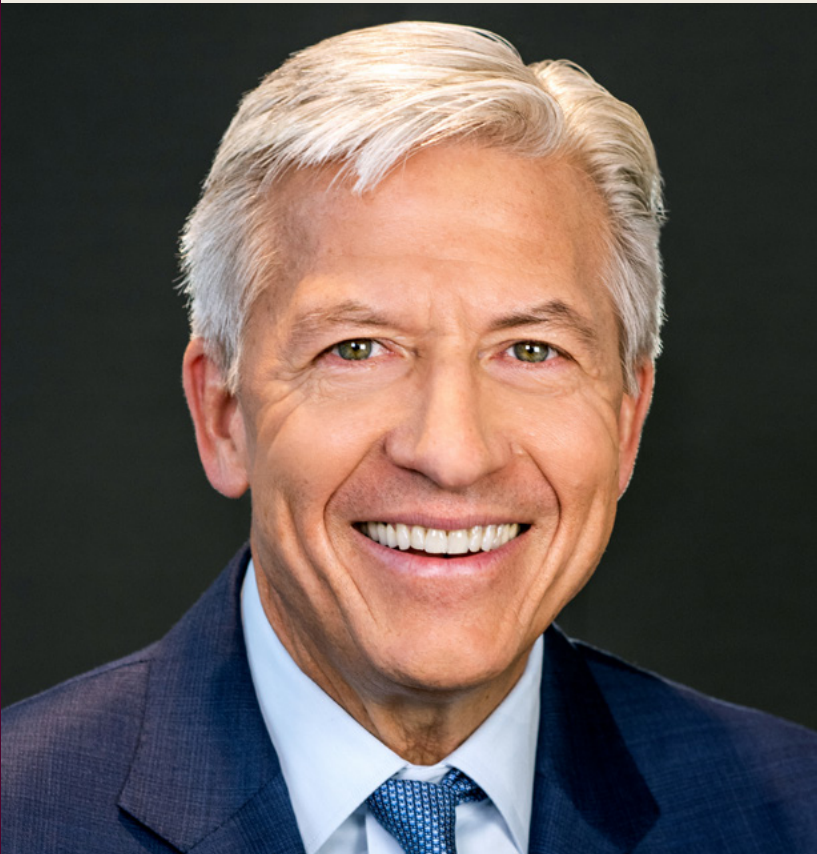
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Byron D. Trott’s father, David William Trott, was a man of few words. While Byron knew his father had served in the US Army’s 4th Armored Division during World War II, it was a visit to the Museum 10 years ago that prompted David, then 88 years old, to share more about his experience with his family. “The Museum gave my dad the chance to process the war, which was deeply meaningful to our whole family,” said Byron.

David enlisted the day after graduating from high school, and six months later, he was a Private on the ground in General George S. Patton’s Third Army. He saw immediate action in the Ardennes at the Battle of the Bulge, and as the family explored the Museum’s immersive Bulge gallery together, David recalled, “This is exactly what it looked like.” David’s remarkable service also included being part of the first unit to liberate a German concentration camp and serving as an honor guard at General Patton’s funeral.

Since that visit, to honor his dad and others who served, Byron has been a dedicated champion of the Museum, supporting the Road to Victory Capital Campaign through the Horatio Alger Association American Spirit Bridge and, most recently, Liberation Pavilion’s first-floor exhibit, *Finding Hope in a World Destroyed*. A firm believer in the Museum’s mission, Byron shared, “The war’s legacy is a fundamental foundation of this great country. I hope that stories of determination, perseverance, and integrity from the WWII generation, like my father’s, will continue to inspire future generations.”



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Jane Olson
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Jane Olson, a dedicated humanitarian, sees supporting the Museum’s educational mission as a vehicle for promoting the ideals of democracy and human rights. She says that “understanding the consequences of war is the greatest motivation to work for peace.”

Jane’s passion for WWII history traces back to her childhood in smalltown Iowa. Her father, Lester Tenhulzen, volunteered to serve in the US Navy and received training as a sonar instructor on submarines and battleships throughout the South Pacific. He returned with gifts of grass skirts and exotic seashells for his wife and three young daughters but never discussed the war.

As a schoolgirl, Jane loved watching newsreels at the movies. They often featured Eleanor Roosevelt traveling to coal mines, shanty towns, and orphan homes to meet the most vulnerable citizens, then reporting to her husband—the president—about their needs. Eleanor became Jane’s heroine. Her postwar efforts inspired Jane to dedicate her own life’s purpose to humanitarian work and led her to underwrite the Universal Declaration of Human Rights section of Liberation Pavilion’s Restoring Justice gallery.

A former Museum Trustee, Jane enjoys staying at The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center when she and her husband, Ron, visit the Museum—either in the room they dedicated for her father, or the one dedicated for Ron’s uncle, Lester Boyens. “The Museum puts a human face to the war. All of humanity, no matter our language, religion, education, or race, are more alike than different. The deeply touching, human stories that the Museum presents in every room continue to teach and inspire, and I keep coming back!” As for the seashells from her father, she keeps those to this day.



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Entering US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center for the first time is an unforgettable moment for WWII veterans. As they look upward into the four-story atrium, their eyes meet with the planes that symbolized American strength through World War II. Many are awestruck by the sheer magnitude of the Pavilion and the planes hanging overhead, including the famed B-17 Flying Fortress.

A shining example of the teamwork and patriotism epitomized by the WWII generation, the Boeing Company was the driving force to increase aircraft production for the war effort. Today, Boeing illustrates these same values in its transformational partnership with the Museum.

Committed to preserving the war’s legacy, Boeing continues to support the Museum’s educational mission through multiple initiatives. As presenting sponsors of the Museum’s award-winning podcast *Making Masters of the Air*, Boeing acknowledges its own wartime legacy, inspiring audiences around the globe with the history behind the series and the real-life stories of those who lived it.



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THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM thanks the following donor for purchasing a seat in 2024 to honor or remember a family member, friend, or organization. An engraved plaque has been permanently affixed to the arm of the purchased seat to recognize the contribution. Such support helps preserve the stories of World War II for future generations in this one-of-a-kind theater.

Robert J. Plummer

Arnold Donald

Museum Trustee Arnold Donald underestimated how emotional he would feel seeing his father’s portrait on display in the *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II* special exhibit. Corporal Warren Joseph Donald Sr. served in the US Army Air Corps during the war, beginning in Algeria, moving through North Africa, and then into Italy by the war’s end. Arnold recalls that his father never spoke about what he experienced during his service, but he did keep a box of memorabilia in a tiny closet in their home in New Orleans. “My father was an easygoing man, dedicated to his family and his faith.” Warren and his wife, Hilda, made sure their children went to college, instilling the value of education in Arnold and his siblings.

A committed advocate for the Museum and the lessons it imparts, Arnold explained at the exhibit’s grand opening on Veterans Day, “The reason I chose to underwrite this exhibit is to honor those who served, like my dad. This is a tribute to my father, but also a tribute to everyone who served.” Alongside honoring the WWII generation, for Arnold and his wife, Hazel, supporting the Museum’s educational mission is critical for the greater good of the nation. “Our goal at the Museum is to engage more people with the complete WWII story, to celebrate that great generation, and to instill a visceral understanding of the suffering and sacrifices made during war. While we honor those heroes—and they are heroes— war itself is not heroic. War should always be the last resort.”



STEPHEN E. AMBROSE LEGACY SOCIETY



LEGACY GIFTS support the future of the Museum’s 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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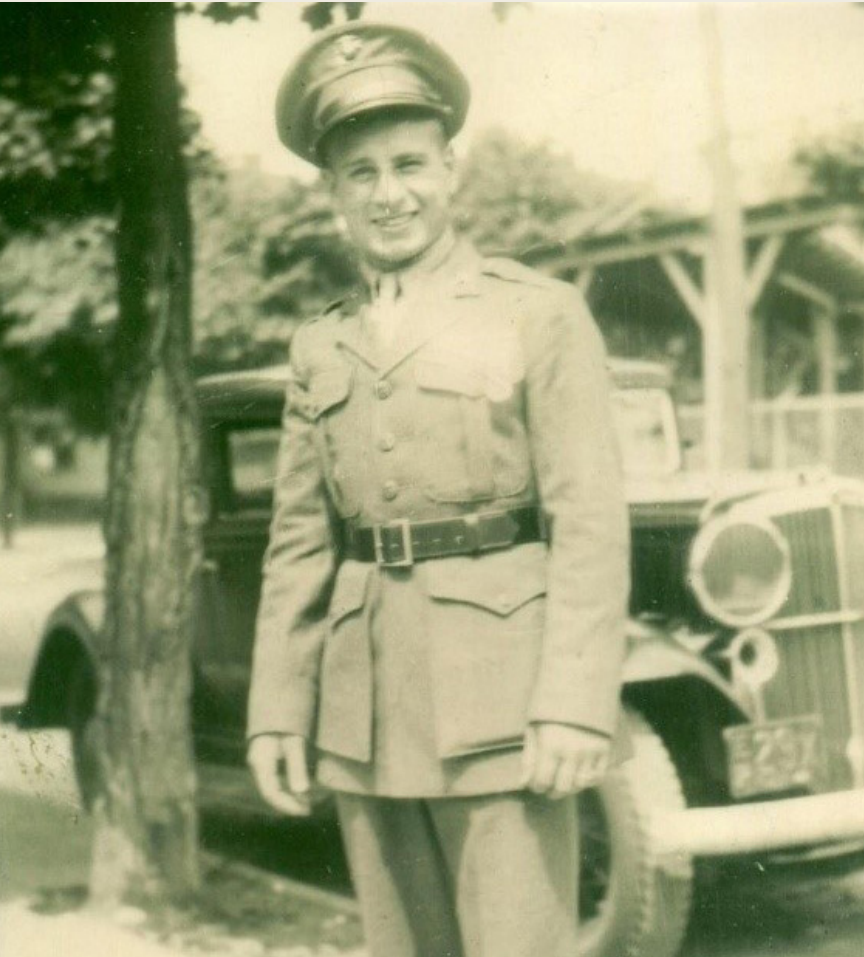
Cathy Cosenza in memory of Louis Anthony Cosenza

WYCKOFF, NEW JERSEY

Cathy Cosenza became a member of the Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society for one reason: to honor the hero of her life—her dad, Corporal Louis Anthony Cosenza, a man of faith and her best friend.

During World War II, Louis served with the 8th Defense/ Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion of the US Marine Corps on the Pacific islands of Okinawa and Tarawa. While fighting on Okinawa in 1944, Louis and seven other American servicemembers were silently hiding in a shallow foxhole in the cover of night. Armed with faith and courage, Louis “ran like a jackrabbit and threw two grenades at the enemy.” It was this action that saved their lives and earned him the Silver Star.

Cathy remembers another story her father often shared about how his faith guided him during the war. While on Okinawa, Louis and Lieutenant Francis X. Golden built a makeshift altar under the trees to allow their faith to carry them into battle. Louis believed the Masses he attended at this altar provided him protection as he walked into the dangers of war. When he passed away at age 93 in 2016, he had never missed watching the 5:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on TV and felt that God’s word carried him through each day’s challenges.



- Byron R. Johnson**
IHO Major Thomas R.
Johnson Jr. and 1st Lt.
Stewart Kenneth Johnson
Arthur T. Jones
Jeffrey Jordan
Paul Bernard Karas
Drs. Peter and Candance
Kissinger
Dot Klock
Robert and Mary Ann Koncz
Luke Kontgas
Michael R. Korber
Gretchen D. Krueger
Victor Harold Krulak Jr.
Peter Lang
Roy H. Larner Jr.
Cheryl Laser
Leo Laskowski
Mr. and Mrs. Henry A.
Leander
Oscar Lewis
Tim and Elizabeth Lewis
IMO Floyd B. Lewis and
Ralph Wilson
John S. and Cynthia J.
Lindstedt
Mr. Lou Linxwiler
Kearby Lyde
Anthony and Claudia
Madrigale
IMO SGT Anthony J.
Madrigale, US Army
Louis Magnotti
IMO William Magnotti
Jane Mance
Thomas and Susan May
Patricia F. Mayfield
IMO Earl Everett Mayfield Sr.,
US Army, WWII
George A. McCalpin
Adrianne McClenton
Robert and Susan McCollum
Robert E. McWhirter
George Meierhofer Jr.
IMO George F. Meierhofer,
WWII Veteran
Suzanne and Michael
Mestayer
Richard and Lynn Meyers
IMO WWII Veterans Douglas
W. McIlhenney and Lt.
Commander James J. Meyers
Hebert Miller and Heide
Netherton
Dr. Judith A. Monte
Carole A. Montre-Sand
Arthur Jewel Moore
- Glenn A. Mueller**
David E. Nagle
IMO Edward G. Nagle
Myrtis and Robert Nims
Robert M. Noonan Jr.
Lawrence Nothdurft
IMO Milton H. (Funny)
Nothdurft
Joseph O’Dowd and Diana
Maria Alcazar-O’Dowd
Scott and Lynne Olsen
Jane and Ronald L. Olson
Eileen Owsiany
Carol Palmisano
Mary B. Parker
IMO Robert B. Parker
James C. Parrie and Sheila J.
Parrie
IHO Cpl. William Kenyon, RAF
Jeanne E. Parsons
IMO Edgar A. “Bud” Parsons,
USA “The Fighting 69th”
Drs. David J. and Marti E. Peck
IMO 1st Lt. Clifford J. Peck,
USAAF 111th TRS - KIA
Sicily 1945
Aimee Pergalsky
William and Nancy Perocchi
IMO CAPT Andrew Haldane,
USMC
Mary W. Pless
Lewis A. Post
Mr. Robert Prior
Diane Reese
IMO A. Willard Reese
Garth T. Reid
Marlene G. Reinecke
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Schwarz
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Paul D. Ross Jr.
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Urban G. Rump
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Johnson
Rick K. Scheffel
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Jean Schlenker
Dr. Gwen Schneider
John Seck
Joseph G. Seck
Robert E. Severson Jr. & Mary
E. Severson Trust
IMO Robert E. Severson Sr.
and John W. Schild

Thomas J. Billings

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Thomas J. Billings knew the value of a dollar and the importance of education. As he and his three older sisters were growing up in Dallas, Texas, during the Great Depression, everyone in the family worked to help the family survive. His father was a lawyer for an oil company, and before his parents started a family, his mother was a schoolteacher in east Texas. Thomas was up each day at 4:00 a.m., earning one penny for each of the 100 newspapers he delivered over the next two hours.

Thomas started at the University of Texas in 1941 before being drafted into the US Army Air Forces in 1943. He served as a bomber pilot with the 327th Bomb Squadron, 92nd Bomb Group in Europe and in New Guinea, flying more than 35 missions during World War II. After he returned home, Thomas used his GI Bill benefits and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in petroleum engineering; he later started his own company, Billings Oil Service, which expanded to Padre Drilling Company.

Thomas passed away in 2018 at age 95. He was a Charter Member before leaving a part of his legacy with the Museum.



- Dr. Margaret A. Sharp**
IHO Staff Sergeant David Sharp, WWII Veteran
- Beth K. Shaw**
- Robert V. Siebel**
- Nancy D. Singer**
- Marc and Cathy Smith**
- Saundra & Peter Spilotro**
IMO Herbert H. Macknick
- Gail and David Spivack**
IMO Robert Gates DeWeese
- William J. Stafford**
IMO William H. Stafford, Lt. Col.
- Betsy A. Standafer**
- Mr. and Mrs. Brian P. Stanley**
- James V. Steffan**
- George Stemmons**
- Frank and Paulette Stewart**
- Richard G. Stoddard**
- Ward Sullivan**
- Allan Vincent Tait**
- Taube Family**
- Dr. Sharon Estill Taylor**
- Thomas C. Terrell III**
- Gary and Linda Thomas**
- Lovick P. Thomas VI, MD, FACR**
IMO Major Lovick P. Thomas V
- Jeri L. Tillman**
- Nathan L. Todd**
- Joseph and Rhonda Trader**
- Florence T. Upson**
IMO David Richardson Upson
- Vincent Vasil**
IMO Leon N. Vasil
- Dr. Mayme Kathy Volanty**
IMO Blaine L. Hufnagle
- Karen Walk**
IMO Dr. Gene Geisert
- Bruce E. Wamsley**
- Curt S. Wary and Kathleen R. Vogt**
- Keith Wentzell**
- Col. Hugh West and Mrs. Lauren West**
IMO Seymour Schertz
- Kent Westmoreland**
IMO George and Margaret Westmoreland
- Ronald and Kathy Whitcomb**
- Cherry Whitley**
- Christine T. Whitman**
- Dr. Tyron S. Wieland**
- Chris and Susan Williamson**
IMO Susan H. Williamson

- Frank G. Wilson**
IMO Charles Wilson Jr., 282 Combat Engineer Battalion
- Governor Pete Wilson and Mrs. Gayle Wilson**
- Turner Wingo and Gloria Wingo**
- Brian W. Wolff**
IMO George Wesley Wolff
- Col. William G. Yarborough**
- Ronald M. Yarrington**
- Hank Zachry**
- Herbert Zinn**
- And Four Donors Who Wish to Remain Anonymous**

WE REMEMBER WITH SPECIAL GRATITUDE THE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE LEGACY GIFTS TO THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM HAVE BEEN REALIZED.

- The 801st 492nd Bombardment Group Association**
- The 86th ‘Black Hawk’ Infantry Division Organization, Inc.**
- Anne Anthony**
IMO Robert J. Hanbury
- Patricia Ann Jean Barile**
IHO her parents, Antheny A. and Ethel T. Barile
- John and Virginia Bettencourt**
- Sylvia Bezek**
- Thomas J. Billings**
- Rita Mary Bobin**
- Robert Stevenson Boyd**
- Abdon J. and Mary Eileen Bray**
- Richard L. Brown, CCS USN**
Pearl Harbor 1941 & Signing of Treaty 1945
- Robert Burness**
- Waldo C. and Arabelle J. Burnett**
- Edward P. Camp**
- Daniel Castner**
- CBI Veterans-California Group**
- Judith K. Chamberlin**
- Lloyd F. Scott and Ann B. Scott**
- Robert Oliver Cole and Lucille Bishop Cole**
- Marjorie Monroe Colomb**
- Margaret V. Colvin**
- Josephine Comodo**

RIGHT

In 2024, the Museum unveiled an updated main entrance of Louisiana Memorial Pavilion. Guests now begin their Museum experience by entering the Pavilion through the Peter and Mary Kalikow Entrance Plaza. The upgrades have created a more recognizable, formal entrance as well as improved accessibility and security for our visitors.



- Jo Ann Corey**
- Leslie H. Cox**
IMO 2nd LT. Howard L. Cox Jr., USAAC (1924–1944)
- Dixie L. Cranford**
- Robert W. Dannelley**
- Carolyn Davis Fernandez**
IMO Capt. Julian M. Fernandez
- Richard Dorney**
- Arthur J. Elchek**
- Nathan S. Elder**
- Erwin Charles Ellerbeck Jr.**
- Carol L. and A.H. Feige Jr.**
- Bertram E. Fetter**
- Henry and Audrey Fontcuberta**
- Captain and Mrs. John Ford**
- Jean Hirsch Frank**
IMO Charles W. Frank Jr., WWII Veteran
- Dayton G. Geary**
- Jerome Gewirtz**
- Dr. Morris W. Goldberg**
- Peter Gordon Gray and Julaine Roy Gray**
- John H. Griffith II, US Merchant Marine**
- Jewell Watson Grima**
IMO Thomas J. Grima
- Thaddeus Gruszecki**
- Col. Carolyn A. Guertin (Ret.)**
- Henry Francis Gurney**
- Ruth Henrietta Haase**
IMO Calvin (Kelly) Haase
- Fiske Hanley, II**
- Aaron M. “Rick” Harris**

- Judy Harris**
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- Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Jaffe**
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- Sophia Kallelis**
IMO her husband Theodore S. Kallelis
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- Carol R. Kemmerer**
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IMO Frank E. Kranick, MIA 1945
- Raymond J. Kress**
- H.W. Lay**
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- Don and Marilyn C. Lien**
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- Barbara Moller Lyons**
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- Janet L. Merrill**
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- Mark P. Norman**
- Cdr. and Mrs. Henry O’Connor, USNR**
- Tonda L. Olson**
- Patricia Palmer**
- Mrs. Kathleen “Kayo” Parker**
- John U. Parolo**
- Mr. Felicien “Gus” Perrin**
IMO Irving Harry Pharher
- Robert C. Pharher**
- Julian M. Pleasants, PhD**
- Mary Hom Quan**
- Maria J. Raffa**
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- Leora and Joseph Ritter**
- Gordon and Ann Rosen**
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- Harold W. Schluenz**
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- Lloyd F. Scott and Ann B. Scott**
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- Marianne K. St. Claire**
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- Stuart X. Stephenson Jr.**
- James H. Stone**
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- Margaret B. Thurlow**
IMO YNCM Clinton S. Thurlow Jr.
- Mark Anthony Touns**
- Laurence Hardy Triemer**
- Georgette “Gigi” Viellion**
- Harold J. and Rhedora Vietz**
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- Russell D. Warner**
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- Liselotte Levy Weil**
IMO Leo Levy and Ferdinand Levy
- Alfred Langford Woodill**
- Brenda S. Youngblood**
- Jeanette Hodges Zajac**
- Samuel Zemurray III**
- And One Donor Who Wishes to Remain Anonymous**

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$79,436,779	\$61,735,555
Unconditional Promises to Give		
Capital Campaign, Net of Allowances	\$7,826,455	\$17,180,023
Endowment, Net of Allowances	\$2,051,790	\$2,907,503
Other, Net of Allowances	\$7,528,548	\$7,134,572
ERTC Receivable	-	\$2,533,028
Retail Stores Inventory	\$1,285,991	\$1,098,508
Other Assets	\$5,789,626	\$7,667,411
Endowment Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	\$152,820	\$595,066
Investments	\$53,593,389	\$47,496,090
Property and Equipment		
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	\$290,746,226	\$291,419,346
Collections	\$14,718,064	\$14,629,725
Interest Rate Swap Asset	\$424,831	\$455,168
Right-of-Use Assets – Operating Leases, Net	\$1,753,983	\$1,841,631
Right-of-Use Assets – Finance Leases, Net	\$7,510	\$22,528
TOTAL ASSETS	\$465,316,012	\$456,716,154
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable Trade	\$1,216,676	\$3,132,929
Accrued Expenses	\$5,018,050	\$6,238,225
Unearned Revenue and Deposits	\$7,549,124	\$8,202,608
Taxes Payable	\$275,600	\$360,911
Other Liabilities	\$1,060,753	\$1,049,628
Notes Payable	\$45,344,724	\$51,508,054
Lease Liability – Operating Leases	\$1,795,631	\$1,855,611
Lease Liability – Finance Leases	\$7,724	\$22,844
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$62,268,282	\$72,370,810
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions		
Designated	\$63,439,446	\$50,953,787
Undesignated	\$282,815,806	\$263,724,754
Total Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$346,255,252	\$314,678,541
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$56,792,478	\$69,666,803
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$403,047,730	\$384,345,344
TOTALS	\$465,316,012	\$456,716,154

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2024	2023
Revenue and Other Support				
Operating Revenue	\$79,201,051		\$79,201,051	\$66,047,658
Financial Contributions and Grants	\$28,231,775	\$9,445,547	\$37,677,322	\$37,553,097
In-Kind Contributions	\$276,290	-	\$276,290	\$141,648
Net Return on Investments	\$2,610,340	\$4,717,380	\$7,327,720	\$6,027,050
Hilton Franchise Debt Forgiveness	\$65,000		\$65,000	\$65,000
Investment Tax Credit Revenue				\$1,344,312
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$27,037,252	(\$27,037,252)	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	\$137,421,708	(\$12,874,325)	\$124,547,383	\$111,178,765
Expenses				
Program	\$90,316,615	-	\$90,316,615	\$75,811,975
General and Administrative	\$8,222,593	-	\$8,222,593	\$7,486,372
Fundraising	\$7,275,451	-	\$7,275,451	\$6,743,985
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$105,814,659	-	\$105,814,659	\$90,042,332
Change in Net Assets				
Change in Net Assets Before Change in Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	\$31,607,049	(\$12,874,325)	\$18,732,724	\$21,136,433
Change in Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	(\$30,338)		(\$30,338)	\$510,541
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$31,576,711	(\$12,874,325)	\$18,702,386	\$21,646,974
Net Assets				
Beginning of Year	\$314,678,541	\$69,666,803	\$384,345,344	\$362,698,370
End of Year	\$346,255,252	\$56,792,478	\$403,047,730	\$384,345,344



ABOVE

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, speaks with Lieutenant Wallace C. Strobel, a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division, at Greenham Common airfield on the evening of June 5, 1944. Shortly after General Eisenhower's visit, the men of the 101st boarded C-47 troop transports and departed for Normandy.

“The important thing for me is to keep the memories alive, to keep the conversations alive, the way this Museum does.”

STEVEN SPIELBERG



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
NEW ORLEANS