



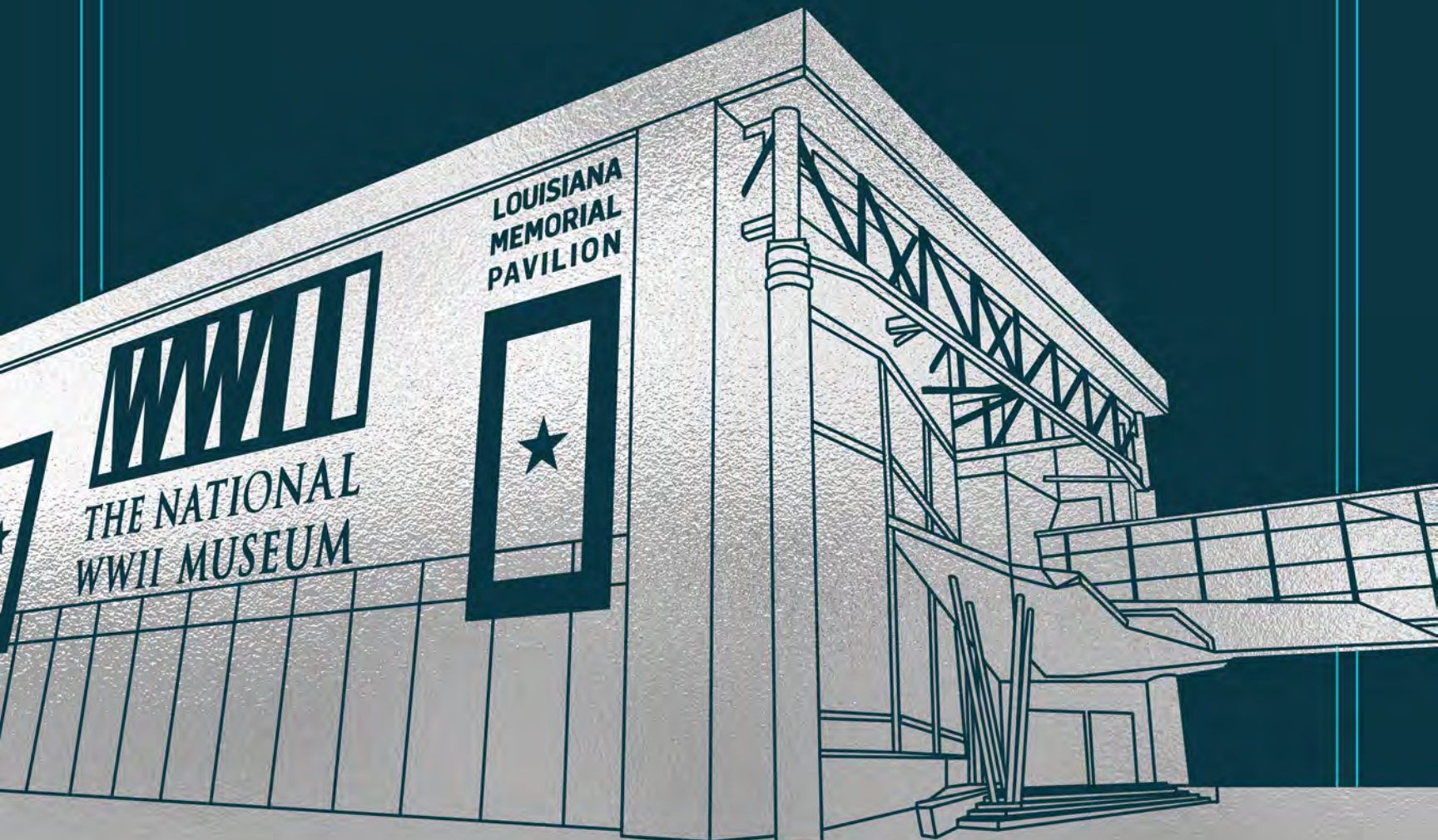
THE NATIONAL  
WWII MUSEUM  
NEW ORLEANS

CELEBRATING

25   
★  
— YEARS —

2025

ANNUAL REPORT





A blue-tinted photograph of an airplane museum. In the foreground, a propeller-driven aircraft is displayed on a raised platform. In the background, several other aircraft are visible, including a large bomber and a smaller fighter. The museum has a high ceiling with large windows and a grid of structural beams. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black serif font.

**why it was fought,  
how it was won,  
and what it means  
today.**





Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller, PhD, and Stephen Ambrose, PhD, are surrounded by supporters and dignitaries as they cut a ribbon to mark the official opening of The National D-Day Museum on June 6, 2000.

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# 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.

#### OPPOSITE

"Rosie the Riveter" Jeanne Gibson is welcomed with fanfare as she arrives at The National WWII Museum on March 21, 2025. Gibson worked as a welder on destroyers at Todd Shipyards in Seattle, Washington, and for the Army Transportation Corps in Juneau, Alaska.



2025-26

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*\*In Memory*

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM’S national Board of Trustees is comprised of 50 business and philanthropic leaders representing Washington, D.C., and 17 states. 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 endowment.

As FY25 came to an end, the Board bid farewell to Trustees Peter Foss, Dennis Lauscha, Lisa Pearl, Jimmy Reiss, and Sharon Taylor, as they completed their terms. The Museum extends its deepest gratitude to each outgoing Board member for their years of unwavering dedication and invaluable service. Your belief in the Museum’s mission and commitment to

preserving WWII history for all generations have had a tremendous impact in shaping the success of this institution.

The Board also welcomed its newest Trustee, Adrea (“Adee”) D. Heebe, a retired attorney with long-standing ties to the New Orleans area. Having served on various boards in the past, she currently serves on the Dean’s Advisory Council of the Tulane University Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the Board of Visitors of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as a Senior Member, and the Advisory Board of the New Orleans Opera Association. Heebe earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Newcomb College, as well as a Juris Doctor from the Tulane University School of Law.



Paul Hilliard’s

100th Birthday  
Celebration

WWII veteran and Museum Trustee C. Paul Hilliard turned 100 on June 18, 2025! The Museum helped Hilliard mark his milestone birthday with a public celebration in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion that included cupcakes and a chorus of “Happy Birthday” on June 21. Later that evening, Hilliard celebrated with friends and colleagues with a festive fête in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center.



# Letter from the Board Chair

**A** **S WE MARKED** the Museum's silver anniversary on June 6, 2025, I had the privilege of individually recognizing 23 members of the WWII generation at the Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration. Being able to watch these veterans, Home Front workers, Holocaust survivors, and resistance fighters process in and out of the event, one by one, and highlight their wartime contributions to the room full of grateful Americans reminded me of just how special the Museum is, and has always been, to the men and women for whom it was built. This year's D-Day ceremony was among a dozen events we hosted over a two-week period that allowed us to thank WWII veterans, reflect on our achievements, recognize those who built the Museum into what it is today, and share the significance of our mission with a local and national audience.

There were many magical moments throughout the 25th anniversary festivities, from toasting my fellow Trustees Paul Hilliard, Boysie Bollinger, and Nick Mueller at this year's American Spirit Awards Gala; to watching a riveting multimedia performance of *The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day* at the Orpheum Theater; to welcoming more than 4,000 visitors to campus for our 25th Anniversary Family and Member Day. It was truly a pleasure to celebrate all the support that has propelled the Museum to where it is today.

Since opening our doors as a single pavilion focused on the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 2000, it is incredible to reflect on how the Museum has transformed into an impressive seven-acre, seven-pavilion campus that tells the complete story of the war with over 300,000 artifacts and 12,000 personal accounts. And our impact has significantly deepened over time—from the 10 million visitors we've welcomed to our campus, to the more than 820,000 nationwide Charter Members we've enrolled, to the nearly three million students and teachers we've reached both in person and digitally with our historical content, and so much more. Seeing how far we've come over the years has been inspiring.



*Suzanne Mestayer*  
Suzanne Mestayer

It has been an honor to serve as Board Chair during this special time for the Museum, and I am grateful for the efforts and generosity of so many others who helped us reach this point. That includes my fellow Trustees, past and present, whose leadership has been integral to our success over the years. My thanks as well to all those who have already generously contributed to the goals laid out in our Victory's Promise fundraising campaign, and to Museum President & CEO Stephen Watson for his leadership in overseeing this important phase of growth for the institution. Of course, none of this would be possible without the many Members, program supporters, community partners, staff, and volunteers who continue to champion the Museum year after year.

This vast support is a testament to the public's enduring belief in our mission. But it also reminds us that there is still much work to be done to achieve our vision to become the most accessible resource for trusted knowledge on the American experience in World War II. In the coming pages, you'll see some of the ways we're working toward that aspiration.

As I prepare to pass the gavel to the new Board Chair in June, I look forward to making continued progress toward these initiatives. I'm proud of what we've achieved in these important months and am excited about our next chapter.

## OPPOSITE

WWII veteran Alonzo "Jack" Emerson displays a service-era photo of himself as he arrives in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center on June 6, 2025, for the Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration and Museum's 25th Anniversary Celebration.







## OPPOSITE

*Billy Michal Student Leadership Award recipient  
Caleb Schneider of Gainesville, Georgia, interacts  
with a digital display in Liberation Pavilion's  
Monuments Men and Women Gallery in May 2025.*

**ON THE MUSEUM'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY**, it was an honor to publicly announce Victory's Promise—our new 10-year, \$300 million comprehensive fundraising campaign to dramatically expand the Museum's educational impact over the next decade. I am certain this campaign will be just as impactful in reaching new audiences as our Road to Victory Capital Campaign was in completing the buildout of our campus, and I am grateful to all those who helped us achieve that 20-year vision. Still, we know there is more work to do to reach beyond our walls and fulfill our educational mission—and Victory's Promise will make that possible.

Here at the Museum, we believe World War II was one of the most consequential events in human history. Nothing more clearly demonstrates what humanity is capable of—good and bad—than this monumental moment in time. That is why it must always be taught and studied, both within and beyond the classroom, and preserved in institutions like ours. It is a sacred responsibility, especially as there are fewer members of the WWII generation to share their firsthand experiences with us. To ensure this important story stays alive, we, as America's National WWII Museum, must tell it.

This means making a bold commitment to go beyond our New Orleans campus and viewing our educational initiatives as equally important to the exhibits housed within our walls. It means building upon all that we have achieved by improving our visitor experience, increasing the accessibility of our collections, and deepening our commitment to students, teachers, and lifelong learners.

The Museum's collection of artifacts, oral histories, and exhibits brings history to life in a way that no textbook can. Over the next decade, we will make significant investments in our campus—overhauling older exhibits, enhancing existing experiences, and adding new buildings and spaces—to ensure we're continuing to inspire visitors of all ages with this vital history.

# Letter from the President & CEO

Still, we know that the vast majority of Americans will never walk through our doors, and we are significantly expanding our traveling exhibits program to bring our WWII artifacts and stories to communities large and small across the country. We must also become the go-to online resource for everything World War II-related, strengthening our digital content and collections to serve as a trusted resource for students, teachers, and the many other members of the public interested in the war. And to better support these groups, we will reimagine our field trip experience, expand our teacher training programs, and educate new generations on the key leadership principles and skills exemplified by the WWII generation.

As you can see, there is much on the horizon for the next 10 years and beyond, and I am humbled to serve as President & CEO during such a meaningful time for our institution. Still, we know this is just the beginning, and I thank our Board Chair Suzanne Mestayer for her tireless leadership as we embark on this next chapter. By upholding our promise to the WWII generation, to those who have built this Museum, and to future generations, we will keep the dialogue and public memory of World War II alive.



**Stephen J. Watson**



# The War in 1945

**T**HE FINAL YEAR OF THE WAR began with American forces in the Pacific fighting to liberate the Philippines, eventually reaching Manila, where intense urban fighting lasted for weeks. More brutal fighting followed as US troops fought to seize the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. In Europe, leaders from the United States, United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union met in the Crimean city of Yalta to discuss

planning for the postwar world. As Allied troops approached Berlin, they saw the horrors of the Nazi regime firsthand as they liberated survivors from numerous concentration camps. On May 8, less than a month after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the war in Europe officially ended. Another conference was held in Potsdam, Germany, to further discuss the fate of newly defeated Germany and outline terms

of surrender for Japan. Japan rejected those terms, and, soon after, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the island nation—the first on Hiroshima on August 6 and the second on Nagasaki three days later. Japan accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration on August 15, with the formal surrender taking place on September 2. With that, *the war that changed the world* was over.

## Battle of Manila

**FEBRUARY 3 – MARCH 3**

As part of the campaign to liberate the Philippines from Japanese control, American and Filipino troops fought to retake the capital city of Manila. The monthlong battle saw fierce urban fighting, which devastated the city and brought high civilian casualties. Allied troops also liberated American civilians and prisoners of war from the Santo Tomas Internment Camp, including the US Army and Navy nurses known as the “Angels of Bataan.” The battle marked a key victory near the end of the three-year campaign.

## Battle of Okinawa

**APRIL 1 – JUNE 22**

Okinawa’s rugged terrain and heavy rain made movement difficult for American soldiers and Marines, while Japanese kamikaze attacks sank or damaged hundreds of Allied ships offshore. Casualties were high among American and Japanese forces as well as the local Okinawan population. The battle, like the battle for Iwo Jima, was marked with increasing violence, foreshadowing heavy losses for the planned invasion of Japan.

## V-E Day

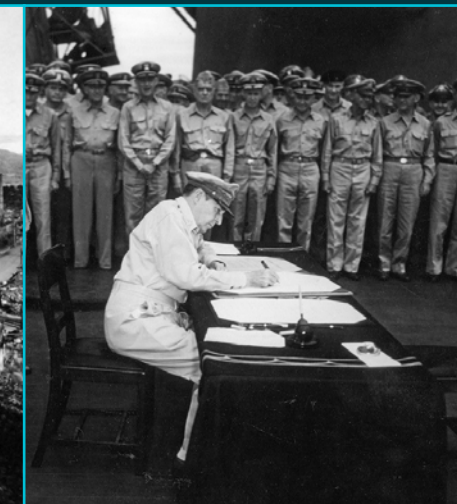
**MAY 8**

As the collapse of the Nazi regime loomed, Adolf Hitler took his own life on April 30, and his successors quickly surrendered unconditionally to Allied forces. President Harry S. Truman designated May 8 as V-E (Victory in Europe) Day as celebrations erupted around the world. Americans gathered to sing and celebrate and flocked to houses of worship to give thanks. Despite their relief that the war in Europe had ended, many servicemembers wondered if they would be sent to the Pacific next.

## Dropping of the Atomic Bombs

**AUGUST 6 & 9**

Facing the prospect of a costly invasion of the Japanese home islands, the United States dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These new weapons devastated both cities, and soon after, Japanese Emperor Hirohito ordered the Japanese military to accept the Allies’ terms of surrender.



## Yalta Conference

**FEBRUARY 4–11**

As the Allies pushed closer to Berlin, the leaders of the United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union met in the city of Yalta to discuss postwar plans. Key discussion points included the division of Germany and Berlin into four occupation zones, the future of Poland and other liberated Eastern European nations, and plans to prosecute war criminals before an international court. The Soviet Union also promised to enter the war in the Pacific within three months of Germany’s surrender.

## Liberation of Ohrdruf

**APRIL 4**

As Allied soldiers pushed toward Berlin, they liberated hundreds of Nazi concentration camps and subcamps. The first camp liberated by American soldiers was Ohrdruf, where they encountered charred remains, evidence of torture, and emaciated survivors. General Dwight D. Eisenhower requested that congressmembers and newspaper editors be flown to Europe to tour the camps to counter any future denial of these horrors. He also directed more American soldiers to visit the camps and see what they had been fighting for.

## Potsdam Conference

**JULY 17 – AUGUST 2**

As the war still raged in the Pacific, the leaders of the United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union met once again, this time in Potsdam, Germany. Despite a tense and distrustful atmosphere among the Allies, they formalized the occupation and denazification of Germany and issued the Potsdam Declaration, which called for Japan’s unconditional surrender.

## Surrender of Japan & V-J Day

**AUGUST 15 & SEPTEMBER 2**

After the dropping of the atomic bombs and the Soviet Union’s invasion of Manchuria, Emperor Hirohito recorded a message accepting the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, which was broadcast on August 15. The formal surrender took place on September 2 on the deck of the USS *Missouri*. President Truman designated September 2 as America’s official V-J (Victory over Japan) Day, and celebrations once again erupted across the United States. World War II was finally over.



# The National WWII Museum Celebrates 25 Years

**INSTITUTION MARKS MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY WITH WEEKLONG CELEBRATION**

**T**HE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM'S beginnings can be traced back over three decades, when friends and University of New Orleans professors Stephen Ambrose, PhD, and Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD, discussed plans for a museum that would tell the story of the D-Day invasion of Normandy and World War II, and preserve the accounts of the everyday Americans who fought against fascist tyranny. On June 6, 2000, the 56th anniversary of the Normandy landings, that vision was realized when The National D-Day Museum opened as a single exhibition hall in the heart of New Orleans, the city where Higgins Industries' famous landing craft were produced.

It wasn't long until the Museum began expanding to cover the full story of the American wartime experience—from the Home Front to the battlefields and beyond. Designated by Congress as America's national museum for World War II in 2004, the institution officially adopted a new name and new mission to reflect this momentous mandate. The National WWII Museum has since grown in size, scope, and impact from a single building into a seven-acre, seven-pavilion campus with immersive exhibits, award-winning multimedia experiences, dynamic educational resources, and an expansive collection of powerful artifacts and first-person accounts.

Now rated the top attraction in New Orleans and among the best museums in the world, the Museum remains dedicated to honoring those

who came together to defeat the Axis powers: the servicemembers storming beaches and battlefields across Europe and the Pacific; the factory workers on the Home Front; the Holocaust survivors who experienced the horrors of Nazi tyranny and the joys of liberation. Their stories have always been at the heart of the Museum.

From May 29 through June 7, 2025, the Museum marked its 25th anniversary with special events to honor the WWII generation and the values they embody, reflect on the Museum's achievements, and unveil its plans for the next decade.

The National WWII Museum has accomplished a great deal over the past 25 years, steadfast in its pledge to honor those who gave so much to achieve Allied victory and ensure the history of the war lives on. As it looks to the future, the Museum is committed to engaging new audiences on its campus and around the world, ensuring that the WWII generation's service, sacrifice, and victory continue to inspire for generations to come.

## OPPOSITE

WWII and Korean War veteran Thomas "Ed" Davis receives a hero's welcome as he arrives at The National WWII Museum on June 6, 2025.



## SINCE THE MUSEUM OPENED IN 2000:



**10 million+**  
 visitors, including 2 million+ students and teachers



**300,000+**  
 artifacts and archival pieces in Museum's galleries and collection



**\$2.9 billion+**  
 in direct and indirect economic impact



**1 million+**  
 hours of service from volunteers



RIGHT

Robert Lowry, a US Navy veteran of D-Day, proudly displays his ticket from the 2000 Grand Opening of The National D-Day Museum.

BELOW

A member of the Museum's Living History Corps speaks to guests aboard the replica Higgins boat in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion during the 25th Anniversary Family and Member Day presented by Timber and Peggy Floyd on June 7, 2025.



SINCE THE MUSEUM  
OPENED IN 2000:



12,000+

personal narratives



900,000+

students reached through  
distance-learning programs



820,000+

Charter Members donated \$157 million+  
since program began in 1999



7,775

Patriots Circle Members donated  
\$48 million+ since program began in 2004



ABOVE

Founding President & CEO Emeritus Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD (left), shares behind-the-scenes stories about the founding and first 25 years of the Museum as he is interviewed by author and journalist Steve Vogel about his latest work, *Preserving the Legacy: Creating The National WWII Museum*, during the book's launch at the Museum on June 5, 2025.

RIGHT

Broadway stars perform with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra in *The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day* presented by Priddy Family Foundation at the Orpheum Theater on June 6, 2025. This musically driven multimedia experience created by historian John Monsky captures the final months of the war in Europe through the eyes of those who served and sacrificed.





“Though the Museum has expanded... *our vision has never wavered.* That is a testament to our leadership and vast network of supporters.”

— SUZANNE MESTAYER

RIGHT

A bagpiper plays taps on the morning of June 6, 2025, as Museum officials and visitors commemorate H-Hour—the moment the invasion of Normandy began 81 years ago.

OPPOSITE TOP

Museum Vice President of Education & Access Pete Crean discusses WWII-era New Orleans and the history behind the location of the Museum in a special Dinner with a Curator event on June 4, 2025.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM

WWII veterans Kenneth Mar (from left) and the Honorable Stephen Ellis and Holocaust survivor Anne Levy attend the Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration and Museum's 25th Anniversary Celebration on June 6, 2025, in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center.





# 2025 American Spirit Awards Honor *Leaders Who Helped Shape Institution*

**RECIPIENTS BOYSIE BOLLINGER, PAUL HILLIARD, AND NICK MUELLER HAVE GUIDED THE MUSEUM’S AMBITIOUS GROWTH OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS**

**S**ERVING AS THE OFFICIAL KICKOFF to The National WWII Museum’s 25th Anniversary Celebration, the 2025 American Spirit Awards honored the Museum’s origins, its years of growth, and the foundational leaders behind its success. The award recognizes individuals who, through their life’s work, exemplify the outstanding qualities of the American spirit and inspire these values in others.

The 2025 award recipients included three individuals who have had a transformative impact on the growth and development of the Museum and have made tremendous contributions to their communities and country: New Orleans businessman Donald T. “Boysie” Bollinger, WWII veteran C. Paul Hilliard, and Museum Founding President & CEO Emeritus Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller, PhD.

Bollinger has been among the Museum’s strongest champions since its earliest days. As the longtime Chairman and CEO of Bollinger Shipyards, a family business launched after World War II, Bollinger



presided over shipbuilding and repair facilities from New Orleans to Houston. He joined The National D-Day Museum’s Board of Directors in 1995 and became Chair shortly after the Grand Opening in 2000. Since then, Bollinger has committed substantial time and resources to making the Museum one of the best in the world, rallying vital support from government officials, prospective donors, community leaders, and friends.

The only WWII veteran currently serving on the Museum’s Board, Hilliard has lived a life of service while making a name for himself as an entrepreneur, corporate executive, and philanthropist. At 17 years old, Hilliard joined the US Marine Corps, flying 45 combat missions in the Pacific as a radioman and gunner in Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers. Following the war and college, he founded Badger Oil in Lafayette, Louisiana. Over nearly two decades, he has become one of the Museum’s most ardent advocates, supporting its educational mission and the preservation of oral histories and aircraft. He served as Board Chair from 2018 to 2020, bringing a unique perspective to the role.

No one has had as much of an influence on the Museum over the past three decades as Mueller, Founding President & CEO Emeritus. A historian and former Vice Chancellor at the University of New Orleans, Mueller played a key role in developing new programs and founding the UNO Research and Technology Park. He served as Board Chair of The National D-Day Museum from 1998 to 2000, guiding the institution through its Grand Opening. He then led the Museum as President & CEO for 17 years, working to expand its mission, campus, and educational initiatives—establishing the Museum as one of our nation’s top cultural institutions.

As part of the American Spirit Awards events, which included the American Spirit Awards Gala presented by Hancock Whitney, the Museum also bestowed the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award to 51 students from each state and the District of Columbia who embody the American spirit in their communities. These students had the opportunity to hear from the 2025 American Spirit Award recipients during a special leadership forum presented by Kevin G. Clifford Family.



**LEFT**  
US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center is filled with guests during the American Spirit Awards Gala presented by Hancock Whitney on May 30, 2025.

**BELOW**  
2025 American Award Recipients Nick Mueller, Paul Hilliard, and Boysie Bollinger

“There was no national cry for a National WWII Museum or even a D-Day Museum when Stephen Ambrose had the idea to do it. WWII veterans must have been thinking in the ’70s and ’80s, *‘Who will write our history? Who will tell our story?’* What they witnessed, why they fought, what they achieved. With Boysie and Paul and others, we have done that in this museum.”

— NICK MUELLER

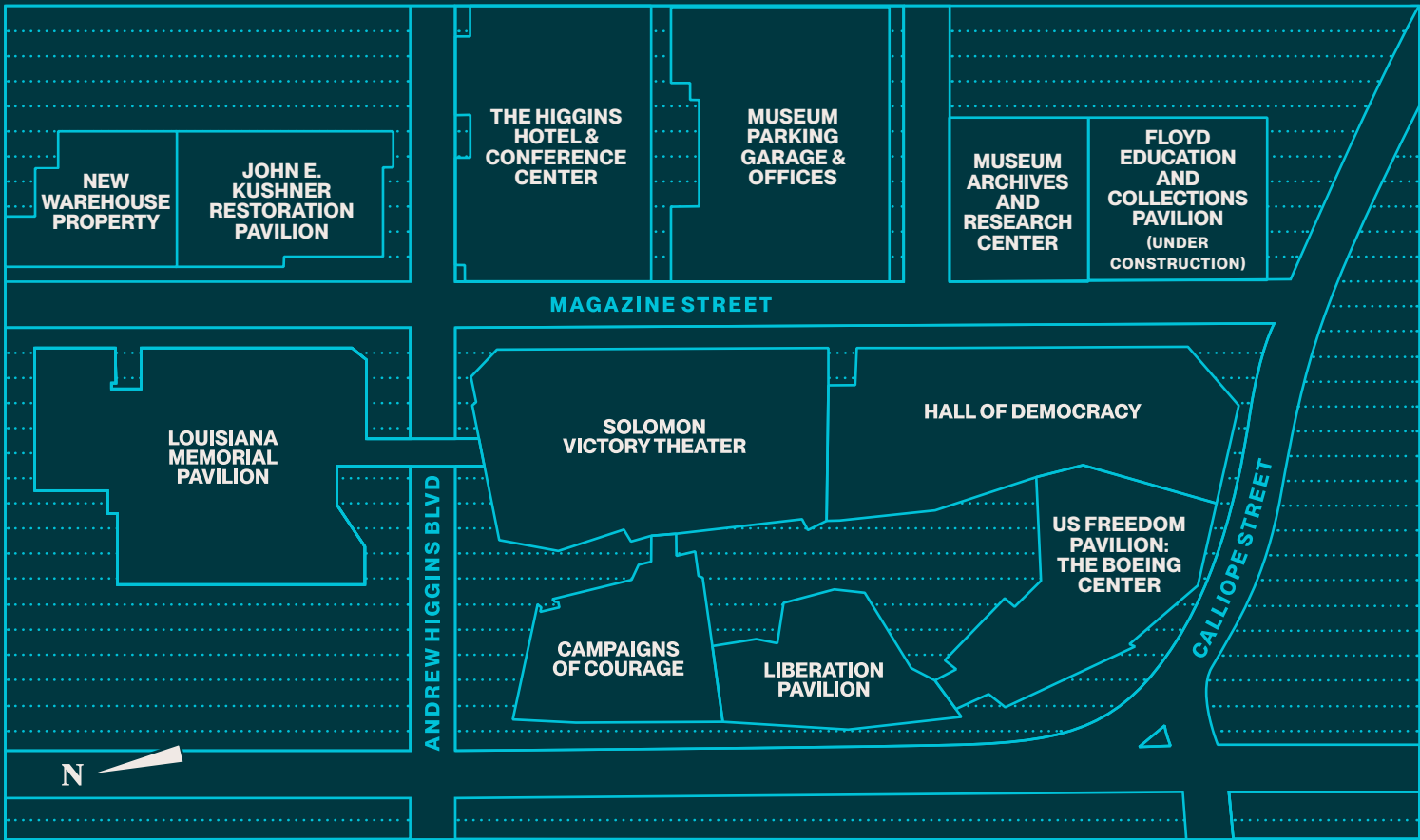


# Museum Expands Educational Footprint on Magazine Street

WITH NEWLY ACQUIRED AND RENOVATED PROPERTIES, MUSEUM DEEPENS ITS COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

**A** **S IT PREPARES** to dramatically expand its educational programs to support students, teachers, scholars, and lifelong learners both in Louisiana and throughout the country, The National WWII Museum has also continued to expand its campus in downtown New Orleans. Its growing presence along three blocks of Magazine Street will help the Museum further its goals to engage more visitors, embrace innovation and technology, and inspire learners of all ages.

On the south end, the Museum has broken ground on the Floyd Education and Collections Pavilion and opened the new Museum Archives and Research Center. On the next block stands The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center, which hosts the annual International Conference on World War II. On the north end, John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion now offers visitors views of PT-305 and other WWII macro-artifacts, while a newly acquired warehouse property contiguous to the Pavilion will enable the continued growth of the Museum's mission.



## Museum Archives and Research Center

The Museum's vast collection of artifacts, archival materials, and oral histories about the American experience in World War II is unparalleled and serves as an essential resource for researchers, educators, and the public. Standing as a testament to the Museum's commitment to accessibility, the Museum Archives and Research Center enhances the capacity to preserve, expand, and share these collections. Housed in the renovated historic warehouse on the corner of Magazine and Poeyfarre Streets, the state-of-the-art facility features upgraded storage and preservation spaces, which also anticipates future growth of the collection; an archival digitization lab; a reading room for on-site researchers and visiting scholars; and the Museum Institutional Records and Archives.

## Newly Acquired Warehouse Property

The newest addition to the campus was generously donated to the Museum by the Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable Foundation. Located at 906, 916, and 922 Magazine Street, the property will provide much-needed space that the Museum anticipates using for staff offices, meeting rooms, artifact and equipment storage, and future needs related to the institution's expanding educational outreach efforts.

### ABOVE

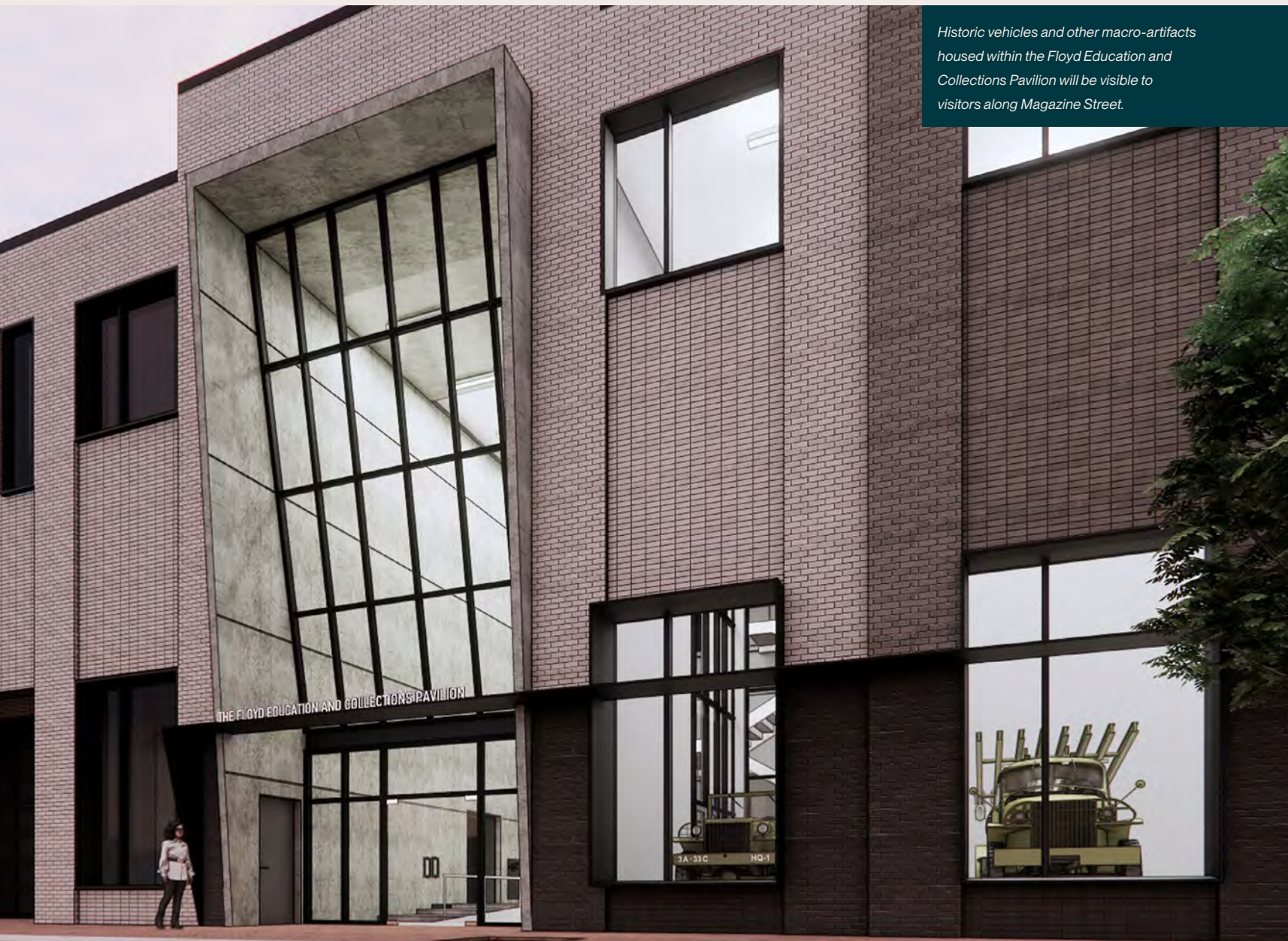
Museum Archives Manager Laura Frizzell organizes archival material in the new Museum Archives and Research Center facility.

### OPPOSITE

The versatile warehouse property at 906, 916, and 922 Magazine Street will become an important part of the Museum campus in the coming years.







Historic vehicles and other macro-artifacts housed within the Floyd Education and Collections Pavilion will be visible to visitors along Magazine Street.

## Floyd Education and Collections Pavilion & Sanderson Leadership Center

In April 2025, the Museum broke ground on the Floyd Education and Collections Pavilion, a new complex that will support the Museum's growing efforts to produce more exhibits, continue preserving its macro-artifacts, and expand its leadership programs.

To provide greater access to the Museum's collection of more than 300,000 artifacts and archival materials, the Pavilion will include a dedicated exhibit design and production center, centralizing and expanding the Museum's development of new special exhibits for future display at its New Orleans campus and other institutions across the country. Additionally, the ground floor of the new facility will house numerous historic vehicles and oversized collection artifacts, bringing back to campus these historic treasures that previously were stored off-site.

The second floor of the Pavilion will house the new Sanderson Leadership Center, where the Museum will offer a full slate of signature leadership

programs based on the events and lessons of World War II for corporate and nonprofit executives, civic and military leaders, and students and educators. With an emphasis on strategic thinking and key leadership principles like ethics and decisiveness, these new tailored seminars, lectures, and interactive scenarios will help promote team building, communication, and problem-solving, while youth-specific programs will encourage civic awareness for new generations of American leaders. Construction plans include a custom-built environment that will fully immerse participants in role-playing leadership programs based on WWII events, enhancing their experience and bringing the history of the war to life in new ways.

The new Pavilion is made possible through a \$7.5 million gift from longtime Museum supporters Timber and Peggy Floyd, with additional support from the State of Louisiana



STEADFAST SUPPORTER:

## Peggy Floyd

Peggy Floyd never knew much about her father's service in World War II. He rarely spoke of it when she was growing up; all she knew was that he had been a bombardier. But everything changed in 2015 when she walked into US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center for the first time.

"I looked at that plane," she recalled, "and realized—that was where my father sat." Although natives of Texas, Peggy and her late husband, Timber, fell in love with New Orleans. On their frequent visits, they found themselves returning to the Museum again and again, captivated by its exhibits. Through the years, the Floyds' support grew to include key initiatives like *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II* special exhibit, Victory Ball, and the Family and Military Appreciation Block Party, to name a few. "We want to make the Museum accessible to everybody," she said. Recently, Peggy returned to celebrate as the Museum broke ground on the Floyd Education and Collections Pavilion, a new space that reflects her and Timber's deep commitment to the Museum's educational mission.

Thanks to research conducted by Museum historians, Peggy has also been able to learn more about her father's service. As an airman with the Seventh Air Force, First Lieutenant Nicholas Dragisic flew in the B-24 Liberators with the 11th Bombardment Group in the 431st Bombardment Squadron. From 1943 to 1944, Nicholas participated in the island-hopping campaign across the Central Pacific, braving Japanese interceptors and vast ocean stretches. After all these years, Peggy finally connected with his story.

Today, Peggy sees the Museum as an anchor—not just for New Orleans, but for the state of Louisiana. "If just one child leaves here understanding the importance of this war," she said, "then we've done our job."

### ABOVE

Peggy Floyd (second from left) gathers with friends and Museum President & CEO Stephen Watson (center) to break ground on the Floyd Education and Collections Pavilion on April 1, 2025.





## John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion's Forthcoming Motor Pool

Museum visitors can get up-close looks at WWII macro-artifacts in the renovated John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, which reopened to the public in 2024. Soon, they will also be able to get a unique peek into the maintenance of WWII-era vehicles and other artifacts in the Pavilion's Motor Pool, which is slated to open in early 2026. The restoration work will be performed by Museum staff and volunteers in full view of the public. One of the anticipated first projects will be the Museum's M3A1 Stuart tank. In addition to restoration projects, the Motor Pool space will serve as a hub for all major maintenance activity for the Museum's collection of macro-artifacts.

### ABOVE LEFT

In addition to the upcoming Motor Pool, John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion houses the Museum's patrol torpedo boat, PT-305, and the STEM Innovation Gallery, an educational space that gives visitors the opportunity to engage in tactile learning and exploration.

### ABOVE RIGHT

Educational Travel Manager Adam Coste (right) chats with Museum visitors during a Historian Happy Hour at The Higgins Hotel.



## Educational Outreach at The Higgins Hotel

As the official hotel of The National WWII Museum, The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center serves as an important vehicle for advancing the Museum's educational mission in addition to offering first-class accommodations, meeting spaces, and dining options. In addition to supporting the Museum's expanding scholarly programs, The Higgins Hotel provides lodging and meeting spaces for students, teachers, enthusiasts, corporate clients, reunion groups, military groups, and more who participate in these programs or plan their own.

Each summer, the Hotel hosts students participating in two of the Museum's signature educational programs for high school and college students—Normandy Academy and Student Leadership Academy—and educators attending workshops that deepen their understanding of the war and provide practical teaching strategies and classroom tools. In the fall, the Hotel welcomes guests from all over the world to the International Conference on World War II presented by the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, which brings together top scholars, authors, historians, and witnesses to history for three days of expert discussions. Throughout the year, the Museum enriches the experience for Hotel guests with events that add to its historical offerings, including Wartime Piano Happy Hour in the Tom and Polly Gruber Patriots Circle Lounge and Historian Happy Hour in Kilroy's Bar & Lounge.

Since opening in 2019, the Hotel has been honored to host every WWII veteran participating in the Gary Sinise Foundation Soaring Valor Program, which honors WWII veterans through immersive visits to the Museum. The Higgins Hotel is also the perfect host for guests attending special events like the Museum's 25th anniversary celebrations—during which it welcomed more than 20 members of the WWII generation, two tour groups, Arizona State University graduates, the Museum's Board of Trustees, Patriots Circle Members, the cast and producers of *The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day*, among other guests.





# Rosie the Riveters Honored for Wartime Service

EIGHTEEN  
PIONEERING  
WOMEN WHO  
HELPED PAVE THE  
WAY FOR FUTURE  
GENERATIONS  
PRESENTED WITH  
CONGRESSIONAL  
GOLD MEDAL

**T**HE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM celebrated National Rosie the Riveter Day on March 21, 2025, by welcoming 18 women wartime workers—real-life “Rosies”—to their museum from around the country on a specially dedicated trip through the Gary Sinise Foundation’s Soaring Valor program.

During World War II, millions of American women on the Home Front answered the call to join the wartime workforce, many for the first time, as job opportunities in the defense industry that had traditionally belonged only to men opened to women. By taking on new roles, these women, known as “Rosie the Riveters,” helped produce critical supplies, support the Allied fighting forces, and reshape American society.

Upon arrival, these guests of honor were met with applause and signs of gratitude from local students and Museum guests and staff. Many wore polka dots in a nod to J. Howard Miller’s iconic “We Can Do It!” poster, whose heroine has become synonymous with Rosie the Riveter and a representation of all women who worked in production and defense during the war.

The Rosies, accompanied by students from the Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans, paraded into the Museum and spent the day touring exhibits. An obligatory stop was the Manufacturing Victory gallery in *The Arsenal of Democracy: The Herman and George R. Brown Salute to the Home Front* exhibit, where the significance of the trailblazing contributions of women in the wartime workforce is highlighted. The Rosies, who were in their 90s and 100s, shared stories of a time decades ago when they stepped into shipyards and onto factory floors to learn new trades and aid their country in a time of war.

The memorable day was capped off with a special commemoration to present each Rosie with the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her dedicated service during World War II. The Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act was signed into law in December 2020, and the Museum was honored to help pay tribute to these women workers whose contributions paved the way for future generations.

## ROBERTA “RANDY” TIDMORE

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in March 1922, Roberta “Randy” Tidmore worked at the J. J. Case Company in Rockford, Illinois, for six months in 1943 doing sheet metal work, finishing wings for B-26 aircraft. Bored with her position and looking for opportunity, Tidmore enlisted in the US Marine Corps Women’s Reserve. Sergeant Tidmore is featured in the Museum’s special exhibit *Our War Too: Women in Service*, now traveling the country with recent appearances at the Henry Ford Museum and the Atlanta History Center. In the exhibit’s culminating film, Tidmore reports how, at 21 years old, she didn’t want to be an officer—she wanted to be a mechanic. After the war, she continued to seek adventure and became a stewardess for United Airlines.



## TOP

Wartime Rosie the Riveters and local high school students flex their biceps as they pose for a photo at the Museum.

## ABOVE

The Victory Belles chat with wartime Rosie the Riveter Maxine Boeve during the Congressional Gold Medal Commemoration.

## LEFT

Susan Taylor King accepts her Congressional Gold Medal. King worked in an aircraft factory in Baltimore, Maryland, during the war.



# Living History: Aleutian Islands Veterans Attend Opening of On American Shores

**SPECIAL EXHIBIT SHEDS  
LIGHT ON A “FORGOTTEN”  
EPISODE OF WORLD WAR II  
AND THE AFTERMATH THAT  
RESONATES TO THIS DAY**

**T**HE MUSEUM’S SPECIAL EXHIBIT *On American Shores: The Aleutians Islands Campaign* examines the often-overlooked 1942 Japanese invasion of the Aleutian Islands in Alaska and the subsequent efforts to reclaim the only North American soil seized during World War II. At the March 26, 2025, exhibit opening, Aleutian campaign veterans Ira Milan and Jesse Magee, representing both the Army and Navy, served as living reminders of this oft-forgotten theater of war and testaments to the importance of preserving all aspects of World War II.

A native of New Orleans, 102-year-old Boatswain’s Mate Second Class Ira Benedict Milan joined the Naval Construction Battalions, or “Seabees,” on December 14, 1942. Arriving in the Aleutians in August 1943, Milan served on the island of Attu before returning to the States and shipping out to the Philippines with the 5th Special Naval Construction Battalion. While attending the opening, Milan was able to meet Jim Letten, the son of his wartime friend Alden Letten. The two shared stories and wartime photos of Letten and Milan, highlighting the personal connections forged by the war across generations.

Mississippi-born Private First Class Jesse J. Magee, 103 at the time of the exhibit’s opening, served 18 months in the Aleutians on Adak and Shemya as a member of Company A, 364th Infantry Regiment. Originally trained



**ABOVE**

Jim Letten (left) and US Navy veteran Ira Milan reminisce over a service-era photo of Milan and Letten’s father, Alden “Al” Letten, in the Aleutians during the opening of *On American Shores*.

as a combat infantryman, Magee’s segregated unit was instead sent north to serve as stevedores and maintainers. Magee had many stories to relate to the Museum’s oral historians from his time in the Aleutians, even joking about life on Shemya, and it was through his participation in the oral history program that Magee was able to see himself quoted in the new exhibition. Highlighting and honoring his service through the Museum’s exhibit and oral history collection helps further the public’s understanding of both the war and the wide range of Americans who answered the call over 80 years ago.

Numerous families of veterans who served in the Aleutians have been able to experience the exhibition in person or have contacted the Museum regarding stories and artifacts. Just as Milan and Magee’s presence helped highlight surviving veterans of the Aleutians, these descendants of veterans have been able to learn more about the often-overlooked service of their family members honored at the Museum.



**ABOVE RIGHT**

*On American Shores* highlighted more than 70 unique artifacts and materials from the Museum’s collection, including rare American and Japanese cold-weather uniforms.

**LEFT**

US Army veteran Jesse Magee attends the opening of *On American Shores*. A quote from Magee’s oral history is featured in the exhibit.





# The Museum's WWII Podcasts and the Power of Digital Storytelling

## HOW PODCASTING BRINGS WWII HISTORY TO LIFE FOR GLOBAL AUDIENCES

### BELOW

The Museum's podcast series 1945 debuted in April 2025 in conjunction with the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.



**AS THE LARGEST, DEADLIEST CONFLICT IN HUMAN HISTORY,** World War II was the most important story of the 20th century—a story The National WWII Museum is charged with upholding. And though the last shots of the war rang out some 80 years ago, its ripple effects are still felt today. New information is frequently unearthed, deepening our understanding of this monumental time in American and world history.

The Museum acts as a permanent home for this knowledge, but a campus has physical limits. We know this institution must do more to engage those who have never entered—and may never enter—its doors. Today, the Museum is reaching wider audiences through one of the most popular methods of digital storytelling: podcasts.

Since 2018, the Museum has launched six podcast series: *Service on Celluloid*; *To the Best of My Ability*; *World War II On Topic*; *Making Masters of the Air*; *Antisemitism: The Fight in WWII America*; and *1945*. Through seamless collaboration between the Museum's WWII Media Center, the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, and other Museum teams, each show brings to life different aspects of the war, from the challenges faced by America's wartime presidents to the firsthand accounts of everyday servicemembers to the real stories behind popular depictions of World War II in television and film.

A new six-part series, *1945*, premiered in April 2025 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Hosted by *New York Times* best-selling author Donald Miller and Playtone producer Kirk Saduski, the

podcast, sponsored by The Long Family, takes listeners on a journey through the intense final months of the war. Through new interviews with expert historians like Richard B. Frank and Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin, archival material from the Museum's collection, and readings by Academy Award nominees Patricia Clarkson and Gary Sinise, the story of one of the most consequential years in modern history is told in an accessible, engaging way.

Today, the Museum's collection of podcasts has been played more than a million times, reaching audiences far beyond New Orleans. And that number will only grow as the Museum develops more long-form, narrative-focused podcasts like *The Secret WWII: Spies & Special Ops*, a new podcast exploring wartime tales of espionage and intrigue.

Through these podcasts, anyone with an internet connection can journey through the Museum's archives and listen to stories from the past, making history accessible by inviting listeners to “sit in” with historians, veterans, and storytellers as if they were part of the conversation. The importance of that intimate participation is summed up perfectly by Miller in the final episode of *1945*:

“Sometimes remembering is very difficult because it can be awfully painful, even when it's joyous. I think it's poignant to place yourself ... on the spot that a certain event in history took place. ... You're consciously remembering that you're part of the story. And if you write it down, all the better, because then you're a true participant. That's the importance of history.”

### WHAT LISTENERS ARE SAYING ABOUT 1945

*“Terrific podcast — love the original recordings and the historians’ perspectives. Great work, WWII Museum!”*

*“High production value, extremely knowledgeable hosts and guests. Highly recommend.”*

*“I’ve always been a WWII buff. First when I was young, mostly fiction. But with ‘maturity,’ reading and listening to actual historical work is so much more rewarding.*

*This series is a prime example of the quality work still being done. Thank you!”*

### MUSEUM PODCASTS IN FY25



**100,000**

approximate plays of 1945



**104,168**

subscribers to Museum podcasts—  
an increase of 37.4% from FY24



**327,109**

total plays of Museum podcasts—  
across all platforms



# Audiences Across America

## Engage with Museum's Traveling Exhibits

PROGRAM BRINGS THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN WORLD WAR II BEYOND THE MUSEUM'S WALLS



THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM'S traveling exhibits program raises awareness and fosters connections to America's WWII story as it brings the Museum's expert WWII content to new host institutions around the country, reaching ever-increasing audiences.

In FY25, the Museum's traveling exhibit offerings expanded to include *Our War Too: Women in Service*—the institution's largest traveling exhibition to date, featuring nearly 200 artifacts related to the trailblazing efforts of America's WWII military women. In February 2025, the touring exhibit debuted at the California Museum in Sacramento before traveling in May to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, where Museum Senior Curator Kimberly Guise provided visitors with an inside look at the exhibit and a special presentation on The National WWII Museum's mission.

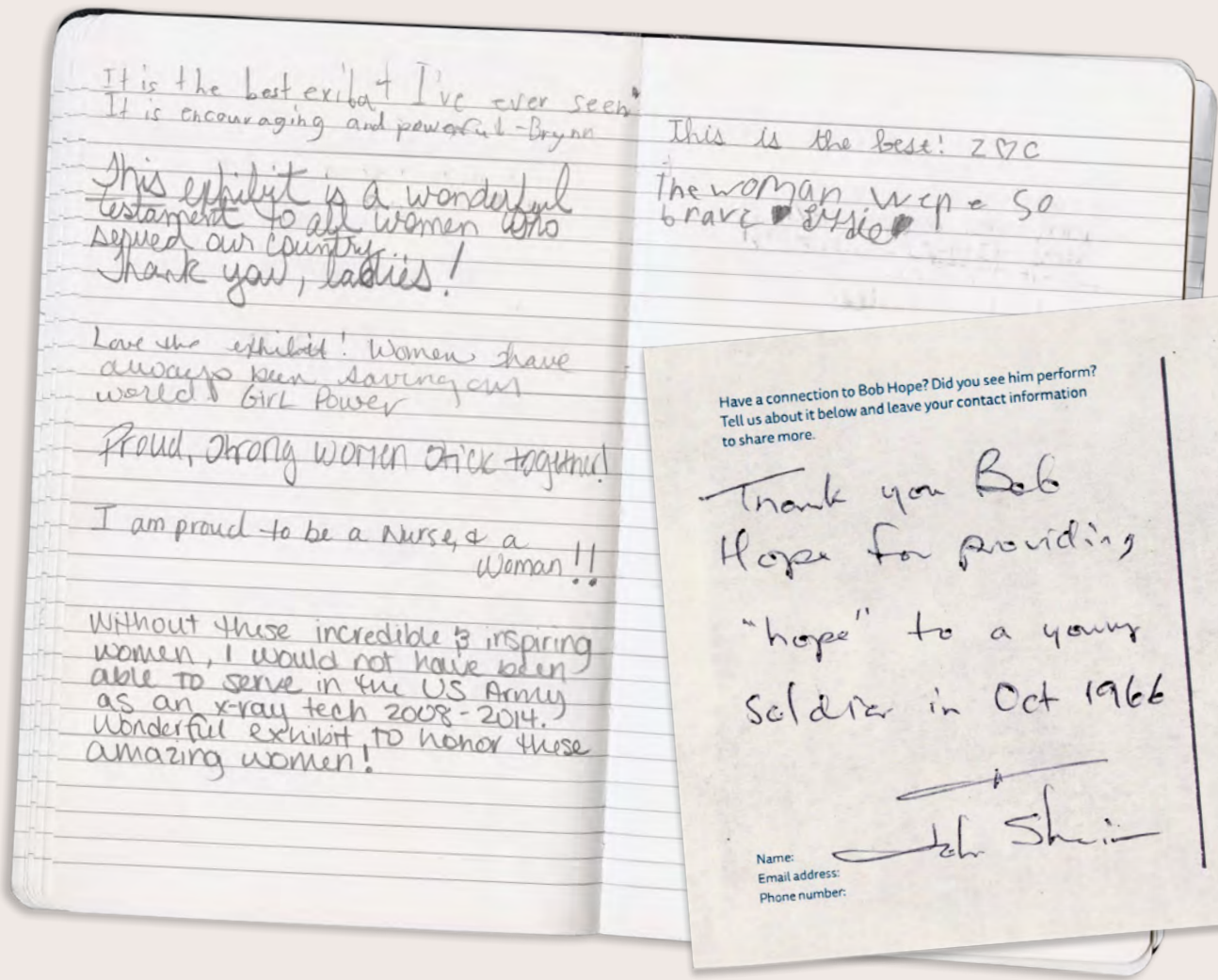
A crucial aspect of the traveling exhibits program is the collection of visitor feedback, which provides not only the opportunity for guests to reflect on the exhibits' content but also important data conveying the impact

of the program and informing future exhibit projects. Among the most common sentiments expressed by visitors of all ages to *Our War Too* is a deep sense of pride and appreciation for America's WWII servicewomen, a theme woven throughout the comment books: "As a woman in the Army, serving in a combat role, it is inspiring to see the legacy that came before me and that I have the potential to build onto." "I loved it! Such care and attention to details helps spread the oft-forgotten importance these women played in the war effort!" "Thanks for sharing...can't wait to teach this to my classroom."

*So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope*, which tells the story of American entertainer Bob Hope's unique place in the history of World War II and beyond, is now in its fourth year on tour and, in early 2025, began a four-month run at the Bell County Museum in Belton, Texas. Over the years, many guests who have submitted postcards to the "Thanks for the Memory" mailbox within the exhibit have expressed gratitude for and even memories of Bob Hope's contributions to the war effort: "My dad, Ken Chilstrom, was a WWII fighter pilot and always so pleased to tell of the time

### BELOW LEFT

Handwritten comments from visitors to *Our War Too: Women in Service* praise the exhibit and express gratitude for the women who served in World War II.



### BELOW RIGHT

A postcard from a veteran who visited *So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope* thanks Hope for lifting his spirits.

in Sicily, 1943, that he was at a dinner with Bob Hope! Dad is now 101 and still likes to tell about how special that was."

As FY25 came to an end in June, *Ghost Army: the Combat Con Artists of World War II*, which examines the experiences of the first tactical deception unit in the US Army, had just concluded its run at the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, where it was on display from October 2024 to May 2025. Back in New Orleans, The National WWII Museum was concluding its own run of the newly refreshed *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II*—an exhibit exploring the challenges faced by and accomplishments of African Americans before, during, and after World War II—and preparing it for national touring. These appearances at host venues allow the Museum to connect with new audiences and deepen relationships with Members nationwide—and this reach will only grow as Museum curators continue to develop new and expanded traveling exhibits. With help from the Victory's Promise campaign, these exhibits will enhance the Museum's presence in every region of the country, with a goal of reaching 2 million visitors each year by 2035.

### Thank you

Thank you to the following presenting sponsors for their generous support of The National WWII Museum's traveling exhibits:

E. L. Wiegand Foundation  
*Ghost Army: The Combat Con Artists of World War II*

Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation  
*Our War Too: Women in Service*

Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation  
*So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope*

The Arnold Donald Family in honor of Corporal Warren J. Donald, Sr.  
National Touring Sponsor: Abbot Downing, Wells Fargo  
*Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II*





# Victory's Promise: Our Plan for the Next Decade

## MUSEUM LAUNCHES NEW \$300 MILLION FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

**T**HE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM marked its 25th anniversary on June 6, 2025, with the launch of a new comprehensive fundraising effort aimed at expanding the institution's educational outreach and renewing its commitment to preserving and sharing the stories of the WWII generation. The 10-year, \$300 million Victory's Promise campaign will help the Museum further advance its national educational mission by reaching new audiences at its New Orleans campus and beyond and becoming the most accessible source for trusted knowledge on the American experience in World War II.

One of the most enduring symbols of World War II, "V for Victory" signified hope, strength, and determination as our country came together like never before to ensure freedom prevailed. The Victory's Promise campaign channels that same spirit of unity and commitment embodied by everyday Americans as the Museum looks to ensure this pivotal time in our nation's history remains a source of inspiration and guidance for future generations. This vision is especially important as direct connections to the war fade, and there are fewer opportunities for young people to learn from those who experienced it firsthand.

The campaign will advance the Museum's strategic plan by supporting new initiatives and expanding existing programs to engage wider audiences on the Museum's campus and across the nation; dramatically expanding digital access to its resources and content; and inspiring more students, teachers, and lifelong learners. The institution's national standing, global reach, extensive collection, and dedicated supporters make it uniquely prepared to pursue these bold objectives, grounding these efforts in the work and accomplishments that came before while pursuing new ways to advance the Museum's mission in the years to come.

### OPPOSITE

*US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center is filled on June 6, 2025, for the Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration Ceremony and Museum's 25th Anniversary Celebration, where the Victory's Promise campaign was publicly announced.*

To ensure it provides a first-rate experience and attracts new visitors, the Museum will invest more than \$100 million in new construction, major renovations, and proactive maintenance to its campus over the next 10 years. Additionally, new and expanded traveling exhibits developed by Museum curators will reach broader audiences across the nation. The Museum's plans also include increased access to its campus for Louisiana students by offering free guided field trips for all Title I schools in Louisiana. These initiatives will help the Museum reach its goal of welcoming one million visitors to campus annually by 2035.

The Museum will also leverage new technologies to reimagine its digital presence and better deliver its wealth of WWII artifacts, expertise, and original content to more people around the world. This includes the enhanced care, preservation, and digitization of the Museum's vast collection of primary source materials and the creation of a centralized online hub for educational content for students and teachers.

By expanding programming and resources on campus, across the country, and online, the Museum aims to educate five million K-12 students and 15,000 teachers annually by 2035. The Museum will also strengthen the teaching and study of WWII history through increased support and mentorship of higher education faculty, scholars, and students, while its new Sanderson Leadership Center will promote strategic thinking and key leadership principles to new generations of American leaders.

To resource the Museum's goals and initiatives, the Victory's Promise campaign has a fundraising target of \$300 million for three priority areas: capital projects, education and programs, and endowment. Your support, commitment to the Museum's mission, and generosity will have an important impact as the institution expands its outreach to help new audiences connect with history and understand the significance of Allied victory.



### CAMPAIGN INITIATIVES BY 2035



**\$100 million+**  
invested into campus projects



**50,000**  
Louisiana students visiting annually on free field trips



**1 million**  
visitors welcomed annually



**5 million**  
K-12 students and 15,000 teachers educated annually



**2 million**  
reached annually through traveling exhibits



**100 million**  
digital engagements garnered annually

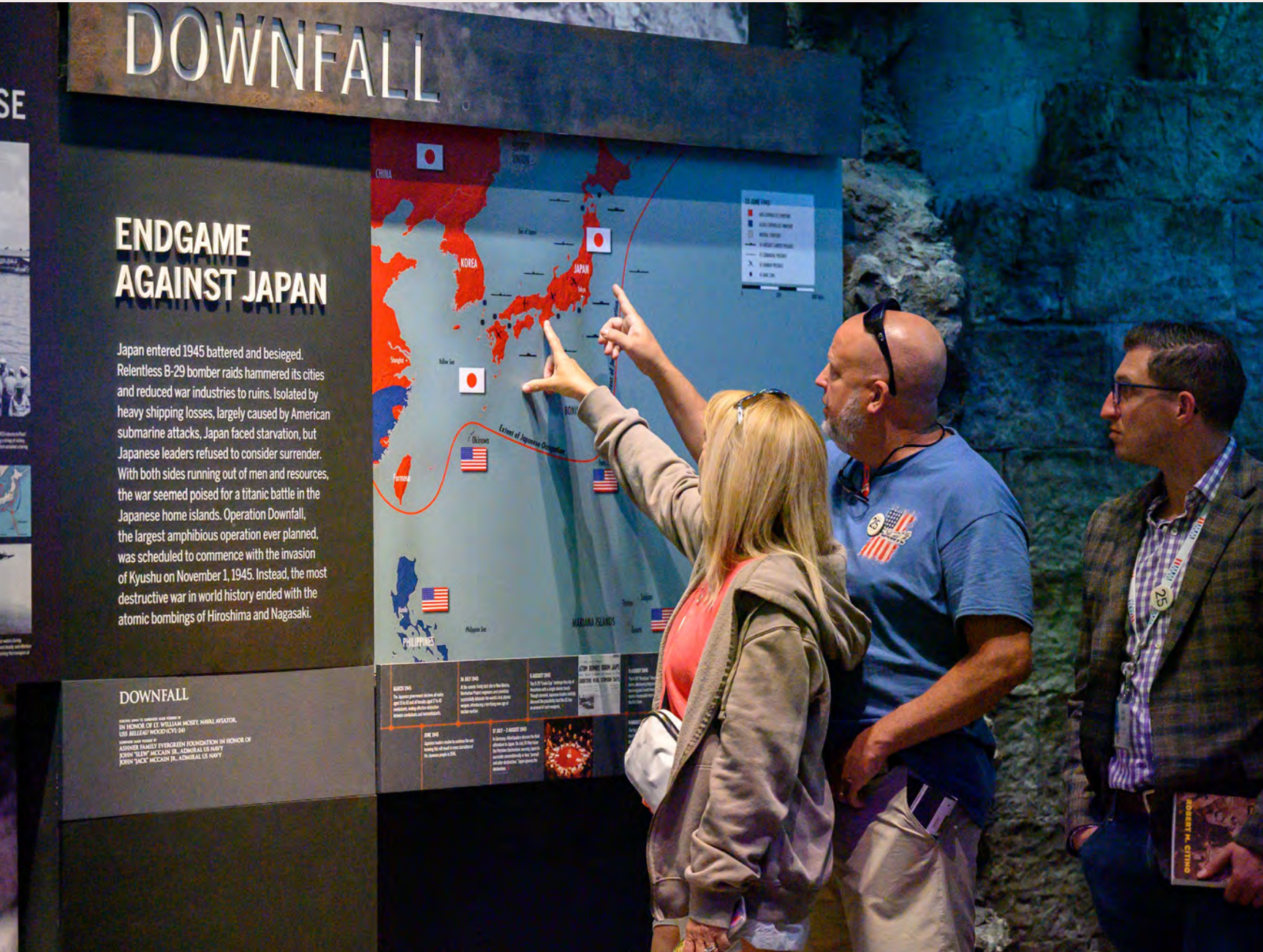


RIGHT

In FY25, the Museum began advancing its 10-year capital projects plan with extensive renovations and updates to its signature 4D cinematic experience, Beyond All Boundaries, and Solomon Victory Theater. The upgrades were made possible with support from Kevin G. Clifford, Jennifer and Phil Satre, the Solomon Family, and the State of Louisiana.

BELOW

Visitors explore the Richard C. Adkerson & Freeport-McMoRan Foundation Road to Tokyo: Pacific Theater Galleries during the Museum's 25th Anniversary Family and Member Day on June 7, 2025. As part of the Victory's Promise campaign, the Museum will ensure that its engaging, world-class exhibits reach larger audiences in New Orleans and throughout the country.



ABOVE

Educators from around the country get hands-on with artifacts and ephemera from the Museum's collection during the 2025 Summer Teacher Workshop. Through the Victory's Promise campaign, the Museum will expand its teacher training programs on campus, online, and in communities nationwide to inspire more students, teachers, and lifelong learners of all ages.

LEFT

Plans to revamp the Museum's original exhibit, The D-Day Invasion of Normandy, have been in the works for several years. Soon, the exhibit will undergo a complete renovation to incorporate new technology, artifacts, and firsthand accounts that will tell the story of the iconic D-Day landings in a more powerful way—and ensure the exhibit remains central to the visitor experience.





# Leading *with Vision*

## DONORS' EARLY GIFTS BUILD LASTING MOMENTUM FOR VICTORY'S PROMISE CAMPAIGN

### ABOVE

Early investors have contributed nearly \$50 million to the Victory's Promise campaign in support of capital projects, educational initiatives and programming, and the Museum's endowment.

**O**VER THE PAST 25 YEARS, a nationwide network of supporters helped build The National WWII Museum into the premier cultural institution it is today. With the launch of the Victory's Promise campaign, the Museum begins a new chapter—one fueled by those who believe in the enduring power of WWII history to shape the future.

Early investors in Victory's Promise are taking up that mantle with commitments that enable the Museum to continue its important work, and by the end of FY25, their combined support had already raised more than \$46 million.

Among the first major investors in the campaign were Trustee Kevin Clifford and longtime advocate Peggy Floyd, whose early contributions laid the groundwork for progress across the campaign's three key funding areas: support for capital projects, investment in education and programs, and growth in the endowment. They've also inspired a growing community of supporters to follow their lead—supporters who understand that Victory's Promise is not just a campaign but a commitment to ensuring the Museum has the resources to tell the story of *the war that changed the world* well into the future.

Other early investors include Trustee Phil Satre and his wife, Jennifer, who share a meaningful connection to the legacy of World War II: both were raised by parents who served on the Home Front and the front lines. Supporting the refresh of the Museum's signature cinematic experience, *Beyond All Boundaries*, is their way to ensure that visitors experience the war's story with the same convictions that shaped their own lives. Additionally, Trustee Greg and Bekki Kowalski's campaign support will enhance the visitor experience across the Museum, from The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center to the outdoor sculpture collection in the heart of campus. Their gift to name the Hotel's lobby, along with their contribution to the Rosie the Riveter sculpture bench, helps make the campus a space that invites learning, reflection, and engagement with WWII history.

Those who have embraced the Museum's vision for its next decade through significant early gifts have helped create momentum for the Victory's Promise campaign. Their support reflects a deep trust that the legacy and values of the WWII generation—determination, sacrifice, courage, and unity—will be preserved and passed on.

This is a promise the Museum has made, and one we invite you to join us in fulfilling.

### TRAILBLAZING TRUSTEE:

## Kevin Clifford



Upon reviewing the Museum's strategic plans and funding priorities for its next decade of growth, Kevin Clifford issued a bold challenge to his fellow Trustees: match his \$5 million gift to the Museum's endowment within one year. The result was extraordinary—the Clifford Challenge has thus far raised \$10.375 million as part of Victory's Promise, a powerful testament to his leadership and commitment to securing the Museum's future.

A seasoned investor and retired Chairman and CEO of the American Funds Group, Clifford brings a wealth of financial expertise to the Museum's Board and a clear understanding of what it takes to build enduring institutions. His philanthropic vision is rooted in long-term impact, and his dedication to the Museum's viability is evident in his Board service. A member of the Museum's Investment Committee, Clifford and his fellow committee members are critical to growing and stewarding the endowment. His endowment challenge gift reflects his deep belief in the Museum's educational mission and Victory's Promise. "All of us who love and support the Museum understand the unique challenges involved in raising money for the endowment," Clifford said. "My family and I decided to make this investment to provide a catalyst as we challenge my fellow Board members to join us in bringing attention to this most important work."

With the completion of the campus Master Plan, the Museum now focuses its attention on extending its reach to bring the critical and timeless legacies of World War II to the broadest audience possible. Technology, education, and accessibility will play crucial roles in this effort, and the Clifford family's \$8 million investment in the campaign to support the refresh of *Beyond All Boundaries* and build the endowment will provide vital support for Victory's Promise initiatives.

Reflecting on what lies ahead, Clifford said, "This IS the next chapter in the growth of the Museum, and we could not be prouder to play a role in launching this effort."





## Building the Endowment

As the third pillar of the Victory's Promise campaign, growing the endowment is essential to securing the Museum's long-term future. Serving as a permanent financial foundation, a strong and healthy endowment fulfills the campaign's final promise: to keep WWII history alive so that all generations can be inspired by this pivotal time in our nation's history and better understand the price of freedom.

David Nierenberg and his wife, Patricia, were the first to answer fellow Trustee Kevin Clifford's \$5 million endowment challenge, responding with a \$3 million commitment of their own. "Kevin's gift and our pledge match demonstrate that those of us on the Board and the Museum's Investment Committee—who understand both the mission of the Museum and the mission of the endowment—are fully behind the campaign. That should inspire other prospective donors."

And indeed, it did. Soon after, current Trustee Governor Pete Wilson and his wife, Gayle, and former Trustee Bob Hayes each contributed major lead gifts, followed by generous support from Trustees Mike Bylen, Jimmy Reiss, Todd Ricketts, Jimmy Maurin, and Fleur Harlan, bringing the matched total to \$5.375 million. "I was so pleased to learn more about the Clifford Challenge and have an opportunity to show just how much the Museum means to me by participating," said Harlan.

These early gifts to the Museum's endowment highlight how critical it is to ensure the Museum can scale its impact for future generations. As Nierenberg said, "the single best thing that we can do to preserve freedom is to make sure our descendants are as aware of the preciousness of freedom as the Greatest Generation was—and that is funded largely by the Museum's endowment."

### ABOVE LEFT

Governor Pete Wilson (right), and his wife, Gayle, are presented with a folded American flag during the Dr. Hal Baumgarten D-Day Commemoration Ceremony and Museum's 25th Anniversary Celebration on June 6, 2025, in recognition of his early support of the Victory's Promise campaign. The flag had been flown earlier that morning on the Liberty Flagstaff named in his honor.

### ABOVE RIGHT

Trustee David Nierenberg poses by a plaque in The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center honoring members of his family who served in World War II. Nierenberg's commitment to the Museum's endowment will help ensure the institution continues to tell the story of the American experience in World War II.



# Victory's Promise Donors

as of June 30, 2025

## \$10 MILLION TO \$19.9 MILLION

State of Louisiana

## \$5 MILLION TO \$9.99 MILLION

Kevin G. Clifford Family  
Jay H. Floyd Jr. and  
Margaret M. Dragisic

## \$2 MILLION TO \$4.99 MILLION

Arlene & Joseph Meraux  
Charitable Foundation  
David and Patricia Nierenberg  
US Department of Housing and  
Urban Development

## \$1 MILLION TO \$1.99 MILLION

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tucker Hayes  
The Greg Kowalski Family  
Jennifer and Phil Satre  
Governor Pete and Gayle Wilson

## \$500,000 TO \$999,000

The Alta and John Franks  
Foundation

## \$100,000 TO \$499,000

William R. Bush  
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The Dean Dunphy Family  
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IMO Maj. Emeterio Asinas,  
US and Philippine Army  
Karen and Leopold Sher  
Estate of Allan Vincent Tait  
Estate of Harold J. and  
Rhedora Vietz

## \$25,000 TO \$99,000

Wayne L. Berman  
The Conference on Jewish  
Material Claims Against  
Germany, supported by the  
Foundation Remembrance,  
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Finance  
Estate of Dixie L. Cranford  
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Nancy L. Hartman  
Lois and Lloyd Hawkins, Jr.  
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The Helis Foundation  
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Family Foundation  
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Estate of Tonda L. Olson  
Pennington Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Petty Jr.  
Estate of Mildred Rogers  
Joseph J. and Deborah Rucci  
Gary and Lynne Sneed  
W. Gray Stream  
Jim and Donna Stuck,  
Fibre Converters Foundation  
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# Our Members





## 136,251 Charter Members

*\$10 million in contributions*

The National WWII Museum stands as a permanent tribute to the stories and sacrifices of the WWII generation, 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 FY25, 136,251 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.

## 2,125 Patriots Circle Members

*\$5.7 million in contributions*

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 more than \$5.7 million to the Museum in FY25—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.

### OPPOSITE

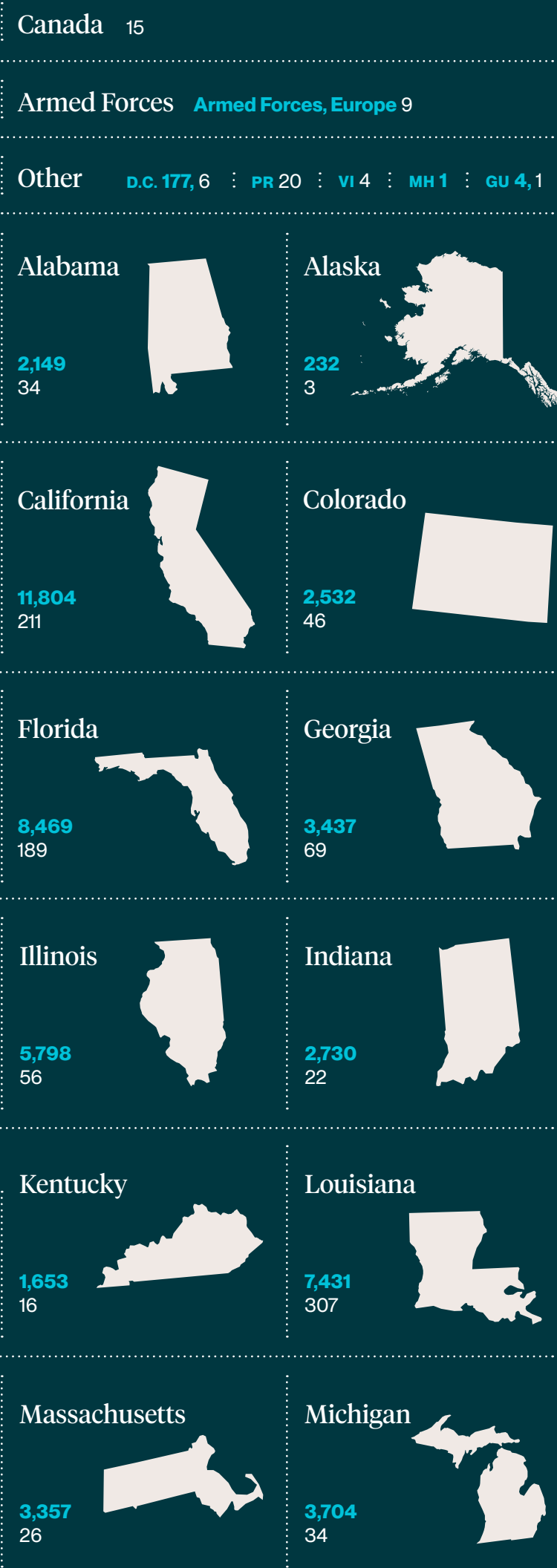
Victory Belle Allison Newton sings to WWII veteran James Deal during the Patriots Circle Appreciation Luncheon on June 6, 2025.



MEMBERSHIP MAP

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- Charter Members
- Patriots Circle Members





Patriots Circle

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General Ann Dunwoody and  
Colonel Craig Brotchie

Tampa, Florida

If one value ties General Ann Dunwoody to the WWII generation, it's an unwavering commitment to service—to country, to community, and to a greater cause. This legacy of dedication runs deep in her family: four generations have worn the uniform of the US Armed Forces, including her husband, retired Air Force Colonel Craig Brotchie. Their shared devotion to duty reflects a tradition of service that spans decades.

The proud daughter of Brigadier General Harold Dunwoody—a decorated veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam—Ann followed in his footsteps, serving 38 years in the US Army before retiring in 2012. In that time, she rose to become the first woman in the Armed Forces to achieve the rank of four-star General. She credits her father with shaping her identity: “He was a real soldier’s soldier. Much of who I am is founded on what I learned from my dad, as a soldier, as a patriot, and as a father.”

In 2024, the Museum recognized Ann’s trailblazing career and inspirational leadership with its highest honor, the American Spirit Award. She and Craig were among the first to upgrade their Membership to the new Five-Star Patriots Circle Society, and they are proud to be an integral part of the Museum’s ongoing educational mission. “Our gift honors all those who serve this country,” Ann said, “and it supports the Museum’s mission to share the legacy of those who served and sacrificed in World War II.”

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# Pete and Gayle Wilson

Los Angeles, California

Rising 80 feet above Founders Plaza, the Governor Pete Wilson Liberty Flagstaff is a striking symbol of the patriotism that defined the WWII generation. At its 2017 dedication, Governor Wilson spoke passionately about supporting the Museum’s core values: freedom, sacrifice, and national unity—principles he and his wife, Gayle, have long championed.

A US Marine and lifelong public servant, Pete served in the California State Assembly, as mayor of San Diego, as US senator, and as governor of California. During World War II, Pete’s father actively supported the war effort, leaving a lasting impression on his young son. When the Museum opened in 2000, Gayle knew its mission would resonate with her husband. They visited soon after and were Members by 2002, with Pete eagerly joining the Board of Trustees.

Pete became Board Chair in 2006, just after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans and threatened the future of the Museum. In this time of uncertainty, he helped guide the Museum toward recovery, securing critical funds and chairing the Road to Victory Capital Campaign Steering Committee. His leadership was pivotal in advancing the Museum’s ambitious campus Master Plan.

As Four-Star Patriots Circle Members, Pete and Gayle have supported the Museum through every phase for over 20 years. Their recent major lead gift to the Victory’s Promise campaign will help fund the endowment, reflecting their enduring commitment to the Museum’s nationwide educational initiatives. Together, their contributions—both visionary and philanthropic—have helped shape the Museum into the institution it is today.

“[The Museum exists] to tell the world, but particularly future generations of young Americans, how the war was fought, why it was fought, and how it is relevant to today,” Pete said.

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## Scott Dodds

### Kingsville, Texas

While traveling through the French countryside on the Museum’s Easy Company tour, Scott Dodds realized he was just miles from the village where his father, Edwin Clair Dodds, was wounded during World War II. Recognizing this rare opportunity, Scott persuaded their bus driver to take a detour to the small town after their scheduled excursion. Standing in the very place where his father had once recuperated, Scott felt a powerful connection to his wartime experience.

Edwin Dodds joined the US Army in May 1943 and deployed in October 1944 with the 411th Infantry Regiment of the 103rd Infantry Division. In February 1945, while on night patrol in Alsace-Lorraine, his unit encountered a German patrol. Edwin was wounded in the ensuing skirmish, ending his time in combat. But this unlucky encounter produced two of the few keepsakes Scott has from his father: his Purple Heart and a handwritten postcard describing his first recollections after reaching an aid station, now framed and hanging in Scott’s office.

Through the Museum travel programs, Scott has deepened his understanding of his father’s journey and connected with the broader history of the European theater. Scott has supported the Museum since its beginnings as The National D-Day Museum, intrigued by the overwhelming history of an entire world at war. Now a Three-Star Patriots Circle Member, he deeply values the Museum’s commitment to connecting with young learners. “I’m impressed by how the Museum helps children understand that World War II still shapes the world we live in today,” he shared. “It’s up to us to ensure these stories—and the lessons they carry—don’t fade with time.”

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## Beth and Vernon Kliebert

### New Orleans, Louisiana

For Beth and Vernon Kliebert, volunteering at the Museum is more than a pastime—it’s a personal mission. Together, they find meaning in their conversations with the hundreds of WWII veterans, Home Front workers, and Holocaust survivors they have welcomed to campus. “Volunteering here allows us to share our gratitude,” said Beth. “You never know where a conversation here will take you!”

Military service runs in their family. Beth’s father, Robert H. Bentel, served as a Supply Petty Officer First Class in the US Navy during World War II and continued his service afterward. Vernon’s father, John Kliebert Sr., joined the Navy during the Korean War. Their legacy lives on in Beth and Vernon’s oldest son, Christopher, who graduated from the US Naval Academy. As a military family, the Klieberts understand the work ethic and perseverance that defined the WWII generation. Beth cherishes the notes her father kept while stationed at Pearl Harbor—humble reflections from a man who saw himself not as a hero but as an ordinary citizen answering the call to serve. It’s this spirit that inspires the Klieberts to give back through their Two-Star Patriots Circle Membership.

Beth and Vernon actively participate in the Museum’s educational programs and events. Their hope is that younger generations will also use the Museum’s resources to understand the war and carry its lessons forward: they want their grandchildren to grow up in a country that values freedom and champions human justice. As Vernon put it, “It’s our mission to educate young people, because the further we get from the war, the more important it becomes to share its legacy through this institution.”



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**K. Bain Black and Karen Suddreth**  
Jeremiah “Jerry” Black, US Navy, WWII Veteran  
James Black, US Navy, WWII Veteran  
William Layne Black, US Navy, WWII Veteran  
Frank Carboni, US Army Air Forces, WWII Veteran  
Fleete Ronald McCurdy, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Austin Blongostainer, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Edd Phillips Ellington, US Army Air Forces, WWII Veteran

**Rochelle Blair**  
Beatrice Castle, WWII Veteran

**Jack E. and Mary T. Blake**  
Jack E. Blake, WWII Veteran

**Ron and Susan Blankenship**  
SGT Charles B. Blankenship, WWII Veteran  
CPT. Robert Hugh Fautt Jr., US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran

**Mr. and Mrs. Wolf I. Blitzer**

**Mr. Donald Blom and Ms. Jeneane Blom**

**Mr. and Mrs. David B. Blomstrom**  
Daniel H. Bleakney

**The Ronald H. Bloom Family**  
Markus S. Bloom, WWII Home Front

**Thomas R. Blum**  
Emile F. Blum Jr., WWII Veteran

**Mr. and Mrs. Barry O. Blumberg**  
Robert Blumberg, WWII Veteran

**Douglas G. Bock**  
Robert G. Bock, WWII Veteran

**Dale E. Boger**  
Maj. George Henry Boger Jr., WWII Veteran  
Thomas W. Costello, WWII Veteran  
Edwin Daniel, WWII Veteran

**David L. Boggs**  
Arthur L. Boggs, WWII Veteran

**William S. Boggs**  
James Bashore, WWII Veteran  
Howard Boggs, WWII Veteran

**Betsy Bogue**  
Captain Bruce Bogue, US Army, WWII Veteran

**Elizabeth Anne Boh**

**William and Brenda Boldin**  
Earl D. Morris Jr.  
W. Ernest Boldin Jr.

**Judge William Boller**  
Merle Howard Boller, WWII Veteran

**Ms. Beverly T. Boltz**  
William E. Boltz, WWII Veteran  
Mary A. Boltz, WWII Home Front

**Marie T. Bonazinga**  
Bartholomew Bonazinga, WWII Veteran

**Gen. and Mrs. Walter E. Boomer, USMC (Ret.)**

**Mary Kay Borchers**  
Charles L. Borchers, M.D., WWII Veteran

**Ethel J. Borgen**  
Keith Borgen, US Navy, WWII Veteran

**William P. Bourne**

**Deborah L. Bowers**  
Carl H. Zangger, WWII Veteran  
James B. Zangger, WWII Veteran

**Steven Bowsher**  
Cpl. Robert J. Bowsher, US Marine Corps, WWII Veteran

**Alma S. Box**  
Pilot William Donald Box, US Army, WWII Veteran

**Janice E. Boyd**  
William Brown Parkinson, WWII Veteran



**Roger Boye**  
Arthur J. Boye, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Matilda (Danca) Boye, US Army Nursing Corp, WWII Veteran

**William E. Boyes**  
Diana Sabo Boyes  
Edward W. Boyes, WWII Veteran  
William E. Boyes  
Joseph Sabo, WWII Veteran

**Chief Warrant Officer Five Dorian Bozza, US Army**

**Dorothy Vanicek Bradberry**  
Frank Klinkovsky, WWII Veteran  
Johnnie H. Vanicek, WWII Veteran

**Nancy and Arthur Brand**  
LT. Col. A.I. Schepps

**Brian Brannon**  
Earl Ray Brannon, WWII Veteran

**Neil Bray**  
Eugene G. Bray, WWII Veteran

**Edward Brayman and Sparre Strand**  
Dean Philip Strand, WWII Veteran  
Harold Brayman, WWII Veteran  
Leroy Oswald Strand, WWII Veteran  
Donald LaVerne Brayman, WWII Veteran

**Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Breaux**  
CORP Louis J. Parr, US Army, WWII Veteran

**Dr. Patrick C. Breaux**

**Brech Family**  
William C. Brech, WWII Veteran

**Marjorie Bell Breidenbach**  
Lt. Col. Robert J. Bell, US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran  
PFC Robert J. Bell Jr., US Marine Corps, WWII Veteran  
Field Director Loretta Bell Foster, American Red Cross, WWII Home Front

**Mrs. Julie F. Breitmeyer**  
Philip Breitmeyer, II

**Joseph and Janice Brejwo**

**Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brem**

**Dr. Louis Brenner**

**Lee and Tamie Bressler**  
Stanley M. Bressler, WWII Veteran

**Jean M. Brewer**  
Allen A. Evans, WWII Veteran  
Mary Carton Evans, WWII Home Front

**Rebecca Brigance**  
Pat Hicks Brigance

**Robert D. Briskman**  
Bob Berman  
Burt Gwirtzman

**Ms. Shirlene Britton**  
Linda Britton  
Robert William Britton  
William Britton Jr., WWII Veteran  
Barbara J. Gentry  
Ruby Holt  
Cassandra C. Reynolds

**Dr. William J. Brock**  
H. Guy Brock, WWII Veteran

**Martha Brodersen**

**Mr. Julian A. Brodsky**  
David M. Brodsky, WWII Veteran

**Bob and Helen Brody**  
John J. Brody, WWII Veteran  
E. Scott Pointer, WWII Veteran

**Ms. Dorothy J. Brookes**  
Andy Huff  
George H. Huff  
Jeanette Zielanis Huff  
Lawrence E. Huff  
Willie Frank Huff

**Billy G. Brooks and Dana T. Brooks**  
John Osborne, WWII Veteran

**Catherine A. Brown**

**Mr. Franklin D. Brown**  
Private James C. Brown, WWII Veteran  
Clifton R. Brown, WWII Veteran  
Henry E. Brown, WWII Veteran  
Ellis L. McDonald  
Uel H. Freeman  
Edward J. Cranford

**Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brown**  
Mark R. Brown, WWII Veteran

**Michael Brown**  
Louis John Brown II, WWII Veteran

**William Brown Jr.**

**Zach Brown**  
Milton Allison Brown, WWII Veteran



# Ellen McClain

## Silver Spring, Maryland

After surviving the Battle of the Bulge and imprisonment in a German prisoner-of-war camp, Walter S. Young Jr. had one thing on his mind: food. One morning, he woke to find the camp’s guards had vanished, and he and his comrades fled into the nearby woods. At just 98 pounds, the once-athletic Walter could only run so far before eating—so he gathered wild blueberries and used some stolen flour from the camp to make pancakes.

These were the stories Walter shared with his daughter, Ellen McClain—not the horrors of war but the moments of resilience and humor. Like many WWII veterans, he chose to protect his loved ones from his trauma by focusing on more lighthearted memories. Ellen describes him as kind, funny, smart, and committed to living each day to the fullest to honor his comrades who would never have that chance. A Charter Member of the Museum, Walter passed on his love of history and service to Ellen, who first visited when in New Orleans in 2017. She soon became a One-Star Patriots Circle Member and recently upgraded to the Two-Star level for FY26, dedicated to preserving not only her father’s story but the stories of all who served.

Fortunately, Walter’s father had encouraged him to write down his wartime experiences. Ellen treasures these writings—not just as family heirlooms but as vital pieces of our national memory. She believes that without the human element, the war becomes too vast to grasp. That’s why she’s excited about the Museum’s expanding educational efforts. “It’s reassuring for me that the Museum’s focus is forward leaning, looking to bring new generations into the fold,” she said. “I want them to question, do research, and educate themselves—taking these lessons to heart.”

**Sharma L. Painter Browning**  
Jack Barr Painter Sr., WWII Veteran  
Max Eugene Painter, WWII Veteran  
William Berton Painter Sr., WWII Veteran  
Mary Alice Painter Pittman, WWII Veteran  
Frank McKee Painter Jr., WWII Veteran  
Winifred Sharma Painter Sullivan, WWII Veteran

**Linda S. Broyhill**  
Lincoln F. Broyhill

**Catherine Bruff**

**Fred and Maxine Bruhns**  
2nd Lt. Fred Charles Bruhns, PhD, US Army, WWII Veteran

**Richard H. Brumbach**

**Charlie and Barb Bryant**  
Leland Hutt, US Navy, WWII Veteran  
1Lt. Edward H. Bryant Jr., US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran

**Hallman B. Bryant and Martha C. Middlemas-Bryant**  
Captain William Patrick Carter, US Army, WWII Veteran

**CAPT Marvin R. Bryant III**  
COL Willie M. Harris, WWII Veteran  
Maj. Marjorie L. Harris, WWII Veteran  
Col. Hazel Y. Zachar, WWII Veteran

**Jack and Caroline Budz**  
Theodore J. Budz, WWII Veteran  
Michael J. O'Neill, WWII Veteran

**Barbara Buehler**  
Daniel Buehler

**Jamie and Cheryl Buhr**

**LTC James M. Burcalow**  
Leon L. Burcalow, US Army, WWII Veteran

**Michael Burchett**

**Dr. James G. Burgess**  
Guy Garland Burgess, WWII Veteran

**Mr. David T. Burns and Mrs. Vickie V. Burns**  
Lt. Leland Earl Burns, USAA, WWII Veteran  
S2 Charles Henderson, US Navy, WWII KIA

**Lana Burry**  
Charles E. Mabry Jr., WWII Veteran

**Mark I. Burton**  
Arthur O. Burton, WWII Veteran  
Ralph Borgeson, WWII Veteran

**Ms. Danuta Buzdygan**  
Stanislaw Buzdygan, WWII Veteran

**Margaret Bylen**

**Mary Ann Byrd**  
Howard C. Byrd, WWII Veteran  
Clifford H. Byrd, WWII Veteran

**Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Caballero**  
John R. Cook Jr., US Army, WWII Veteran  
Lt. Stanton L. Middleton, MD, US Navy, WWII and Korean War Veteran  
Edwin C. Strong, WWII Veteran

**Phillip L. Cacioppo**  
Leon Cacioppo, WWII Veteran

**Craig L. and Suzanne E. Caesar**  
J. Fred Caesar, WWII Veteran

**Susan A. Cahoon**  
Robert Harold Cahoon, WWII Veteran

**Julius and Suzette Cain**

**Mr. John Calhoon**  
John Calhoon Jr., US Army Air Forces, WWII Veteran  
Jerome Durham, US Marine Corps, WWII Veteran  
Kenneth Durham, US Army Air Forces, WWII Veteran  
Roland Durham, US Merchant Marine, WWII Veteran

**Thomas Callahan**

**Nico and Rachel Caluda**

**The Calvert Charitable Fund**  
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**Ms. Cynthia Camacho**  
Stanley Thomas Botelho, US Army, WWII Veteran

Anthony Jose, WWII Home Front

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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

**The Cappa Family**  
Wilmer Carter, WWII Veteran  
Richard C. Yow, WWII Veteran

**Ernest and Patricia Carbone**  
Corporal Ernest Carbone, US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran  
LT Arthur Gerald Donahue, Royal Air Force, WWII KIA

**Mary Carlino**  
Robert E. Foster, WWII Veteran

**Jerry and Darleen Carlisle**

**Barbara Hilton Carlson**  
Warren Oliver Hilton, US Navy, WWII Veteran

**Kurt and Michaela Carlson**

**Michael Carodine**  
Vorner Edward Carodine, US Navy, WWII Veteran

**Kathy Carothers**  
Orville M. Prater, WWII Veteran

**James D. Carragee**  
James M. Carragee, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Joseph Carragee, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Edward Carragee, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Robert H. Furlong, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Michael Carragee, US Army, WWII Veteran  
James Rogers, US Army, WWII Veteran  
William Burns, US Army, WWII Veteran  
John Coffey, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Patrick Kelly, US Army, WWII Veteran

**Harry Carsh**  
Frank Lawrence Carsh, US Navy, WWII Veteran

**Thomas L. and Eugenia Carter**

**Robert F. Case, DVM, WWII Veteran**  
Edgar Morton, WWII Veteran  
Wilbur Morton, WWII Veteran

**John E. Casse**  
PFC Joseph (Teddy) Rodak, US Army, Purple Heart and Bronze Star Recipient, WWII Veteran

**Betsy Ann Casselman-Porter**  
John Casselman Jr., WWII Veteran

**Kay Casstevens**

**Joel Catalano**  
George R. Catalano, US Army, WWII Veteran

**Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Cebelak**  
Norman Robert Cebelak, WWII Veteran

**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

**Mrs. Linda Challet**  
LTJG Paul Fern, WWII Veteran  
LCDR Gilbert Challet, WWII Veteran  
LTVG Roy Cleator, WWII Veteran  
LCDR Albert Fern, WWI and WWII Veteran  
Col Albert Fern, Korea and Vietnam Veteran

**Jim Chanin and Rachel Richmann**  
Marcy Chanin, D-Day, WWII Veteran

**Ms. Mary A. Chapin**  
Pvt Howard Burdette Chapin, US Army, WWII Veteran  
LT. Hugh Bennett Beasley, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Lt. Mary M. Quinlan, US Army, WWII Veteran

Irwin Hughes Davis, WWII Home Front

TEC Richard Dekorn, WWII Veteran

Lt Col Clifton A. McClelland, US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran

Pvt Warren Denby Robbins, US Marine Corps, WWII Veteran

Daniel Calvin Shaw, WWII Home Front

S/SGT Charles Calvin Warren, US Army, POW, WWII Veteran

S/SGT Howard Marvin Beasley Jr., US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran

Allen Thurman Gray, US Navy, WWII Veteran

George Kinsey Gray Jr., US Navy, WWII Veteran

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



<b>Shirley Lo Chen</b> 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	<b>Frances Codispoti</b> COL Gildo S. Codispoti, US Marine Corps, WWII Veteran <b>Terence Cody</b> John A. Cody Jr. Ferd M. Wrege <b>Roy C. Coffee Jr.</b> Herschel Abbott	<b>Merlyn Don and Ann L. Cooper</b> Jimmy Taggert, WWII Veteran <b>Rick and Debbie Corales</b> Fred J. Corales <b>Mr. and Mrs. Richard Corbett</b> William Stamps Farish Jr., WWII Veteran Edward H. Gerry, WWII Veteran	<b>Theresa Crawford</b> James F. Crawford, WWII Veteran <b>Theresa and Peter Crean</b> Barbara Cowen C. Lee Crean <b>Jonathan Critchlow</b> Francis B. Critchlow, WWII Veteran	<b>Jerry Kendall Curtis</b> Charles H. Hardman, US Army, WWII Veteran Hayden K. Hale, USAAC / USAAF / USAF, WWII Veteran Frank Kipp, US Army, WWII Veteran Everett Heiss, USAAC / USAAF / USAF, WWII Veteran Harvey Downs, USAAC / USAAF / USAF, WWII Veteran John G. Hardman, US Navy, WWII Veteran	<b>Mr. Alex Daniels</b> Don O’Cain Daniels, USMC, WWII Veteran Preston Alexander Daniels, WWII Veteran Jack V. Fogarty, USMC, WWII Veteran Ted White, WWII Veteran S/Sgt C.D. Smith, US Army Jones Smith, US Army, WWII Veteran SGT Paul Kennedy White Frank E. Harmon Jr., USN	<b>Mrs. Elizabeth DeShazo Davis,</b> <b>WWII Home Front</b> LtCol Joseph Franklin Davis, USAAC, WWII Veteran SGT Lamar Hamiter Davis Jr., USA, WWII Veteran CAPT Lehman Alfred DeShazo Jr., USAAC, WWII Veteran LTCOL Robert H. Dewald, USAAC, WWII Veteran CDR Leahman Joseph Holt, USN, WWII Veteran CPL Richard Lafayette Holt, WWII Veteran SGT Myron Grafton DeShazo Jr., USMC, WWII Veteran SSGT Albert Perry DeShazo Jr., USAAC, WWII KIA TSGT Samuel T. Sasser, USAC, WWII Veteran COL Thomas Drew DeShazo, USMC, WWII Veteran LT Donald Edwin Matthieu, USN, WWII Veteran MSGT A. Eugene Matthieu, USAF, WWII Home Front	<b>Dr. William J. Deaton,</b> <b>Vietnam Veteran and</b> <b>Cecilia N. Deaton</b> BSM LeRoy Deaton, WWII Veteran SSM Estle Deaton, WWII Veteran <b>Denise Mularoni Decker</b> Luigi “Gene” Mularoni, US Army, WWII Veteran Joseph Lawrence Potenzano, US Army, WWII Veteran
<b>Craig and Sherry Cheramie</b> Charles Cheramie, WWII Veteran Edmund “Frenchie” Duet, WWII Veteran Levy Guidry, Purple Heart Recipient, WWII KIA	<b>Marilyn Coffin</b> Lt. Col. Leigh F. Coffin, US Army, WWII Veteran <b>Lily Munro Coffman</b> Jack E. Coffman, WWII Veteran Walter C. Munro Jr., WWII Veteran	<b>Col (R) Steven and</b> <b>Col (R) Laura Corbett</b> Jack Keefer, WWII Veteran Arnold W. Paradis, WWII Veteran Louis H. Barclay, WWII Veteran Mary S. Ingrassia, WWII Veteran	<b>Nancy Picone Cronen</b> Wilbert V. Picone, WWII Home Front <b>Maxine Crosland</b> Col. Roy T. Crosland, USAF (Ret.), WWII Veteran	<b>Dr. Bob and Janet Cyders</b> Warren G. Cyders, WWII Veteran Harry Glennwood Shotwell, WWII Veteran	<b>Patrick and Marlene Darby</b> <b>Jay and Catherine Dardenne</b> Dr. S. R. Abramson, WWII Veteran	<b>SGT Albert Perry DeShazo</b> Jr., USAAC, WWII KIA	<b>Glenn A. Decker</b>
<b>William and Elizabeth Chiego</b> Sherman E. Lee, US Navy, Monuments Man, WWII Veteran	<b>Ellie Cohen</b> <b>William Cohen</b> Sidney B. Cohen, US Army, WWII Veteran	<b>Frederic W. Corle II, SC, USNR,</b> <b>Vietnam Veteran</b> RADM Frederic W. Corle, SC., US Navy, WWII Veteran	<b>James A. Crossan</b> Allen W. Crossan, WWII Home Front		<b>Ms. Mary Lou Dasburg</b> Jean Henry Dasburg, WWII Veteran	<b>Carol J. Del Vecchio</b> Pvt. Antonio R. Del Vecchio, WWII Veteran	
<b>Ben Christensen</b> Calvin Christensen, WWII Veteran Bernie Sabin, WWII Veteran	<b>PFC Leon S. Matelsky,</b> US Army, WWII Veteran	<b>Lt. Morrell F. Trimble,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Vici W. Crossan,</b> WWII Home Front		<b>Philip S. Daub</b> Edward Eugene Daub, WWII Veteran	<b>Gayle B. Dellinger</b> Clarence W. Bowick, WWII Veteran	
<b>Francis Marvin Christensen</b> TSgt. Thaddeus A. Myslinski, US Army Air Forces, WWII Veteran	<b>Dr. Harry Cole</b> 2nd LT Morris W. “Morie” Self, US Army Engineer, WWII Veteran	<b>Ms. Jayne Cornish</b> Dan C. Fuller, WWII Veteran	<b>PFC L. M. Vickers,</b> WWII Veteran		<b>James Daugherty, US Navy,</b> <b>Cold War Veteran</b> Guy E. Daugherty, US Army, WWI Veteran and WWII Home Front	<b>Mr. Eric Martin Delman and</b> <b>Mrs. Danae Delman</b>	
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<b>Scott Cielewich and</b> <b>Jamie Cielewich</b> Lt. Donald E. Cielewich Sr., USAAF, WWII Veteran	<b>Kathleen Collins</b> Lewis Buechler, WWII Veteran	<b>Cheryl S. Cotner</b> <b>Ben and Mary Llew Coulter</b> Jack B. Coulter, WWII Veteran	<b>Michael J. Crow</b> <b>Mr. Indy Crowley</b> Lt. Col. Robert Guy Johnson, US Army, WWII Veteran		<b>LT Col. Jack M. Warren (Ret.),</b> US Air Force, WWII Veteran, Korea	<b>The DeLon Family</b> LTGen. Alpha L. Bowser, US Marine Corps, WWII Veteran	
<b>Capt. Nyme Farage, USAAF,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Robert S. Colman</b> <b>Arlene and Mark Comora</b> Herb Mahler, WWII Veteran	<b>Leonard W. Lefeve,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Cpl. Patrick Henry Crowley,</b> US Army, WWII Veteran		<b>Lt. Col. Jack M. Warren (Ret.),</b> US Air Force, WWII Veteran, Korea	<b>Christopher M. Delosh</b>	
<b>Alice J. Clapp</b> <b>Richard and Rebecca Clapp</b> Richard N. Clapp, WWII Veteran	<b>Kathleen Collins</b> Lewis Buechler, WWII Veteran	<b>Cindy Courtney</b> Jack C. King, WWII Veteran	<b>LT Morris Witten, US Army Air</b> Corps, WWII Veteran		<b>Bob Vest, US Army,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Larry and Laura DeMarcus</b> TEC 4 Leslie Fowler DeMarcus Jr., WWII Veteran	
<b>Douglas and Donna Clark</b> Richard C. Clark, WWII Veteran Harold Leiner, WWII Veteran Scott Eaves, WWII Veteran	<b>John A. Connell</b> Dewey Connell, WWII Veteran	<b>Mr. and Mrs. David A. Cowan</b> <b>Don and Patty Cowles</b> S/SGT Jack Granville	<b>Corps, WWII Veteran</b>	<b>Larry Crum</b> Garold G. Crum	<b>US Air Force, WWII Veteran,</b> Korea	<b>Susan Demorsky</b> SFC Walter Demorsky, WWII Veteran	
<b>Ralph and Carolyn Clark</b> <b>Mr. Stephen W. Clayton</b> <b>David G. Clemons</b> Homer Pierce, WWII Veteran	<b>Gerald and Susan Connor</b> Joseph A. Ballard, US Marine Corps, WWII Veteran	<b>Roseborough, US Army Air</b> Corps, WWII Veteran	<b>Charles R. Crump, US Navy,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Melvin Crump</b> Charles R. Crump, US Navy, WWII Veteran	<b>John R. Crumpton</b> Cpt. John R. Crumpton Jr., USN (Ret.)	<b>Barry Denard</b> Odian Adolph Denard Jr., WWII Veteran	
<b>Ambassadors Sue and</b> <b>Chuck Cobb</b> <b>Ronald W. Cochran</b> Lt. Thomas W. Stern, US Navy, WWII Veteran	<b>Mr. Steven Conti</b> Vincent L. Conti, WWII Veteran	<b>1LT James E. Wiggins,</b> US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran	<b>John R. Crumpton</b> Cpt. John R. Crumpton Jr., USN (Ret.)		<b>Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dale</b> John Dale, US Merchant Marine, WWII Veteran Lionel Favalaria, USCG, WWII Veteran	<b>EN2 Frederick McNeil</b> Standard, US Navy, WWII Veteran	
<b>Ms. Caroline S. Cockerham</b> <b>Dr. and Mrs. Walter D.</b> <b>Cockerham</b> Kirby Lee Cockerham, WWII Veteran Robert Rife Saunders, WWII Veteran	<b>John S. Cook</b> <b>Peter and Missy Coombs</b> <b>Charitable Fund</b> William E. Figara <b>James D. Cooper</b> Starling Vann Cooper Jr., WWII Veteran	<b>1LT Arnold Norman Hellsmark,</b> US Navy, WWII Veteran	<b>Terry D. Cruse</b> <b>Nancy Crutcher</b> Jack F. Crutcher, WWII Veteran	<b>Charles R. Crump, US Navy,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>William Williamson, USAAC,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Mr. Stephen F. Derenze</b> Roy Michael, US Navy, WWII Veteran	
		<b>Russ Coyne</b> Solomon Cohen, n/k/a Sol Coyne, US Navy, WWII Veteran	<b>Charles R. Crump, US Navy,</b> WWII Veteran		<b>Charles B. Hahn, WWII Veteran</b>	<b>William Rich, US Navy,</b> WII Veteran	
		<b>Howard Rosenblum, US Army,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>John R. Crumpton</b> Cpt. John R. Crumpton Jr., USN (Ret.)		<b>John Edward Dale, USAAC,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Jack Dermer</b> John L. Dermer, WWII Veteran	
		<b>Jack Alpert, US Army,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Terry D. Cruse</b> <b>Nancy Crutcher</b> Jack F. Crutcher, WWII Veteran		<b>Neil Wilson McDaniel,</b> US Navy, WWII Veteran	<b>Ms. Lori DeRose</b> Col. Roy Lawrence DeRose, US Army Air Corps, WWII Veteran	
		<b>Russell Sawyer, USMC,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Mr. F. Gary Cunningham</b> 1st Lt. John H. Cunningham, WWII Veteran		<b>Robert Burns, USAF,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Anthony and Judith DeSantis</b>	
		<b>Edwin C. Strong, WWII Veteran</b>	<b>Don and Patty Cowles</b> S/SGT Jack Granville		<b>Donald Stordahl, USN,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>George Di Cristina</b> George R. Di Cristina, WWII Veteran	
		<b>Jack Warfish, US Air Force,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Jonathan Critchlow</b> Francis B. Critchlow, WWII Veteran		<b>James Albert Taylor, US Army,</b> WWII Veteran	<b>Jack Fitzpatrick, WWII Veteran</b>	
		<b>Allan M. and Terry A. Craig</b>	<b>Theresa and Peter Crean</b> Barbara Cowen C. Lee Crean			<b>Augustine Fitzpatrick,</b> WWII Veteran	
		<b>Dean W. Crawford</b> John Novicky, WWII Veteran	<b>Theresa and Peter Crean</b> Barbara Cowen C. Lee Crean				





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US Navy, WWII Veteran  
MSGT William E. Diamond, US  
Army Air Corps,  
WWII Veteran

**Dudley and Honoria Diebold**

A. Richard Diebold  
James E. Hine

**Allen Dines and  
Celeste Smither**

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US Army Air Corps,  
WWII Veteran  
Technician 5th Grade William  
H. Littral, US Army,  
WWII Veteran  
Capt. Marvin Nicholson Jr.,  
US Army Air Corps,  
WWII Veteran  
Capt. Edward F. Clendenin,  
US Army Air Corps,  
WWII Veteran  
Lt. Col Harold F. Heist Jr.,  
US Army Air Corps,  
WWII Veteran  
SSgt. Sanford L. Jones,  
US Army Air Corps,  
WWII Veteran

**Mr. William Dinis**

Richard A. Simmons,  
WWII Veteran

**Francis Dodd and**

**Denise Dodd**  
Francis Conrad Dodd,  
WWII Veteran

Edward Bird Paille,  
WWII Veteran

James Marvin Theriot,  
WWII Veteran

**Dr. Michael J. Dodd**  
John D. Dodd, US Merchant  
Marines, WWII Veteran

**Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Dodson**

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Leroy Edward Doehrel,  
WWII Veteran

**Larry R. Donelson**  
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WWII Veteran

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George Willard Dopp,  
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Jack F. Dougherty,  
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**Robert Douville**

Leonard Hansen,  
WWII Veteran

**Robert and Nicole Downing**

Warren H. Downing,  
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**Mary Ellen Downs**  
William F. Iffarth, WWII Veteran

**Gary and Jan Dressler**

Frederick J. Busha,  
WWII Veteran

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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

Glenn A. Mueller

David E. Nagle  
IMO Edward G. Nagle

Dr. Michael J. Napoliello

Myrtis and Robert Nims

Lawrence Nothdurft  
IMO Milton H. (Funny)  
Nothdurft

Joseph O’Dowd and Diana  
Maria Alcazar-O’Dowd

Cheryl Oliver  
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Scott and Lynne Olsen

Jane and Ronald L. Olson

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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

Kelley Price

Mr. Robert Prior

Diane Reese  
IMO A. Willard Reese

Garth T. Reid

Marlene G. Reinecke  
IMO Walter M. Reinecke

Darla K. Renbarger

Thomas N. Robinson

Sylvia Tauzy Rodriguez-  
Schwarz

Mary Anne Rohde  
IMO Stephen D. Rohde

Paul D. Ross Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. William K. Rowe

Urban G. Rump

Andrew Salmon and Judy  
Johnson

Rick K. Scheffel

Joanne M. Schivley

Jean Schlenker

Dr. Gwen Schneider

John Seck

Joseph G. Seck

Robert E. Severson Jr. & Mary  
R. Severson Trust  
IMO Robert E. Severson Sr.  
and John W. Schild

Arthur R. Sharp

Dr. Margaret A. Sharp  
IHO Staff Sergeant David  
Sharp, WWII Veteran

Beth K. Shaw

Robert V. Siebel

Marc and Cathy Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Reagan C. Smith

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William J. Stafford  
IMO William H. Stafford, Lt. Col.

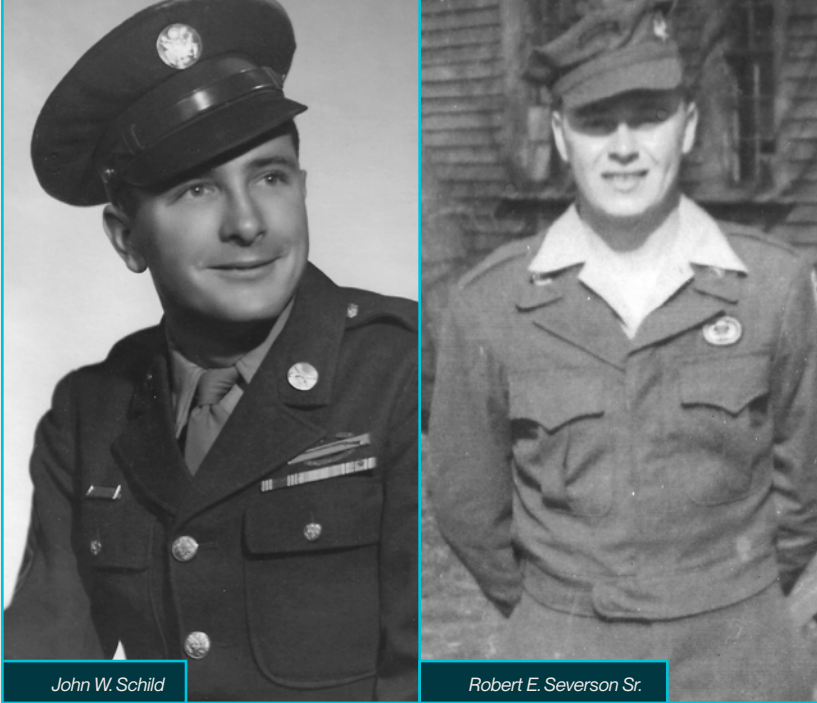
Betsy A. Standafer  
IMO David Veter,  
John Frederick Hoppes,  
and Robert DeVore

Mr. and Mrs. Brian P. Stanley

James V. Steffan

George Stemmons

Frank and Paulette Stewart



John W. Schild

Robert E. Severson Sr.

Robert and Mary Severson  
Juda, Wisconsin

Robert and Mary Severson joined the Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society to honor their fathers, both of whom served their country in World War II.

Mary’s father, John W. Schild, and his family immigrated to the United States from Switzerland when he was a child. John left high school at 15 to join the US Army National Guard. After basic training, John boarded the USS *Monterey* in San Francisco for a journey to Australia, where he would join the 32nd Red Arrow Division in Brisbane for combat training before landing in New Guinea. There, he and his fellow soldiers faced harsh conditions as they slept on hard ground and in foxholes, fought off insects and snakes, and faced tropical illnesses. John was in Manila, Philippines, ready to board a ship with the 32nd Division when General Douglas MacArthur’s voice came over the loudspeaker announcing that he had accepted the official surrender of Japan.

Robert’s father, Robert E. Severson Sr., served along with four of his nine siblings. After enlisting in the Army, Robert Sr. took part in the peacekeeping effort and removal of weapons from northern Japan and its northernmost islands. As a member of the 11th Airborne Division, he received several promotions, rising to Sergeant and serving as a drill instructor where, in one of his classes, only 50 out of 200 men made it through parachute jumps. Following his honorable discharge, he completed high school and worked on the family farm before becoming a plumber. Robert Sr. enjoyed 60 years of marriage to his bride, Helen, and raised four children. He never talked about the war until a trip to Alaska with Robert Jr. and his wife, Mary. While dining atop a mountain, he was reminded of his time in Japan and started reminiscing about his duties in *the war that changed the world*.





# Robert Stevenson Boyd

## Orlando, Florida

WWII veteran Robert “Bob” Boyd was an avid supporter and frequent visitor of The National WWII Museum. After graduating high school in 1941, Bob attended William & Mary College and worked for Sears, Roebuck & Co. and the Norfolk/Portsmouth ferry system before he was drafted for military service in 1942. After graduating from the US Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Pilot Program, he flew B-24 bombers until his older brother, Todd, was killed in Germany. With his other brother, Irvin, serving in the Pacific and his father having passed away several years prior, Bob was transferred stateside and began training younger pilots. After the war ended, he managed a mobilization assignment at Langley Field, Virginia, as an Air Force Reserve volunteer and then worked in banking.

A lifelong aviation enthusiast, Bob enjoyed telling stories about his time flying B-24s and discussing the aircraft’s shortcomings. In 2014, while attending Todd’s flight group reunion in the Museum’s US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, Bob and a fellow pilot debated for an hour about which plane was more poorly constructed, the B-17 or the B-24.

Bob passed away in 2021 at the age of 96. As a member of the Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society, Bob’s estate provided for naming a room at The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center in his honor, installing a Victory Paver bearing his name on the Museum’s campus, and making a legacy gift to the Museum’s endowment.

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**Val and Julie Stokes**  
**Ward Sullivan**  
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**Dr. Sharon Estill Taylor**  
**Taube Family**  
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**Gary and Linda Thomas**  
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*IMO Major Lovick P. Thomas V*  
**Jeri L. Tillman**  
**Nathan L. Todd**  
**Joseph and Rhonda Trader**  
**James and Pattie Tye**  
**Florence T. Upson**  
*IMO David Richardson Upson*  
**Clare G. Vanderbeek**  
**Vincent Vasil**  
*IMO Major Leon N. Vasil*  
**Dr. Mayme Kathy Volanty**  
*IMO Blaine L. Hufnagle*  
**Karen Walk**  
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**Curt S. Wary and**  
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**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*

**Turner Wingo and**  
**Gloria Wingo**  
**Col. William G. Yarborough**  
**Ronald M. Yarrington**  
**Hank Zachry**  
**Herbert Zinn**  
**And Five 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*  
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**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**  
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**Josephine Comodo**  
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**Leslie H. Cox**  
*IMO 2nd LT. Howard L. Cox Jr., USAAC (1924–1944)*  
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*IHO Major General Rexford H. Dettre Jr.*  
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**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**  
**William R. and**  
**Dorothy W. Griffiths**  
**Jewell Watson Grima**  
*IMO Thomas J. Grima*  
**Thaddeus Gruszecki**  
**Col. Carolyn A. Guertin (Ret.)**  
**Henry Francis Gurney**  
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*IMO Calvin (Kelly) Haase*  
**George Robert Hamrdla**  
**Fiske Hanley II**  
**Aaron M. “Rick” Harris**  
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**Lawrence C. Harris**  
**Jackie Hollis Henderson**  
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**Sophia Kallelis**  
*IMO her husband Theodore S. Kallelis*  
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**Sidney Katz**  
**Carol R. Kemmerer**  
**Col. Richard Adrian Kennison**  
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*IMO Frank E. Kranick, MIA 1945*  
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**Abraham Z. and**  
**Norma Shanzer**  
**Kathe A. Shields**  
**Sharyn Robbins Silverstein**  
**Nancy Singer**  
**Betty Gilbert Sisson**  
**Thomas and Mary Rose**  
**Slattery**

**Richard Paul Smyers**  
**Marianne K. St. Claire**  
*IMO Col. William K. St. Claire*  
**Stuart X. Stephenson Jr.**  
**James H. Stone**  
**Margaret M. Suszko**  
**Allan Vincent Tait**  
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**Arthur D. Thomas**  
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*IMO YNCM Clinton S. Thurlow Jr.*  
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**Laurence Hardy Triemer**  
**Georgette “Gigi” Viellion**  
**Harold J. and Rhedora Vietz**  
**Andre Villeneuve**  
**G. Paula Walter**  
**Russell D. Warner**  
**Edward J. Weber**  
**Liselotte Levy Weil**  
*IMO Leo Levy and Ferdinand Levy*  
**Alfred Langford Woodill**  
**Brenda S. Youngblood**  
**Jeanette Hodges Zajac**  
**Samuel Zemurray III**



**LEFT**  
*Family members of T5 Verne L. Kryder visit the paver purchased in his honor on the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground during a Paver Visitation Day on May 26, 2025.*



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

FISCAL YEAR 2025 (JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025)

ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$85,216,055	\$79,436,779
Unconditional Promises to Give		
Capital Campaign, Net of Allowances	\$5,343,783	\$7,826,455
Endowment, Net of Allowances	\$4,268,316	\$2,051,790
Other, Net of Allowances	\$5,000,805	\$7,528,548
Retail Stores Inventory	\$1,397,310	\$1,285,991
Other Assets	\$8,321,832	\$5,789,626
Endowment Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	\$5,379,898	\$152,820
Investments	\$67,275,692	\$53,593,389
Property and Equipment		
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	\$289,444,997	\$290,746,226
Collections	\$14,768,064	\$14,718,064
Interest Rate Swap Asset	\$5,685	\$424,831
Right-of-Use Assets – Operating Leases, Net	\$1,598,796	\$1,753,983
Right-of-Use Assets – Finance Leases, Net	-	\$7,510

TOTAL ASSETS	\$488,021,233	\$465,316,012
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LIABILITIES	2025	2024
Accounts Payable Trade	\$3,033,069	\$1,216,676
Accrued Expenses	\$3,889,559	\$5,018,050
Unearned Revenue and Deposits	\$9,835,293	\$7,549,124
Taxes Payable	\$374,083	\$275,600
Other Liabilities	\$894,886	\$1,060,753
Notes Payable	\$44,522,121	\$45,344,724
Lease Liability – Operating Leases	\$1,760,484	\$1,795,631
Lease Liability – Finance Leases	-	\$7,724
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$64,309,495	\$62,268,282

NET ASSETS

	2025	2024
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions		
Designated	\$86,265,522	\$63,439,446
Undesignated	\$277,927,261	\$282,815,806
Total Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$364,192,783	\$346,255,252
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$59,518,955	\$56,792,478
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$423,711,738	\$403,047,730
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$488,021,233	\$465,316,012

Consolidated Statement of Activities

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2025	2024
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REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Operating Revenue	\$78,540,657		\$78,540,657	\$79,201,051
Financial Contributions and Grants	\$18,700,783	\$10,301,059	\$29,001,842	\$37,677,322
In-Kind Contributions	\$3,720,000	-	\$3,720,000	\$276,290
Net Return on Investments	\$7,527,406	\$2,195,552	\$9,722,958	\$7,327,720
Hilton Franchise Debt Forgiveness	\$65,000		\$65,000	\$65,000
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$9,770,134	(\$9,770,134)	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	\$118,323,980	\$2,726,477	\$121,050,457	\$124,547,383

EXPENSES

Program	\$84,737,278	-	\$84,737,278	\$90,316,615
General and Administrative	\$8,393,956	-	\$8,393,956	\$8,222,593
Fundraising	\$6,836,070	-	\$6,836,070	\$7,275,451
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$99,967,304	-	\$99,967,304	\$105,814,659

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Change in Net Assets Before Change in Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	\$18,356,676	\$2,726,477	\$21,083,153	\$18,732,724
Change in Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	(\$419,145)		(\$419,145)	(\$30,338)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$17,937,531	\$2,726,477	\$20,664,008	\$18,702,386

NET ASSETS

Beginning of Year	\$346,255,252	\$56,792,478	\$403,047,730	\$384,345,344
End of Year	\$364,192,783	\$59,518,955	\$423,711,738	\$403,047,730





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