

Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive

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For Immediate Release

South Carolina Resident Returns to Times Square on 68th Anniversary of the End of WWII to conclude National Spirit of '45 Day

*Travelers Rest and among hundreds of communities honor Greatest Generation
August 10 - 11 Weekend*

(Travelers Rest, CA August 8) Gloria Bullard of Winnsboro, SC, will be the focus of national media attention on August 14 this year, all because of a famous kiss that she witnessed nearly 70 years ago in Times Square on August 14, 1945, the day World War II ended and celebrations spontaneously erupted all over America.

Now 87, Ms Bullard still remembers seeing a joyous sailor kiss a young nurse in what has become an iconic image of love and hope all over the world, an experience that she described in a New York Times article that appeared in August 2010.

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/13/from-photos-periphery-an-eyewitness-to-a-timeless-kiss/>

Next week's visit is the first time she has been back to New York City since the she was a nursing student during the '40's will be the special guest of the Marriott Marquis during her stay in Times Square to celebrate the anniversary of the famous "kiss seen 'round the world" that has become the symbol of Spirit of '45 Day. www.Spiritof45.org

Ms. Bullard will be joined in Times Square on Wednesday, August 14, by Jerry Yellin, 89, the man who flew the final combat mission of WWII on the day the war ended, who is a national spokesman for Spirit of '45 Day, the annual day of remembrance honoring the men and women of America's "Greatest Generation" that was passed unanimously by Congress in 2010. Ms Bullard and Mr. Yellin will both be carrying Spirit of '45 Day Proclamations from their home states signed by the Governors Nikki R. Haley and Terry Branstad.

"I'm very much looking forward to meeting Gloria and to having this opportunity to raise public awareness about this importance national day," said Mr. Yellin. "I just hope she won't be disappointed that I was an Army Air Corps fighter pilot and not a sailor!"

The couple will appear on several broadcast during their visit to New York, and will hold a press conference in Times Square at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, August 14, as a 100ft video collage of wedding photos of couples who were married in 1945 plays on the jumbo screen in front of Walgreens' store on 42nd and 7th Avenue. The video is created each year by Walgreens using photos sent in from around the country each year.

A giant poster of the collage will be unveiled across the country that same day in San Diego, CA, during the annual Spirit of '45 Day Festival that takes place at the 25 ft Seward Johnson sculpture depicting the "Times Square Kiss" that stands in front of the USS Midway in San Diego, featuring live 1940's music, swing dancers, and WWII re-enactors.

South Carolina is home to the famous WWII aircraft carrier, the USS Yorktown, now a museum in Charleston, and has several communities that are doing their part to help "keep the Spirit of '45 alive." Travelers Rest will hold three events this weekend, beginning with a day of taping interviews with local area WWII era seniors, a USO- style dance on Saturday evening and a public celebration with exhibits, re-enactors, patriotic music and an annual "Parade of Memories" on Sunday. <https://facebook.com/spiritof45upstate>

"We believe it is important to remind America of the sacrifices made during WWII by the 'ordinary heroes' who came from the smaller towns and communities, and how everyone pitched in together to achieve great things for our country in its hour of need," said Lamar McCarrell, who has organized Spirit of '45 Day programs in Travelers Rest since 2010, which will honored with a 2013 Award of Merit by the American Association of State and Local History during its national convention in Birmingham, AL, in September.

Atria Senior Living, one of the nation's largest owner/operators of independent and assisted living communities, is having Spirit of '45 Day events for their residents and the public in all of its 148 communities, including the Atria Forrest Lake in Columbia, which last year hosted a visit by a life sized version of the Seward Johnson "Kiss" during its cross country tour.

“The entire World War II generation has provided a model of unity and community that will continue to be a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans to come together to work for the betterment of the United States and the world,” said South Carolina Governor Nikki R. Haley in her proclamation.

“Spirit of '45 Day is a wonderful time for all Americans to come together to celebrate the achievements and values of the WWII generation, and to reflect on what made them great,” said Warren Hegg, who leads a grassroots nonprofit initiative , “Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!” which promotes the observance of Spirit of '45 Day. “By remembering their courage, shared sacrifice, ‘can do’ attitude, sense of national unity and commitment to service, we can renew the same spirit of national unity that we need to meet the challenges of today and follow their example of helping to assure a better future for our children and their children's children.”

“Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!” is helping to organize a nationwide commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII that will take place on August 14 -15 - 16, 2015.

For a partial list of Spirit of '45 Day events and activities, please visit www.Spiritof45.org.

For additional information contact:

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