

## Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive

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**For Immediate Release**

### **Rhode Island Leads Nation with Multiple Ceremonies Honoring Greatest Generation on 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of End of World War II**

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*"Spirit of '45 Day" Observed in Hundreds of Communities on August 10 - 11*

(Providence, RI, August 9, 2013) Rhode Island may be the smallest state in the nation, but it has one of the most devoted supporters of Spirit of '45 Day, the new annual day of remembrance honoring the WWII generation that Congress unanimously passed in 2010.

This weekend, 17 separate Spirit of '45 Day observances will be taking place that will be held in senior living communities, assisted living homes, senior centers, and other locations throughout the State, and will include tributes to the men and women who were the “ordinary heroes” and wreath laying ceremonies with “Taps” to honor the 96,000 Rhode Islanders who served during WWII, including the more than 2,600 who made the ultimate sacrifice. Rhode Island had the highest percentage of its population serving in uniform during the war, and is the only State that still officially observes V-J Day.

- Atria Lincoln Place, Lincoln, RI
- Morgan Health Center, Johnston, RI
- Summit Commons, Providence, RI
- Grace Barker Nursing & Rehab, Warren, RI
- Silver Creek Manor, Bristol, RI
- Crestwood Nursing Home, Warren, RI
- Warren Health Center, Warren, RI
- RI Veteran's Home, Bristol, RI
- Linn Health Center, East Providence, RI
- Evergreen Nursing Center, East Providence, RI
- Greenwich Farms Assisted Living, Warwick, RI
- Pawtucket Health Center, Pawtucket, RI
- Oakland Grove Health Center, Woonsocket, RI
- Capital Ridge Assisted Living, Providence, RI
- Grandview Nursing Center, Cumberland, RI
- Woonsocket Health Center, Woonsocket, RI
- Waterview Villa, East Providence, RI

The 17 programs are being organized by the Rhode Island Hospice Veterans Partnership led by Michelle August of Beacon Hospice, who heard about Spirit of '45 Day during a June conference call last month with members of "We Honor Veterans," a collaborative partnership between the Veterans Administration and the palliative care industry.

"Spirit of '45 Day is a wonderful opportunity 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 August. "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."

Hundreds of communities across America will observe National Spirit of '45 Day on the weekend of August 10-11, honoring the men and women of the World War II generation, including the late U.S. Senators Dan K. Inouye of Hawaii and Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey. Inouye and Lautenberg were the last two WWII veterans serving in the Senate when it unanimously voted for a national day of remembrance for America's Greatest Generation which is observed on the second Sunday in August, aligning with the anniversary of August 14, 1945 – the day President Harry S. Truman announced that WWII was over.

For a partial list of Spirit of '45 Day events and activities, please visit [www.Spiritof45.org](http://www.Spiritof45.org).

For additional information about the Spirit of '45 Day events in Rhode Island, please contact:

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