

Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.
Public Relations
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026

For Immediate Release

Silicon Valley Unveils “Wall of Honor” of Faces of its “Greatest Generation” as America Commemorates 68th Anniversary of End of World War II

*San Jose Giants Salute WWII Veterans with Fireworks as "Spirit of '45 Day"
Observed in Hundreds of Communities August 10 - 11 Weekend*

(San Jose, CA, August 8, 2013) On Friday, August 9, at 2:30 p.m., San Jose City Councilwoman Rose Herrera will unveil a giant “WWII Wall of Honor” at the San Jose History Park (1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112).

The “Wall” is comprised of hundreds of 6 ft high portrait photos of WWII veterans to kick off the annual “Spirit of '45 Day” celebrations at the San Jose History Park this weekend as hundreds of communities across America commemorate the 68th anniversary of the end of WWII on August 14, 1945. www.Spiritof45.org

“This Wall of faces of those who served our country so many years ago reminds us of their courage, shared sacrifice, and commitment to service to community and country both during WWII and after the war ended,” said Herrera. “The true greatest of the Greatest Generation was how they understood how to mobilize their community to deal with big challenges, something we need in our country today if we are to deal successfully with the problems we face today.”

Herrera will be joined by Jerry Rosenthal, 89, of San Jose, who was served in the Army Air Corps in Europe during WWII, and whose photos is one of the more than 300 that will be included in the “Wall of Honor.”

“I am truly honored to have my photo displayed in this way,” said Rosenthal. “What distinguished my generation, and what these faces symbolize, is how all of us had one goal - to assure a better future for ourselves, our children and our children’s children. Hopefully this ‘Wall’ will inspire this same sense of community, especially among the young people of our country.” http://www.digiclub.org/sofs/index.php?page_id=17&video_id=168

The San Jose “Wall of Honor” is part of a larger nationwide project that is gathering the photos of the more than 16.5 million who served in WWII so that they can be included in a digital archive that will be displayed on the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII in 2015.

A 150 ft Wall of Honor comprised of hundreds of WWII veterans will be displayed this year at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC on Sunday, August 11, during a ceremony that will initiate a cross country “Tribute to the Legacy of Service of America’s Greatest Generation,” with coast-to-coast wreath laying ceremonies from the East Coast to Hawaii. <http://www.spiritof45.org/buglers0.aspx>

The “Tribute” will honor the lives of the late US Senators Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey and Dan Inouye of Hawaii, who were the last two WWII veterans serving in the US Senate who co-sponsored “Spirit of ’45 Day” – the annual day of remembrance honoring the men and women of the WWII generation -- when it was unanimously passed by Congress in 2010.

“Seeing these faces is very powerful for me,” said Robert Corpus, who organizes has been organizing the “Spirit of ’45 Day” event in San Jose’s History Park for the past several years. “Many of these photos are of individuals who has passed away recently, so it really means a lot to their families to see the faces of their loved ones honored this way. This ‘Wall’ puts a human face on history.”

Corpus is a member of an nonprofit collaborative called “Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive” whose mission is to raise public awareness and participation in Spirit of ’45 Day, which is observed on the second weekend of August, aligning with the anniversary of the day President Harry Truman announced that WWII was over on August 14, 1945.

Hundreds of Spirit of ’45 Day events are taking place this weekend, including observances during Major League Baseball games. Minor League clubs are also getting on board: Silicon Valley’s “Spirit of ’45 Day” weekend ends with a wreath laying ceremony and fireworks during the San Jose Giants Game on Sunday, August 11.

For more information, contact Robert Corpus robertjcorpus@gmail.com (408) 887-3311
Aaron Quigley, Office of Councilwoman Rose Herrera