



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 9-16, 2015

WWII 70th Anniversary Spirit of '45 Week

On August 14, 1945, Americans and our allies around the world rejoiced at the news that Japan had accepted our terms of surrender, ending six bitter years of the most atrocious and lethal conflict humanity has ever seen.

California had an extraordinary role in the Second World War. In many ways the war effort built the state we know today, with massive deployments and the defense industries paving the way for the great prosperity and growth we enjoyed in the decades that followed. Californians served heroically and gave their lives in every theater of war. Our own coastal communities suffered from constant fear of attack and even shelling and bombing by the Japanese.

As we celebrate the triumphs of our role in the Allied victory, we also remember the shameful treatment that loyal Americans endured in internment camps like Manzanar and Tule Lake. Those who fought against this injustice during the war and the decades that followed should also be counted among the heroes of the "Greatest Generation." Likewise we remember the *braceros*, the Mexican citizens who were brought to California to replace our own agricultural workers, and who endured harsh conditions and wage theft even as they performed this essential war work.

On this 70th anniversary of our victory in World War II, let us remember the courage and sacrifice of all those who stood against oppression and tyranny during this dramatic and formative stage in our history.

Sincerely,


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.