

General Chuck Yeager Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award during Spirit of '45 National Leaders Conference

(February 19, 2012, San Diego, CA) Aviation legend General Chuck Yeager received a Lifetime Achievement Award for embodying the character of America's "greatest generation" and his efforts to inspire in youth the values of honor, integrity, courage, and service to community and country. Yeager, 89, who saw combat as a fighter pilot during World War II, achieved international fame when he became the first person to break the sound barrier on October 14, 1947.

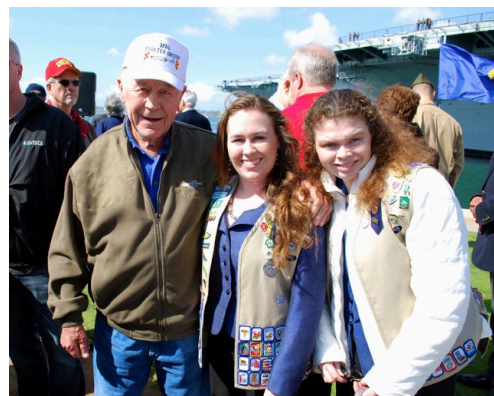


General Chuck Yeager with Spirit of '45 Day national spokesman and Iwo Jima WWII veteran Skip Adams.

The award was presented to Yeager during the Spirit of '45 National Leaders Conference at a gala dinner hosted by the San Diego Air and Space Museum on February 18, 2012. Also honored were six manufacturing companies that were the cornerstones of America's "Arsenal of Democracy" during WWII: General Motors, Ford Motors, Chrysler Corporation, Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman.

The awards were presented by Jerry Coleman, Spirit of '45 Day national spokesman and Conference honorary co-chair. Coleman, the only Major League Baseball player to see combat in both WWII and the Korean War, flew more than 50 missions as a Marine pilot serving in the Pacific, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, before going on to a career as a star second baseman for the New York Yankees (he was the MVP of the 1950 World Series) and a Hall of Fame broadcaster for the San Diego Padres.

More than 100 organizations from 34 states attended the San Diego Conference to develop strategies for increasing public awareness and participation National Spirit of '45 Day which is observed on the second Sunday in August, coinciding with August 14, 1945, the day President Harry Truman announced that WWII was over and America led an unprecedented effort to assure a better future for the children of the world.



General Chuck Yeager with Girl Scouts Nazare' and Lizzy Simas of San Diego during the Spirit of '45 National Leaders Conference held in San Diego February 17-19.