Spirit of ’45 Day 70th Anniversary
Calendar of Important Dates

October

• Consolidate results of 2014 Spirit of ’45 Day Express Tour – outreach to RV makers/distributors, current donors, etc.
• Finalize venues/outreach to Spirit of ’45 Day national leaders re 2015 Conference
• Confirmation of 2015 game plan and signature projects with key stakeholders
  o Media kick in Times Square on August 14
  o Airpower (Flyovers by WWII Warbirds in multiple communities, August 15
  o Seaborne Services (’40’s style swing dances aboard WWII vintage ships, August 15)
  o Ground Forces
    ▪ Gold Star Tribute Tour (May)
    ▪ Queen Mary WWII Families Reunion (August)
    ▪ Cross country convoy of WWII vintage vehicles (September 19 – October 16)
  o Home Front
    ▪ 2015 Spirit of ’45 Day Express Tour
    ▪ Around the world wreath laying ceremonies, August 16
    ▪ Youth choirs
    ▪ Rally of the Rosies (special Arsenal of Democracy event at Ford Willow Run Bomber Plant, Detroit, MI)

November

November 6 – 8 Media events in WDC with Elinor Otto, “America’s Longest Working Rosie the Riveter”

▪ Guest appearance at American Veterans Center national convention and gala
▪ Visits to Walter Reed, Armed Forces Retirement Home, Women in Military Service Memorial, National WWII Memorial (White House visit pending)

November 9 – 10 Media events with Spirit of ’45 Day Express WDC – NYC

▪ Amtrak 30th Street Station wreath laying, Philadelphia
▪ Rosie the Riveter Memorial, Wood-Ridge, NJ
▪ Others TBD

November 11 – Veterans Day

▪ “Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive” entries in parades in NYC, San Diego, San Jose, etc.
▪ Spirit of ’45 Day Express, Elinor, Jerry Yellin Battle of the Bugle veterans, etc. 300 youth with photos of New York’s Greatest Generation in NYC Parade
▪ Media contacts with national networks, print media, etc. (Joan Lunden pending)

November 12

▪ Visits to American Air Power Museum, Cradle of Aviation Museum, Long Island
December

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- Announcement of the countdown to 70th Anniversary on USS Midway, HNSA members
- MOPH wreath layings in Hawaii
- Special birthday presentation to Sen. Susan Collins

December 15
- 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, Belgium
- Wreath laying in home town of Glenn Miller, announce Swing Bands of America (Governor Terry Branstad invited)

December 17 – Announcement of around the world wreath laying ceremonies by MOPH, US Army, etc. in Hawaii on anniversary of death of Sen. Dan Inouye

January

January 25 – 70th Anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium

January 28 - 2015 Spirit of ’45 Day Express tour begins from Washington, DC (travels to San Diego)

February – Black History Month (contributions of African Americans in WWII)

February 1 – Spirit of ’45 Day Express at Super Bowl, Phoenix, AZ

- Thursday, February 12 – Welcoming “Meet & Greet”/registration for early arrivals, hosted by members of Greatest Generation and We Honor Veterans
- Friday, February 13 – Working sessions at Hall of Champions (possible evening screening of “Unbroken” with special guest stars)
- Saturday, February 14 – Working sessions at Veterans Museum

70th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at San Diego Air & Space Museum (special guests, e.g. Loni Anderson, (Norman Lear, Jimmy Stewart’s daughter, Paul Allen, Harrison Ford, Tom Selleck)

- Sunday, February 15 – Closing ceremonies at Times Square Kiss statue in Greatest Generations Walk, visit to new Battle of Midway exhibit

February 19 – 70th Anniversary ceremony of beginning of the Battle of Iwo Jima (wreath layings at Iwo Jima and US Marine Corps Memorial in DC, etc.)

March – National Women’s History Month (How WWII changed the role of women in America)
Elinor Otto special guest at American Society on Aging national conference, Chicago

April

April 1 – 70th Anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Okinawa (wreath laying at Okinawa War Memorial)

April 12 – 70th Anniversary event at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Memorial, NYC (Norman Lear and WWII veterans featured speakers)

April 20 – 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi Death Camps (Spirit of ’45 Day representatives to lay wreaths in Europe at camp locations)

May

May 8 – 70th Anniversary of the end of war in Europe at National WWII Memorial, Washington, DC (flyover by WWII vintage aircraft)

May 15 – Gold Star Tribute cross country motorcycle tour by Dr. Bruce Heilman, Chancellor, University of Richomnd, Quantico, VA to Camp Pendleton, CA

May 25 – “Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive” Memorial Day of Service, Washington, DC

- Youth wreath layings at major memorials
- “Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive” entry in National Memorial Day Parade

May 25 - 70th Anniversary Honor Lap during Indy 500 Speedway Race

June

June 20 – Youth engagement program during National History Day Finals, University of Maryland

July

July 14 70th Anniversary announcement during MLB All Star Game, Cincinnati, OH (pending)
August

August 14 – 16 Spirit of ‘45 Day 70th Anniversary Weekend

Friday, August 14 – Kick off ceremonies
  - Kiss In in Times Square and San Diego
  - Announcements at all Seward Johnson statues (Sarasota, FL, Branson, MO, Las Vegas, NV, Pearl Harbor, HI)

Saturday, August 15 – Community events in multiple locations, with flyovers, WWII re-enactors, swing dancing and musical entertainment, e.g. on 70th Anniversary Spirit Fest on USS Midway flight deck, etc.

Sunday, August 16 – Around the world laying ceremonies at multiple locations, e.g. national and local cemeteries, memorials, etc.
  - Begins in Western Pacific at American National Cemetery, Manila, The Philippines, continues across Europe and continental U.S. to end in Punchbowl National Cemetery in Honolulu, HI at Sen. Dan Inouye’s gravesite
  - Military Order of the Purple Heart and other VSO’s, in partnership with Bugles Across America, American Battle Monuments Commission, National Parks Service, We Honor Veterans, Dignity Memorial and others

September - October

September 19 – October 19 “America’s Longest Veterans Day Parade”

- 70th Anniversary Ground Forces Tribute: Coast-to-Coast Convoy of WWII Vehicles
  - Ft. Belvoir, VA to Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
- Organized by Military Vehicles Preservation Association
- Spirit of ’45 Day Express to be lead vehicle
- Stops in multiple Purple Heart cities, fly overs by WWII aircraft, community rallies, etc.
- Special events being organized in stop over cities in Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Arizona, and California, e.g. Welcome Rally in Balboa Park, Saturday, October 17

November

November 11 – “70th Anniversary Spirit of ’45 entries in multiple Veterans Day parades

- Entries by MOPH and other participating organizations
- Youth carry photos of WWII veterans from their family and community, produced by their local Walgreens
- WWII vehicles, including veterans of the cross country convoy

December

December 17th – Conclusion of 70th Anniversary Year
70th Anniversary
8/14/1945 ~ 8/14/2015
Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!