



STORIES of SERVICE  
A Program of the Digital Classroom Network

Jerry Coleman  
National Spokesman

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Dear Conference attendee,

As a former WWII Marine pilot, I am writing to encourage you and your organization to observe **National Spirit of '45 Day** on Sunday, August 12.

**National Spirit of '45 Day** honors the men and women of the World War II generation by preserving their history so that their legacy of courage, shared sacrifice, "can do" attitude and service to country will continue to inspire future generations of Americans, especially our youth.

**National Spirit of '45 Day** is observed on the second Sunday in August each year, coinciding with the anniversary of the day President Harry Truman announced that World War II was over on August 14, 1945 -- a day Life Magazine has called "*a hinge of history...the birth of a new America.*" Air power made the difference in World War II and the technologies developed during the war fueled the explosive global development of aviation and laid the foundations for man's travel into space.

America's air and space museums are therefore the ideal venues for hosting **National Spirit of '45 Day** events and activities to educate the public about this important chapter of our nation's history. Since Congress unanimously voted its support for **National Spirit of '45 Day** in 2010, hundreds of communities across America have organized observances, including Major League Baseball games played on that day. I hope that this year you will join us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to join me in San Diego for the **2013 Spirit of '45 National Leaders Conference** that will be held on February 15 - 17. The Conference brings together organizations and individuals that are working together to assure that **National Spirit of '45 Day** is observed each year throughout America. A copy of this year's program and list of attendees can be downloaded at [www.Spiritof45.org](http://www.Spiritof45.org).

On behalf of all of us who care about America's remembering this important chapter in our nation's history, thank you for helping to keep the Spirit of '45 alive!

Semper Fi!

National Spokesman

*Jerry Coleman is the only Major League Baseball player to see combat in both World War II and the Korean War, flying 120 missions as a Marine pilot and earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses. A standout second baseman for the New York Yankees, he was the 1950 World Series MVP, Jerry continued his career with the San Diego Padres where he has been game announcer for more than 30 years and has been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. This year marks his 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in professional baseball.*

**SPIRITOF45.ORG**

EAST COAST OFFICE  
New York Information  
Technology Center  
55 Broad Street LL  
New York, NY  
10003

WEST COAST OFFICE  
History Park  
1650 Senter Road  
San Jose, CA  
95112

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN  
HOTLINE  
1-877-814-1945