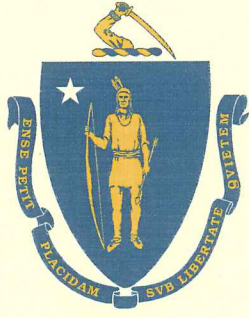


# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

*Whereas* On August 14, 1945 the people of the United States received word of the end of World War II, and greeted the news of the Allies' noble victory with joyous celebration, humility, and spiritual reflection; and

*Whereas* The victory marked the culmination of an unprecedented national effort that defeated the forces of aggression, brought freedom to subjugated nations, and ended the horrors of the Holocaust; and

*Whereas* These historic accomplishments were achieved through the collective service and personal sacrifice of the people of the United States, both those who served in uniform and those who supported them on the Home Front, and the over 400,000 Americans who gave their lives in service to their country during World War II; and

*Whereas* August 14, 1945 marked not only the end of the war but also the beginning of an unprecedented era of rebuilding led by the United States to restore the societies of both their allies and former foes alike, and the formation of an array of organizations and institutions which helped to strengthen America and democracy by promoting civic engagement, volunteerism, and service to community and country; and

*Whereas* The courage, dedication, self-sacrifice, and compassion of the "ordinary heroes" of the World War II generation continue to inspire our nation, especially the men and women who are currently serving protecting our country around the world; and

*Whereas* The entire World War II generation, military and civilian alike, has provided a model of national unity and community that will continue to serve as a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans to come together to work for the continued prosperity of the United States and the World; and

*Whereas* Family and Friends of World War II veterans from Auburn, Massachusetts have committed to honoring those everyday heroes of the World War II generation on August 16, 2015.

*Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the week of August 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to be,*

## SPIRIT OF 45 WEEK

*And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.*

*Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this Fifteenth day of June, in the year two thousand and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-eighth.*

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

*God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*