

***“KEEP THE SPIRIT of 45 ALIVE”***  
***McHenry, Illinois***

McHenry’s observance of “Keep The Spirit of 45 Alive” day will be held at Veterans Park on Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Congress has designated the second Sunday of each August as a national day of remembrance honoring members of “The Greatest Generation” and the end of WWII.

McHenry’s events in the past two years have gained national recognition for our City and Combined Veterans Organization. During my presentation at the “Keep The Spirit of 45 Alive” National Conference held at the San Diego Air & Space Museum this past February representatives from 37 States were impressed that a town the size of McHenry has three active veterans organizations. Many expressed to me, that as sad as it is to say, in their communities they have none or very small veterans groups to say the least.

This year I propose to recognize the history and efforts of our three local veterans organizations. American Legion Post 491, VFW Post 4600 (celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and Polish Legion of American Veterans Liberty Post 188. Each organization has played an important role in fostering the enrichment of patriotic and civic spirit within our community.

This year’s program will be outstanding with the format a little different then the past two years. Our program will consist of Honor Guards, a rifle salute and “Taps”, played by at least 18 buglers closer to the beginning of the ceremony rather than at the end. WWII vets will have reserved seating in front of the Gazebo making it easier for them to be with family and friends.

In keeping with what “The Spirit of 45” observance is all about, we are very fortunate to have an appearance by the Lakes Area Swing Band an 18-piece 1940’s style swing band lead by Holly Frederichs conductor, musicians and vocalists performing a replication of a 1940’s radio broadcast with guest Lou Rugani WLIP Kenosha Radio Personality. Lou has been with Station WLIP for over twenty years and is sure to bring back memories of that golden age of “swing”. Yes, the dance floor will be open and the bands love of swing music will be evident by the toe-tapping rhythms they provide. The band has played throughout Northern Illinois and this will be their first performance in McHenry. Don’t miss it!

Plans are currently being finalized for an appearance of the “Kiss Seen Around The World Statue”. A larger than life sculpture immortalizing the moment when, in celebration of the end of WW11, August 14, 1945, a Sailor kissed a Nurse in New York’s Times Square. The statue evokes a time in our Country’s history of unity, a time without the divisiveness of today. The moment captured encapsulates the spirit of having fought a successful campaign defending our values.

Nationally “Keep The Spirit of ‘45 Alive” is collecting service photos of WWII veterans to be included in the National Wall of Honor that will be displayed at the National WWII Memorial in Washington D. C. on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, “Spirit of ‘45” is collecting photos of couples that were together during WWII so that they can be included in a giant mosaic that will be displayed in Times Square on Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup> marking the anniversary of the “Kiss Seen ‘round the world.” Photos can be submitted at [www.spiritof45.org](http://www.spiritof45.org).