



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, all New Yorkers join in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the hard fought victory of the Allied forces which silenced the global gunfire and ended the brutal fighting that wrought untold death, destruction, and devastation for nearly six years; and

Whereas, for America, the war began with the attack on our Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941, declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as “a date which will live in infamy,” and one that changed the course of our nation’s history by catapulting our country into the conflict as it waged on for the third year; and

Whereas, millions perished during the war, including the victims of the Holocaust and others who died at the cruel hands of dictatorship; hundreds of thousands of Allied troops, among them more than 291,000 Americans, died on the battlefields, on the seas, and in the air worldwide; additionally, some 671,000 Americans were wounded and more than 120,000 were prisoners of war, with tens of thousands missing in action at the war’s end; and

Whereas, on a national scale, a significant number of men and women who served in World War II were from New York State, with more than 37,000 of our service members killed or missing in action; and

Whereas, through it all, the indomitable spirit of our men and women in uniform persevered, its flame kept alight by the liberty and patriotism that burned brightly within the hearts of our troops and that carried our nation; we find inspiration in those who proudly wear the mantle of “greatest generation” for their service to our nation during World War II and who, united in purpose and cause, overcame tremendous obstacles and endured unimaginable pain and suffering – or met their death – to defeat the Axis forces, as the official surrender of Nazi Germany came on May 7, 1945 and the surrender of Japan was announced on August 14, 1945; and

Whereas, New Yorkers proudly join with our entire nation in celebrating “The Spirit of ‘45 Week” and, as we solemnly commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, we extend a sincere expression of gratitude and respect to our World War II Veterans, thanking all of them for their immense sacrifice and service carried out with the courage, principle, and honor that define their noble legacy;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 14, 15, and 16, 2015 as

THE SPIRIT OF ‘45 WEEKEND

IN COMMEMORATION OF

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

in the Empire State.



G i v e n

under my hand and the privy seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this tenth day
of August in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

Washam J. Mathon
Secretary to the Governor