

For Immediate Release



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Spirit of '45 Day National Tour Honoring 'Greatest Generation' to Visit Oregon This Week

(March 2, 2014, Portland, CA) The Spirit of '45 Day Express is traveling through Oregon this week as part of a nationwide tour to honor the men and women who were the "ordinary heroes" of America's Greatest Generation.

The tour is a project of "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!" a national nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots initiative that is promoting public awareness about Spirit of '45 Day, the new annual day that honors the WWII generation passed by Congress in 2010, that is observed on the second Sunday in August (aligning with the anniversary of the end of WWII on August 14, 1945.) Oregon passed its own version of Spirit of '45 Day last year.

The tour, which began last month in Washington, DC, will travel throughout the country during the next two years, making whistle stops in hundreds of communities, including visits to state veterans homes and senior living residences, to help publicize events that are being planned to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII next year.

The Oregon leg of the tour will include stopovers at the following locations:

- Wednesday, March 5, 1:30 pm, meeting with Rosie the Riveters from Eugene-Springfield/Cottage Grove
- Thursday, March 6, 10 a.m. at the Oregon State Capitol, Salem
- Thursday, March 6, 2 pm at Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, meeting with Gen. James Thayer at
- Thursday, March 6, 4 pm at Oregon State Veterans Home, The Dalles

Each stop concludes with a performance of "Taps" by Auston O'Neill, Jr, whose father was a decorated WWII. O'Neill performs "Taps" at the National WWII Memorial each year on Spirit of '45 Day and be one of the 2,000 buglers who will be participating in a round-the-world wreath laying ceremony that will be taking place in August 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII.

"We want to encourage families of the 16 million who served in uniform and the millions more who supported them on the Home Front, to take this opportunity to honor these ordinary heroes who did so much for our country and the world," said O'Neill. "Their Spirit of courage, shared sacrifice and service to others must continue to inspire future generations of Americans."

For more information, please contact Warren Hegg, National Coordinator,
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Spirit of '45 Express tour at the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front Historical Park (upper left), the Louisiana State Veterans Home in Monroe, LA (center left) and the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA (lower left).

