



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II
August 14, 2015

SPIRIT OF '45 COMMEMORATIVE WEEK
August 9-16, 2015

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, nearly 1.25 million Pennsylvanians, including 130 admirals and generals and more than 22,000 women, served in the armed forces during World War II and fought in every theater of operations, from the Aleutian Islands to the jungles of Burma and Guadalcanal, from North Africa to the European fronts; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania served as an important center for the supply and shipment of personnel and materials for the war, with 40 military and naval installations providing training and supplies – Army doctors trained at Carlisle Barracks, Navy photographic reconnaissance pilots received instruction at Harrisburg Airport, and two of the world's largest battleships were built at the Philadelphia Navy Yard; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's private sector contributed considerably to the war effort, from the coal-powered steel mills in Pittsburgh and Bethlehem to the Hershey Company's D-ration chocolate bars, from trucks and half-tracks in Allentown to armor and artillery in Philadelphia; and

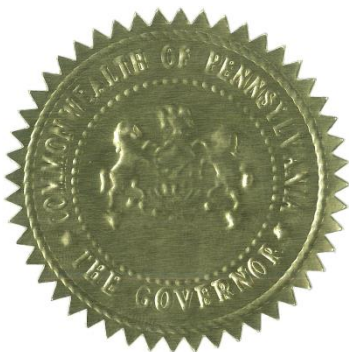
WHEREAS, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania honor those who served in the armed forces during World War II, remember the 33,000 Pennsylvanians who gave their lives to protect our freedom, and thank the men and women who supported the war effort on the home front; and

WHEREAS, the victory marked the culmination of a national effort that defeated the forces of aggression, brought freedom to subjugated nations, and ended the horrors of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, August 14, 1945, marked not only the end of the war but also the beginning of an unprecedented era of rebuilding, during which the World War II generation helped to strengthen American democracy by promoting civic engagement, volunteerism, and service to community and country; and

WHEREAS, the entire World War II generation, military personnel and civilians alike, has provided a model of unity and community that serves as a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans to come together to work for the continued betterment of the United States and the world.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, do hereby proclaim the week of August 9-16, 2015, as SPIRIT OF '45 COMMEMORATIVE WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to pay tribute to the historic accomplishments, collective service and personal sacrifice of the people of Pennsylvania and the United States.



Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twentieth day of July in the Year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and fortieth.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor