1945—First U-Haul® Trailer Built by Navy Veteran to Satisfy Needs of Returning WWII Vets

Since 1945, U-Haul has been serving the do-it-yourself moving household. Like many other successful ventures, the concept for U-Haul was generated out of need. After World War II, there existed a widespread need for do-it-yourself moving equipment on a one-way, nationwide basis. U-Haul co-founders L.S. “Sam” Shoen and his wife, Anna Mary Carty Shoen, recognized that need and acted upon it. Their visionary approach shared the cost of ownership among many users, facilitating the mobility of the population of the U.S. and Canada. The covered wagon of the pioneers morphed into orange U-Haul trailers. In the process, an industry was born. Today U-Haul proudly sponsors various veterans groups and military support organizations throughout the world.

U-Haul will be celebrating its own 70th Anniversary of in 2015: The company was founded in 1945 by WWII Navy veteran Sam Shoen.

1945 was the defining year of the last century.

At the beginning of the year, World War II still raged around the world. The bitterest and most costly battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa were yet to be fought.

On April 12, President Franklin Roosevelt died, thrusting an unknown inexperienced new leader into the role of Commander in Chief.

Even after victory in Europe was declared on May 8, our nation faced the grim prospect of invading Japan and the specter of millions of military and civilian casualties.

Then, on August 14, President Harry S. Truman announced that Japan had surrendered and spontaneous celebrations broke out around the world at the news that the war was over.

America immediately began the work of peace, helping rebuild the economies of its allies and former enemies alike, leading efforts to form the United Nations and other international institutions based on President Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms,” and helping millions of returning veterans begin their civilian lives with the G.I. Bill and other programs.

And if the men and women of the World War II generation truly deserve to be called America’s ‘greatest,’ then August 14, 1945 was their greatest day - the day our country achieved victory over the forces of aggression, ended the horrors of the Holocaust, and then dedicated itself to building a more peaceful world in an unprecedented effort to assure a better future for their children and their children’s children.

In 2010, Congress voted unanimously in favor of “Spirit of ‘45 Day” - a new annual day of remembrance to honor the legacy of the men and women who were the “ordinary heroes” of the WWII generation.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and provides families and communities in every city and town in America with an opportunity to come together to acknowledge these ordinary heroes who achieved such extraordinary things for our country and the world, and to help assure that their example of courage, shared sacrifice, can do attitude, service and national unity will continue to inspire future generations.

We are proud that you have made the commitment to come to San Diego to finalize plans for events and activities that will honor their legacy and keep their Spirit alive!
The 50th and 60th WWII anniversary commemorations were organized by the Department of Defense. The success of the 70th anniversary commemoration depends entirely on the efforts of collaborative efforts by elected officials, veterans groups, senior living communities, caregivers, museums, historical societies, youth leadership, businesses, and others who are willing work together to honor the legacy of America’s WWII generation.

The centerpiece this year will be a WWII Anniversary Commemorative Weekend that begins with a major public event in Times Square on Friday, August 14. On Saturday, August 15, events are being planned around the country including, flyovers by WWII vintage airplanes, ’40’s style concerts and swing dances, open houses at senior living communities, and other activities. The Weekend concludes with an around the world Tribute in the form of multiple wreath laying ceremonies at memorials, national and local cemeteries, and other locations on Sunday, August 16.

Other events are being planned during the year on the 70th anniversary of major events that occurred in 1945 to help build media awareness and broader public participation:

- **March**  – A nationwide “Rally of the Rosie’s” will be announced during National Women’s History Month at the Aging in America national convention in Chicago

- **April**  – A wreath laying is planned at the Four Freedoms Memorial on Roosevelt Island in New York City on the 70th anniversary of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Sunday, April 12. Events marking the 70th anniversary of American troops liberating Nazi death camps are also being planned.

- **May**  – WWII Marine veteran Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, Chancellor of the University of Richmond, will ride his motorcycle 6,000 miles from Quantico, to Camp Pendleton, and back to DC to appear in the National Memorial Day Parade. The 70th anniversary will be acknowledged during the Indy 500 Memorial Day race.

- **July**  – Major League Baseball is being asked to acknowledge the 70th Anniversary during the 2015 All Star game, and at MLB games played August 14 – 16.

- **August**  – On August 7, the Military Order of the Purple Heart will announce the 70th Anniversary Commemorative Weekend during its national convention in Las Vegas.

- **September/October**  – A convoy of military vehicles will travel 3,000 miles from Washington, DC to in San Diego to honor the America’s ground troops.

- **November**  – Efforts are underway to encourage Veterans Day parades throughout the country to join New York City and San Diego by having 70th Anniversary entries comprised of young volunteers carrying enlarged photos of WWII veterans from their families and communities.

- **Spirit of ’45 Day Express Tour**  – Auston and Bonnie O’Neill have volunteered to continue to drive their 38 ft RV around the country, visiting participating communities and holding public rallies at high visibility whistle stops.

February 2015

Since our founding, HISTORY® has been committed to honoring the World War II generation for their many sacrifices and their enormous contributions to our nation and our world. HISTORY continues to be a proud supporter of the Spirit of 45 campaign.

This year is a particularly important year as we reflect on the contributions of the World War II generation 70 years after the conclusion of the war. HISTORY is proud to join with the Spirit of 45 in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of the war along with organizations from around the country who will observe this important anniversary this year. Across the country communities will remember the Greatest Generation and will commit to upholding the important values of service and duty they exemplified.

Fewer and fewer of our World War II veterans are with us, which is why it is vital that we record their stories and preserve their legacy for future generations. We look forward to honoring the memory and legacy of the World War II generation together with the Spirit of 45 national partners gathered in San Diego. Together, you represent the many diverse men and women who came together to overcome fascism and make the world anew. We salute the Greatest Generation and honor their memory, today and always.

Dr. Libby O’Connell
Chief Historian; SVP, Corporate Social Responsibility
HISTORY®/A+E Networks
National Spirit of ‘45 Day

Whereas on August 14, 1945, the people of the United States received word of the end of World War II;

Whereas on that day, people in the United States and around the world greeted the news of the Allies’ noble victory with joyous celebration, humility, and spiritual reflection;

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;

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;

Whereas more than 400,000 Americans gave their lives in service to their country during World War II;

Whereas, August 14, 1945, marked not only the end of the war, but also the beginning of an unprecedented era of rebuilding in which the United States led the effort to restore the shattered nations of the Allies and their enemies alike and to create institutions to work towards a more peaceful global community;

Whereas the men and women of the World War II generation created an array of organizations and institutions during the postwar era which helped to strengthen American democracy by promoting civic engagement, volunteerism, and service to community and country;

Whereas the courage, dedication, self-sacrifice, and compassion of the World War II generation have inspired subsequent generations in the United States Armed Forces, including the men and women currently in service in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world;

Whereas the entire World War II generation, military and civilian 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; and

Whereas the second Sunday in August has been proposed “Spirit of ‘45 Day” to commemorate the anniversary of the end of World War II on August 14, 1945:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress supports the observance of “Spirit of ‘45 Day”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 26, 2010; Passed the Senate August 5, 2010

Elected Officials Rally to Support Spirit of ‘45 Day

Sen. Susan Collins (ME) led the bipartisan coalition that introduced Spirit of ‘45 Day in the Congress in 2010. Joining her as co-sponsors were Sen. Dan Inouye (HI) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (NJ) the last two WWII veterans to serve in the Senate. Inouye and Lautenberg were honored for their service to their nation during Spirit of ‘45 Day on August 11, 2013.

WWII War Bride Joy Beebe and daughter Barbara Jensen look on as Governor John Kitzhaber signs legislation making Spirit of ‘45 Day a permanent annual state day in Oregon.

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad presents Spirit of ‘45 Day proclamation to National Spokesman Jerry Yellin, who flew the final combat mission of WWII on August 14, 1945.
A Message from Jerry Yellin
Spirit of ’45 Day Spokesman

I am proud to have been asked to be a national spokesman for Spirit of ’45 Day and to co-chair the WWII Airpower Legacy project that will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II with a nationwide flyover of “war birds” on the weekend of August 15 -16, 2015.

The 70th anniversary of the end of WWII provides an opportunity for all Americans to remember the sacrifices and sense of common duty to one another that is the legacy of the men and women of the WWII generation – the “ordinary heroes” who endured the difficult times of the Great Depression, fought to defend freedom and democracy in WWII and then went on to build a more peaceful world.

This anniversary date has special significance for me: On August 14, 1945, as celebrations of joy and relief were breaking out all over America at the news the war had ended, I was flying the last combat mission over the Japanese island of Honshu. My friend, 2nd Lt. Phillip Schlumberg of Brooklyn, NY, who flew with me on the day WWII ended, was killed, making him the last casualty of the most destructive war in history.

In America, it was a day of great national unity and shared community, as our country turned from the terrible work of war to begin to rebuild a better future for the world. The millions of us who served in the war were welcomed home with the G.I. Bill and other programs to ease our transition to civilian life and to start our lives. In an act unprecedented in history, America reached out to both our allies and our former enemies in Europe to help them get back on their feet with the Marshall Plan. These farsighted policies laid the foundations for the creation of the greatest economy in the history of the world.

It was a time when everyone felt connected to each other and had a common duty to make the world a better place, and to assure a better future or ourselves, our children and our children’s children. We did not succeed in all the things we set out to achieve, nor were we by any means perfect, but we did our best to leave the world a better place and to try to set an example for those who would follow us, to inspire them to build on what we achieved and to help America become an even greater country.

It is my hope that the events and activities that are being planned for 2015 will assure that this legacy will be sustained and carried forward into the future, to continue to inspire Americans of all ages, especially the youth of our country. This should be our primary mission as together we lay the foundations for keeping the Spirit of ’45 alive.

February 4, 2015

Spirit of ’45 Annual Convention
C/o Jerry Yellin
1855 Saint Francis 1
Fairfield, IA  52556

Dear Friends,

It is my distinct pleasure to commend the Spirit of ’45 organization as you gather for the 2015 annual convention in San Diego. In honor of this important occasion, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank you for your service to our country during World War II and extend my sincerest appreciation for your continued dedication to keep alive the Spirit of ’45!

All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to you, and all individuals, who are courageously willing to step forward and dedicate yourselves to the greatest of all causes, ensuring the safety and prosperity of this nation and her people.

Your service is, and was, essential to maintaining the freedoms we as Americans are so fortunate to enjoy. Again, thank you for your dedication and commitment to the United States of America. A grateful nation salutes you.

Best wishes as you celebrate another remarkable year. Enjoy the event!

Sincerely,

John McCain
United States Senator
Thursday, February 12
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM     Conference Check in
The Sofia Hotel Lobby
150 W. Broadway, San Diego 92129
(619) 234-9200

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM    “Meet and Greet”
Chase Bldg, 191 W. Broadway, Suite 800
(Directly across the street from the Sofia Hotel)
“Mashed Potato Bar,” desserts and coffee & tea will be served.

Friday, February 13
San Diego Hall of Champions
2131 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
Continental breakfast and lunch provided

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM  - Trolley pick up in front of The Sofia Hotel
9:00 AM - 4:45 PM  - Review 70th Anniversary Commemoration Project Plans
Welcome to San Diego!
  •Mac McLaughlin, President and CEO, USS Midway Museum
  •Stu Hedley, Pearl Harbor Survivors, Carnation Chapter
  •Kevin Falconer, City of San Diego*

Group working sessions
Representatives from participating organizations will present their commemorative projects and work together to develop a comprehensive integrated master plan.
  •Airpower
  •Ground Forces
  •Seaborne Services
  •Home Front
  •Tribute (around the world wreath laying ceremonies
  •Senior living communities/care givers
  •Families and youth engagement

4:45 PM   - Trolley pick up in front of the Hall of Champions for return to the Sofia Hotel.

Friday Evening Open
Visit the famous Gas Lamp Quarter, the heart of San Diego’s nightlife. Take an evening stroll along beautiful San Diego Harbor. Dine in Seaport Village. All just minutes walk from the Sofia Hotel!

Saturday, February 14
San Diego Veterans Museum & Memorial
2115 Park Blvd. Balboa Park
Continental breakfast and lunch provided

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Working sessions (continued)
Based on the previous day’s discussions, attendees will develop joint marketing and media strategies for broadening and deepening public awareness and participation in their projects, and engaging the interest of prospective sponsors and strategic partners at a national, regional and local level.

3:35 PM   Trolley pick up in front of Museum for return to the Sofia Hotel
5:30 PM   Trolley pick up in at the Sofia Hotel to go to the San Diego Air & Space Museum

70th Anniversary Commemoration Kick Off Dinner
San Diego Air & Space Museum
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park

Highlights of the night will include special recognition for groups and individuals that have made extraordinary contributions to the ongoing campaign to keep the Spirit of ‘45 alive.

Dress up in your best ‘40’s attire, and music by “The Swinging Blue Stars. “

9:15 PM   Trolley pick up at San Diego Air & Space Museum to return to the Sofia Hotel.

Sunday, February 15
Greatest Generations Walk, San Diego Harbor
Breakfast burritos available in Room 300 at 8:00 AM

9:15 AM   Trolley pick up in front of the Sofia Hotel to take attendees to Greatest Generation Walk.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM   “Tribute to the Spirit of a Generation”
Public closing ceremony at the 25 ft sculpture depicting the famous “Times Square Kiss” of August 14, 1945.

Music performed by the Spirit of ‘45 Marching Band under the direction of James Villejas.

After the ceremony, Conference attendees are invited to visit the USS Midway’s new multimedia exhibit “The Battle of Midway” exhibit.
2015 NATIONAL LEADERS
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Bryan Allison (Jennifer), Murphy Funeral Home (Dignity Memorial) Arlington, VA
Ennilee Anulao, Dignity Memorial, Honolulu, HI
Kalen Arreola, Stars & Stripes Marketing/PinUps for Patriots, Poway, CA*
Michelle August, Beacon Hospice/We Honor Veterans, East Providence, RI
Joy Beebe, WWII British War Bride, Senior Advisor, Salem, OR *
Stacey Belt, Atria Senior Living, San Diego, CA
Paul Bowen (Gail), Paul Bowen Photography, Wichita, KS
Ralph Bozorth, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Plymouth Meeting, PA
Todd Caleca, Battleship USS Iowa, San Pedro, CA
Nell Calloway, Chennault Aviation & Military Museum, Monroe, LA*
Karen Carter, Dignity Memorial, San Jose, CA*
Roland Champagne, Okinawa veteran son, Spirit of ’45 Volunteer, San Diego, CA*
Robert Corpus, Dignity Memorial/Silicon Valley Spirit of ’45 Weekend, San Jose, CA*
Dell Courtney, 70th Anniversary event, Louisville, KY
Tina Croley, Stars and Stripes, Washington, DC
Dan DeMarco, Spirit of ’45 Iowa, San Diego, CA*
Emma Englund, The Greatest Generation Project, Portland, OR
Yvonne Fasold, President, American Rosie the Riveter Association, Eugene, OR *
Bill Fischer, EAA Warbirds, Oshkosh, WI
Glenn Flowers, VA National Cemeteries Administration, Washington, DC
Drinda Frenzel, American Rosie the Riveter Association, Garden Grove, CA
Sue Fritzke, Rosie the Riveter/Home Front Historical Park, Richmond, CA
Harry Grier (Cydny) Planes of Fame, Chino, CA*
Bill Goodreau, Central Valley Honor Flight, Kingsburg, CA*
Janet Goodreau, Central Valley Honor Flight, Kingsburg, CA*
Candace Green, Dignity Memorial, Houston, TX
Brent Hansen, National Parks Service, Richmond, CA
David Hanson, USS Midway Museum, San Diego, CA
Jack Harkins, United Veterans Council/Veterans Day Parade, San Diego, CA*
Warren Hegg, Digital Clubhouse Network/Stories of Service, Los Gatos, CA*
Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, Chancellor, University of Richmond, VA*
Donna Herbst, Atria Senior Living, New York City, NY*
Jennifer Hlad, Stars and Stripes, San Diego, CA
Jessa Hoyungowa, Pinups for Patriots, Irvine, CA
Lyle Jansma, Heritage Flight Museum, Bellingham, WA
Barbara Jensen, Spirit of ’45 –Oregon, Kelzer, OR*
Phil Kendro, Air Force Group One, San Diego, CA*
Jim Kidrick, San Diego Air & Space Museum, San Diego, CA*
Christine Kitajima, The Sankei Shimbun, Los Angeles, CA
Cole Kleitsch, Walking Civics, Gladstone, NJ
Jan Knapp, President, Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Six Lakes, MI
Donalee Lanktree, past pres, American Rosie the Riveter Association, Rochester Hill, MI
Bob Largef, past chairman, Air Force Association, Harrison, AR*
Linda Laurie, National Events Coordinator, Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive, Poway, CA*
Ida Lopez, New Mexico Honor Flight, Las Cruces, NM
Lisa Marculongio, Elizabeth Hospice, Escondido CA*
Nico Marculongio, Challenged Athletes Foundation, San Diego, CA

2015 NATIONAL LEADERS
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Dani Masterson, Bugles Across America, New York Director, Wappinger Falls, NY
Andrew McKenna, Pamela Marie LLC, Arlington, VA
Ulysses Miller, Military Order of the Purple Heart, San Diego, CA
Gil Mislang, Philippine Scout Heritage Society, Downey, CA
LaNette Moore, Oregon Spirit of ’45, Salem, OR
Katsushi Nakamura, The Sankei Shimbun, Los Angeles, CA
Diane Nowak, Dignity Memorial, Chicago, IL
Elizabeth Nunan, Medical Musical Group, Washington, DC
Austen & Bonnie O’Neill, Jr., Spirit of ’45 Day Express, Centreville, CA*
Eileen Oltmann, American Rosie the Riveter Association, Lawrenceville, GA
Randy Parent, Military Vehicles Preservation Association, Danville, CA
Traci Parent, Military Vehicles Preservation Association, Danville, CA
Cheryl Perez, Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart, San Diego, CA
Diane Petrini, Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart, San Diego, CA
Valerie Pfundstein (Paul), Spirit of ’45 –NYC, Cradle of Aviation, Deer Park, NY*
Pam Plimpton, County Office of Aging & Independence, San Diego, CA
Cheryl Popp, Honor Flight Tri-State, Cincinnati, OH
Michael Potter, Spirit of ’45 Iowa, Marion, IA*
Glenn Powers, VA National Cemeteries Administration, Washington, DC
Carole Quanenkush, Vitas Healthcare, Cincinnati, OH*
Wil Quintong, County Office of Aging & Independence, San Diego, CA
Sebastien Reyes, U-Haul International, Phoenix, AZ
Mary Rohrer, QMI, Chino, CA*
Mike Rohrer, QMI, Chino, CA*
Christine Schindler, Glenn Miller Birthplace Society, Clarinda, IA
Partie Shaber, Elizabeth Hospice, San Diego, CA
Cristoff Shay, Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA
Terry Shelswell, Military Vehicles Preservation Association, Clarkson, MI*
Murid Shelswell, Military Vehicles Preservation Association, Clarkson, MI*
Tori Simas, Girl Scouts, San Diego, CA*
Dr. Richard Small (Shirley) Military Order of the Purple Heart, Las Vegas, NV*
Tina Spicer, Twin Towers Senior Living, Cincinnati, OH
Janice Strang, National Anthem Girl, Los Angeles, CA
Bob Stein, President, American Society on Aging, San Francisco, CA*
Bob Stenevik, Commemorative Air Force, Joshua, TX *
Paula Stoeke, The Seward Johnson Atelier, Santa Monica, CA*
Gene Sweeney, The Liberator Foundation, Lakewood Ranch, FL
Kristina Taylor, Dignity Memorial, Portland, OR
Ron Travis, Last Frontier Honor Flight, Big Lake, AK
Lynda Travis, Last Frontier Honor Flight, Big Lake, AK
John Van Nostrand, Clarinda Herald-Journal, Clarinda, IA
James Villegas, Spirit of ’45 Youth Band Leader, San Diego, CA*
Ashleigh Wagner, U-Haul Corporation, Phoenix, AZ
Mary Weed, EAA Warbirds, Oshkosh, WI
Nancy and Steve Whiting, Spirit of ’45 Volunteers, Poway, San Diego, CA*
Linda Widbur, Honor Flight New Mexico, Las Cruces, NM*
Gary Yamnouchi, Mayor, Alhambra, CA
Jerry Yellin, Spirit of ’45 Day National Spokesman, Fairfield, IA*
Roy Zanni, Bugles Across America, San Diego, CA
Karl Zingheim, USS Midway Museum, San Diego, CA

* previous Conference attendee
San Diego lost one of its most beloved citizens last year when Jerry Coleman passed away at the age of 89.

Jerry was one of the first to support the “Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive!” campaign, joining fellow WWII veterans Ernie Borgnine and Tony Curtis as a national spokesman in January 2010, and representing Spirit of ’45 Day in the National Veterans Day Parade in New York City later that year.

Jerry spent 71 years as a professional ballplayer and broadcaster, and served as a Marine pilot in both World War II and the Korean War, flying a total of 120 missions and earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses. On hearing the news of Jerry’s passing, Commissioner Bud Selig issued the following statement:

“Jerry Coleman was a hero and a role model to myself and countless others in the game of baseball. He had a memorable, multifaceted career in the National Pastime – as an All-Star during the great Yankees’ dynasty from 1949-1953, a manager and, for more than a half-century, a beloved broadcaster for the San Diego Padres.

“But above all, Jerry’s decorated service to our country in both World War II and Korea made him an integral part of the greatest generation. He was a true friend whose counsel I valued greatly. Major League Baseball began its support of Welcome Back Veterans to honor the vibrant legacy of heroes like Jerry Coleman. Our entire sport mourns the loss of this fine gentleman…”

All of us who had the honor and privilege of knowing Jerry will always miss his good humor, wit and positive outlook on life. He will always be with us in Deep Spirit on the annual day that he did so much to make a reality.
Dear Friends

I’m delighted to be here with you at this Spirit of ’45 Leaders Conference where the countdown is on!

As you know, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and perhaps the last opportunity for America to come together to say “Thank you!” to the men and women who are often referred to as our country’s “Greatest Generation.”

Many of us have parents and extended family members who are proud members of the WWII generation, who grew up during the Great Depression, defeated oppression and collaborated to help end the Holocaust, and then began an unprecedented effort to ensure a better future for their children and their children’s children. This 70th Anniversary provides us with another opportunity to honor those who helped preserve freedom.

I am proud that the American Society on Aging is a founding member of “Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive,” the coalition that led the campaign that resulted in Congress unanimously voting for Spirit of ’45 Day, which is now being observed in August each year. ASA continues to help raise awareness of the Spirit of ’45 Day among its members with frequent articles in our by-monthly newspaper, Aging Today, and with presentations at our Aging in America Conferences.

We are especially inspired by the late Edith Shain, the nurse made famous around the world for the Life Magazine cover photo of her being kissed by a sailor in Times Square on August 14, 1945. Edith worked tirelessly to assure that this iconic image would inspire future generations to appreciate how important it is for people to come together as a community in difficult times.

ASA is helping commemorate the 70th Anniversary by encouraging the members of the senior living and care giving community to take part in events and activities that are being organized around the country to pay tribute to the surviving members of the WWII generation, and to help share their stories of courage, shared sacrifice and service.

I am so proud to join other Spirit of ’45 leaders as together we plan for this year’s once-in-history commemoration. None of us will ever forget what we are about to achieve – celebratory events, large and small, dedicated to recognizing those who served in uniform and those who supported them on the Home Front.

Together let’s help ensure that what they achieved on behalf of America and the world will forever be remembered.

Thank you for helping to keep their Spirit alive.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Stein
President and CEO
The Elizabeth Hospice serves communities in San Diego and Inland Empire.
(800) 797-2050
www.elizabethhospice.org

We are proud to welcome our fellow members of We Honor Veterans

2013 National Leaders Medal Recipients

Bryan Allison of the Murphy Funeral Home provided outstanding support to Memorial Day and Spirit of ’45 Day programs in Washington, DC in 2013, and helped organize a special tribute to Jerry Coleman at the Navy Memorial in January. Bryan represents the nearly 2000 members of the Dignity Memorial network.

The Rhode Island Hospice Veterans Program, led by Michelle August of Beacon Hospice organized 18 community events on Spirit of ’45 Day, befitting the state that contributed more troops as a percentage of its population than any other during World War II.
Thank you

Walgreens was in Times Square on the day of the historic kiss and is helping to keep the Spirit of the Greatest Generation by honoring them on the anniversary of their greatest day. Walgreens national network of more than 6,000 stores are now being invited to help celebrate Spirit of ’45 Day in their community.


Walgreens donated 100 poster of local WWII vets that Girl Scouts carried in the San Diego Veterans Day Parade.

Indy Honor Flight with photo posters donated by their Walgreen’s during visit to WWII Memorial in September 2012.

Elinor Otto, 95, began her carrier as a “Rosie the Riveter” in 1942, retired from Boeing in November 2014. Above Ellen chats with talk show host Ellen Degeneres about her war time job.

Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive!

salutes those who powered the Arsenal of Democracy!

Remember the Homefront!

The more WOMEN at work the sooner we WIN!

World War II Home Front National Historical Park

Walgreens

Elinor Otto, 95, began her carrier as a “Rosie the Riveter” in 1942, retired from Boeing in November 2014. Above Ellen chats with talk show host Ellen Degeneres about her war time job.

Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive!

salutes those who powered the Arsenal of Democracy!
The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Bugles Across America, the American Battle Monuments Commission, the VA National Cemeteries Administration, the National Parks Service and other participating organizations, invite the public to honor the World War II generation by placing wreaths at memorials, cemeteries and other locations around the world on Sunday, August 16, 2015.

The 70th Anniversary Commemorative “Tribute” will begin in the Western Pacific with a ceremony organized by the Philippine Scouts at the American cemetery in Manila, Philippines, and continue westward through Europe with individual ceremonies in countries where Americans sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom. Ceremonies will take place at national and local memorials and cemeteries throughout the U.S., concluding at the National Memorial of the Pacific Cemetery in Hawaii.

This Veterans Day...

Join us in honoring our nation’s World War II veterans at local Veterans Day activities across America!

WWII veteran Vince Schoenstein & Kelly Estes, grand-niece of KIA Doolittle Raider Don Fitzmaurice, lead the 2012 Veterans Day Parade in San Jose.

Monday, May 25, 2015

Youth (ages 10-20) are invited to honor the men and women who gave their lives in defense of freedom during World War II by carrying their photos in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

At the end of the Parade, the youth will pass in front of the Wall of Gold Stars at the National World War II Memorial and pose for a group photo to document their Memorial Day of Service.

11:00 AM  Pre-Parade Briefing  US Navy Memorial (Burke Theatre)
701 Pennsylvania NW, Wash. DC (National Archives Metro Station)

12:00 PM  Opening Ceremony
Group photo on steps of National Archives
(Bring your own brown bag lunch)

2:00 - 3:00 PM  National Memorial Day Parade followed by wreath laying and performance of “Taps” at National World War II Memorial

Visit: www.spiritof45.org

Jaime Sawatsky | (703) 802-7723 | JBSawatzky@fcps.edu
JOIN THE CONVOY!
SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 18, 2015

Glen Abbey Memorial Park & Mortuary
is proud to help Keep the Spirit of ‘45 ALIVE! by providing wreaths for the closing ceremony of the 2015 National Leaders Conference

3838 Bonita Road - Bonita, CA 91902
(619) 498-4600
www.glenabbysandiego.com

September 15 – October 18, 2015

Glen Abbey
Memorial Park & Mortuary

www.mvpa.org

Depart from Washington, DC (King’s Dominion)
Saturday, Sept 19

Lunch in South Hill, VA
Overnight in Durham, NC
Sunday, Sept 20

Lunch stop in Lexington, NC
Overnight in Charlotte, NC
Monday, Sept 21

Rest day in Charlotte, NC
Tuesday, Sept 22

Lunch stop in Spartanburg, SC
Overnight in Anderson, SC
Wednesday, Sept 23

Lunch stop in Lawrenceville, GA
Overnight in Villa Rica, GA
Thursday, Sept 24

Lunch stop in Talladega, AL
Overnight in Tannehill SP AL
Friday, Sept 25

Rest day in Tannehill SP AL
Saturday, Sept 26

Lunch in Tannehill SP AL
Sunday, Sept 27

Lunch stop in Amory, MS
Overnight in Oxford, MS
Monday, Sept 28

Lunch stop in Tuscumbia, MS
Overnight in Helena, AR
Tuesday, Sept 29

Rest day in Hot Springs, AR
Wednesday, Oct 1

Lunch stop at Texarkana, TX
Overnight in Paris, TX
Thursday, Oct 2

Lunch stop in McKinney, TX
Overnight in Garland, TX
Friday, Oct 3

Early stop & overnight in Ft. Worth, TX
Saturday, Oct 4

Rest day in Ft. Worth, TX
Sunday, Oct 5

Lunch stop in Mineral Wells, TX
Overnight in Eastland, TX
Monday, Oct 6

Lunch stop in Cisco, TX
Overnight in Sweetwater, TX
Tuesday, Oct 7

Early stop & overnight in Midland, TX
Overnight in Van Horn, TX
Wednesday, Oct 8

Lunch stop in Pecos, TX
Overnight in Deming, NM
Thursday, Oct 9

Lunch stop in El Paso, TX
Overnight in Tucson, AZ
Friday, Oct 10

Rest stop in Deming, NM
Saturday, Oct 11

Lunch stop in Tombstone, AZ
Overnight in Gila Bend, AZ
Sunday, Oct 12

Lunch stop in Ajo, AZ
Overnight in Yuma, AZ
Monday, Oct 13

Lunch stop TBD
Tuesday, Oct 14

Rest day in Yuma, AZ
Wednesday, Oct 15

Stop early & overnight in El Centro, CA
Thursday, October 16

Arrive early & overnight in San Diego, CA
Saturday, October 17

Convoy disbands and disperses
Sunday, October 18

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THANK YOU VETERANS