



*Edith Shain, the famous  
"Times Square Nurse"*



*That's me with Edith and former  
Secretary of State Colin Powell*

## **A Personal Request from an Iwo Jima Survivor**

Dear Friend,

More than 66 years ago, I was a young teenager on the beach of Iwo Jima fighting for my life during one of the worst battles of World War II. Today I'm fighting a battle against time and I need your help.

I'm writing to you on behalf of my dear friend, Edith Shain. Edith was the nurse in the famous photograph taken in Times Square on August 14, 1945, the historic day President Truman announced that World War II was over.

A few years ago, Edith decided to use her "accidental celebrity" to lead a national grassroots movement to create an annual day to honor the "ordinary heroes" of the WWII generation so that their example of courage, self-sacrifice, service and national unity would forever inspire future generations of Americans – especially our youth.

Sadly, Edith passed away last year, just before her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. But her vision became reality a few weeks later when Congress unanimously voted in support of a **National Spirit of '45 Day**.

This new national day is to be observed on the second Sunday of August, coinciding with the day America learned the war was over and began rebuilding the postwar world to help assure a better life for our children and their children's children.

I remember the joy and pride we all felt on August 14, 1945, the day the war ended. I also remember the sadness I felt for my buddies who died on the beaches of Iwo, and the 400,000 other young men who made the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom.



My generation is now rapidly fading into history. I hope that all Americans will take a moment every year on the second Sunday in August every year to remember that Day, to honor those who served and those who stood behind us, to remember the sacrifices of those who never came home, and to keep the Spirit of '45 alive!

This year National Spirit of '45 Day is being observed on Sunday, August 14. I respectfully ask that you have some observance in your community, even if it is just a simple wreath laying at your local WWII memorial or other appropriate location. It means a lot to us.

Semper Fi!

Harold "Skip" Adams USMC (Ret.)