



Gary Richard Herbert

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, the state of Utah and its residents honor the more than 65,000 servicemen and women from Utah who served in the Armed Forces during World War II;

Whereas, the World War II participation rate among males 15 years of age or older in Utah was 41 percent—the third highest in the nation after the District of Columbia and Nevada, which were 43 percent each;

Whereas, approximately 7,000 World War II veterans currently call Utah home;

Whereas, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II on August 14, 1945, the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs and the Utah State History Division are asking World War II veterans and their families in Utah to submit stories and artifacts, such as diaries, photos, and memoirs, in order to collect people's recollections of where they were when the war ended both in the European and the Pacific theaters and their experiences;

Whereas, the historical record of individual service thus created is not only a tremendous way to preserve the legacy of Utah veterans who served in World War II and their unique perspective on the end of that conflict, but it will also become a precious asset to the state of Utah and the nation;

Whereas, the victory marked the culmination of an enormous national effort that defeated the forces of aggression, brought freedom to subjugated nations, and ended the horrors of the war;

Whereas, these historic accomplishments were achieved through the collective service and personal sacrifice of the people of the United States, including both those who served in uniform and those who supported them on the home front; and

Whereas, the entire World War II generation—the Greatest Generation—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 our country and the world;

Now, therefore, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, I, Gary R. Herbert, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare August 9-15, 2015, as

Spirit of '45 Week in Utah

Gary R. Herbert

Governor