



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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February 2, 2012

Dear Mr. Hegg,

Congratulations upon the commencement of the Spirit of '45 National Leadership Conference. Your efforts are an important way to commemorate the achievement, courage and ultimate sacrifice of the "Greatest Generation." I salute your endeavor to properly honor them as well as the spirit of collective patriotism of '45.

Of course, we can never repay what our nation owes to our World War II veterans and the countless others who contributed to the effort to defeat the Axis powers – *not* as conquerors, but as liberators – and then, in turn, used America's economic and political power to defend freedom and rebuild a shattered world. As an organization of combat veterans, we believe that it is imperative to ensure that their memory and important legacy will not fade or disappear into anonymity.

It is equally important to remember the obligation we owe to all veterans. Simply put, because of their actions and devotion to duty, the flame of freedom burns brighter today than ever before throughout the world. The tradition of service demonstrated by those who served during World War II and succeeding generations provides lasting testimony to the indomitable and tenacious spirit that resides in the heart of our military veterans.

We thank you for your dedication and your noble effort in honoring and keeping their historical heritage alive for future generations of Americans to appreciate.

Sincerely,

Richard L. DeNoyer
VFW National Commander