

# V...—MAIL



IN THIS ISSUE

## Victory in Europe





945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130  
nationalww2museum.org  
504-528-1944 / 877-813-3329

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

All Museum venues are open seven days a week.  
9:00 AM — 5:00 PM

#### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Mardi Gras Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day

#### ONLINE

Visit [nationalww2museum.org](http://nationalww2museum.org) for information on planning your visit, special exhibits, public programs and more or to sign up for e-mail updates.

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INSTAGRAM @ [wwiimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/wwiimuseum)

MUSEUM BLOG [nww2m.com](http://nww2m.com)

#### CONTACT US

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New Orleans, LA 70130  
504-528-1944  
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The National WWII Museum as a benefit  
to Museum Charter Members.

#### ON THE COVER

William R. Wilson (right) and brother Cpl. Jack Wilson (left) standing by a German 88 mm gun at Verdun, France, on V-E Day. Library of Congress.

# From the President and CEO



A

We feel immense pride in the recent opening of our latest pavilion, Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters, which will bring all phases of the war—on two vast fronts—to life for the next generation of Museum visitors. But each new pavilion hall at our campus would be of little consequence if it were not for the wonderful individual artifacts and images that are assembled inside, helping to tell the war story.

One especially valuable item was added to our collection in the fall, a gift from Tiffany and David Oestreicher of New Orleans: an original photograph from combat in Normandy, taken by the legendary Robert Capa. The Oestreichers acquired the rare image from a London gallery after concluding that it carried unusual emotional power.

This dramatic black-and-white image, titled “American Troops Approaching Cherbourg, France,” depicts an American GI leaping into a hedgerow, rifle in hand,



GORDON H. “NICK” MUELLER, PHD  
PRESIDENT & CEO

as a battle against German forces raged. It was snapped on June 26, 1944, just three weeks after the historic Allied invasion in Normandy.

The Museum is indebted to Tiffany and David Oestreicher, passionate advocates for the cultural arts, for this generous gift. We look forward to giving the photograph a special home in one of our exhibit spaces, where everyone can appreciate it.



## MEMBERSHIP

# Renew Your Membership for Our Next Grand Opening



B

A— At a ceremony in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center on October 9, 2014, the Museum accepted the donation of a rare photograph by Robert Capa. The photograph, purchased in London, was given to the Museum by Tiffany and David Oestreicher.

B— Veterans, dignitaries, and donors gather for the opening of *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* on December 12, 2014.

On December 31, we mailed new membership cards to our 133,000 Charter Members across the country. To all of our members who have already renewed this year, *thank you* for your continuing support. If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2015, there's still time to reaffirm your commitment to The National WWII Museum.

With the recent opening of *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* and the upcoming opening of *Road to Tokyo: Pacific Theater Galleries*, there is more than ever to experience at the world-class institution we are building with your help. As we look forward to the rest of the year—including exciting events on June 6 to mark the Museum's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary—there is also much to celebrate: growing attendance, an ever-improving campus, innovative new exhibit spaces, a robust online and digital presence, and most of all our loyal members, whose ongoing support makes it all possible.

Please take a moment today to renew your membership, and help us continue our expansion and bring the story of the Greatest Generation to people of all generations.

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To renew your membership or become a Charter Member, please call the Membership Department at 877-813-3329 x 290.

# Remembering V-E Day



A— As Germany's surrender is announced, crowds of overjoyed soldiers and civilians celebrate the arrival of the long-awaited peace in Europe. U.S. Army Signal Corp Photograph, Gift of Maude Hayman, 2004.311.165

After nearly six years of destructive horror by the Third Reich across the European continent, the ending plays of the war would finally come in a second-floor room in the College Moderne et Technique de Garçons in Reims, France.

After the suicide of Adolf Hitler on April 30, 1945, the mantle of state had been passed on to Admiral Karl Donitz according to Hitler's last political testament. Berlin had fallen to the

Red Army on May 2. Across Germany, millions of civilians and soldiers sought to surrender to Anglo-American forces rather than face the wrath of the Soviets. Roads and transport systems were clogged with refugees moving to the west.

On the morning of Thursday, May 3, Admiral Hans-Georg von Friedeburg entered the camp of British field marshal Bernard Montgomery at Luneburg Heath, southeast of Hamburg. Friedeburg had



taken over the German navy and under the auspices of Donitz now approached Montgomery to inquire about peace terms. When Friedeburg asked if Montgomery would accept the surrender of the German armies escaping from the east and the Red Army, however, Montgomery refused in the name of Allied unity. He countered with an offer to accept the surrender of those German forces immediately opposing his 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group. Friedeburg stalled. But faced with Germany's hopeless situation, he returned the following Friday evening to accept the British terms. The capitulation document would be subordinate to a general surrender to Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), but Montgomery signed the document at 1830 hours on Friday, May 4.

The next step would be for Friedeburg to quickly travel to Reims, but bad weather inhibited travel and he did not arrive until Saturday evening, whereupon he promptly began to vacillate over terms again. Friedeburg proposed to surrender only German forces fleeing to the west, again in effect refusing to surrender to the Soviets. On Eisenhower's behalf, Generals Smith and Strong informed Friedeburg that only unconditional surrender would be accepted. In tears, Friedeburg insisted that only Donitz could affirm such terms.

A long day passed until General Alfred Jodl, head of the Wehrmacht High Command (OKW), arrived the following evening (Sunday, May 6) to continue negotiations. After enduring Jodl's prediction that, eventually, the Anglo-Americans would have to fight

the Soviets, it became clear that the Germans were simply stalling in order to allow as many of their forces and people as possible to surrender to the British and Americans. Eisenhower told his negotiators to inform them that he would close the Anglo-American lines in the west in 48 hours and refuse to take any further Germans into custody regardless of whether they signed the surrender. Faced with the inevitable and in consultation with Donitz, Jodl agreed to sign.

In the early morning hours of Monday, May 7, members of the press were brought into the SHAEF second-floor war room in the redbrick French technical college, with huge maps depicting the immense war draped across the walls around an oak table and chairs. In plain gray covers, the Act of Military Surrender was signed by the Germans and an 11-member Allied delegation. Eisenhower did not attend, staying in his office down the hall, smoking and walking back and forth. After the 10-minute ceremony, Jodl was led down the hall for a short encounter with Eisenhower, who icily informed him that he would be held personally liable if the surrender terms were violated. Jodl agreed and left; but it would not be enough to keep him from justice at Nuremburg and the gallows.

Eisenhower then dictated a cable to tell the news of V-E Day in Europe: "The mission of this Allied force was fulfilled at 0241, local time, May 7, 1945." Officially, V-E Day would be the following day, May 8, 1945.

Peace, albeit incomplete, finally dawned in Europe. Indicative of the diverging

political aims of the Allies, the Soviets insisted on a separate German surrender ceremony to the Red Army in Berlin. The event could not take place until May 8, and thus shifted the official Soviet V-E Day celebrations back a day; more importantly, it was a visible crack in the Grand Alliance, separating the Soviet wartime experience and achievement from the Anglo-Americans. Across the globe, brutal war still raged as American forces were locked in savage battle with the Japanese at Okinawa, with a more terrible, violent climax still to come. But with the long-awaited arrival of V-E Day, the Grand Alliance had gone the distance to achieve a triumph in the history of the world: the would-be thousand-year-old reign of Hitler's Third Reich was eradicated from the face of the earth.

*Article by Dr. Keith Huxen, the Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Director of History and Research.*

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Learn more about World War II anniversaries.  
Follow @wwiitoday on Twitter, or visit —

[nww2m.com](http://nww2m.com)



# Writing Home from V-E Day

The National WWII Museum receives thousands of letters a year documenting the war through personal correspondence between friends, husbands and wives, and children and parents. Each one of these letters is personal and unique—important qualities that we strive to reflect in our archives. As the anniversary of V-E Day grows near, we offer our V-Mail audience an excerpt of one of these letters, written in Europe by SHAEF WAC J.C. Ramirez to her mother, Mrs. Claude Songy, in Mathews, Louisiana, regarding her experience of this momentous event.

... Mother, I can just imagine how happy you must have been hearing the good news over the radio—we were just as excited especially after standing around right under Ike's window and watching the German Generals and Russian and British officials negotiating peace terms. Rooney and I were lucky enough to be on all night duty the night it was signed—so we were among the first ones to know, as it was not to be announced officially for hours later. When we heard it that night, we just sat and looked at each other. We couldn't say a word we were just worn out. We saw Ike and all the other officials leave at 4 am. They drove right past our window so we could see them very well. That was quite thrilling—I can tell my grandchildren that I was in on the big show right up to the finish....

On the second page she describes her experience of later that day:

... I was in Paris when it was announced officially. It was announced from a loud-speaker in front of the Opera. I was sitting at a little sidewalk café—the Café de la Paix. The town just went wild, Mother. I never saw anything like it in all my life.

I never got kissed by so many strangers in all my life....

Do you have a collection of letters from the war years you are interested in donating?

To discuss a permanent home for these important collections, please contact Lindsey Barnes at 504-528-1944 x 378 or email —

[lindsey.barnes@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:lindsey.barnes@nationalww2museum.org)

20 May 1945

Dearest Mother:

Received your small letter dated May 9<sup>th</sup> - was so very glad to hear from you - Mother, I can just imagine how happy you must have been hearing the good news over the radio - we were just as excited especially after standing around right under Ike's window and watching the German Generals & Russian & British officials negotiating peace terms - Rooney & I were lucky enough to be on all night duty the night it was signed - so we were among the first ones to know - as it was not to be announced officially for hours later. When we heard it that night, we just sat & looked at each other - We couldn't say a word we were just worn out - We saw Ike & all the other officials leave at 4 AM - They drove right past our window so we could see them very well - That was quite thrilling - I can tell my grandchildren that I was in on the big show right up to the finish. Now that it can be told Mother I was in the little red school house at Rheims, mentioned in the newspaper. I have been here since February - before that, Mother, I was stationed at Versailles, just outside of Paris for 5 1/2 months - I could get into Paris once a week - which was quite exciting - before that I was stationed just outside of London - I couldn't tell you at the time but Mother, we took a terrific pounding when the Germans were sending over their terrible buzzy bombs - I shall never forget those horrible months as long as I live - those long terrible nights have left a horrible scar in my mind - Every night from June 12<sup>th</sup> until the day we left England which was Sept 3 - for 4 months, day & night they sent those things over, Mother until I thought I'd go crazy - During the month of August, when they sent them over, man at one time

## COLLECTIONS

# Our Oral History Collection Needs Your Help!

As The National WWII Museum looks to the future, we are excited that great things are happening with our capital expansion campaign. The soaring new pavilion Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters opened to the public in December 2014, with the dedication of its first-floor exhibition: *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries*. *Road to Tokyo: Pacific Theater Galleries* will open on the pavilion's second floor in December 2015. But our mission is not complete: We still have plans to open permanent galleries

dedicated to the American Home Front in the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, and the Liberation Pavilion will tell the story of the meaning of the war in our modern world.

The personal experience of the citizen soldier is the foundation upon which our Museum was established. Our oral history collection offers access to thousands of first-person narratives from men and women who lived through World War II—giving Museum visitors a uniquely personal connection to the war years and positioning the Museum as an important

repository of these remarkable stories. Sadly, time is growing shorter to honor these members of the Greatest Generation and record their stories. In the time that remains, the Research Department of The National WWII Museum is making a strenuous effort to collect the oral histories of the men and women who achieved victory and preserved freedom for our nation. We know that not every voice can be captured. However, we wish to capture as many as possible, especially those whose stories support ongoing work on our permanent Home Front exhibits and the Liberation Pavilion.

Therefore, we are asking the public to help us identify oral history candidates. We also are asking the public to help identify existing “orphaned” oral history collections that might need a new home as part of the museum’s collection. We seek to capture and preserve the stories of the WWII generation for future generations, and to support the Museum’s mission in telling the American experience in World War II: why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today.

A— A handwritten letter from J.C. Ramirez to her mother speaks of the high spirits that abounded as the Allies secured an official peace in Europe. Gift of Enid Nielson, 2003.162.001

B— Lt. Clarence Coggins poses in his Jeep after helping convince his German captors to release POWs—including himself—in Grenoble, France, August 25, 1944. U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph, Gift of Regan Forrester, 2002.337.877



B

Explore oral histories on our Digital Collections website —

[ww2online.org](http://ww2online.org)



# Tom Czekanski: In the Footsteps of Easy Company

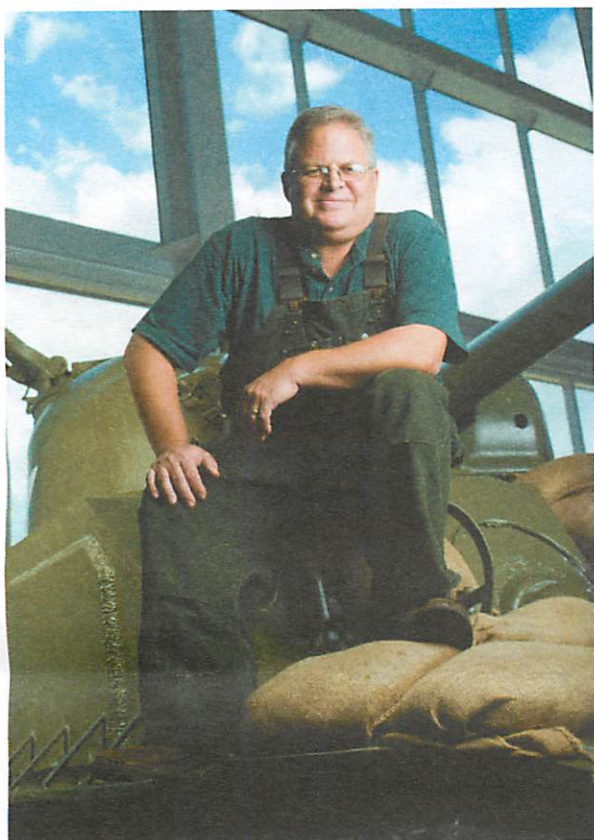


Photo courtesy of Jeff Johnston

A 14-year veteran of the Museum, Tom Czekanski is a well-known and beloved fixture—most often seen sporting his signature overalls while driving the Sherman tank, overseeing the restoration of PT-305, or working hard keeping any number of the Museum's WWII-era vehicles in running condition.

This June, Tom will step temporarily out of his role as Director of Collections & Exhibits to guide the Museum's inaugural *Band of Brothers* tour.

"It will be exciting to take guests to the actual places where Easy Company fought, slept, and formed the bonds that would last many of them a lifetime,"

says Czekanski. "This is an experience we cannot replicate in even the best and most immersive exhibits. It is truly the type of thing that people have on their bucket list."

*Band of Brothers: In the Footsteps of Easy Company*, June 3–15, 2015, takes guests through the hedgerows of Normandy, down "Hell's Highway" in The Netherlands, through the last line of defense at Bastogne, to the last patrol. It is a travel opportunity not to be missed.

Find out more about this and other Museum travel programs, call 877-813-3329 x 257 or visit us online at —

[ww2museumtours.org](http://ww2museumtours.org)

## Upcoming Travel Programs and Tours in 2015

This year, the Museum presents thrilling new tours abroad and exclusive opportunities at our home campus:

**EUROPE:** *Band of Brothers* (England, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria)

Through the book by Stephen Ambrose and the HBO mini-series of the same name, *Band of Brothers* helped make the story of "Easy Company" nothing short of legendary. Now guests can follow in their footsteps through this luxurious tour of seven European countries. It's a breathtaking journey—and a thrilling way to experience the story of the war years.

**HAWAII:** *Remembering Pearl Harbor*

December 3–9, 2015, explore the formerly little-known, exotic islands that were thrust into the center of American consciousness one fateful day in December 1941, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that would forever bear the name of the once-tranquil locale. Stay tuned for more information about this all-new tour.

**NEW ORLEANS:** *Behind the Lines*

Call to schedule your exclusive VIP tour of our New Orleans campus, offered every Friday with advance reservations. You'll have the chance to handle rarely seen artifacts in the Museum vault, climb into a Sherman tank, and dine with a curator in our private dining rooms. Group size is limited, so book early!



## 2015 International Conference on WWII coming November 19-21

The fifth installment in our 70th Anniversary Conference series, presented by Tawani Foundation in association with Pritzker Military Museum and Library, will explore the war's final year and focus on why—despite all signs pointing toward their defeat—Germany and Japan continued to fight fanatically to the bitter end. That brutal year saw the Battle of the Bulge, the discovery of concentration camps throughout Europe, the firebombing of Dresden and Tokyo, the Battle of Berlin, the “to the last man” Japanese defenses at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and atomic weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

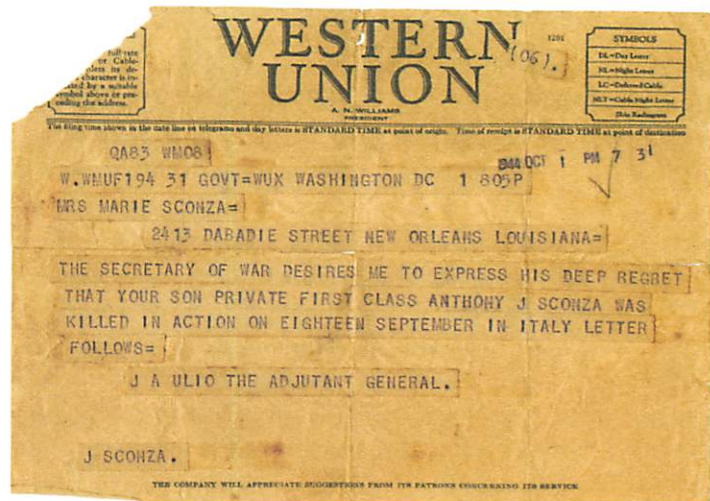
Building on the success of our D-Day Symposium in 2014, the 2015 Conference will also be supplemented by a one-day symposium available exclusively to Conference attendees. It will cover the discovery and liberation of concentration camps in 1945, and the consequences of the Holocaust for the liberators, survivors, and perpetrators.

The Conference, which has grown in size every year since 2010, continues to sell out, and we expect the 2015 Conference to do the same.

Find out more about the 2015 conference, call 877-813-3329 x 511 or visit us online at —

[ww2conference.com](http://ww2conference.com)

# Museum Keeps Memories Alive in Exhibits and Online



As Memorial Day approaches, the Museum honors those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Through narrative profiles, family remembrances, and personal artifacts, we are proud to feature many of their stories on-site and online. On your next visit to the Museum, don't miss these moving artifacts, on display in the new *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* and throughout the Museum:

**SERVICE CAP OF ROLAND EHLERS**  
*Louisiana Memorial Pavilion,*  
*Dog Tag Experience*

Roland Ehlers enlisted in the Army in 1940, along with his brother Walt. Together, the brothers went to California for amphibious training, then deployed overseas. When Roland was wounded during the invasion of Sicily, Walt dug him out of the dirt and shrapnel where he lay. But for their next amphibious landing, the brothers would be bound for separate beaches—and only one would survive. Roland was killed by a mortar round as he disembarked from his Higgins boat.

**DOG TAGS AND CASKET NAME PLATE OF ANTHONY SCONZA**  
*The Italian Campaign Gallery*

Pfc. Sconza served with H Company, 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In a V-Mail to his brother, Anthony writes of the excessive amount of combat he had seen: “Don’t say anything in your letters about this, I don’t want the family to know I’m in action.” He was killed on September 18, 1944, during the battle of Torricella Hill.

**WRECKAGE OF AUGUSTUS HAMILTON'S P-47**  
*Air War Gallery, Dog Tag Experience*

Augustus Hamilton's bags were packed to head home to his wife and newborn son when he volunteered for one last mission. Hamilton was shot down over France, sacrificing himself to buy the rest of his squadron time to escape German fighters. What little was left of his plane was discovered long after the war's end.

Learn more about *Dog Tag Experience* at —  
[dogtagexperience.org](http://dogtagexperience.org)

Join us in honoring our fallen heroes at —  
[mymemorialday.org](http://mymemorialday.org)



# Adult Learning Webinars Welcome Virtual Visitors

Using the same technology that has allowed the Museum to reach almost 20,000 students this past school year, the Museum is unveiling its newest program for lifelong learners. The Adult Learning Webinar Series allows an unprecedented look into the Museum's collection, special projects and exhibits, and important anniversaries for those WWII enthusiasts the Museum can't always reach in person. Featuring Museum curators, educators, *and special guests*, past programs this year have featured D-Day and Digital Collections, Japanese Americans in the military, and caring for your own artifact collection.

Next up: A webinar series commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. In this three-part series from late February to late March, we'll go beyond the famous flag raising to explore the landings and the intense five-week battle that ensued, costing nearly 7,000 American lives. We will delve into the Museum's extensive collection, including photographs and oral histories from the Digital Collections site, and encounter unique stories of strength, survival, and perseverance on the volcanic island of Iwo Jima. Viewers will have the opportunity to ask questions and participate in polls throughout all of the programs.

There is no need to worry about the technology—all you need is a computer with a high-speed internet connection to view and participate. Tune in to one or all three:

Part One: Landings and Flag Raising  
Thursday, February 26  
12:00–1:00 pm Central Time

Part Two: Valor and Sacrifice  
Thursday, March 12  
12:00–1:00 pm Central Time

Part Three: Victory and Legacy  
Thursday, March 26  
12:00–1:00 pm Central Time



Register and learn more about pricing, content, and other details at —

[nationalww2museum.org/adultlearning](http://nationalww2museum.org/adultlearning)



# Museum Summer Camps Make Their 2015 Return



B

A— One of many images to be included in the three-part webinar series, this February 1945 image from Iwo Jima shows wounded Marines being helped to an air station. Gift of Charles Ives, from the collection of The National WWII Museum.

B— Campers in the Museum's Science Camp experiment with a new concoction, under the watchful eye of their counselor.

C— Creative activities engage both mind and body for an action-packed day filled with unique challenges.



C

In June and July 2014, the Museum hosted more than 100 boys and girls for six weeks of educational summer camps. For the second year in a row, Science Camp explored WWII history through the science and technology of the war that changed the world. In addition, two new summer camp offerings: Spy Camp, where young campers became junior sleuths, and Theater Camp, which saw a troupe of talented young stars bring the house down in their own WWII-themed variety show.

We are happy to announce that this summer will see the return of all three Museum summer camps. Each has been designed by our educational specialists to engage, inspire, and entertain with its own unique style. Distinctive themes mean there is an option for children of every interest. And staggered sessions mean it's even possible to construct a custom program with all three. Make 2015 a summer to remember for the special child in your life with one or more of these upcoming camp sessions:

## Science Camp

3 one-week sessions: June 8–12, 15–19, and 22–26

## Spy Camp

2 one-week sessions: June 29–July 3 and July 6–10

## Theater Camp

1 two-week session: July 6–17

Get more information about age ranges, schedules, and price points online at —

[nationalww2museum.org/summercamps](http://nationalww2museum.org/summercamps)



# Museum Events Engage Supporters at all Levels

SAVE THE DATE — Friday, June 12, 2015

Celebrate The National WWII Museum's 15th anniversary at the 2015 Whitney Bank Victory Ball!

The date is set for the 2015 Whitney Bank Victory Ball, and this year's event is sure to be the most memorable yet. The gala, to be held in the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, will highlight the Museum's history as well as major achievements along the Road to Victory—from the Museum's opening in 2000 through the opening of *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* this past December.

This year, the Museum will celebrate and thank some of the most pivotal people in our history—those who have helped

make The National WWII Museum what it is today—including veterans, donors, friends, members, community supporters, celebrities, students, and staff. The pinnacle of the evening will be the presentation of the Silver Service Medallion to the Museum's inaugural "Annual Partners of the Year," honoring supporters who have helped advance the mission of the Museum and WWII history education.

Another very special addition to the annual fundraiser will be the presentation of four Crystal Achievement Awards (Individual, Philanthropist, Foundation, and Education Partner) recognizing a tradition of service to the Museum over the past 15 years. Funds raised through sponsorships from



B



A

this event will provide scholarships for incoming high school juniors to participate in the Museum's Student Leadership Program summer residential experience in New Orleans, and Normandy Academy, which takes students into the footsteps of history at key sites of the D-Day Normandy invasions.





A— US Freedom Pavilion:  
The Boeing Center was in  
stunning form for 2014's  
Whitney Bank Victory Ball  
dinner.

B— Gourmet dining is a  
highlight of the Whitney  
Bank Victory Ball, which  
boasts delicious dinners  
elegantly served.

C— The next generation  
of donors enjoys outdoor  
music, food, and drinks at  
Drafts for Crafts.

SAVE THE DATE — Friday, March 20, 2015  
The Museum's Young Benefactors will host  
Drafts for Crafts on the Colonel Battle Barksdale  
Parade Ground.

With a more casual vibe, Drafts for  
Crafts stars live music, a silent auction,  
and a delicious sampling of food from  
the best restaurants in New Orleans.  
The inaugural event last year featured  
more than a dozen restaurants, including  
Galatoire's, Emeril's, Tableau, and Mopho.  
This year's event will be a wonderful  
chance to *sample the city's culinary best*  
while supporting a worthy cause.

Proceeds from Drafts for Crafts go  
directly toward the work being done on  
PT-305, the Higgins patrol-torpedo boat  
currently being restored to its original  
WWII-era specifications in the John E.  
Kushner Restoration Pavilion.

The PT-305 project began with a  
volunteer team that originally included  
close to 40 WWII veterans. Since work  
on the boat began in 2010, members of  
that team have contributed over 76,000  
volunteer man-hours to the restoration.  
Funding from Drafts for Crafts has  
helped support this monumental effort,  
the result of which will be a uniquely  
tangible, experiential way for today's  
generations to connect with the service  
of the citizen soldier.



C

To attend or learn more about the Whitney Bank  
Victory Ball or Drafts for Crafts, contact —

[audrey.voelker@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:audrey.voelker@nationalww2museum.org)



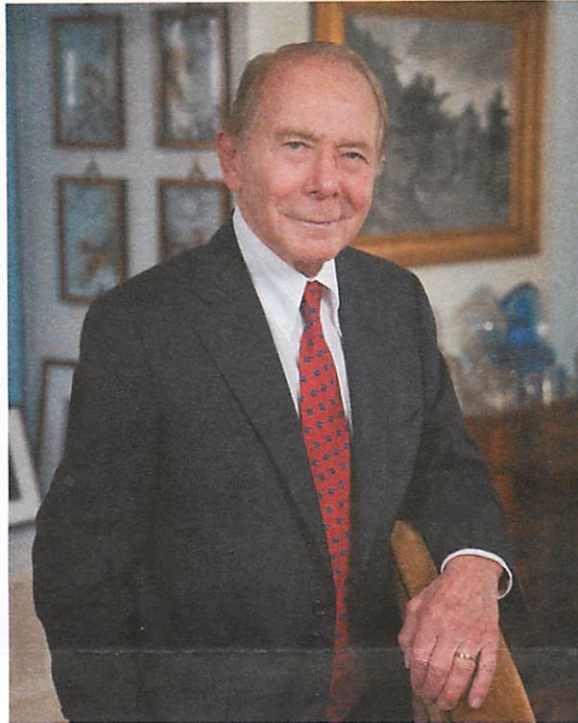
# Starr Foundation Gift Focuses on European Theater and American Ideals

In this edition of *V-Mail*, the Museum is proud to highlight one of our greatest supporters, The Starr Foundation. The Foundation has generously underwritten the Battle of the Bulge gallery in *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* and also sponsored Grand Opening events for *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* in December.

The Starr Foundation was established in 1955 by Cornelius Vander Starr, who served in the US Army during World War I. He died in 1968 at age 76, leaving his estate to the Foundation, and the running of the Foundation to his business partners—Ernest E. Stempel, John J. Roberts, Houghton Freeman, and Maurice R. “Hank” Greenberg—under Greenberg’s leadership. The partners were all WWII veterans: Stempel, Roberts, and Freeman all served in the Navy in the Pacific, and Greenberg served in the Army in Europe.

Greenberg served throughout the European Theater, landing on the beaches of Normandy, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, and liberating concentration camps in Germany. Greenberg received the Legion of Honor from the French government on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in 2014. When being praised for his brave military service, Greenberg responds that he was “only one of millions of WWII veterans who fought for our country.”

The Starr Foundation awarded the Museum a \$1 million grant after Museum founder Stephen Ambrose met with Greenberg in 2001. Eager to dedicate a space that would preserve the story



A

A— Maurice “Hank” Greenberg is the Chairman of The Starr Foundation, as well as the Chairman and CEO of C.V. Starr & Co., where he has worked since 1960.

B— A leather-bound book, part of every Campaigns of Courage Brick Package, features an image of your memorial brick as an at-home memento.

of the European Theater in Greenberg’s honor, The Starr Foundation generously provided an additional gift in 2010 in support of the Museum’s Road to Victory capital campaign to name the Battle of the Bulge gallery.

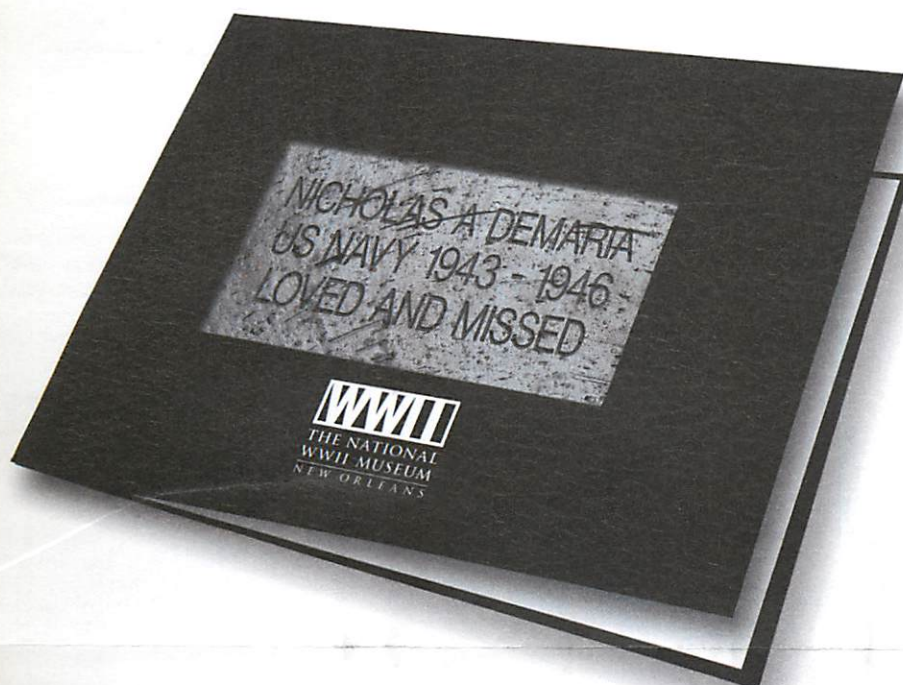
Foundation president and chairperson Florence Davis believes the Museum is “a good reminder of the ideals that Americans fought for in the past and what we continue to fight for today.”

One priority of The Starr Foundation is to “invest in education and international affairs.” Davis states that “the Museum educates visitors about the positive lessons of how the country pulled together on rationing, war bonds, and enlistment in huge numbers, as well

as the negative lessons of the (racial) segregation of troops and internment of Japanese Americans. Understanding the entire history of World War II, wars and all, is very important.” The Museum is grateful for The Starr Foundation’s support and for the vision and leadership of Greenberg and Davis, who have played key roles in developing the Museum into a world-class institution.



# Final Call for Campaigns of Courage Bricks



B

More than 800 bricks, purchased by loved ones in honor of their friends, family, and beloved veterans, are now a permanent part of our newest pavilion, Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters.

When conceptualized, the Museum was intended to provide members and friends with a unique and meaningful way to preserve their family connections to World War II. There are so many stories of valor in the history of the war that led to Allied victory, and these bricks offer an opportunity to pay homage to those who paved the way for our freedom.

Only 1,764 bricks were made available and approximately 800 spaces remain for you to honor your personal hero. The purchasing deadline is June 30, 2015, to

ensure all bricks are engraved and placed in time for the opening of *Road to Tokyo: Pacific Theater Galleries* in December 2015.

In addition to the lasting memorial of their brick in the atrium of Campaigns of Courage on the Museum campus, donors will also receive an elegant leather-bound book that includes a timeline of the most significant events of *the war that changed the world*. Both the certificate and book are personalized with your engraved message exactly as it will appear on the brick at the Museum.

To order your Campaigns of Courage Brick Package, call 877-813-3329 x 500, or email —  
[bricks@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:bricks@nationalww2museum.org)

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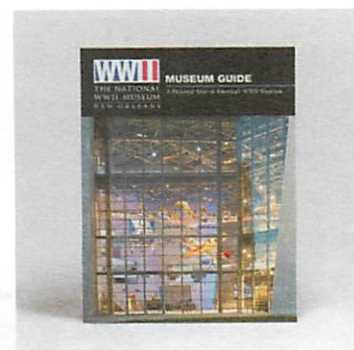


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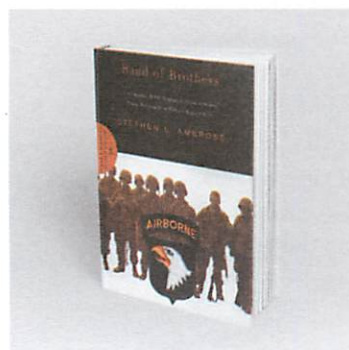


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