



Bend Heroes Foundation

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Vice President: Mike Jensen Secretary: Yvonne Drury
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April, 16, 2013

Dear Senator Brian Boquist, Chairman Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness.

Re: Senate Bill 832 **Spirit of '45 Day**

Bend Heroes Foundation is most appreciative that your Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness is sponsoring SB 832. We wholeheartedly support SB 832 that would designate the second Sunday of every August as **Spirit of '45 Day** commemorating the service and sacrifice of the World War II Generation.

During the last 2 years as a partner in the national Honor Flight Network, our Foundation has been honoring WWII Veterans by taking them to Washington, DC to visit their national WWII and other Veterans Memorials. The national WWII Memorial also honors the countless millions who served on the "home front". Thus far we have honored 207 members of the Greatest Generation with free 4 day "trips of a lifetime" as a way of thanking them for their selfless service and sacrifice. We will be taking 100 more WWII Veterans on Honor Flight trips this year. Many of the veterans are accompanied by spouses who also served on the home front during WWII. We are very proud of the 10 women WWII Veterans who have traveled with us.


It would not have been possible to honor our WWII Heroes without the generous outpouring of support from many patriotic volunteers and donors who believe as we do that our nation's WWII Heroes saved the world from tyranny beginning 7 decades ago. The WWII generation has set a very high standard for generations to come after them.

About 91% of the 16.1 million American veterans who served during WWII have passed away. In Oregon, there are only 27,000 WWII Veterans living of the 147,600 who served.

Our Foundation also honors the WWII Generation with 18 **WORLD WAR II VETERANS HISTORIC HIGHWAY** signs installed along 325 miles of border to border highway east of the Cascades – a first in our nation. The signs honor all of Oregon's WWII Veterans, those who served on the "Home Front" as well as inform travelers of the 8 vital WWII training sites along the highway. Oregon will soon dedicate a long overdue WWII Memorial in Salem.

We encourage your Committee to not only pass SB 832, but also widely publicize it so that our WWII Heroes will know we care. As we say in Honor Flight, time is of the essence to honor America's WWII Heroes.

Thank you for the opportunity to endorse SB 832. Our web site: www.bendheropes.org


Chairman, LTC US Army Retired, Vietnam 66-67, 72-73
Cc: Sen. Knopp, Rep. Whisnant, Barbara Jensen

WORLD WAR II
VETERANS
HISTORIC HIGHWAY

ARMY CAMP RUFUS
1944 - 1945

