



Honoring the World War II Generation

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

April 18, 2017

Senate Chairman Brian Boquist, members of the committee, and guests present today,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon. At this morning's Senate Chamber session, we seized the occasion to "remember and be inspired" by the courage and values of the WWII Generation. A Wall of Honor banner displayed by legislative pages brought to life brave members of WWII, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders ... a cadre of men willing to sacrifice their lives for freedom and country, 75 years ago today.

On April 19th, 1942, the day following their mission, America learned of the bravery and sacrifice of these 80 heroic men. This news inspired our entire country and restored our nation's belief that its passion for liberty would live on and that we would prevail.

This SPIRIT is the core of the Spirit of '45 -- **REMEMBER** "The Greatest Generation" and all they stood for and gave us ... and **BE INSPIRED** by how they served and sacrificed for our nation. The Spirit of '45 honors and embraces the entire WWII Generation, from the battlefield to the home front.

In 2010, Congress declared the 2nd Sunday of every August a national day in honor of the WWII Generation. In June 2013, with the support of Senator Boquist and this Committee, we became the first state to legislate a permanent Spirit of '45 Day. Officially on the calendar, we celebrated our first Spirit of '45 Day on the Capitol grounds the 2nd Sunday of August 2013. By 2015, the Oregon Spirit of '45 nonprofit was formed to actively celebrate, honor and be inspired by this incredible generation and led a six-city concert tour across the state with the National Guard before thousands of Oregonians. Today:

We **CELEBRATE** the Spirit of '45 Day annually at Willamette National Cemetery. This year's annual tribute will be held August 13th, 11:00 am. The event, featuring key note speaker Jonah Doolittle-Hoppes, will recognize WWII "Airpower" forces and honor these Doolittle aviators and the 'Greatest Generation' they represent. As the grand-daughter of Jimmy Doolittle, Jonna will highlight her 'hero's' aviator pioneer success and tell her personal story. This 'Airpower' Spirit of '45 Day will also feature Ben Berry, Jr., son of a Tuskegee Airman, conveying the courage and legacy of African-American aviators that indemnified freedom and love of this country.

We **HONOR** our WWII veterans by building a Wall of Honor to display their 'heroic faces.' For the 16 million men and women who served in WWII, a national 'Wall' is underway. For our over 152,000 Oregonians who served, we are creating a state wall to represent their service and complement the Oregon WWII Memorial that inscribes almost 4,000 state heroes who lost their lives in combat between 1941-1945 (Memorial located in Willson Park, NW corner of the State Capitol grounds).



Oregon Spirit of '45 Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit
EIN # 37-1781696
P.O. Box 13443, Portland, OR 97213

Our Mission: *To commemorate the achievements and virtues of the World War II generation, on the 2nd Sunday of every August, so as to inspire future generations*

Our goal is to collect WWII era 'faces' of Oregonians who served. To be inclusive, we know many of our Oregonians have parents, family and friends who enlisted and served from other states; therefore, we also encourage their photos to further honor the native sons and daughters of Oregon families. 'Hero faces' are sent to www.orspiritof45.org/photo, included in our data collection and submitted to the National Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive/WWII 75th Anniversary Commemorations Alliance. Many photos are poster-mounted and carried in one of Oregon's 13 parades across the state or in DC.

We **INSPIRE** our youth through sponsorship in parades. Over the past few years, youth have been proud to carry life-size posters in the Albany Veterans Day Parade and the Washington DC Memorial Day parade. Locally each year, we enlist WWII veterans to join us in Veterans Day parades, escorting honorary veterans in WWII era vintage vehicles. In 2015, we were joined in Albany by 100-year-old Army Sgt. Dean Powel from Myrtle Point and in 2016, 92-year-old Navy Pvt. Wallace High, now a retired dentist in Newport. At both veteran parade ceremonies, US Senator Wyden recognized each man's service with a presentation, certificate and congressional coin.

Through August of 2020, we will honor many 75th WWII Anniversary dates, like this remembrance of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders. These include the Battle of Midway, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge, MacArthur's return to the Philippines, Iwo Jima and in 2020, V-E in May and V-J Day. Our efforts are coordinated with the National Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive/WWII 75th Anniversary Commemorations Alliance and National Park Service with plans for a memorable tribute in August-September 2020 that covers the Washington DC Mall with the faces of WWII heroes collected across the nation.

LEGISLATIVE CALL TO ACTION: For you and your Capitol colleagues, encourage your constituents to:

ATTEND SPIRIT OF '45 DAY. Inform your district constituents to attend Spirit of '45 Day at Willamette National Cemetery, August 13. If you know of a WWII Generation member who can attend, please bring them to the event. If you have a loved one who has passed, bring their photo, let us capture it, and include them on our wall of honor.

SUBMIT WWII HERO PHOTOS. Visit our website and submit your 'faces' (military photos) of loved ones. Help Oregon build the state wall to represent over 152,000 Oregonians who served and ensure your WWII hero is added to the national Wall of Honor and its 2020 dedication in Washington, DC.

Thank you for this opportunity to update the Legislature on this official day, Oregon Spirit of '45, and for KEEPING THE SPIRIT OF '45 ALIVE to inspire future generations.

Barbara A Jensen, Chairwoman/Founding Director

Noteworthy: The National Spirit of '45 coalition is helping the US. Air Force commemorate its 70th Birthday this year on September 18, with the presentation of the WWII Airpower Heritage Wall of Honor; these photos of the 80 Raiders will be the first to be officially 'inducted.'



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Honoring the World War II Generation

Press Release

April 18, 2017

"Wall of Honor" to be displayed during Senate Opening Today – Marking 75th Anniversary of Historic Doolittle Raid

(Salem, Oregon April 18, 2017) A 20 ft. "Wall of Honor" composed of the individual photos of the brave men who flew one of the most heroic missions of WWII will be displayed at opening of the Senate Session at the State Capitol in Salem today, Tuesday, April 18, 11 AM.

On April 18, 1942, 80 volunteers led by Lt. Col. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, flew 16 B-25B bombers off an aircraft carrier on a secret mission to bomb the Tokyo. The "Doolittle Raid" boosted American morale in the wake of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and has become an enduring symbol of courage and valor. All of Doolittle's 79 Raiders were originally trained in Oregon; three were Oregonians.

Senators Brian Boquist (Dallas) and Bill Hansell (Pendleton) will jointly honor the 75th Anniversary of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders at the opening ceremony of the Senate Session. Legislative pages have been selected to hold the Wall of Honor.



A 3 PM hearing before the Senate Veterans Committee will further address this 75th Anniversary and the 2017 statewide tour for the Oregon Doolittle Raiders banner for 'Airpower' year in



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Oregon. (Testimony attached.) This Senate Committee led the nation in 2013 by adopting congressional legislation to create a 'Spirit of '45 Day' for the WWII Generation and our over 152,000 Oregonians who served.

This national Wall of Honor will also be showcased with the United States Air Force, the Air Force Association, the American Rosie the Riveter Association, the American Veterans Center, the Spirit of '45 WWII 75th Anniversary Commemorations Alliance and the Chinese Embassy at a ceremony at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, VA,

The ceremony at the Air Force Memorial is one of several events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid that will be taking place on April 18, in support of the two –day commemoration at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, OH.

Ceremonies featuring the Wall of Honor will also be held at the USS Hornet in Alameda, CA, the Oregon State Capitol, and several other locations across the country

For more information, contact Barbara Jensen (503-910-5930 or Terry Pilsner (970-227-8586) Board Members, Oregon Spirit of '45 and members of the National WWII 75th Anniversary Commemorations Alliance.

Barbara A. Jensen

Chair/Founding Director
Oregon Spirit of '45
PO Box 13443, Portland, OR 97213

Mobile: 503-910-4593

www.OrSpiritof45.org

www.facebook.com/OregonSpiritof45

"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds" – General of the Armies John. J Pershing (1860-1948)



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WHO WE ARE

“Remember and Be Inspired”

In 2010, Congress passed a resolution establishing the 2nd Sunday of every August as “Spirit of ‘45 Day” to preserve the WWII generation’s legacy as a source of inspiration for future generations.

“Whereas, August 14, 1945, marked not only the end of the war, but also the beginning of an unprecedented era of rebuilding in which the United States led the effort to restore the shattered nations of the Allies and their enemies alike and to create institutions to work towards a more peaceful global community.”

In 2013, Oregon became the first state to legislate a permanent “Spirit of ‘45 Day.” This day remembers the WWII generation’s example of courage, shared-sacrifice, ‘can-do’ attitude, spirit, unity and service.

Oregon Spirit of ‘45 is committed to commemorating the day and honoring this generation for defending our freedom by building a Wall of Honor.



SPIRIT YOUTH



Albany Veterans Day Parade

Youth Inspired by the WWII Generation

Help Build The Wall of Honor

Join the STAR COMMANDER ranks

	1 STAR	\$45
	2 STAR	\$145
	3 STAR	\$245
	4 STAR	\$445
	5 STAR	\$1945

ORSPIRITOF45.ORG/DONATE

Mission

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OREGON SPIRIT OF ‘45, INC.

P.O. Box 13443
 Portland, OR 97213
 501(c)3 non-profit EIN# 37-178196
 info@orspiritof45.org

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Honoring The World War II Generation

WWII 75th Anniversaries



2016 - 2020



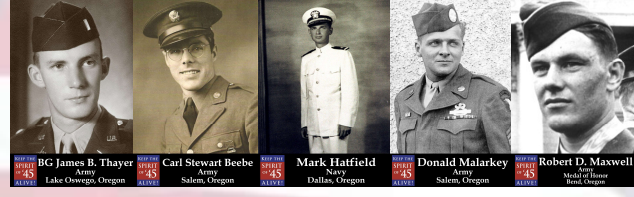
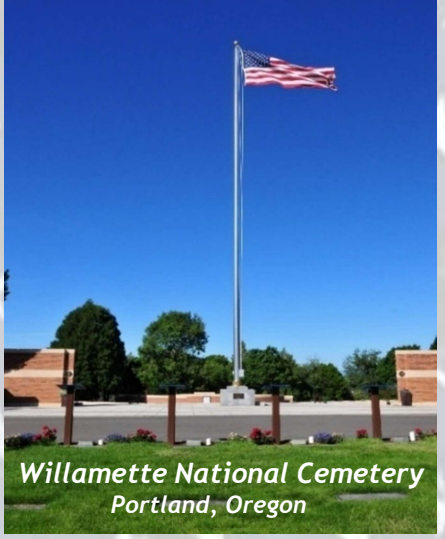
75th

REMEMBER

BE INSPIRED

WALL OF HONOR

WWII 75th ANNIVERSARIES



From 1941 to 1945, over 16 million men and women answered the call to defend freedom; 417,000 were lost. Their faces inspire future generations, reminding us of America's ultimate sacrifice.

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| WWII Event | 75th Theme |
| 1941 Pearl Harbor Attack | 2016 Seaborne Services |
| 1942 Jimmy Doolittle Raid | 2017 Air Power |
| 1943 Eisenhower In Command | 2018 Ground Forces |
| 1944 D-Day, Battle of the Bulge | 2019 All Service Branches |
| 1945 V-E Day V-J Day | 2020 Spirit of '45 Day |

SPIRIT OF '45 Day

August 14, 1945 - World War II ended. The culmination of four years of service and sacrifice by millions of Americans marked the beginning of an unprecedented effort to help friend and foe alike rebuild a shattered world.

Oregon Spirit of '45, in cooperation with Willamette National, celebrates the "Greatest Generation" on the 2nd Sunday in August to honor its achievements and carry on their legacy.

Your 1940s military photos will help build a 'Wall of Honor' to recognize and preserve the "Greatest Generation's" contribution to our nation's legacy.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO

To contribute a WWII 1940s military photo from any state or branch of service, go to:

ORSPIRITOF45.ORG/PHOTO

After you submit your photo and veteran data for the "Wall of Honor" your hero will be added to the our archives and sent to the National Spirit of '45 Wall of Honor.

NATIONAL SPIRIT OF '45 AUGUST 2020



Faces from every state will build a National **WWII WALL OF HONOR** that will be displayed on the Capital Mall in D.C. on the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII.

