



THE NATIONAL  
WWII MUSEUM  
NEW ORLEANS



# ANNUAL REPORT

*Legacy*  
OF SERVICE





Expressions of America is projected on the exterior facades of The National WWII Museum's exhibit halls. The outdoor sound and light show features the real words and stories of the everyday people who served our country during World War II.

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*Mission*

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.





2022-2023

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*\*In Memory*

# The Museum Welcomes Five New Trustees



**I**N 2022, The National WWII Museum appointed five new members to its national Board of Trustees, bringing the Board's total membership to 57 business and philanthropic leaders representing 22 states and Washington, D.C.

The Board of Trustees works to advance the Museum's mission and offers leadership

and guidance on priorities including the completion of the \$400 million Road to Victory Capital Campaign and campus expansion, growth of the Museum endowment, and support for the development and continued success of significant research, education, and digital access initiatives. We are honored to welcome these leaders to our distinguished ranks of Trustees.



## Hon. Louis E. Caldera

Former Secretary of the Army and Former President of The University of New Mexico  
**LOCATION**  
Bethesda, Maryland

Louis Caldera served as a commissioned officer in the US Army and later as a California legislator. In 1998, President Clinton appointed him Secretary of the Army, and he also served in the Obama administration as Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Military Office. Caldera has also served as President of The University of New Mexico and a law professor in California, New Mexico, and Washington, D.C.



## Deanna Rodriguez

President & CEO, Entergy New Orleans, LLC  
**LOCATION**  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Deanna Rodriguez is President & CEO of Entergy New Orleans and a nearly 30-year veteran of Entergy Corporation. She has served in various leadership roles across the corporation's operating companies. Rodriguez currently sits on the boards of numerous organizations and nonprofits, including United Way of Southeast Louisiana, City Park Conservancy, Louisiana's International Women's Forum, and Subiendo with The University of Texas at Austin, School of Business.

## Laura Stephens

Vice President of Marketing & Communications, Stephens Inc.  
**LOCATION**  
Dallas, Texas

Laura Stephens is Vice President of Marketing & Communications at Stephens Inc., where she has overseen social media strategies, brand awareness programs, and expert positioning. She has also designed and driven corporate impact initiatives designed to enhance the retention and recruitment of women. Prior to joining the firm in 2015, she was an account executive at Rooney Partners.



## Fleur C. Harlan

Trustee of the Manhattan Institute  
**LOCATION**  
New York, New York

Fleur Harlan is a Trustee of the Manhattan Institute and a member of Business Executives for National Security. Her previous professional roles include limited partner at RS Lauder, Gaspar and Co.; managing director at Central European Development Corporation; manager at Bain & Company; and strategic planner for Scitex Corporation in Israel.



## St. Denis J. "Sandy" Villere II

Partner & Portfolio Manager, Villere & Co  
**LOCATION**  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Sandy Villere is Partner & Portfolio Manager at Villere & Co., which he helped to grow during his more than 61-year tenure. He has served a number of civic organizations, including the Eye Ear Nose & Throat Foundation, United Way, and Willwoods Foundation. He is a member of the CFA Institute and is a past president of the Financial Analysts of New Orleans organization.

# Letter from the Chairman of the Board

**A** S WE LOOK BACK ON 2022, we celebrate the many accomplishments that advanced our Road to Victory Capital Campaign and propelled the Museum toward what will be a monumental 2023. We have arrived at the culmination of our \$400 million Capital Campaign, a tremendous undertaking that has transformed the Museum into a world-class educational institution and authority on WWII scholarship.

As you will see in this Annual Report, there were numerous milestones this year that reflect our incredible success and represent significant markers on our journey as an institution. We dedicated the George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center—one of the Museum's most striking and iconic spaces—in honor of the 41st President of the United States, a decorated WWII pilot. We transported PT-305 back to our campus and into its permanent home in John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion, which is undergoing significant renovations before it reopens to the public in 2024. And we officially named the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, a major accomplishment that will significantly advance our educational mission both on our campus and beyond our walls. The Craig Institute continues to lead the Museum to new heights of scholarship and original content creation and is a major force behind the Museum's educational initiatives, particularly at the collegiate level and beyond.

We also continued to make great progress toward the completion of the Museum's capstone exhibit hall, Liberation Pavilion, which will help our visitors gain a deeper understanding of the cost of our freedom, the meaning of our victory, and how both shaped the postwar era at home in the United States and defined our role abroad. Most notably, we announced the naming of the Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater, an innovative multisensory presentation that will act as the final campus experience for many of our visitors and ensure the story of World War II and its lasting impacts remain relevant to all Americans. With the opening of Liberation Pavilion on the horizon, we will finally tell a more complete story of the American experience in the war and fulfill the final part of our mission—*what does World War II mean today?*

The 2022 American Spirit Awards returned to an in-person gala once again and was a truly remarkable event that recognized a

distinguished class of honorees, including business, civilian, and military leaders, as well as seven WWII veterans, including the four surviving Navajo Code Talkers. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all in attendance and powerfully demonstrated the values and spirit of the WWII generation.

The monumental year ahead will allow us to pause and contemplate our remarkable institutional journey so far—as we prepare to celebrate our campus expansion, the conclusion of the Road to Victory Capital Campaign, and the grand openings of Liberation Pavilion and the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground in the fall. I want to thank my predecessor, John Koerner, for the incredible work he accomplished as Chairman of the Board during a particularly challenging time—and all my fellow Trustees, past and present, who demonstrate unwavering dedication and leadership in service to our mission. Most of all, I want to thank our Members and supporters who have built this institution in honor of the service and sacrifice of the WWII generation. It is a great privilege and responsibility for me to take the leadership reins during this extraordinary time for our institution, and I look forward to celebrating our many successes in 2023.



*Ted Weggeland*  
Ted Weggeland

# Letter from the President & CEO

**H**ERE AT THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, paying tribute to the service and sacrifice of our WWII veterans is central to the work we do each day. Through their stories, we develop a deeper understanding of the price of our freedom and what we can accomplish together with common purpose and resolve. As we lose more members of this generation each day, our mission becomes more urgent. Throughout 2022, we continued to find new ways to ensure future generations can share in their legacy and connect with their stories, and I am so proud of the incredible things that we accomplished together.

Our annual observing of Veterans Day is always a highlight for the Museum, and this year's program was truly a standout. Among the many events, the weeklong program included a visit from a contingent of nearly 30 WWII veterans—the largest we have hosted in many years—as well as a sold-out crowd for our Victory Ball celebration of service along with the World Premiere of *Expressions of America*, our new nighttime sound and light show. This groundbreaking addition to our campus pushes the boundaries of a traditional museum experience, combining cutting-edge technology, music, and art with original archival material to immerse audiences in the war era like never before.

*Expressions of America* is just one example of many that you will read about in this Annual Report of how we continue to embrace innovative approaches to reach new, younger, and more diverse audiences and inspire them with the significance of our mission. The past year also saw a robust slate of conferences and symposia exploring compelling new and popular topics, such as the all-virtual *Memory Wars: World War II at 75 and Beyond* Conference—which for the first time brought together leading WWII scholars from across the world to address the shifting landscape of popular memories of the war—and the *Band of Brothers* 20th Anniversary Symposium, which brought the creators, actors, and crew of the popular miniseries together to discuss its enduring legacy as a creative work and educational tool. These and many more original and thought-provoking topics attracted new audiences to the Museum's content and continued to demonstrate the relevance of WWII scholarship.

This year also marked the return of a full slate of in-person educational programming—an important milestone in the Museum's continued recovery from the challenges of the pandemic and Hurricane Ida. Our Educational Travel program,

summer camps, leadership and professional development seminars, and more offered students, teachers, and lifelong learners the opportunity to engage firsthand with WWII scholars, artifacts, and exhibits—both on our campus and at landmarks abroad. We are excited to have brought these transformative experiences back and will continue to grow them in the years ahead.

Among all these significant accomplishments, this year also saw a transition in the Museum's leadership. I'd like to recognize outgoing Chairman John Koerner for his incredible commitment to our institution. His steady leadership and determination saw the Museum through some of its most challenging times during the pandemic and has set the stage for an extraordinary 2023 that will be led by our current Chairman, Ted Weggeland, who has championed our institutional efforts as a Museum Trustee since 2015.

I want to express my profound gratitude to all our supporters, Members, donors, friends, staff, volunteers, Trustees, and leadership for your continued commitment to the mission of The National WWII Museum. We have many accomplishments to be proud of in 2022—as you'll see in the coming pages—and there is much more on the horizon. I look forward to celebrating together in what will be a historic 2023.



  
Stephen J. Watson

Guests gather in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center for the *Expressions of America* World Premiere celebration in November 2022.





# Service

## Legacy of Service

**H**ONORING THE WWII GENERATION'S ENDURING LEGACY of service and sacrifice is at the core of everything we do at The National WWII Museum. Through immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, educational programming, and an expansive collection of artifacts and first-person oral histories, the Museum offers a permanent tribute to those who served and ensures that their place in American and world history is never forgotten.



The men and women who fought and won World War II are now in their 90s or older. According to the latest statistics from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, 167,284 of the 16 million Americans who served in the war were alive in 2022. As the war and those who won it become more distant to the current generation, it is imperative that we continue to find new and innovative ways to share their stories so future generations can learn from them and pass them on.

Throughout 2022, The National WWII Museum continued to honor the WWII generation's legacy by teaching about their experiences and preserving their firsthand memories of the war. In 2022, we were grateful to have dozens of WWII veterans visit the Museum built in their honor. Welcoming veterans to the Museum and hearing about their wartime experiences is always special, but as their ability to join us was limited over the past two years due to health and travel restrictions, having them on campus for tours and special events was an

opportunity we did not take for granted. 2022 also saw a return to in-person programming for the American Spirit Awards in June, which recognized seven WWII veterans, and the International Conference on World War II in November, where three WWII veterans joined us as featured guests. Through programs such as these, we were able to honor the achievements and wartime contributions of veterans like the Navajo Code Talkers, whose work was kept secret—even from their families—until the program was declassified in 1968. It is a privilege for the Museum to share stories like theirs so that all generations will understand how people of all backgrounds came together and did their part to achieve Allied victory.

Over Veterans Day weekend, the Museum premiered *Expressions of America*, an immersive sound and light show projected on the exterior facades of the Museum's exhibit halls. A project five years in the making, *Expressions* draws upon wartime correspondence within the Museum's collection to paint a picture of what

life was like for Americans in the 1940s and show how everyday people served our country in every way imaginable during World War II. Thirty WWII veterans joined us for the premiere and Veterans Day programming.

As time passes and firsthand memories of the war start to disappear, the Museum's work preserving the stories of the brave men and women who served becomes even more critical so that we can continue sharing the legacy of *the war that changed the world*.

The Museum was honored to welcome a large group of WWII veterans for Veterans Day programming and the World Premiere of *Expressions of America* in November 2022.

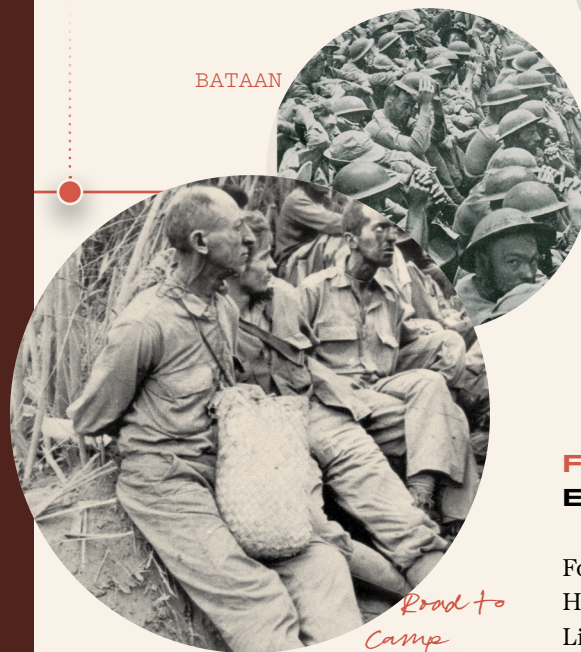


# Looking Back: The War in 1942

Following the success of the 2021 #Pearl80 campaign that commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor with a series of digital content, educational initiatives, and public programming, the Museum observed major milestones and 80th anniversaries throughout 2022. Website articles highlighted key battles and turning points in the war as well as how victories (and setbacks) resonated on the Home Front. Recognizing some of the significant events of 1942 is important for preserving the stories of the men and women who served and sharing the legacy of *the war that changed the world* with future generations.

## JANUARY 1942 DEFENSE OF BATAAN AND DEATH MARCH

In January 1942, Japan invaded Luzon, Philippines, then a protectorate of the United States. After a three-month battle, the American and Filipino soldiers were forced to surrender, leaving more than 60,000 troops and nearly 40,000 civilians in Japanese captivity. Japanese Lieutenant General Masaharu Homma ordered the captives to a prisoner-of-war compound at Camp O'Donnell. The captors forced the prisoners to make the 60-mile trip from Bataan on foot, during which prisoners suffered from starvation, disease, and torture. Hundreds of American soldiers died during the Death March, as did thousands of Filipino troops and civilians. Thousands more died from deplorable conditions and abuse at the POW camp. After the war, Homma and two of his officers were convicted of war crimes and executed.



BATAAN

*Road to  
Camp  
O'Donnell*

*Incarceration  
of Japanese  
Americans*



*Instructions  
to all persons  
of Japanese  
Ancestry  
living in the  
following area*

## INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

Living in the Following Area

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the line established by Japanese Street, Broadway, Webster Avenue, and Market Street, and all that portion of the County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally east of the line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and between Market Street and San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 1200 o'clock noon Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 7, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Permit Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at: 1701 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California.

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

- to give advice and instructions on the evacuation;
- to give services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods;
- to provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups;
- to provide limited amounts of clothing and equipment to the evacuees.



## FEBRUARY 1942 EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Western Defense Commander Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt and other members of the Western Defense Command convinced President Franklin Roosevelt of the need for action in securing the West Coast, and on February 19, 1942, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal of anyone deemed a threat to national security. Although EO 9066 did not explicitly target a specific group, DeWitt focused his exclusion orders on Japanese Americans. Beginning in late spring and early summer of 1942, 120,000 Japanese Americans, stripped of their civil rights, were held in camps behind barbed wire and under military guard.



## APRIL 1942 THE DOOLITTLE RAID

The United States needed a morale boost in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and a plan was drawn up to make a retaliatory swipe at the Empire of Japan. On April 18, 1942, Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle led a detachment of 16 B-25s crewed by five men each on a small but risky raid on the Japanese archipelago. The bombers targeted military and industrial locations in Tokyo, Yokosuka, Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagoya. All the bombers were lost during the mission, and of the 80 crewmen, three were killed in action, eight were captured by the Japanese, and three were executed in captivity. The attack, although minor, caught Japan by surprise, exposing the empire's vulnerability and lifting American spirits.



DOOLITTLE



CORAL SEA

## MAY 1942 BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

After six months of Japanese triumphs in the Pacific, the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May 1942 marked the first strategic victory of the US Navy over its Imperial counterpart. As Japan set its sights south toward Port Moresby, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, a US-Australian force under the command of Admiral Frank Fletcher confronted the Japanese Carrier Strike Force led by Admiral Takagi Takeo as it moved to support an assault on Port Moresby. The battle that followed was unprecedented: The two naval forces fought without ever seeing each other, with carrier-based aircraft bearing the burden of combat. Both sides suffered heavy aircraft and carrier losses, and Japan called off the invasion of Port Moresby.



*August  
1942*



BOMBING SQUADRON



*Midway*

## JUNE 1942 BATTLE OF MIDWAY

On the morning of June 4, 1942, Japan attacked the US naval base at Midway in an attempt to extend its defensive perimeter and secure dominance in the region. But US cryptographers had broken Japanese naval codes in early 1942, forewarning the United States of the attack and allowing Admiral Chester W. Nimitz to have his carriers ready and waiting for the Japanese. Japan lost over 3,000 men, four aircraft carriers, one heavy cruiser, and nearly 300 aircraft, while the United States lost approximately 362 servicemen, one aircraft carrier, one destroyer, and 144 aircraft. The decisive US victory stopped Japan's progression in the Pacific and put the United States in a position to begin offensive operations.



GUADALCANAL

## AUGUST 1942 GUADALCANAL

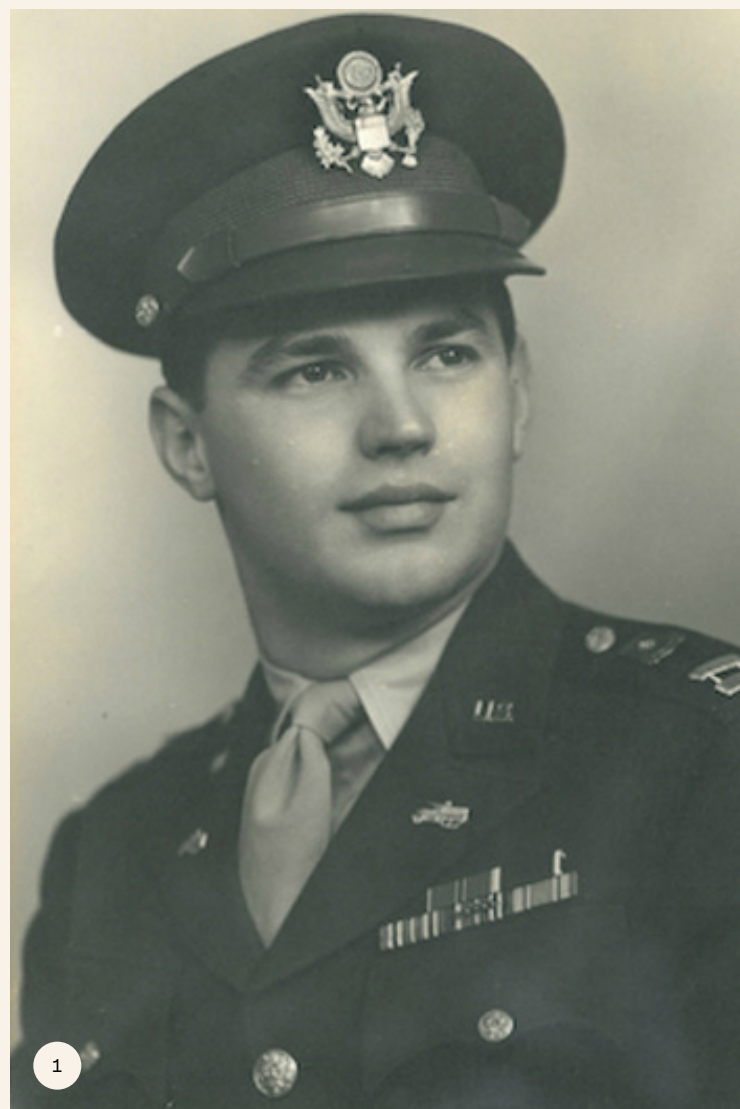
After successfully defending against Japanese attacks at the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, the United States went on the offensive, landing on the remote jungle island of Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942. The 1st Marine Division's mission was to secure the Japanese airfield built there, which threatened sea lines of communication between the United States and Australia, and eliminate remaining enemy forces. Despite a successful initial Allied offensive, the Japanese made several attempts to retake the island; the Allied ground campaign stretched into 1943, with the island finally secured by February 9. The Guadalcanal campaign proved to be a turning point in the war, as US forces fully shifted gears to offensive operations for the remainder of the war in the Pacific.



NOVEMBER 1942

## NOVEMBER 1942 OPERATION TORCH

By November 1942, the United States launched its first major offensive in the Mediterranean: Operation TORCH. In partnership with the British, the three-pronged amphibious invasion of Vichy French North Africa consisted of three task forces commanded by Major General George Patton (Western), Major General Lloyd Fredendall (Center), and Major General Charles Ryder (Eastern). The operation was successful, leading to the Allied occupations of Morocco and Algeria. This set the stage for the Tunisia campaign against German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's *Afrika Korps* to eventually push the *Wehrmacht* off the continent. TORCH's amphibious assault strategy would also later inform that of Operation OVERLORD, the all-important cross-channel invasion of Normandy in 1944.



## IN REMEMBRANCE OF Richard "Dick" Duchossois

**T**HE MUSEUM mourns WWII veteran, philanthropist, Trustee Emeritus, and cherished friend Richard "Dick" Duchossois, who passed away January 28, 2022, at 100 years old. Known fondly around the Museum as "Mr. D.," Duchossois is remembered for his selfless service to our country and steadfast support of the Museum and his fellow veterans.

An accomplished business executive and entrepreneur, Duchossois served on the Museum's Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2019. He and his family have been avid supporters, underwriting a major aspect of the visitor experience: The Duchossois Family *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries*. In recognition of his service to both the country and the Museum, he was awarded the Museum's highest honor, the American Spirit Award, in 2021.

Europe, eventually being promoted to Major and serving as military governor for the Eichstätt region in Bavaria.

Duchossois led his men with valor and distinction, earning two Bronze Stars, and was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in action in September 1944. In Normandy during the celebration of the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the French government awarded Duchossois the Legion d'Honneur.

Born in Chicago in 1921, Duchossois was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry and served as a commander with the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion in Normandy through the end of the war. "We had some of the greatest guys in the world. They were just innovative, creative, and you didn't have to worry about 'em," Duchossois said of his men. He served in five campaigns throughout

After the war, Duchossois became a successful businessman and racehorse owner. He was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in 2019.

Once asked to describe his philosophy of life, Duchossois said: "You learn to help others because it's who you serve—not who's going to serve you. As long as you serve others, they're going to return that."

"You learn to help others because it's who you serve—not who's going to serve you. As long as you *serve others*, they're going to return that."

*Richard Duchossois*



**1** Duchossois was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry, serving as a commander with the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and eventually was promoted to Major.

**2** The Duchossois Family *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries* brings to life the drama, sacrifices, personal stories, and strategies of America's campaign to defeat the Axis powers and preserve freedom.

**3** In April 2022, the board of directors of Churchill Downs, Inc. (CDI) made a generous \$10,000 gift in honor of Duchossois. CDI CEO Bill Carstanjen considered Duchossois a mentor and visited the Museum's campus to present the check.

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF Hershel "Woody" Williams

**O**N JUNE 29, 2022, The National WWII Museum mourned the passing of longtime friend and Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams. At age 98, Williams was the last living Recipient of the award from World War II.

Born in West Virginia in 1923, Williams was accepted into the Marine Corps and deployed as a demolition sergeant to the Pacific theater in 1945, where he fought in the infamous Battle of Iwo Jima. It was there that Williams distinguished himself as a Marine and patriot as he risked his life under constant fire to neutralize heavily protected Japanese machine gunners and allow his company to advance. Williams displayed "unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance," according to his Medal of Honor citation.

After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Williams struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder before finding strength in his faith. He later served as chaplain for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for more than 30 years. He also founded the Woody Williams Foundation, which honors and advocates for Gold Star Families who have lost

members during military service and educates others about their sacrifices.

A frequent visitor to The National WWII Museum, Williams received the American Spirit Award, the Museum's highest honor, in 2008. He traveled back to Iwo Jima with the Museum's Educational Travel program and graciously delivered the keynote address of the 2017 International Conference on World War II. He was also on hand in 2017 for the unveiling of a Gold Star Mural in honor of military families funded by his organization.

The Museum is honored to have worked with Williams and recognize him as an American hero, both during and after the war. As Williams and the last members of the WWII generation pass on, the Museum is reminded of its critical responsibility to keep their stories alive for generations to come.

**1**  
Williams poses in front of the Gold Star Mural on the side of The National WWII Museum's Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, made possible by a generous gift from his foundation, in May 2017.



1



2

"I would not be the possessor of this medal had [other Marines] not been willing to do what they did to make it possible. So, I wear it in *their honor*, not mine."

*Woody Williams*

**2**

President Harry S. Truman presents Williams with the Medal of Honor for his actions at Iwo Jima.

**3**

Williams greets servicemembers while traveling with the Museum's inaugural *Victory in the Pacific* travel program in March 2018.



3

# *Expressions of America* Premieres on Veterans Day Weekend

*Immersive Sound and Light Show  
Debuts to Museum Supporters  
and Special Guests*

**O**N VETERANS DAY WEEKEND, The National WWII Museum unveiled its newest attraction, *Expressions of America*, a first-of-its-kind nighttime sound and light show that celebrates the power of individual Americans to impact the world around them during a time of monumental conflict. Generously presented by Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation, the show combines cutting-edge technology with the real words of the WWII generation to immerse viewers in the experiences of the everyday men and women who served our country in every way imaginable during World War II.

Centered beneath the Bollinger Canopy of Peace, a soaring centerpiece spanning the campus, *Expressions* brings history to life on a grand scale. Stunning visuals projected 90 feet tall transform the exterior of the Museum's buildings as actor and veterans advocate Gary Sinise narrates an inspiring glimpse into what life was like for the men and women who served our country. The show's narrative is drawn directly from wartime correspondence and oral histories housed in the Museum's extensive collection and, for a segment centered on the contributions of Bob Hope, from correspondence housed at the Library of Congress.

The *Expressions of America* World Premiere presented by the Stephen G. and Regina Oswald Foundation was held in conjunction with the Museum's Veterans Day celebration. The schedule of events included a commemorative ceremony, the annual Victory Ball presented by the Ray and Jessica Brandt Family Foundation, and a special visit from 20 WWII veterans traveling with the Gary Sinise Foundation's Soaring Valor program. The premiere evening began in true New Orleans fashion as a brass band led the veterans down a red carpet into US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. Following a three-course dinner and live pre-show entertainment, guests moved to the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground for a Champagne toast and the premiere showing of *Expressions of America*.

The Museum was honored to host some of the individuals featured in the show, including former Disney Imagineer Bob Gurr and Museum supporter Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin, for the premiere. Also in attendance were family members of featured individuals, including Dr. Sharon Estill Taylor, Museum Trustee and daughter of 1st Lt. Shannon Estill and Mary Estill; World Premiere emcee Nikole Killion, congressional correspondent for CBS News and granddaughter of S/Sgt. James Killion Jr.; the family

EXPRESSIONS  
*of America*

of Sgt. Edward Carter; and Linda Hope, daughter of Bob Hope and Chair/CEO of Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation.

“I think my father would have been very honored to know that an esteemed institution like The National WWII Museum is helping to preserve his legacy for future generations through *Expressions of America*,” said Linda Hope. “Nothing brought him more joy than to hear the laughter of the troops he entertained around the globe. In a time of global darkness, he understood the importance of bringing a piece of home to the frontlines. I’m touched to know that his story and service will live on through this show.”

*Expressions of America* was developed by award-winning media design and production studio Mousetrappe with technical designer Solomon Group. The show utilizes projection mapping

technology—which transforms architectural objects through movement and light—to project moving images directly onto the exterior walls of the Museum’s exhibit buildings, creating a towering environment that immerses visitors in images and music from the WWII era. The original musical score features New Orleans musicians, including members of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, who rerecorded chart-topping songs like “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” and “I’ll Be Seeing You.”

*Expressions of America* is a permanent addition to the Museum’s offerings, running one to two times a week. Prior to the approximately 25-minute main sound and light show, guests may explore a custom exhibit highlighting the importance of sending and receiving mail during the war, enjoy delicious food and beverages, and watch live pre-show entertainment.

“On the day my father was killed in action over eastern Germany, he left me a living *legacy* that I would piece together over my life without him. The collection of artifacts connected to that legacy are now part of *Expressions of America*, which honors him in a way he could not have imagined in 1945.”

*Dr. Sharon Estill Taylor,*  
daughter of 1st Lt. Shannon E. Estill



**1** Guests gather on the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground for the World Premiere of *Expressions of America*.

**2** WWII veteran Bill McIntyre arrives at the Museum along with 19 other veterans traveling with the Gary Sinise Foundation’s Soaring Valor program for the *Expressions of America* World Premiere and Veterans Day weekend.

**3** Chairman of the Museum’s Board of Trustees Ted Weggeland (from left), Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation President & COO Tony Montalto, Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation Chair & CEO and Bob Hope’s daughter Linda Hope, and Museum President & CEO Stephen J. Watson lead a Champagne toast before the World Premiere of *Expressions of America*.

**4** WWII veteran LeGrand Dawes Jr. watches *Expressions of America* at the World Premiere on November 10, 2022.



# Curating Expressions of America

How the Multimedia Show Brings Stories of the WWII Generation to Life

**T**HE NARRATIVE FOR *EXPRESSIONS OF AMERICA* is drawn directly from some of the most unique and most personal wartime material—written correspondence and firsthand accounts found mainly within The National WWII Museum’s archives. Much of this original material could be thought of as mundane, but these ordinary thoughts and repeated sentiments meant the world to those who found themselves far from home in lonely and dangerous situations. Mail was, for many, the only thing that kept them tethered to home, and spelled hope for a future life.

The curation of the letters used in *Expressions of America* was a very difficult task, as each letter within the collection contains a world within itself. Each letter presents a different cadence, viewpoint, and take on the global war. Every time we open an envelope, unfold a letter, and decipher the handwriting, a new life takes shape. Although the show’s script only uses a tiny fraction of the Museum’s holdings, each voice speaks for a million others.

*Expressions of America* demonstrates the endless possibilities in utilizing the Museum’s collection outside of the Museum’s walls—and literally on them. Objects and archives donated to the Museum are highlighted not only in static displays, behind glass in exhibit cases, but also in print and digital publications, and in all manner of presentations from formal lectures to larger-than-life multimedia projections.



3101st Q.M. Sv. Co.  
APO 562  
1/6 Postmaster New York, N.Y.  
3 Jan 1945

Hi Dad,  
I truly hope you will receive these few lines on your birthday and I hope they will find you in the pink of condition. It has been quite a while since I have been able to be with



1

“First, mom, I want to request something. Could you write a little more often? I *love* to get long letters from you.”

*Staff Sergeant James Killion Jr.*  
in a letter to his mother, Lottie

## A Father’s Legacy

Among the wartime correspondence featured in *Expressions of America* is that of James Killion Jr. His son James Killion III donated his letters to the Museum during an event in June 2022. Three generations of the Killion family gathered to celebrate their WWII veteran patriarch at the event and again at the premiere of *Expressions*. On December 5, 2022, less than a month after joining us for the premiere, James III passed away. Through his dedication and hard work, his father’s letters will live on in the Museum’s collection.

## Mail Call

The importance of mail and the effort required to successfully deliver mail across a world at war is the focus of the exhibit *Mail Call*, which was designed as a signature feature of *Expressions of America*. The exhibit highlights themes found in many of the collections in the Museum’s archives: Loneliness, Innocence, Love, and Service. It also features a small fraction of the millions of letters received by the “Ambassador to the Armed Forces,” Bob Hope, as he extended his bond with his military audience beyond the stage through the mail.



2

## Music’s Role in the Show

For Americans undergoing the monumental upheaval of World War II, music was a binding agent that built community and bolstered morale. It rallied them, comforted them, and offered a vital means to expressing their feelings. For *Expressions of America*, the music of the era was reimagined for a modern audience. A traditional score was combined with chart-topping hits of the era rerecorded by New Orleans musicians to give the show a distinctive sound.



3

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b><br/>The children of Staff Sergeant James Killion Jr. present his wartime correspondence to the President of Education &amp; Access Pete Crean in a special event on June 24, 2022.</p> | <p><b>2</b><br/>Research for the scripting of <i>Expressions of America</i> began with an extensive search into the Museum’s archive of correspondence and oral histories.</p> | <p><b>3</b><br/>Local musicians Doug Belote (from left), Mark Braud, and Mark Brooks gather in June 2022 at Esplanade Studios in New Orleans to record the music for <i>Expressions of America</i>.</p> |
|--|--|---|

# PT-305 Returns to Permanent Home on Museum's Campus

*Fully Restored Vessel Will Be Centerpiece of John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion*

**A**FTER THREE YEARS operating on Lake Pontchartrain, The National WWII Museum's patrol torpedo (PT) boat 305 returned to her permanent home on the Museum's campus in John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion in summer 2022. When Kushner reopens to the public in 2024, Museum visitors will be able to observe the fully restored vessel up close and learn of her wartime crew and tours of duty.

Obtained by the Museum in 2007, PT-305 was originally housed in Kushner while volunteers generously dedicated more than 120,000 hours over 10 years to complete her restoration. In March 2017, the iconic vessel began offering rides and tours on Lake Pontchartrain, where she was originally tested by Higgins Industries. The Museum moved PT-305 to storage in spring 2020 while developing plans to make her more accessible to wider audiences by bringing her back to the main Museum campus.

Clearing the way for PT-305 to return to Kushner required a complex multiartifact move. In Kushner, the LVT (Landing Vehicle Tracked) was shifted to a former woodshop, and the Landing Craft Personnel (Large), or LCP(L), was brought to Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, where the LCPV



(Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel) had already been shifted into its final location.

In early July 2022, PT-305 was loaded onto a barge at SeaBrook Harbor & Marine and sailed through the Industrial Canal and Mississippi River to the Port of New Orleans. After unloading from the barge, PT-305 was transported over surface streets to Kushner. This monumental task was possible thanks to Berard Transportation, Lockton, Canal Barge, Northshore Community Foundation, Stewart Construction, CM Combs Construction, Dixie Electric, Jack B. Harper Electrical, New Orleans Glass, Entergy New Orleans, and the Port of New Orleans.

PT-305 has had quite a history—and has an exciting future ahead. The temperature-

and humidity-controlled environment of Kushner will enable long-term preservation of this historic artifact. Once Kushner reopens, all Museum guests will be able to see and experience its unique history by viewing PT-305 from a custom-built observation deck and through below-deck guided tours. Additionally, the association of the space with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) will ensure the technologies that made PT-305 an asset to the US Navy will be taught to future generations.

The Museum is forever grateful to all volunteers who gave of their time and talents throughout the initial restoration to give PT-305 a new life—and make it possible for her to take on another tour of duty back at the Museum.



**1** After arriving at the Port of New Orleans, PT-305 embarks on the final stretch of her journey back to the Museum's campus in July 2022.

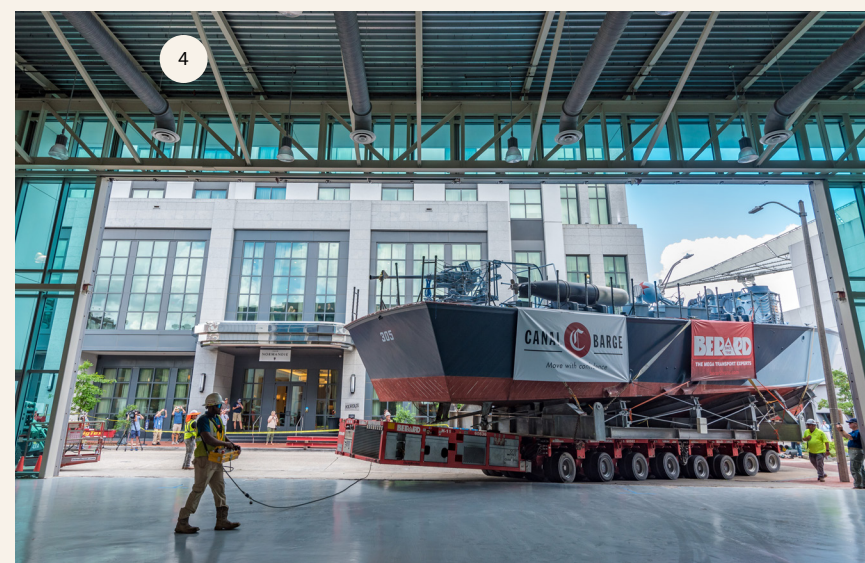
**2** PT-305 passes by the Museum's Hall of Democracy on Magazine Street as she makes her way home to John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion.

**3** PT-305 is loaded onto a transport crawler in preparation for her return to the Museum's campus.



**4** PT-305 slowly backs into John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion.

**5** Museum staff and guests look on as the LCP(L) crawls into Louisiana Memorial Pavilion after moving from Kushner.



# Museum Debuts *The Real Image of War*



*images of war*

## Special Exhibit Examines the Art of Documentary Photography in World War II

**O**VER THE COURSE OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT in World War II, thousands of sailors and officers filmed training material, created propaganda, produced documentaries, and served as combat photographers. The camera's use of chemistry and mechanics married with the human perspective created one of the most powerful tools of

war and art—and an invaluable resource for recording the memory of World War II.

In 2022, The National WWII Museum debuted *The Real Image of War: Steichen and Ford in the Pacific*, a special exhibit celebrating the massive contribution of US Navy photographers to the public's understanding of the events of World War II. Displayed in the Senator John Alario, Jr. Special Exhibition Hall from



**2** Visitors get an up-close view of an artifact during the opening reception for *The Real Image of War* exhibit.

March 17, 2022, to January 3, 2023, the exhibit explored the art of documentary photography as well as the military application of the camera, juxtaposing the works produced by US Navy Photographer's Mates against those of the Naval Aviation Photographic Unit under Edward Steichen's command and the documentaries produced by director John Ford.

Curated by the Museum's own Josh Schick, the exhibit was designed to feel like an art gallery and explored seven themes—Camera Obscura, the First Photomates, Tools of the Trade, the Magic of Skill, Steichen Sent Me, They Were Expendable, and Legacy. The exhibit included wall graphics and framed original prints from Steichen's Naval Aviation Photography Unit, as well as other iconic photographs, and work produced by enlisted sailors. Additional objects like cameras, developing equipment,

an Iwo Jima relief map, uniforms, and souvenirs brought back by cameramen set the scene further, and audio-visual components such as oral histories and period film segments explored the exhibit's documentary film aspect.

By demonstrating the technology of the camera, using dramatic imagery and footage of everything from combat to the ordinary life of the US Navy sailor, *The Real Image of War* probed the supposed objectivity of documentary photography and examined the motives of the men behind the camera who created a visual record of the war in the Pacific.

*The Real Image of War* was generously sponsored by The Abra Prentice Foundation; Iron Mountain; Lois and Lloyd Hawkins, Jr. Foundation; and Goody Two Shoes, Inc.



**3** Artifacts displayed in *The Real Image of War* exhibit included a Fairchild K-20 Aerial Camera, a recorder, red and yellow K-20 filters, and aerographic film.



**4** "The First Photomates" detailed the beginnings of US Navy photography and the first official enlisted photographer, W. L. Richardson.



**5** "Camera Obscura" introduced the concept of documentary photography as a high art form by looking at the history of military photography in the United States and comparing it to the rise of artistic photography in the early 1900s.



# Soldier in Art

Museum Welcomes  
Traveling Exhibit  
Featuring Works of  
Artist Arthur Szyk



1 In *Real Times*, Arthur Szyk: Art & Human Rights was organized into six thematic sections focused on various aspects of human rights.

2 In *Real Times*, Arthur Szyk: Art & Human Rights displayed more than 50 of Arthur Szyk's original works, including *Statut de Kalisz* (The Statue of Kalisz), an offset lithograph on hot press paper.

3 Museum visitors view Arthur Szyk's artwork during the opening reception for *In Real Times*. Arthur Szyk: Art & Human Rights



The National WWII Museum

**T**HE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM was honored to welcome a special exhibit in 2022 that examined the work of artist and political cartoonist Arthur Szyk. *In Real Times*. Arthur Szyk: Art & Human Rights was on display in the Joe W. and Dorothy D. Brown Foundation Special Exhibit Gallery in Louisiana Memorial Pavilion from September 1, 2022, to May 7, 2023. The exhibit showcased more than 50 of Szyk's original works, which focus on humanitarian issues that faced the world in the early 20th century—including issues that remain relevant today.

Born into a middle-class Jewish family in turn-of-the-century Poland, Szyk led a life shaped by two world wars and dominated by the collapse of democracies and rise of totalitarianism in Europe. Szyk was a refugee who settled in the United States in 1940.

As an artist, he became renowned for his caricatures and political cartoons, through which he displayed a broad concern for human rights. The artist fearlessly ridiculed dictators, exposed Nazi genocide,

supported the Polish resistance, and criticized the Ku Klux Klan and civil rights violations in America. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt often referred to Szyk as a “soldier in art” for his commitment to calling attention to the atrocities of the Axis powers. Many of Szyk’s works appeared on the covers of America’s most popular magazines during World War II. His artwork paired his commentary on human rights issues with motifs drawn from religion, history, politics, and culture.

*In Real Times*. Arthur Szyk: Art & Human Rights was organized by The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life at the University of California, Berkeley. The acquisition of the Taube Family Arthur Szyk Collection (2017) and research for this exhibition were made possible by a generous gift from Taube Philanthropies, which allowed The Magnes to secure 450 artworks as well as books, newspapers, magazines, and other publications that featured his art.

*In Real Times*. Arthur Szyk: Art & Human Rights was presented in New Orleans by Taube Philanthropies, with additional support from George Marcus and the Isermann Foundation.

Szyk’s artwork stands as a reminder of the atrocities the world faced in the early 20th century. Speaking at the opening reception for the exhibit’s run at The National WWII Museum, the exhibit’s originating curator, Francesco Spagnolo,

commented on how, through Szyk’s work, we can witness the progressive unraveling of European democracies and the painstaking restoration of human rights in the first half of the 20th century.

“This exhibit tied well into the Museum’s mission to promote World War II’s continued relevance for the world,” said Erin Clancey, Associate Vice President of Collections & Exhibits at the Museum. “We are grateful to Taube Philanthropies and The Magnes for sharing this exhibit and allowing us to bring Szyk’s works to a new audience.”

The exhibit’s eight-month run at the Museum was particularly timely, as it helped set the stage for the fall 2023 opening of Liberation Pavilion, which will explore the Holocaust, what was at stake during the war, the cost of victory, and the lasting lessons and legacies of World War II.

4 The Museum’s Director of Teaching and Learning LaToya Williams (left) and Specialty Sales Manager Caroline Andrews (right) discuss Arthur Szyk’s artwork at the Patriots Circle reception for the *In Real Times* exhibit opening.

5 Visitors had the opportunity to explore Szyk’s miniatures in high resolution and to create new cartoons at an interactive workstation within the *In Real Times*. Arthur Szyk: Art & Human Rights exhibit.

# Museum Dedicates George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery

*Airspace in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center Honors WWII Veteran and Former President*



for Museum Founder Stephen Ambrose after his passing in October 2002, and in 2007, Bush received the American Spirit Award, the Museum's highest honor.

The George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery's fleet of warbirds includes the Boeing B-17E Flying Fortress, a North American B-25J Mitchell, a Vought Corsair F4U-4, a North American P-51D Mustang, a Douglas SBD-3 Dauntless, and a General Motors TBM Avenger. Visitors can learn more about President Bush through a prominent tribute plaque and a legacy video shown on loop several times each day on three large-scale LED screens. The George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery brings to life the extraordinary journey of a remarkable American whose commitment to freedom and democracy informed his lifetime of leadership and service to his country.

"For me, it was an honor to serve— a duty, yes— but truly an honor."

*George H.W. Bush*

**I**N MARCH 2022, The National WWII Museum dedicated the George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery, featuring a collection of six fully restored WWII aircraft suspended from the ceiling of US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. Since the gallery first opened in 2013, it has offered one of the most dramatic views on the Museum's campus. Now, it serves as a prominent and lasting tribute to WWII veteran and former President Bush, thanks to a generous \$3 million commitment from the Hildebrand Foundation started by Jeffery and Mindy Hildebrand of Houston, Texas.

Among the aircraft on display in the gallery is a General Motors TBM Avenger like the one Bush flew as one of the youngest US Navy pilots during World War II. Bush ultimately flew 58 combat missions,

receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals before he was honorably discharged in September 1945. Through the generosity of the Hildebrand Foundation, and with the support of the Bush family, the Museum has the opportunity to tell the incredible story of George H.W. Bush's service to our country, both as an aviator during the war and as the 41st President of the United States.

President Bush's connection to the Museum dates to the early 1990s, when he agreed to serve on an honorary board of national figures supporting the initial development of the Museum. Bush visited the Museum in April 1999, when it was still a construction zone, and later attended the grand opening of the Museum's *D-Day Invasions in the Pacific* exhibit in December 2001. He spoke at the memorial service

**1** The George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery features six WWII aircraft, including a General Motors TBM Avenger like the one Bush flew during the war.

**2** Pierce Bush (from left), Jeffery Hildebrand, Mindy Hildebrand, Governor John Bel Edwards, WWII veteran Paul Hilliard, and Museum President & CEO Stephen J. Watson celebrate the dedication of the George H.W. Bush Aviation Gallery in March 2022.





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### Seven WWII Veterans Among Those Honored at June Ceremony

**1** The Museum was honored to recognize several WWII veterans and welcome them to our campus for the 2022 American Spirit Awards. Later that summer, the Museum mourned the passing of Bradford Freeman, the last surviving member of the now-famous “Band of Brothers” of Easy Company, and Samuel Sandoval, one of four remaining Navajo Code Talkers. Their passing reinforces the Museum’s mission to honor WWII veterans’ sacrifice and preserve their stories while they are still with us.

**2** Nearly 600 guests gather in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center on June 10, 2022, for the American Spirit Awards gala.

**3** Samuel Sandoval (seated, left) and Peter MacDonald, two of the Navajo Code Talkers who received the American Spirit Award in 2022, watch a tribute video detailing their wartime service before accepting their awards.

**A**LWAYS A HIGHLIGHT of the Museum’s events calendar, the American Spirit Awards presented by Hancock Whitney were made even more special in 2022 by a return to in-person programming and an inspiring slate of honorees. Hundreds of Museum supporters, honorees, and guests from across the country gathered on June 9–10, 2022, to pay tribute to the achievements of great Americans whose work reflects the values and spirit of those who served our country during World War II and throughout history. Building on the broad geographic reach of the virtual 2021 Awards, the Museum committed to increasing the impact and visibility of the American Spirit Awards by livestreaming the ceremony to more than 4,800 households.

In total, the 14 honorees included seven WWII veterans: Pearl Harbor survivor Lt. Commander Louis Conter, Bradford Freeman (1924–2022) of Easy Company’s “Band of Brothers,” 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion member

Romay Davis, and the four remaining Navajo Code Talkers—Thomas Begay, John Kinsel Sr., Peter MacDonald, and Samuel Sandoval (1923–2022)—whose unbreakable code was crucial to the success of Allied campaigns in the Pacific and to victory during World War II.

During a daytime luncheon and leadership forum on Friday, the Museum presented its American Spirit Medallion to business and civic leader Charles C. Teamer; activist, educator and author Sister Carol Rittner; and longtime New Orleans City Council member and Museum Trustee Emerita Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson. The Museum also presented its Silver Service Medallion to Conter, Davis, and Freeman at Friday’s luncheon. Clarkson, Davis, Rittner, and Teamer then participated in a leadership forum for the 47 exemplary students from across the nation who gathered at the Museum to be recognized with the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award.

At Friday evening’s awards gala, the Museum’s highest honor—the American

Spirit Award—was presented to the Navajo Code Talkers, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and military historian Rick Atkinson, educator and civil rights pioneer Norman C. Francis, veterans advocate Karen Guenther, and philanthropist and FedEx Corporation founder Frederick W. Smith. Perhaps the most stirring moment of the two-day celebration occurred at the conclusion of the evening, when 17-year-old Kenneth Lee, grandson of Navajo Code Talker Samuel Sandoval, spoke on his grandfather’s behalf.

One of the most successful fundraising events the Museum has held thus far, the 2022 American Spirit Awards were generously supported by Presenting Sponsor Hancock Whitney. Additional major supporters included the Richard C. Adkerson Family Foundation and Freeport-McMoRan; Trustee Kevin Clifford; Madlyn and Paul Hilliard; and FedEx, alongside dozens of other generous sponsors who together raised \$1.35 million to support the Museum’s educational initiatives and ongoing public programming.

“In a time of war, these brave Navajo Code Talkers used a code not only to protect the United States but [also] to defend the founding principles of freedom... [They] used the language of their ancestors to create a code that gave the Allied forces an undeniable advantage that changed the tides of war in the Pacific.”  
*Kenneth Lee, grandson of Navajo Code Talker Samuel Sandoval*



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3

STATS

# By the Numbers

AMERICAN SPIRIT AWARDS

**14**  
award recipients,  
including 7 WWII veterans

**~600**  
gala attendees

**4,840**  
virtual views

**47**  
student leaders recognized  
from across the country

**19**  
scholarships to Normandy  
Academy and Student  
Leadership Academy funded

**\$1.35**  
million  
raised

# Museum Celebrates Naming of Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy

*Philanthropist and Business Pioneer Pledges \$5 Million to Advance WWII Education*

Recordings of all conferences and symposia hosted by the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy may be viewed online at [youtube.com/wwiimuseum](https://www.youtube.com/wwiimuseum).

**19.9+ million** views of web articles since July 2017

**71%** of viewers from United States

**7%** from United Kingdom

**4%** from Australia

**4%** from Canada

**T**HE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM formally celebrated the permanent naming of the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy during Women's History Month in conjunction with the *Memory Wars: World War II at 75 and Beyond* virtual conference. The Craig Institute is named for innovator and business leader Jenny Craig, who pledged \$5 million with her daughter, Denise Merlone, and son-in-law and Museum Trustee, Peter Merlone, to underwrite and support the development of new educational initiatives and help advance programs, content, and outreach.

Best known for her successful career of over 50 years in the fitness and nutrition business, Craig is deeply committed to the military as well as educating Americans about the history of World War II. As a child during World War II, Craig grew up in New Orleans hearing stories from her family members of the courageous men and women who served their country in the military. Her grandfather was injured while serving in the Army during World War I, and her two brothers joined the Army and the Merchant Marine during World War II. She remains a fierce advocate for those who served and is passionate about preserving the stories and legacies of the WWII generation.

"It's so important to me to contribute to something that will educate young people about the consequences of war," said Craig. "If we don't learn from the past—the atrocities and consequences of war—then it's bound to repeat itself. I just can't say enough about what the Museum means to me and what messages it delivers."

The Craig Institute was established in 2017 as a community of scholars with a vision to become the preferred resource for audiences seeking information on the American experience in World War II. Key initiatives include hosting the International Conference on World War II as well as other conferences and symposia; developing and teaching online coursework through the Museum's online master's degree program in World War II studies with Arizona State University; partnering with the Department of Defense POW and MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to document WWII missing-in-action cases and repatriate remains of missing servicemembers; researching the service history of WWII veterans for their loved ones; and producing original digital content and public programs on a wide variety of WWII topics. Craig's gift has a meaningful impact as the Museum strives to inspire new generations, broaden its reach to larger audiences, and advance its mission to become the most accessible and trusted resource on World War II.

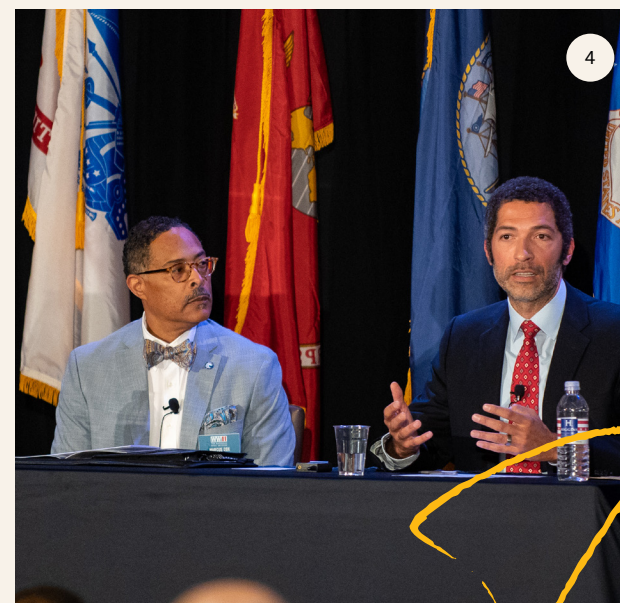


**1** Jenny Craig (center) joins daughter Denise Merlone (from left), son-in-law and Museum Trustee Peter Merlone, Museum President & CEO Stephen J. Watson, and daughter Michelle Weinger at the dedication of the Craig Institute.

**2** The International Conference on World War II is one of the Craig Institute's key initiatives.

**3** Jenny Craig and her family cut a ribbon in the Museum's Hall of Democracy to officially dedicate the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy.

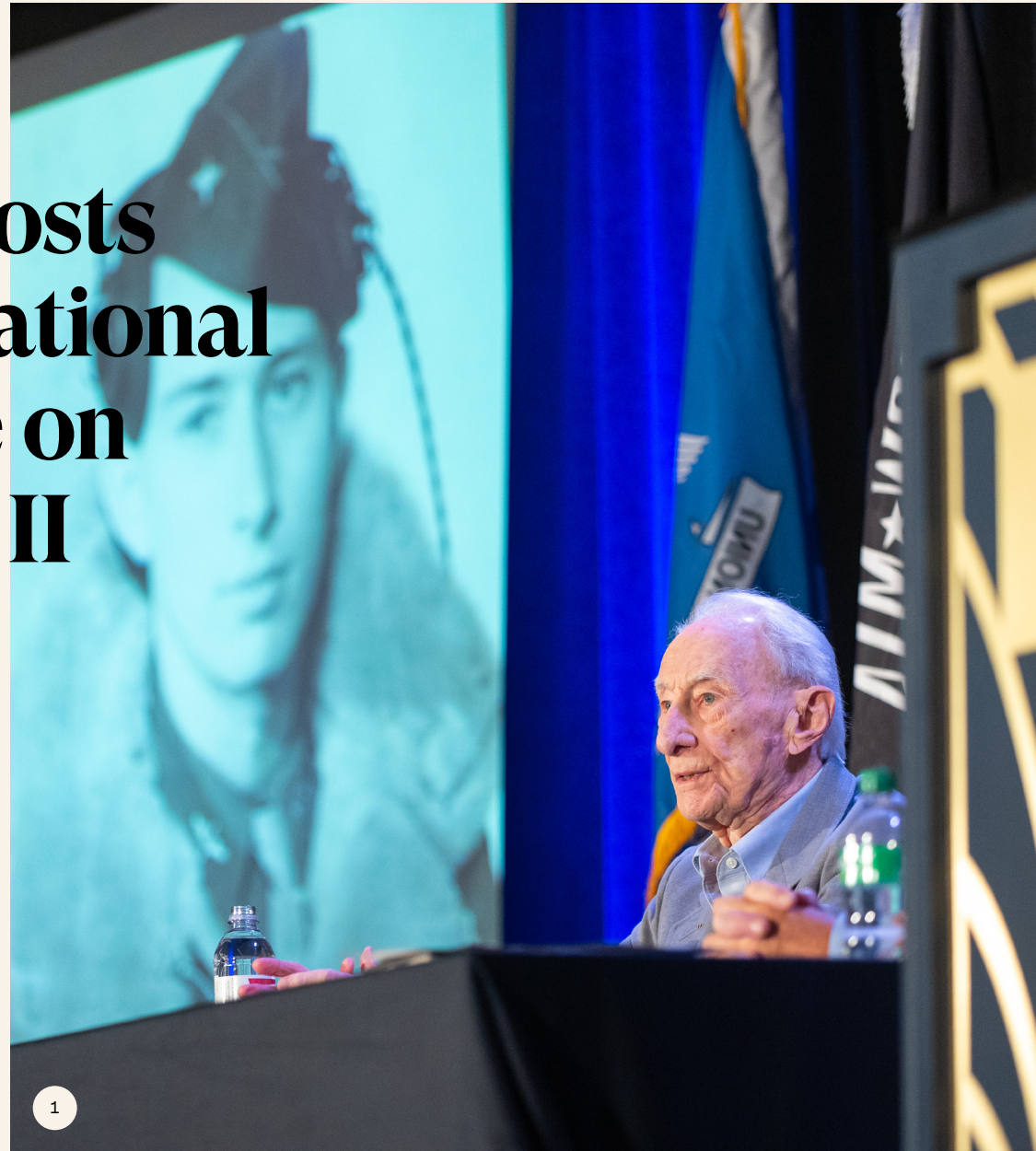
**4** The International Conference on World War II brings top historians and authors like Marcus Cox, PhD (left), and Matthew Delmont, PhD, to the Museum each year.



"If we don't *learn* from the past—the atrocities and consequences of war—then it's bound to repeat itself."  
*Jenny Craig*

# Museum Hosts 15th International Conference on World War II

2022 Event Features  
Renowned Historians  
and Three WWII  
Veterans



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**T**HE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM'S 15TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD WAR II, organized by the

Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy and presented by the Pritzker Military Foundation on behalf of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, was memorable and inspirational for in-person and online audiences. Held on November 17–19, 2022, the Conference exceeded the previous high standards, firmly cementing the Conference as the world's premier gathering of WWII historians, educators, authors, and enthusiasts.

This year's daylong pre-conference symposium, titled "Resistance! Life Under Occupation," consisted of five sessions covering resistance movements in both Europe and Asia during the war. The

"The name of my book is *Damn Lucky*, because that's precisely the bottom line. It didn't matter how good or how poor we were. If you survived, you were just incredibly *lucky*, as I was."

John "Lucky" Luckadoo

symposium was followed by two days of Conference sessions featuring 35 speakers, including Lynne Olson, described as "our era's foremost chronicler of WWII politics and diplomacy" by former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; Andrew Nagorski, an award-winning journalist and former foreign correspondent and editor for *Newsweek*; and Matthew Delmont, who discussed his recent book, *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad*. Additionally, the Museum was

**1** WWII veteran John "Lucky" Luckadoo was interviewed by Donald Miller, PhD, author of *Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the War Against Nazi Germany*, during the 15th International Conference on World War II. Luckadoo served as a pilot and copilot with the 100th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, also known as the "Bloody Hundredth."

honored to feature three WWII veterans during this year's Conference program: John "Lucky" Luckadoo of the US Army Air Forces, Z. Anthony Kruszewski of the Polish Home Army, and Nicole Spangenberg of the French Resistance.

This year, Conference attendance exceeded 350 guests. There were 4,340 registrants in virtual attendance, with online viewership reaching over 20,000. The Museum

was happy to welcome guests from our academic communities as well, including 50 high school and university students.

Sharing first-person accounts of the war along with expert insights on the newest research and findings advanced the Museum's goal to become the most accessible source for trusted knowledge on the American experience in *the war that changed the world*.

"There were lots of women [in the French Resistance] who were really extraordinary *heroes*, and some of their stories are so much better than the fiction that you read—that sometimes you just can't believe that it has really happened."

Nicole Spangenberg



2

## STATS

# By the Numbers

15TH ANNUAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE

**350**  
in-person guests

**4,340**  
virtual registrants

**20,000+**  
online viewers

**50**  
high school and  
university students in  
attendance

**2** As a French teenager in the Resistance, Nicole Spangenberg risked her life to help her countrymen fight the Nazis. She joined Stephanie Hinnertshitz, PhD, Senior Historian in the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, for a conversation at the International Conference on World War II.



1



2

# Band of Brothers Marks 20 Years

Cast and Crew Gather at Museum to Celebrate Anniversary of Premiere



4



3

STATS

## By the Numbers

BAND OF  
BROTHERS  
SYMPOSIUM

**20,279**  
total views

**11,300**  
live views on Vimeo

**10,668**  
livestream registrants

**500+**  
in-person guests

**30**  
cast and crew  
members present

**T**O COMMEMORATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY of the premiere of the groundbreaking *Band of Brothers* miniseries, The National WWII Museum hosted a daylong Symposium in New Orleans on August 13, 2022—rescheduled after COVID-19 interrupted plans to host the event in 2021. A weekend of service, camaraderie, and memories brought 30 members from the cast and crew together on stage to reflect on their experiences, share unique insights, and provide behind-the-scenes commentary. Family members of Easy Company veterans also attended, expressing their gratitude for the show's role in preserving the lasting legacies of their loved ones.

Session topics included *Real to Reel: Spielberg, Hanks, and Search for Authenticity* featuring producers, the casting director, and cast; *From Toccoa to Europe: On the Ground with Easy Company* featuring screenwriters and cast; *A Company of Heroes: The Legacy of Easy Company*, featuring family members of Easy Company veterans and the actors who portrayed their relatives; and *We Stand Alone Together: Actors Reminiscences Roundtable*, featuring 15 cast members from the miniseries. A special bonus panel was added prior to the Symposium: *Boot Camp Basics with Captain*

*Dale Dye*, accompanied by the military advisers and cast from the miniseries.

The Symposium culminated with an autograph session lasting nearly two hours as adoring fans acquired signatures from cast and crew on their personal memorabilia—DVDs, books, and photographs. Of the more than 500 people in attendance, many participants had traveled on *Easy Company: England to the Eagle's Nest*, a flagship program from the Museum's Educational Travel program, which follows in the footsteps of the 101st Airborne Division's 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment across seven countries. In addition to contributing to the panels at the Symposium, some cast and crew also participated in a private session with local students and teachers, while others visited active-duty servicemembers at Naval Air Station Belle Chasse.

The Symposium was made possible thanks to our Presenting Sponsor Hancock Whitney Bank, with additional support from Ryan Adkerson; HBO; Galerie de Galatoire, New Orleans; Craig and Ann McDonald of Lubbock, Texas; Camryn Batchelor; the Dowis Family—Andrew, Sileen, Sloane; the Ragan, Rosenberger, Miller Family; the Ramsey Family—Rick, Kathy, Sean, and Jonathan; Larry and Penny Schutt; Robert V. Siebel; Richard D. Thacker; Atlantic; Flying Classroom; and Barrington Irving.

"You all brought [Easy Company] to *life*. We knew who they were before they were identified—their mannerisms, the way they talked, what they said. And now that they are all gone, you have preserved that not just for me, but for everyone here and for my daughter who never got to meet my dad."

*Kerry Tipper,*  
daughter of Easy Company member Ed Tipper,  
to Band of Brothers actors

**1**  
Band of Brothers cast and crew participate in the 20th Anniversary Reunion Symposium and reflect on their experiences filming the miniseries.

**2**  
A cast and crew autograph session concludes the Band of Brothers 20th Anniversary Reunion Symposium.

**3**  
Military adviser Captain Dale Dye visits with active-duty servicemembers at Naval Air Station Belle Chasse.

**4**  
The Museum hosted 556 in-person attendees at the Band of Brothers 20th Anniversary Reunion Symposium in New Orleans, while 10,668 virtual participants watched the livestream.

# The Public Memory of World War II

*Virtual Conference Explores Shifting Landscapes of Popular Memories of World-Altering Conflict*

**T**HE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM hosted a first-of-its-kind conference in 2022 titled *Memory Wars: World War II at 75 and Beyond*. Produced by the Museum's Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, *Memory Wars* took place virtually from March 24–26. The conference examined World War II's place in public memory and how historians, filmmakers, media, memorials, and museums help shape the legacy of the global conflict. The conference brought together nearly 40 of the world's leading museum directors, historians, filmmakers, and WWII gaming producers for three days of insightful discussions.

STATS

## By the Numbers

MEMORY

WARS

**13,925**  
*total viewers*

**4,580**  
*live stream registrants*

**6,949**  
*live views on Vimeo*

**12**  
*sessions*

"There couldn't be a subject more important, I believe, to the understanding of World War II than also understanding how World War II is *remembered*—its meaning for today and for the future, and also how it's been remembered in the past."

*Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD,  
President & CEO Emeritus*



*Memory Wars* Chair Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD (clockwise from left), is joined by Keith Lowe, author of *Prisoners of History*; Elizabeth Samet, PhD, author of *Looking for the Good War*; and Michael Bell, PhD, Executive Director of the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, for a roundtable session debating America's various contested memories of World War II, from the still-popular view of the "good war" to other alternative memories presented at home and abroad.

The opening conference session featured Playtone executive and producer Kirk Sadoski, known for his role in producing the *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific* miniseries. Sadoski discussed the role that movies and TV have played in generating, shaping, and altering popular memory of World War II. Respawn Entertainment Game Director Peter Hirschmann also provided a behind-the-scenes look at what it took to produce *Medal of Honor*, a WWII video game, and the in-depth research process his team led to create a historically realistic video game.

During sessions over the next two days, historians and practitioners explored various topics, such as how German museums portray the war, and the debate regarding remembering World War II as a "good war." This session featured The

National WWII Museum's President & CEO Emeritus Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD, and the Craig Institute's Executive Director Michael S. Bell, PhD. They joined additional panelists in breaking down the myths and realities of America during the 1940s. The conference concluded with a discussion featuring Dr. Carol Gluck of Columbia University, who shared her thoughts on America's "Day of Infamy" and the significance of the attack on Pearl Harbor in American memory.

With support from presenting sponsors—the American Battle Monuments Commission, Electronic Arts, Respawn Entertainment, and Oculus from Meta—the Museum streamed *Memory Wars* to more than 13,000 viewers across multiple time zones, entirely free of charge.

# Educational Programming Returns on Campus and Abroad



## ROBOTICS CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Museum's Robotics Challenge Championship returned to its in-person format in May, offering an exciting opportunity for 4th–8th grade students to develop 21st-century skills and participate in active problem-solving all based on real-life scenarios from World War II. The 2022 season theme was “The Battle of the Atlantic,” with teams preprogramming LEGO robots to solve missions such as building a Liberty Ship, turning on a Leigh Light, and firing a torpedo. More than 170 robotics team members and their coaches came from across Louisiana and Alabama for the daylong competition.

## Museum Resumes Full Slate of Programs in Person

**I**N 2022, The National WWII Museum resumed offering its educational and student travel programs in person after two years of providing virtual-only versions to students and teachers across the country. While virtual programs will always play a key role in helping the Museum reach wide audiences with great success, it was meaningful for the Museum's Education team to work face to face with students and teachers to explore the history and lessons of World War II. The Museum also continued to offer digital programs throughout the year, including a robust slate of student webinars. Thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters, the Museum is able to continue advancing its educational mission and reach new audiences with innovative programming.



## SUMMER TEACHER SEMINARS

In July, the Museum hosted 57 teachers from 28 states for its annual Summer Teacher Seminars. The first seminar, *Voices from the Pacific War: Teaching the Untold Stories of World War II*, trained teachers on WWII-related topics and the best strategies to use Museum resources—especially the oral history collection—to teach about the Pacific war in their classrooms. In the second seminar, *The Power of Propaganda: Teaching Media Literacy Through World War II*, participants learned about effective teaching strategies to help students analyze WWII propaganda and cultivate media literacy skills.

“I can't imagine the amount of time, effort, and resources it took for the Museum to plan this incredible week... I have attended a lot of professional development programs, and this was, hands down, the *best!*”

*Bernadette Weissmann,*

*2022 Summer Teacher Seminar Participant*



## LOUISIANA HISTORY DAY

In April, Louisiana History Day, the state-level affiliate of National History Day, was held in person at the Museum for the first time since 2019. Approximately 300 students in grades 6–12 competed in the regional contests in Baton Rouge, Natchitoches, Shreveport, Monroe, and New Orleans as well as the state contest. As the state sponsor, The National WWII Museum provides resources and support for Louisiana students participating in the program at the regional, state, and national levels.

## SUMMER CAMPS

In June and July, the Museum welcomed 127 campers for Spy Camp, STEM Innovation Camp, and Bob & Dolores Hope Summer Theater Camp, with nearly all camps selling out in advance. Using the history of World War II as a jumping-off point, campers had the chance to engage in fun, creative activities that ignited their imaginations within the unique setting of the Museum campus.



## NORMANDY ACADEMY

In June and July, 90 high school and college students traveled with the Museum for Normandy Academy, an 11-day educational journey that challenges students to delve deeper into the experiences of the Allied forces throughout the Battle of Normandy. After three days at the Museum, the students traveled first to Paris and then on to the town of Bayeux, France, before exploring the beaches, battle sites, and cemeteries of the Invasion of Normandy.

## SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE

The Museum brought a cohort of 30 teachers to Munich, Germany, in July to help deepen their understanding of World War II and its legacy. These teachers participated in the Museum's 2019 Summer Teacher Institute but were unable to complete the second half of their training in Germany in 2020 due to COVID-19. The long-awaited trip in summer 2022 helped teachers gain not only a better understanding of World War II but also innovative ideas and teaching practices to bring WWII history alive for their students.







# Priddy Family Foundation Makes Generous Gift to Develop Freedom Theater



## \$7.5 Million Commitment Will Help Museum Share Lessons of World War II

**1** In 2022, significant progress was made on construction of the Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater. The theater's 20-minute production will serve as the capstone experience Museum guests walk away with.

**T**O PRESERVE THE RELEVANT LEGACIES of World War II and inspire future audiences, the Priddy Family Foundation made a transformative \$7.5 million commitment—the third-largest individual gift in the history of the Museum—to help complete the upcoming Liberation Pavilion and develop the Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater on the third floor of the Pavilion. In addition to their support of Liberation Pavilion, which will open in fall 2023 and explore the story of what World War II means today, the Priddy Family Foundation has provided critical support to the Museum's digitization initiative, making the first-person accounts of hundreds of WWII veterans accessible to students,

scholars, teachers, and many others today and into the future. Their commitment to the Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater represents yet another significant milestone in the Museum's \$400 million Road to Victory Capital Campaign.

The 2009 premiere of the *Beyond All Boundaries* 4D experience was a game changer for The National WWII Museum as it helped share the stories of World War II with new audiences in an innovative and memorable way. Similarly, the Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater is designed to help ensure the story of World War II remains relevant for younger generations so that all Americans understand the lasting impact of World War II and the ongoing struggle for freedom and human rights. While *Beyond All Boundaries* is often the

first experience guests have during their visit, the Freedom Theater will be the final experience for most guests—leaving them with a powerful conclusion to their visit as they continue to reflect upon our freedom and the sacrifices made for its preservation.

Through a 20-minute immersive guest experience addressing the broad theme of freedom, the production will explore individual and international examples from the prewar and postwar years where freedom was lost or under pressure, as well as the American-led efforts to preserve and defend it. Powerful, original visuals will be projected throughout the show, and at a pivotal moment, the theater audience platform itself will rotate. The production frames World War II as part of the ongoing story of freedom and

how America was forced to define its own vision of freedom and face some of its own contradictions during World War II. With the war aims of Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman at the story's foundation, the production provides the invaluable words of those who carried the banner of freedom forward. By understanding the cost and responsibility of preserving freedom, audiences can better reflect on their own civic obligations and engagement.

The Museum's mission is deeply personal for Robert and Kikie Priddy, as both of their fathers served in World War II. The Priddys' extraordinary generosity not only reflects their commitment to the Museum but also to preserving the lessons and legacies of World War II for generations to come.

**2** The development of the Freedom Theater is made possible by the Priddy Family Foundation led by Foundation Chairman and Museum Trustee Robert Priddy and his wife, Kikie (center).

**3** Kikie Priddy signs a beam that will be part of Liberation Pavilion.

**4** The Priddy Family Foundation Freedom Theater, located on the third floor of Liberation Pavilion, will offer audiences a multisensory experience focused on the lasting impact of World War II and the ongoing struggle for freedom and human rights.

# Looking Ahead

**T**HANKS TO OUR DEDICATED SUPPORTERS, 2022 was another exciting and successful year for The National WWII Museum. As we reflect on all we have accomplished, we also look toward the future of the Museum.

2023 promises to be a transformational year for the Museum. In November, we will open Liberation Pavilion, our capstone exhibit hall that will emphasize a key pillar of our mission: what World War II means today. The three-story space will explore the end of the war, the Holocaust, the immediate postwar years, and the war's continuing impact on our lives—allowing us to tell a more complete story of the American experience in World War II.

The Pavilion opening will mark the conclusion of the \$400 million Road to Victory Capital Campaign that fueled the expansion of our campus from one exhibition hall to seven pavilions over the past two decades. The Museum will celebrate with its supporters and the community during the D-Day to Liberation: Road to Victory Celebration, offering a week of programs and festivities to thank those who have made the campus expansion possible.

During this week, the Museum will concurrently host the 2023 Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention. Presented by the Stephen G. and Regina Oswald Foundation, the Convention will welcome Medal of Honor Recipients and their families for one of our country's most prestigious gatherings. It will be a distinct privilege to welcome Recipients to our campus and to learn firsthand of their courage, dedication, and sacrifice for our nation.

Although the completion of our Capital Campaign and the opening of our capstone pavilion are remarkable accomplishments, there is still work to be done to ensure the stories of the WWII generation live on for future generations. The Museum will fulfill this duty by continuing to bring new special exhibits, interactive experiences, educational programming, web articles, and more to audiences on campus and online.

In 2023, the Museum will debut two new special exhibits—*The Go for Broke Spirit: A Legacy in Portraits*, showcasing photographer Shane Sato's portrait series featuring Japanese American WWII veterans, and *Our War Too: Women in Service*, commemorating the 350,000 American women who answered the call and served their country during World War II. Then, in 2024, the Museum will debut *Voices from the Front*, an interactive oral history experience that will help visitors connect with the WWII generation, and commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy, honoring the men and women who helped to liberate a continent.

We are proud of all that the Museum has achieved—not only in 2022, but over the past two decades—and as we prepare for these momentous events, we are ever grateful for your support in helping us reach this extraordinary moment in our institution's history.



1

2

**1** Medal of Honor Recipient Britt Slabinski, a retired US Navy Master Chief who served in the War on Terror in Afghanistan, participates in the Museum's Pearl Harbor Commemorative Ceremony on December 7, 2022.

**2** The flag of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society is raised alongside the American flag on the Governor Pete Wilson Liberty Flagstaff on the Museum's Founders Plaza.

#### OPPOSITE

Liberation Pavilion will help visitors gain a deeper understanding of the war's enormous impact and the ongoing struggle for freedom and democracy.



# Charter Members

**168,150**

*Charter Members*

**\$10.9**  
**million**

*in contributions*

The National WWII Museum would not be where it is today without the significant contributions of our Charter Members. Through their generous support, the Museum's educators, historians, and curators have continued to pioneer innovative ways to share the full story of the American experience in World War II with audiences far beyond the Museum campus. The loyalty of our Members, and their unwavering commitment to the values of the WWII generation, help us fulfill our mission as America's WWII Museum.

For more than two decades, Charter Members have generously supported the expansion and growth of our education outreach and programming. In Fiscal Year 2022, 168,150 Charter Members played a critical role in helping us to reach new audiences with the important and increasingly relevant stories of World War II. The Museum received over \$10.9 million from our Charter Members in Fiscal Year 2022.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS** for supporting The National WWII Museum in Fiscal Year 2022 and into the future as we continue to grow and evolve to ensure that audiences of all ages understand the sacrifices made to secure the freedoms we enjoy today.



- 1** The Victory Belles perform the music of the 1940s at a Feed the Troops lunch during Veterans Day weekend.
- 2** CBS News congressional correspondent Nikole Killion and her son meet a WWII veteran after the Veterans Day Commemorative Ceremony in US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center.
- 3** Local servicemembers welcome WWII veterans traveling with the Gary Sinise Foundation's Soaring Valor Program as they arrive at the New Orleans airport.
- 4** On a visit to the museum built in his honor, a WWII veteran takes a moment to rest on the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Historical Sculpture Bench on Founders Plaza.

The National WWII Museum

Legacy of Service

# Patriots Circle Members

**1,398**  
*Patriots Circle Members*

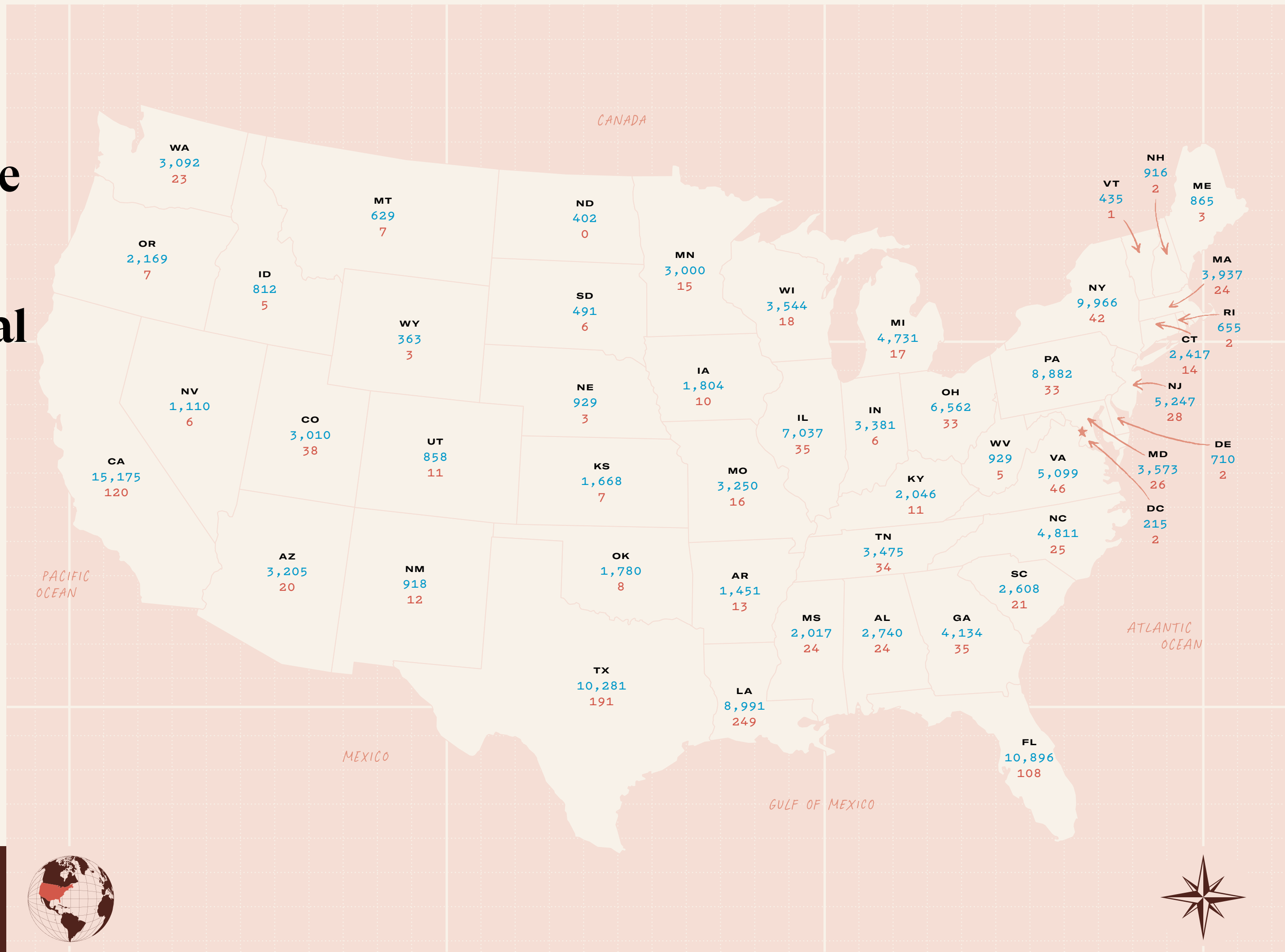
**\$3.7**  
**million**  
*in contributions*

Contributions from Patriots Circle Members enable the Museum to continue its vital work, including digitizing collections and artifacts, developing new spaces and interactive exhibits on the New Orleans campus, and reaching new audiences through digital content and distance-learning programming. Because of the loyalty and advocacy of this group, the Museum is able to engage more students and adult learners worldwide with the lessons and legacies of World War II.

Among the most ardent supporters of The National WWII Museum, Patriots Circle Members contributed \$3.7 million to the Museum in Fiscal Year 2022—exceeding all previous years of giving from this distinguished group.

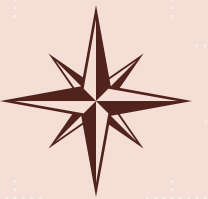
**THANK YOU TO EACH OF OUR PATRIOTS CIRCLE MEMBERS** for supporting our institution during times of adversity and change and for demonstrating American spirit in such profound and meaningful ways. Because of your generosity and dedication, we are able to continue advancing the Museum's mission and inspire new generations with lessons of freedom, bravery, and courage.

# Members Nationwide Fuel the Museum's Educational Outreach



AK 277 1	HI 588 2
CANADA 8	GUAM 7
VIRGIN ISLANDS 11	PUERTO RICO 35
ARMED FORCES, EUROPE 6	ARMED FORCES, PACIFIC 2
OTHER 4	

- LEGEND**
- Charter Members
  - Patriots Circle Members



# Patriots Circle Donors

★★★★  
**FOUR-STAR DONORS**  
\$10,000+

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Herschel L. Abbott Jr.

**Ryan Adkerson**  
J. W. Adkerson, USN Seabees, WWII Veteran

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Leon Ross, WWII Veteran  
W. T. Ross, WWII Veteran

**Clifford S. Asness**  
Leon Asness, WWII Veteran

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Lawrence Preston Gise, WWII Veteran

**Hon. John Kenneth Blackwell**

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George A. Bollinger, WWII Veteran  
Richard N. Bollinger, WWII Veteran  
James LeBlanc, WWII Veteran

**Bourgeois Bennett, LLC**

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Jack O. Bovender Sr., USMC, WWII Veteran  
James G. Bovender, USMC, WWII KIA  
Hampton Foreman, USA, WWII Veteran

**Jessica Brandt**

**Karen Buckingham**  
Kenneth A. Schutt, WWII Veteran  
LeRoy H. F. Schutt, WWII Veteran

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Crosby Field, US Army, WWI and WWII Veteran  
Charles Godchaux, US Navy  
Margaret Norbeck, WWII Veteran

**Henry L. Coaxum Jr.**

**Dick and Nancy Cochran**  
Ned C. Cantrell, WWII Veteran

**Ken Copper and Janice Dailey**  
Harold Buckingham, WWII Home Front  
H. E. "Cop" Copper, US Navy, WWII Veteran  
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CWO4 Clarence Dean, US Air Force (Ret.), WWII Veteran

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Beatrice Schoenfeld DeVido, WWII Home Front  
Joseph L. DeVido, WWII Veteran  
Brigitta Stirnimann, WWII Veteran  
Johann Stirnimann, WWII Veteran

**Margaret Dragisic and Jay H. Floyd Jr.**  
Nicholas Charles Dragisic, USAAC, WWII Veteran

**Ms. Betty Jo Ellard**  
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Arvold O. Fisher, WWII Home Front

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John Franks, WWII Veteran

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O. G. "Gilbert" Glasscock, WWII Home Front

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Warren G. Herreid  
Eugene E. Rivet  
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**Ms. Dot Klock**

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Arthur McVicker, WWII Veteran

**Merritt and Elly Lane**  
1st LT Frank Golemi, USAAF, WWII Veteran

**Cornelia and Joe B. LaRussa**  
Sarah A. Kirksey

**New Orleans Saints and Pelicans**  
Tom Benson, WWII Veteran

**Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Leander**  
1st Lieutenant John H. Ford, WWII Veteran  
Lieutenant Jack Heise, US Air Force, WWII Veteran  
Lieutenant Sr. Grade William Mosey, US Navy Air Corps, WWII Veteran

**Alan Leventhal**

**Marie Lijek**  
Edward Andruchek, US Army, WWII Veteran

**Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Smith Lupu**

**Ms. Karen Maerz**  
John L. Allen, WWII Veteran  
Philip E. Allen, WWII Veteran  
Cornelius J. Loew, WWII Veteran  
John A. Loew, WWII Veteran  
William M. Witter, WWII Veteran  
John M. Inman, WWII Veteran

**Dr. and Mrs. Neil J. Maki**

**Mr. Edward C. Mathes**

**Jimmy and Lillian Maurin**

**Thomas L. McCormick**  
Lloyd L. McCormick, WWII Veteran

**Sam S. McKeel, WWII Veteran**  
James Gardner Jr., WWII Veteran

**Ms. D. Clementina Memmi**  
Linsey Memmi, WWII Veteran  
Villie Memmi, WWII Veteran

**Peter and Denise Merlone**

**Robert W. Merrick**  
Lt. Michael Herbst

**Suzanne and Michael Mestayer**

**Capt. John R. Mock, USAR**  
Major Walter C. Bliel, US Army, WWII Veteran  
Don Fishbeck Jr., US Navy, WWII Veteran

**J. Edgar Monroe Foundation**

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**Dennis A. Muilenburg**

**David Nierenberg**  
Albert Angelo Sr., WWII Home Front  
Commander Howard M. Benedict Jr., US Navy, WWII Veteran  
Andrew Cambou, WWII Veteran  
John Cambou, WWII Veteran  
Mario Cambou, WWII Veteran  
Edward Lynch, WWII Veteran  
Ira Millstein, WWII Veteran  
David Eli Nierenberg, WWII Veteran  
Inge von Gutenberg Nierenberg, WWII Veteran  
Jay Nierenberg, WWII Veteran  
Theodore Nierenberg, WWII Veteran  
Clifford Segal, WWII Veteran



## Dot Klock

**LOCATION** ★★★★★  
Asbury Park, New Jersey

**D**OT KLOCK, a longtime advocate of the Museum who joined the Patriots Circle in 2014, is passionate about supporting educational programs tailored to the interests and needs of young people. "As a proud Patriots Circle Member, I want to help future generations understand why brave men and women fought and died for the freedoms so many of us take for granted," Dot explains.

watch classic WWII films, sparking her mother's memories of her and her family's experiences during the war. Those profound memories helped to strengthen the special bond between mother and daughter, and the songs, movies, and stories of World War II had a positive impact on her mother's final days.

While Dot is eager to champion educational initiatives, her connection to World War II is distinctly personal. When her mother became ill with dementia, Dot became her sole caretaker. During their time together, Dot and her mother would

Dot has also had the privilege of spending time with several WWII veterans and their families whose sacrifice she wants all to remember. "I believe it's our duty to honor all of those who served so our freedoms could continue," she says. "I'm extremely committed and dedicated to keeping their memories alive for future generations."

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Anderson**  
**David and Stephanie Barksdale**  
**Paul and Kathleen Barletta**  
John R. Barletta,  
Korean War Veteran  
Edwin A. Cordilla, WWII Veteran  
Leonard Dimichele, WWII Veteran  
**Ms. Norma Baumann**  
Don Eugene Lock, US Navy,  
WWII Veteran  
**Mr. Larry R. Belcaster**  
Rocco Antonelli, WWII KIA  
Theodore J. Theodore, WWII Veteran  
**Ronald A. Bell**  
Albert Bell  
Harry Williams  
**David Boundas and Family**  
Bud Malcheff, WWII Veteran  
**Miss Cindy S. Boyd**  
Ferrell Boyd, WWII Veteran  
Bernard Koether, WWII Veteran  
Herbert Koether, WWII Veteran  
Martin Koether, WWII Veteran  
SSG. Al Mampre, US Army,  
WWII Veteran  
James Templeton, WWII Veteran  
Maj. General Lloyd Wilkerson,  
USMC, WWII Veteran  
SFC Bradford C. Freeman  
**Ronnie and Gwen Briggs**  
**Rusty and Sue Burnett**  
Raymond Otis Burnett,  
WWII Veteran  
Joe Decker Walk,  
WWII Home Front  
**Mr. and Mrs. Timothy L. Cleveland**  
Loran Maurice Brannon,  
WWII Veteran  
**Dathel H. and Thomas B. Coleman**  
**Mrs. Linda R. Collins**  
Dr. Elwood Reed Collins,  
WWII Veteran  
**Angus R. Cooper II**  
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Lt. Leon B. Cranford, US Navy,  
WWII Veteran  
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George Dawson  
**Richard A. and Bonnie P. Dial**  
George Prendergast Jr., WWII Veteran  
**James F. Dicke II**

# Andrew and Sheila Marshall

**LOCATION** ★★★  
Watkinsville, Georgia

**AS PATRIOTS CIRCLE MEMBERS,** Andrew and Sheila Marshall honor the legacy of their family members who served in World War II, as well as the service of Americans of all conflicts who have risked and sacrificed their lives for the benefit of their fellow citizens.

Sheila's uncle, Mark Martin, was a B-17 waist gunner in the Eighth Air Force who flew the Flying Fortress on more than 20 bombing missions in the European theater. Despite the tremendous casualties from the operations, he managed to survive. "The crew members were very young, in their late teens and early 20s . . . and they were willing to put their lives in jeopardy to serve our country," Andrew says. "People need to appreciate that generation and what they endured."

Andrew holds a special gratitude for those who sacrificed during World War II, having grown up in the generation whose parents, uncles, and cousins went into the service. "I was very mindful of the reality that the war affected everybody," he says.

Their connections to World War II and their appreciation for education and culture inspired the Marshalls to support the Museum through the Patriots Circle in 2021. They are equally devoted to honoring those who currently serve in the Armed Forces, and they hope that through sharing the lessons and legacies of World War II, the Museum will inspire younger generations to understand the sacrifices made by servicemembers past and present to preserve freedom.



- Voneta Dolvin**  
SSGT. Carl W. Dolvin, WWII Veteran  
Dennis W. Dolvin, WWII Veteran  
Donald G. Dolvin, WWII Veteran  
**H. Michael England**  
Harry M. England, USCG,  
WWII Veteran  
**Dan and Ann Claire Fordice**  
Dan K. Fordice Sr., WWII Veteran  
**Mr. and Mrs. George D. Fosdick**  
George W. Fosdick, WWII Veteran  
Major Leslie Howard, WWII Veteran  
**Mr. John J. Frezza**  
James Donato, WWII Veteran  
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2

**1**  
The Museum dedicates the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Historical Sculpture Bench on Founders Plaza on June 9, 2022, thanks to the generous support of Polly and Tom Gruber, pictured with President & CEO Stephen J. Watson (left) and President & CEO Emeritus Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD (right).

**2**  
Nathalie Beras, Consul General of France in Louisiana (left), presents WWII veteran Morris Norvant of Thibodaux, Louisiana, with the French Legion of Honor in a special ceremony at The National WWII Museum on September 23, 2022. As a French-speaking Cajun serving in the Army Air Corps, Morvant helped to translate documents, decipher messages, and speak directly with the people whose countries the Allies were liberating.

WE HAVE FAITH THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL KNOW HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THERE CAME A TIME WHEN MEN OF GOOD WILL FOUND A WAY TO UNITE, AND PRODUCE, AND FIGHT TO DESTROY THE FORCES OF IGNORANCE, AND INTOLERANCE, AND SLAVERY, AND WAR.  
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US Army, WWII KIA  
Private Clinton Jay, US Army,  
WWII KIA

# Jack and Sandy Ripsteen

LOCATION ★★  
Oakland, California



**JACK AND SANDY RIPSTEEN** first visited The National WWII Museum during a trip to New Orleans for Mardi Gras and found it to be the highlight of their time in the city. Inspired to support the Museum's mission, the Ripsteens have been Patriots Circle Members since 2011.

Through their support of the Museum, the Ripsteens honor Jack's father, Joel Ripsteen, who served as a US Army Air Corps flight surgeon in World War II; his mentor, Joe Dignan, who served in the Pacific theater of World War II as a US Marine Corps tank commander; Elvy Roberts, a US Army three-star general who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam; and Governor Pete Wilson, a US Marine and former Museum Board Chairman. The WWII veterans shared with Jack stories of the horrors they witnessed

and the circumstances they endured while serving in the war. "To his dying day, Joe did not know how he survived," Jack says.

Jack and Sandy hope that stories like these and the lessons of World War II will help all Americans appreciate what the WWII generation did in order to preserve the fundamental freedoms we continue to enjoy today.

"We support the Museum because we believe in its mission to honor those who contributed to the war effort and to educate younger generations on the seriousness and loss caused by war. Without understanding what Americans sacrificed on all fronts during World War II, future generations will not understand how not to repeat history."





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Owen McPayne, US Navy,  
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On October 1, 2022, the Museum and the American Merchant Marine Veterans commemorated the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to WWII Merchant Mariners. During World War II, Merchant Mariners served with bravery and honor as they kept the Allies supplied on the front lines.

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**Thomas Maas**  
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# David Newnham & Darwin Abbosh



**LOCATION** ★  
Metairie, Louisiana

**D**R. DAVID NEWNHAM AND DARWIN ABBOSH joined the Museum as Patriots Circle Members in 2021 as a way to support the education of present and future generations. “We were trying to think about our legacy. What are we going to leave so others can benefit? The next generation will carry the torch, and it will depend on us to find the vehicle to move them forward,” says David.

David’s father, Seaman First Class Alan Newnham, was just 16 years old when

he first drove a landing craft barge while serving with the US Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. Although he was involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, David’s father rarely spoke of his service until his later years, when sharing his stories helped him work through the incomprehensible experience of war. “It was through being around my father that I realized all the sacrifices he made as a teenager. [He and other WWII veterans] had this profound experience, and then they had to snuff it away,” says David.

As the number of WWII veterans continues to diminish, David and Darwin believe preserving their stories is imperative for the future of our country. “Through education and knowledge, the chances of [a conflict like] World War II happening hopefully begin to minimize. If you don’t have something to remind you what things were really like from that time, you forget,” David says. They believe the Museum’s efforts to carry on the legacies of World War II will ensure its place in history alongside the Parthenon as an enduring nod toward the integrity of the human spirit.

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Stanley E. McDonald, WWII Veteran  
Stuart W. MacDonald, WWII Veteran  
Clifford Stover, WWII Veteran

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**1**  
Cornerstone representatives present a check for \$15,000 to The National WWII Museum for Innovation Studios. Cornerstone was the presenting sponsor for the program, which was held on May 7, 2022.

**2**  
Thanks to Cornerstone's support, Innovation Studios was offered to the public free of charge. The hands-on workshop encouraged families to work together in STEM-based activities, such as making bubbles.



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WWII Army Air Corps veteran Fred Stecher salutes during the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Ceremony held on Founders Plaza on December 7, 2022.

## Ann and John E. Koerner III

**LOCATION**  
New Orleans, Louisiana



**ANN AND JOHN E. KOERNER III** have been steadfast in their support of the Museum for 15 years, having most recently given a gift of \$1 million to the Road to Victory Capital Campaign to underwrite the Ann and John Koerner III Liberty Bridge connecting US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center and the upcoming Liberation Pavilion. Their investment in the Museum reflects both their ties to World War II and their commitment to the City of New Orleans.

"There is no better place in the city to put your money toward than The National WWII Museum," John says. "It's the most outstanding thing we have in New Orleans and the State of Louisiana."

As Chairman of the Board from 2020 to 2022, John's leadership was critical to advancing the Museum's mission and goals despite

significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Ida. During his tenure, the Museum expanded its digital reach to help further its educational mission at a time when many could not visit our campus; celebrated the dedication of the Bollinger Canopy of Peace and the naming of the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy; and announced the development of the Priddy Family Foundation Theater on the top floor of Liberation Pavilion.

Through their work with the Museum, the Koerners "hold their end of the bargain" as members of their community. They believe that supporting the Museum is one of the best ways people can help the Museum remain an outstanding tourist attraction and educational destination that touches the lives of travelers and locals alike.

Ochsner Health System  
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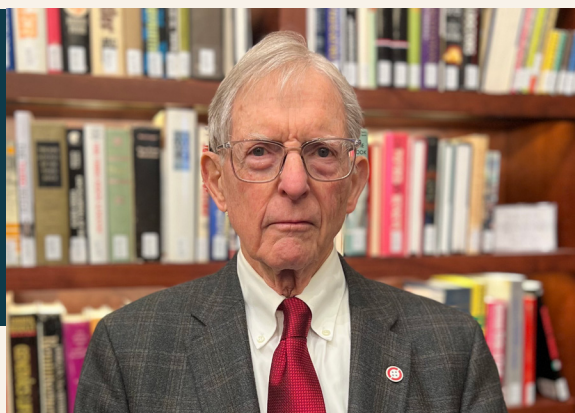
# Solomon Victory Theater Seat Donors

The National WWII Museum thanks the following donors for purchasing a seat in Solomon Victory Theater in 2022 to honor or remember a family member, personal friend, or organization. An engraved plaque has been permanently affixed to the arm of the purchased seat to recognize the contribution. Such support helps preserve the stories of World War II for future generations in this one-of-a-kind theater.

Richard H. Lewis  
Sherman Miles

## Sandy Villere and Family

**LOCATION**  
New Orleans, Louisiana



**A**S TWO OF THE MUSEUM'S longest and most dedicated supporters, Sandy Villere and his late wife, Margie, have been the driving force behind countless Museum objectives, and their generous contributions have helped support various initiatives, including the Road to Victory Capital Campaign and the COVID-19 Response Fund, which supported the Museum's operations and made it possible to take care of our staff during the early days of the pandemic. With their lifetime giving exceeding \$2 million, the Villeres have been critical to the Museum's continuing success and expansion.

Appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2022, Sandy's most recent contribution to the Museum includes a \$1.5 million gift

toward *Voices from the Front*, an interactive oral history experience that will allow guests to ask questions to and receive responses from video displays of members of the WWII generation. The effect will be truly immersive, as museumgoers will be able to curate conversations and connect with veterans, Home Front workers, Holocaust survivors, and other witnesses to the war after they are no longer with us to share their firsthand stories.

Sandy's contribution to *Voices from the Front*, scheduled to debut in 2024, will preserve these historical accounts and ensure that the lessons of courage, commitment, and active citizenship of World War II will continue to inspire generations well into the future.

# Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society

**L**EGACY GIFTS SUPPORT THE **FUTURE** of the Museum's mission and serve as a lasting tribute to the courageous men and women of World War II.

The Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society recognizes special individuals, couples,

and organizations who have included The National WWII Museum in their estate plans. These gifts support the Museum's efforts to preserve and share the history of the American experience during World War II. Members of the Society ensure their legacy and that of their loved ones are secured forever at The National WWII Museum.

Maj. Michael Abrams, USAF (Ret.)  
Ron and Karen Adams  
Barbara S. Akins  
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Oscar Lewis



# Dr. Mayme Kathy Volanty

**IN MEMORY OF**  
Blaine L. Hufnagle

**LOCATION**  
Lubbock, Texas



**“HE WAS ALWAYS SO PROUD** that he had served his country in World War II. He took every opportunity to talk to school children and veterans groups about his service,” Dr. Mayme K. Volanty says of her late father, Blaine L. Hufnagle.

The youngest member of his family, Blaine was drafted into the Army Air Corps in 1943 and served as a B-17 Flight Engineer and top turret gunner. He flew 33 combat missions over Germany, France, and Belgium, as well as an early morning mission over France on D-Day.

He was awarded both the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his single acts of heroism while participating in aerial flight combat and operations.

Mayme is an enthusiastic champion of the Museum’s mission and is honored to preserve her father’s legacy through a planned gift. When asked what motivates her support, she explained, “The National WWII Museum is doing important things, especially in educating youth and adults about the real World War II, not just what someone thought it was or believed it might have been. I could not think of a better place than the WWII Museum to invest my dad’s legacy in the future of our country. So, in my will, there will not only be his legacy but mine as well.”

Tim and Elizabeth Lewis  
IMO Floyd B. Lewis and  
Ralph Wilson  
John S. and Cynthia J. Lindstedt  
Mr. Lou Linxwiler  
Kearby Lyde  
Patricia F. Mayfield  
IMO Earl Everett Mayfield Sr.,  
Army, WWII  
Suzanne and Michael Mestayer  
Robert and Susan McCollum  
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IMO Milton H. (Funny) Nothdurft  
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James C. Parrie and Sheila J. Parrie  
IHO Cpl. William Kenyon, RAF  
Drs. David J. and Marti E. Peck  
IMO 1st Lt. Clifford J. Peck,  
USAAF 111th TRS - KIA Sicily 1945  
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Christine T. Whitman  
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Frank G. Wilson  
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Jeanette Hodges Zajac  
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**We remember with special  
gratitude the individuals  
whose legacy gifts to  
The National WWII Museum  
have been realized.**

The 801st 492nd Bombardment  
Group Association  
The 86th ‘Black Hawk’ Infantry  
Division Organization, Inc.  
Mercedes “Mitzi” S. Aguirre  
Darleen and Donald Alexander  
Anne Anthony  
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IHO her parents, Anthony A.  
and Ethel T. Barile  
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Samuel Zemurray III  
And Two Donors Who Wish to  
Remain Anonymous

# THE ESTATE OF Jewell Watson Grima

**LOCATION**  
Metairie, Louisiana



**A GRADUATE OF HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL** in New Orleans, Thomas Grima served in the US Army Air Forces during World War II and was shot down over France on his 24th bombing mission. He was rescued by the French Resistance and crossed the Pyrenees Mountains to safety into Spain. Because of his bravery and for being wounded during the war, he was awarded the Purple Heart—a solemn distinction that denotes when a servicemember has greatly sacrificed themselves or paid the ultimate price while in the line of duty.

When Thomas passed away in 2008, he left behind his wife of 60 years, Jewell Watson Grima, who ensured that a lasting memory of her husband would be kept alive through The National WWII Museum’s Stephen E. Ambrose Legacy Society.

A native of Denham Springs, Louisiana, and 72-year resident of Metairie, Louisiana, Jewell spent most of her work life in the oil and gas industry as a secretary while also serving as a talented artist and seamstress. Jewell passed away in 2020 at the age of 96. The National WWII Museum is grateful to her for including the institution in her estate plans and ensuring that her husband’s legacy of service—as well as hers—is remembered for years to come. Gifts like these from the Grima family support the Museum’s mission to preserve and share the history of the American experience during World War II.

## Assets

	2022	2021
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$67,667,467	\$57,587,879
Unconditional Promises to Give:		
Capital Campaign, Net of Allowances	\$16,449,205	\$19,279,386
Endowment, Net of Allowances	\$907,187	\$3,070,950
Other, Net of Allowances	\$151,648	\$1,012,425
ERTC Receivable	\$4,012,896	—
Retail Stores Inventory	\$1,022,556	\$957,471
Other Assets	\$7,320,903	\$5,682,584
Endowment Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	\$2,399,415	\$2,475,760
Investments	\$39,842,196	\$45,311,990
Property and Equipment		
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	\$284,240,784	\$268,082,024
Collections	\$12,998,177	\$12,107,732
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$437,012,434</b>	<b>\$415,568,201</b>

## Liabilities

Accounts Payable Trade	\$2,899,266	\$2,198,457
Accrued Expenses	\$4,965,871	\$3,464,342
Unearned Revenue and Deposits	\$5,913,654	\$4,868,786
Taxes Payable	\$310,977	\$259,655
Other Liabilities	\$1,279,145	\$1,348,085
Notes Payable	\$58,889,778	\$63,916,207
Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	\$55,373	\$1,590,980
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$74,314,064</b>	<b>\$77,646,512</b>

## Net Assets

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions		
Designated	\$48,378,227	\$41,535,414
Undesignated	\$249,601,106	\$236,838,093
Total Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$297,979,333	\$278,373,507
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$64,719,037	\$59,548,182
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$362,698,370</b>	<b>\$337,921,689</b>

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$437,012,434</b>	<b>\$415,568,201</b>
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## Statement of Activities

### Revenue and Other Support

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2022	2021
Operating Revenue	\$53,626,614	—	\$53,626,614	\$28,870,923
Financial Contributions and Grants	\$13,247,056	\$25,126,778	\$38,373,834	\$24,498,022
In-Kind Contributions	\$82,908	—	\$82,908	\$24,113
Net Return on Investments	\$(4,705,105)	\$(1,886,818)	\$(6,591,923)	\$12,850,495
Hilton Franchise Debt Forgiveness	\$65,000	—	\$65,000	\$65,000
Insurance Proceeds	\$2,700,000	—	\$2,700,000	—
Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness Income	\$3,540,000	—	\$3,540,000	\$4,356,000
Employee Retention Tax Credit Revenue	\$4,012,896	—	\$4,012,896	\$7,190
Other Income	\$103,125	—	\$103,125	—
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$18,069,105	\$(18,069,105)	—	—
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES</b>	<b>\$90,741,599</b>	<b>\$5,170,855</b>	<b>\$95,912,454</b>	<b>\$70,671,743</b>

### Expenses and Losses

Program	\$58,624,371	—	\$58,624,371	\$43,886,832
General and Administrative	\$6,872,376	—	\$6,872,376	\$7,366,632
Fundraising	\$6,753,666	—	\$6,753,666	\$2,915,470
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$72,250,413</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$72,250,413</b>	<b>\$54,168,934</b>
Loss on Damage of Property and Equipment	\$420,967	—	\$420,967	—
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES AND LOSSES</b>	<b>\$72,671,380</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$72,671,380</b>	<b>\$54,168,934</b>

### Change in Net Assets

Change in Net Assets Before Change in Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	\$18,070,219	\$5,170,855	\$23,241,074	\$16,502,809
Change in Liability on Interest Rate Swap Agreement	\$1,535,607	—	\$1,535,607	\$1,102,232
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$19,605,826</b>	<b>\$5,170,855</b>	<b>\$24,776,681</b>	<b>\$17,605,041</b>

### Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$278,373,507	\$59,548,182	\$337,921,689	\$320,316,648
End of Year	\$297,979,333	\$64,719,037	\$362,698,370	\$337,921,689



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