

MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008 - 2:00 PM • CONSTITUTION AVE. - WASHINGTON, DC

# THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

## JOIN US AS WE HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND SACRIFICED

### Welcome to the National Memorial Day Parade!

Memorial Day is among our nation's most important and solemn holidays. It is not merely a day off work or school, or the "unofficial start of summer" as many call it. Instead, it is a day for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to come together and honor those who have sacrificed in service to our country.

The National Memorial Day Parade was founded in 2005 to serve as such an outlet. This is a parade unlike others held around the nation throughout the year— while it is fun, it is at the same time dignified, respecting the meaning behind the holiday. And while the parade will include marching bands and entertainment, it is also educational, providing you and your family the opportunity to see first-hand some of America's greatest living veterans and active duty service members.

Like the parade itself, this program seeks to be both fun and educational. Throughout you will find stories about many of the participants in this year's parade. From the accounts of America's greatest heroes, the recipients of the **Medal of Honor**, to the **2008 National Memorial Day Parade's Grand Marshals— "Today's Heroes"** of the U.S. military, this program will serve as your guide to a number of the parade's best stories. While we hope that you and your family will have fun, we also hope you

will learn something along the way about the meaning of service, and of sacrifice.

Joining "Today's Heroes" at the parade to help draw attention to their tremendous stories of valor are **Joe Mantegna** and **Gary Sinise**, award-winning actors who have been tireless supporters of our men and women who serve. We are also honored to have with us the legendary entertainer **Mickey Rooney**, also a veteran of World War

II who will lead the WWII veterans in this year's parade. Also joining us will be **Miss America 2008 Kirsten Haglund**, who will be appearing with several of our young service members wounded in the line of duty.

A special theme of this year's parade is a commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U.S. Army Reserve, and will thus pay special tribute to the United States Army and the "citizen-soldiers" of the Army Reserve. Joining us as Honorary Grand Marshal will be **Lt. General Jack C. Stultz**, Chief, Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command. While this year's

parade will take on an Army "flavor," those of you who are veterans of the other services, don't fret! The parade honors a different branch of the U.S. Armed Forces each year, and will soon be recognizing your branch.

We want to thank you for being a part of the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade. While it is a production that requires the efforts of thousands of people, the most important participants are you—the proud Americans who come to the parade to honor those who have served, are serving, and those who have sacrificed their lives to protect all that we hold dear.



MONDAY  
MAY 26, 2008  
2:00 PM  
CONSTITUTION  
AVEUE  
BETWEEN 7TH AND  
17TH STREETS, NW

"OFFICIAL PARADE PROGRAM"  
INCLUDED INSIDE:

- 2 - MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES & THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
- 3 - A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON
- 4 - 2008 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE LINEUP
- 6 - 2008 GRAND MARSHALS
- 10 & 11 - 2008 HONORARY MARSHALS
- 12 - STORIES OF VALOR: THE MEDAL OF HONOR

PLUS

INTERVIEWS AND PROFILES THROUGHOUT ON PARTICIPANTS  
IN THE 2008 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

## WHERE TO WATCH THE PARADE

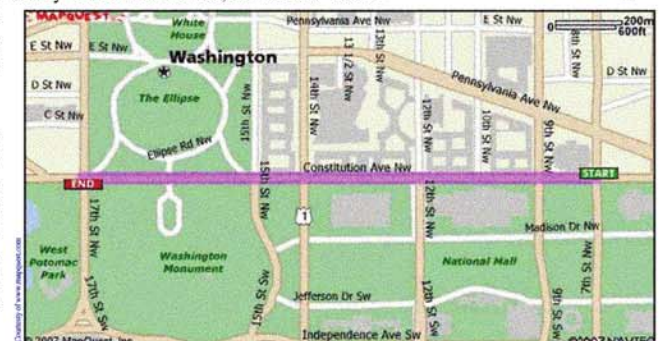
The 2008 National Memorial Day Parade will begin promptly at 2:00 PM at the base of the National Archives, and continue down Constitution Avenue between 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW. The National Archives steps provide a wonderful bird's-eye view of the procession, but excellent spots can be found all along the parade route, with scenic backgrounds of the White House, Washington Monument, and Smithsonian buildings.

Given road closures, best access to the parade route is the Archives-Navy Memorial Metrorail station on the Green and Yellow Lines. Union Station on the Red Line and Federal Triangle and Smithsonian on the Orange and Blue Lines are also easily accessible, as well as Metro Center which serves all three lines.

The Parade will be televised on Washington's own News Channel 8, which will carry the entire parade beginning at 2:00 and concluding at 4.

The Pentagon Channel will also broadcast the parade nationwide to nearly 14 million homes, as well as

around the world to all U.S. Armed Forces personnel stationed on military bases and ships at sea. We are honored to be able to share the National Memorial Day Parade not only with the public, but with our brave service members around the world. We hope that you enjoy the show!





## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
February 8, 2008

I send greetings to all those celebrating the 100th anniversary of the United States Army Reserve.

Since 1908, the Army Reserve has been committed to providing well-trained soldiers, resources, and other critical support to the United States Army in times of war and peace. Today, the members of the Army Reserve are defending our Nation at home and abroad with valor, decency, and resolve, and taking their rightful place among the heroes of our Nation's history. Americans are grateful for their sacrifice, and I am proud to be their Commander in Chief. This milestone is a time to honor our brave men and women in uniform, who work to ensure America remains a country where our citizens can live in freedom.

I appreciate the soldiers, veterans, and families of the Army Reserve, and all those who help protect our way of life. You have set an example of courage and idealism for future generations.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, may God bless our troops, and may God bless America.

## A LETTER FROM THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. GATES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

ON THE 2008 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



For many Americans, Memorial Day is a welcome respite from work: an extra day to spend at the beach or finish errands. But today is an occasion to reflect, remember, and honor all those who have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation.

keep alive the memory of those who paid the ultimate price.

Nor should we forget the family members of our servicemen and women. They, too, make significant sacrifices and contributions by taking on the challenges of day-to-day life that arise in households that are missing an important component of the family.

Memorial Day grew from a Civil War tradition of women's groups gathering each year to decorate the graves of those whose lives were lost during that bloody conflict. But just 20 years later, one of its veterans, and later a Supreme Court justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., noted that some wondered why the holiday was *still* observed. Even after wounds had healed and "the tattered flags of our regiments" had gathered dust, he argued, remembrance was not only relevant, but a duty to the fallen.

While Memorial Day is a special holiday set aside to reflect on the service of our armed forces, it should by no means be the only day of the year in which we keep our servicemen and women in our hearts and minds. We should think about their sacrifice every day. We should recognize that this generation, like past generations, is serving in combat zones and keeping watch in faraway lands. Those who serve are a special group.

Today, military support groups, veterans associations, and everyday Americans make sure that we pay tribute to those who have served and sacrificed. By honoring our men and women in uniform, groups like the American Veterans Center

As Holmes said, "the generation that carried on the war has been set apart by its experience...we have seen with our own eyes beyond and above the gold fields the snowy heights of honor, and it is for us to bear the report to those who come after us." Their actions guarantee our freedom and give others a chance to enjoy freedom — a noble endeavor that cannot be forgotten. ■

# THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Following the Civil War, communities around the nation began to set aside a day to remember those who had been lost. These individual ceremonies eventually coalesced around Decoration Day—now known as Memorial Day—which was officially proclaimed in 1868 by U.S. Army General John Logan in his General Order No. 11. On May 30 of that year, flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike in Arlington National Cemetery. Nearly 5,000 Americans came together to decorate the graves of those lost in battle. This was to be a day in which those of all sympathies—North and South—would put aside their differences and come together to honor those who had served, and those who had died.

By the late 1800s, Memorial Day had become a tradition throughout the nation. Businesses would close, and parades would be held as communities paused to thank those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Following World War I, Memorial Day took on a new meaning, and became our military's most sacred day.

Amazingly, while parades on Memorial Day have been a tradition in cities and towns across the nation for well over a century, prior to 2005 Washington, DC—our nation's capital—was without a parade for nearly 65 years. Sadly, in recent years many of these small-town parades have been fading away, as war veterans have aged and the true meaning of Memorial Day has been slowly forgotten.

In 2005, following the success of the previous year's "A Parade Salute to World War II Veterans" which coincided with the dedication of the WWII Memorial, the American Veterans Center decided to bring back the grand tradition of a parade on Memorial Day to Washington. Thus, the National Memorial Day Parade was born. Not merely for the people of Washington, the parade is one one for the nation, an event which seeks to draw the attention of Americans to the real meaning of the holiday: honoring those who have served, and died, to ensure and protect our liberties.

The National Memorial Day Parade has

quickly become a tradition in which Americans of all ages and generations can share. In 2007—only its third year—the parade drew nearly 250,000 spectators, a testament to the public's desire to honor those who have worn the uniform. The parade includes nearly 200 elements, with marching bands, youth groups, parade floats, and—most importantly—veterans of all ages and active duty military personnel.

The American Veterans Center is proud to take the lead in bringing this tradition back to our nation's capital, and honored to help pay tribute to all of those who have served.



The Grand Marshals of the 2007 National Memorial Day Parade - Our "Wounded Warriors" from Iraq and Afghanistan, along with Honorary Marshal Gary Sinise.

We are especially grateful for the generous support of our many sponsors, without whom, this parade would not be possible.

Finally, we want to thank you for your support of our service members and veterans. We hope that you enjoy the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade, and that you will join us for many years to come! ■

PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER  
WWW.AMERICANVETERANSCENTER.ORG



## A PROCLAMATION FROM THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC



May 26, 2007

A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was first officially observed on May 30, 1868, as "Decoration Day", a day to remember those who died in the Civil War, by decorating the graves of fallen service members; and

WHEREAS, now observed on the last Monday in May, Memorial Day has become a day to honor all men and women who have died while serving in our Armed Forces, and to remind us all that freedom exacts a heavy toll; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has lost sons and daughters fighting for Democracy while denied full Congressional Representation at home; and

WHEREAS, in the War of 1812, the Civil War, two World Wars, Vietnam, the Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, and for too many other conflicts, the District's military men and women have been called on to demonstrate their skill, courage, dedication and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, all residents of the District of Columbia have benefited from the sacrifices of those who have fallen:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim May 26, 2008, as "DC MEMORIAL DAY" in Washington, DC, and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in honoring District of Columbia residents who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we have the freedoms we now enjoy.

Adrian M. Fenty  
Mayor, District of Columbia

### PLEASE NOTE

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE WILL PAUSE  
AT EXACTLY 3:00 PM TO COMMEMORATE THE  
NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE.

ALL SPECTATORS AND PARTICIPANTS ARE ASKED TO  
REMAIN SILENT AND STANDING  
UNTIL THE PARADE RESUMES

## WELCOME!

FROM JAMES C. ROBERTS  
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

I extend a warm welcome to all those attending the National Memorial Day Parade.

The parade offers us a wonderful opportunity to honor all those men and women who have given their lives in the service of our country, as well as our veterans and active duty personnel.

The parade is a massive logistical challenge, involving some 5,000 participants, and I would like to express my gratitude to Mackie Christenson and the entire parade team who have worked innumerable hours to make it a reality.

My heartfelt thanks also to the individuals, foundations and corporations who have

contributed so generously to defray the substantial cost of the parade.

And finally my thanks to all those attending the National Memorial Day Parade for being part of this tribute in our nation's capital.

Enjoy the parade!  
Sincerely,

James C. Roberts  
President  
American Veterans Center and  
Vice Chairman,  
White House Commission on Remembrance

## ARMY RESERVE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF CONSTANTS AND CHANGE

By LTG Jack C. Stultz

The Army Reserve's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary acknowledges our nation's enduring need for such a force, and it gives us an opportunity to recognize the contributions of hundreds of thousands of men and women who sustained the organization for a century.

Further, this anniversary recognizes that the force has changed over 100 years from a small reserve force of about 160 medical professionals into a much more capable force that provided all types of combat-arms, combat-support and combat-service-support capabilities to what it is today: a CS/CSS-focused operational, expeditionary, and domestic force that is an essential piece of the Army.

As we mark our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our transformation to an operational force continues. It has resulted in the most dramatic changes to Army Reserve structure, training and readiness since World War II.

Today's Army Reserve is no longer a strategic reserve; instead, it is an operational force and an integral part of the world's greatest Army. Today's

units are prepared and available to deploy with a full complement of trained Soldiers and equipment when the Nation calls. Today's Army Reserve Soldier is a member of the best trained, best led, and best equipped fighting force our Nation has ever fielded.

What hasn't changed in 100 years is the commitment, selfless service, and personal courage of our men and women who voluntarily put their lives on hold – and on the line – to defend our country and our freedoms.

Today's Army Reserve Soldiers represent the values upon which our country was founded. They are citizens who are willing to lay down their plows and pick up their rifles when called upon. They're proud of their service. They're proud to say they're part of the Army Reserve.

Today's army reserve is an operational force and an integral part of the world's greatest army. Army Reserve Soldiers are members of the best trained, best led, and best equipped fighting force any nation has fielded.

They are ready for the next one hundred years.

*Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz is Chief, Army Reserve; Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command. He is the Honorary Grand Marshal of the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade, leading the special tribute to the Citizen-Soldiers of the United States Army Reserve.*

# ABOUT THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

The American Veterans Center (AVC) is part of a non-profit, 501(c)(3) foundation, dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of America's veterans and service men and women from all generations. It has the honor of being the founding organization and primary organizer and sponsor of the National Memorial Day Parade, now in its fourth year.

The AVC is comprised of two divisions, the World War II Veterans Committee and the National Vietnam Veterans Committee. In addition to the parade, it sponsors various speaker programs throughout the year, including a major annual conference in Washington, at which America's most distinguished veterans gather to share their experiences with an audience of hundreds of high school and col-



The "Greatest Generation" meets the latest generation: the legendary "Doolittle Raiders" from WWII lead a wreath laying ceremony at the WWII Memorial, assisted by students from the Young Marines program. The ceremony was part of the American Veterans Center's annual conference, providing an opportunity for young people to meet America's greatest heroes.

lege students, fellow veterans and active duty service members, and citizens interested in learning about American military history.

The AVC also produces a magazine, *American Valor Quarterly*, and produces weekly radio documentary programming, both featuring first-hand accounts from those who have served. All of the AVC's programs have been specifically created with youth in mind, as they will be counted on to carry the legacy of those generations of service men and women who came before.

To learn more about the American Veterans Center, its programs, and how you can become a supporter, visit [www.americanveteranscenter.org](http://www.americanveteranscenter.org), or call 703-302-1012.



AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

WORLD WAR II  
VETERANS COMMITTEE

NATIONAL VIETNAM  
VETERANS COMMITTEE

James C. Roberts - President  
Tim Holbert - Program Director  
James Michels - Development Director  
Jordan Cross - Communications Director  
Mike Paradiso - Chief Operating Officer  
Mackie Christenson - Director of the  
National Memorial Day Parade  
Anna Tyler - Parade Manager

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# THE 2008 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

## PARADE LINEUP

The National Memorial Day Parade is organized as a moving timeline of American military history, paying tribute to those who served from the time of the Native Americans and the American Revolution through the Civil War and on to current times. Throughout, it will feature marching bands, military units, parade floats, and veterans of every era from World War II through today.

This is your guide to follow along with the parade, beginning to end. We hope you enjoy yourself, while perhaps gaining a new appreciation for the sacrifices made by so many generations of Americans to preserve our freedom.

### Pre-Parade Program

Located at the parade reviewing stand, 7th St. and Constitution Ave., NW  
Beginning at 1:15 PM

### Introduction by James C. Roberts

President, **American Veterans Center** - (Primary Sponsor of the National Memorial Day Parade)  
Vice Chairman, **White House Commission on Remembrance**

### Performance by United We Sing

Medley by choirs from Rockford HS: Traverse City Central High School; Henderson Co. High School & Dawson Baptist Choir

### Performance of "America, the Beautiful" by Miss America, 2008 Kirsten Haglund

### Welcoming remarks by James C. Roberts

### Reading of D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty's Memorial Day Proclamation



Honoring those who have sacrificed - the Grand Marshals of the 2007 National Memorial Day Parade, our "Wounded Warriors," pass the National Archives. They are accompanied by Honorary Marshal Gary Sinise, spokesman for The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

by **Timothy J. Smith** - Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC

Invocation by Chaplain (BG) **Douglas E. Lee**, U.S. Army Reserve

The National Anthem by Sgt. 1st Class **Antonio Giuliano**, U.S. Army

The Pledge of Allegiance led by recipients of the **Medal of Honor**

"On this Day" and service song medley sung by **Ms. Erin Gantt**  
All attendees are invited to sing "God Bless America"

### The 2008 National Memorial Day Parade

**Lt. General Eric B. Schoomaker, MD., PhD.,** - U.S. Army  
2008 National Memorial Day Parade Reviewing Officer

Metropolitan Police Lead Car heads the parade

### U-HAUL

Gold Sponsor & Distributor of American Flags & Official Parade Programs

### United We Sing— U-HAUL SINGERS

### American Veterans Center banner

Official Sponsor and organizer of the National Memorial Day Parade

### AMVETS color guard

**Ballou High School Marching Band** - Washington, DC

District of Columbia Representative **Timothy J. Smith**, Director of Veterans Affairs



### Honorary Grand Marshal

**Lt. General Jack C. Stultz**, U.S. Army Reserve, accompanied by **CWO5 James Thompson**, U.S. Army Reserve

U.S. Army Reserve marching platoon

**307TH Army Band** - Willow Grove, PA

**Mrs. Stultz, Mrs. Caffie, and Mrs. Thompson** - Riding in a 1981 Rolls Royce

**Booz Allen Hamilton-Gold Sponsor** and proud supporter of our Armed Service personnel

### Grand Marshals

#### "TODAY'S HEROES"

Featuring decorated **Active Duty and Reserve Soldiers from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom** including **CSM Leon Caffie**, U.S. Army Reserve with **Honorary Marshal Joe Mantegna**

### Grand Marshals

#### "TODAY'S HEROES"

Featuring decorated **Active Duty Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom** with **Honorary Marshal Gary Sinise**

**Original Old Glory Flags** - Carried by the Young Marines

**Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients** - Sponsored by **TriWest Healthcare Alliance**

Featuring **MSgt. John F. Baker, Jr.**, U.S. Army (RET); **Col. Robert L. Howard**, U.S. Army, (RET); **Capt. Thomas J. Hudner**, U.S. Navy (RET); **George T. Sakato** Riding in F-Body Hideout Camaro Car Club Convertibles

**30' x 60' American Flag** carried by John Glenn School of Public Affairs

### Stories of Service

Featuring **Edith Shain** (Nurse from the famed "V-J Day in Times Square" photo)

**Valley Force Military Academy Drum and Bugle Corps**  
**National Museum of the American Indian Color Guard** and Veterans

**Potosi High School Marching Band**, MO

**National Society of Sons of the American Revolution**

**15' X 20' Betsy Ross Flag** carried by the Young Marines

**George & Martha Washington** of Mt. Vernon Estates & Gardens

**15' X 20' Bennington Flag** carried by the Young Marines

**Lewis and Clark Expedition** - St. Louis, Missouri  
**Arbor View High School Marching Band**, NV

**Andrew Jackson**, portrayed by **Scott Christenson**

**Ship's Company, Inc.**

**Franklin High School Marching Band**, PA

**Civil War Cavalry** - **Tom Tompkins** & **Eddie Creasy**

**Abraham & Mary Todd Lincoln**, portrayed by **Whitney Lester & Stephanie Wright**

**Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War**, VA

**North Hardin High School Marching Band**, KY

**Company E - 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry**, PA  
**Federal Civil War soldier re-enactors**

**R.E. Lee Camp #726** - Sons of the Confederate Veterans

**Theodore Roosevelt**, portrayed by **Keith McGough**  
Riding in a 1903 Oldsmobile

**Buffalo Soldiers** - 9th & 10th Cavalry Association, VA  
On vehicles from Washington Area Collectors of Military Vehicles



**Frank Buckles**, the last living American to have served in World War I, is presented a commendation by the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute at the 2007 National Memorial Day Parade.

**9th AND 10th Horse Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers**, Equestrian Unit, D.C. - Mounted Honor Guard

**DC Everest High School Marching Band**, WI

**WVva Detachment of the Rough Riders** Equestrian Unit

**Ft. Myer Flyer** - With **Col. Laura Richardson**, Garrison Commander **Ft. Myer**  
Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Army Aviation - This operational reproduction made by **Discovery of Flight** and the **Wright Experience**.



Each year, the parade welcomes America's greatest heroes - the recipients of the Medal of Honor - to lead the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the parade. Several of these heroes are pictured above, riding in the parade on a float sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

**World War I Doughboys** - portrayed by **Jeff & Wray Sinclair**, **Matthew Miller**, **Nicholas Woo**, **Christopher Papas**

**1927 Hupmobile Rumble Seat Roadster & 1923 Ford T-Bucket Hot Rod**

**Citizens Hose Co. 1**, PA

**Park Hill High School Band**, MO

**Southern Maryland Model A Car Club**, MD

**Spirit of Liberty Bell** - Sponsored by **Commerce Bank**, Exclusive Bank Sponsor  
Featuring the band, **HOMELAND** in support of The Independence Fund; **Spirit of Liberty Bell** is provided by the Providence Forum

**Martinsville High School JROTC & WWII Color Guard**, VA

**Honorary Marshal for World War II - Mickey Rooney**



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**Veterans of World War II float –**  
Sponsored by U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute – Official Partner of the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade

Featuring World War II veterans: **Carl Lehmann & John Van Cott**, Army Rangers – European Theater; **Lawrence Cronin**, U.S. Navy, - Panama; **Willie Novelli**, U.S. Army, - Battle of the Bulge and Bastogne; **Edwin B. Gilroy**, B-17 Pilot; first three attacks on Berlin, U.S. Army Air Corps/ USAFR



Proud veterans of World War II march down the parade route.

**U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Hummer**

**Marine Corps League**

Vehicles provided by Eastern Automotive Group  
George Washington Model A Ford Club of America

AMVETS National Guard / Honor Guard, MD

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**, Portrayed by Rev. Dr. Ralph Bayfield in a 1937 Lincoln Willoughby Touring Car

**101st Airborne Division Veterans**, VA  
Riding in F-Body Hideout Camaro Car Club Convertibles

**The OSS Society, Inc.**, VA  
Riding in Central Virginia Mustang Club Convertibles

**99th Infantry Division veterans**  
Riding in vehicles from the Washington Area Collectors of Military Vehicles

**AT 3:00 PM (1500) THE PARADE WILL OBSERVE THE NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE**  
**PLEASE remain silent** for Moment of Remembrance and playing of Taps

**Black Hawk military flyover** (during Moment of Remembrance) – Ft. Belvoir

*Parade resumes*

**Pearl Harbor Survivors Association**

**Japanese American Veterans Association**

**Craigmont High School Brigade**, TN

**Veterans of Underage Military Service**



Marching bands from around the country travel to Washington to participate in the National Memorial Day Parade.

**East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen**  
In vehicles from the Washington Area Collectors of Military Vehicles

**WWII Allied Nations Flags** carried by Annapolis Young Marines

**82nd Airborne Division Association**, DC Chapter  
Riding in vehicles from the Washington Area Collectors of Military Vehicles

**MOAA** -Northern Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Assn. of America  
Riding in Central Virginia Mustang Club Convertibles

**Monroe Comprehensive High School Band**, GA

**United Services Memorial Corps**, PA

**ROC Veteran Association** of Greater Washington & Maryland

**Capital Wing of the Airmen's Preservation Society**

**"Swing Shift"** featuring lead singer, Erin Gantt - riding in a jeep from the Washington Area Collectors of Military Vehicles

**Bob Feller** - Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher and WWII Veteran of the **USS Alabama**  
Riding in 1963 Buick Wildcat Convertible with his wife, Anne

**Taiwanese American Outreach Association**, VA

**VFW Dept. of Indiana** - Post 6246, IN

**William Allen High School Band**, PA

**Honorary Marshal for the Korean War - Lt. General Julius W. Becton, Jr., U.S. Army (RET)**  
Riding in a 1962 Chevy Impala Convertible

**Korean War Veterans Association Color Guard & Platoon**

**Methuen High School Band**, MA

**National Association of American Veterans, Inc.** - Armed Forces Retirement Home, DC

**Northeast Pennsylvania Mounted Veterans Equestrian Unit**

**Maryland Rough Riders**

**Muslim American Veterans Association** – Boy Scout Troop 1517 carrying banner

**Honorary Marshal for the Vietnam War General Volney F. Warner, U.S. Army (RET)**  
Riding in a 1964 Mercury Convertible

**9th Engineer Battalion - 1st Marine Division**, NE

**Brig. Gen. R. Steve Ritchie, USAF (RET)**  
Only Air Force "ace" pilot of the Vietnam War

**Military Order of the Purple Heart Honor Guard**  
Riding in vehicles supplied by the Lake Ana Cruisers

**East Aurora Middle School Band**, NY

**Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & Veterans Coalition Honor Guard**

**Republic of Vietnam Veterans Assn. Coalition of Washington**, DC.

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 648**, Maryland

**National Association of Black Military Women**

**Southeast Veterans Service Center**

**Pride of Richton Marching Band**, MS

**Bartlett High School Air Force JROTC**

**Beirut Veterans**

**Larue County High School Marching Band**, KY

**Veterans & Military Families for Progress**  
National Capital Region

**Paint Branch High School Navy Junior ROTC**

**Honorary Marshal for the Gulf War General Frederick M. Franks, U.S. Army (RET)**

Riding in a vehicle supplied by the National Capital Region Mustang Club

**Laurel Post 60 - The American Legion**  
carrying 50 State Flags and 5 Territory Flags

**U.S. Naval Sea Cadets**

**State of Kuwait float, Honoring Gulf War Veterans** - Sponsored by **Kuwait**  
Official Sponsor and Supporter of Gulf War Veterans

**USO** - East Coast Mobile

**Uncovering America by Horseback**  
Gulf War Veteran Bill Innman & his horse rode from the West Coast to the parade gathering letters to send to service members overseas

**New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy**

**Northern Virginia Trail Riders**

**Dearborn High School**, MI

**New England Caring for Our Military**

**United States Navy Nurse Corps Platoon**

**United States Navy Nurse Corps** – Sponsored by **Fund Raising Strategies, Inc.**  
Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Navy Nursing featuring **RADM Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler**

**Gold Star Wives of America**  
Riding in vehicles supplied by the National Capital Region Mustang Club

**Student Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom** - City University of New York (CUNY), New York City

**Our Wounded Warriors - Marines and Soldiers - with Miss America 2008 Kirsten Haglund** -

*Sponsored by the Perot Foundation*



The National Memorial Day Parade welcomes home those brave young men and women who have been serving us abroad.

**United States Merchant Marines**  
Lundeburg Maryland Seamanship School

**Active Duty Service Members**  
Platoons from:  
**The United States Army**  
**The United States Marine Corps**  
**The United States Navy**  
**The United States Coast Guard**

**United States Coast Guard Flags Across America**

**Waverly Warrior Marching Band**, MI

**Mike's Guardian Eagle**, Utah

**Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts of America**

**The Conclusion of the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade**

*"America the Beautiful" and "Stars and Stripes Forever" played at the reviewing stand.*



On this Memorial Day, we wish to say "Thank You" to those who have served, and hope that we all pause to remember those who have passed.



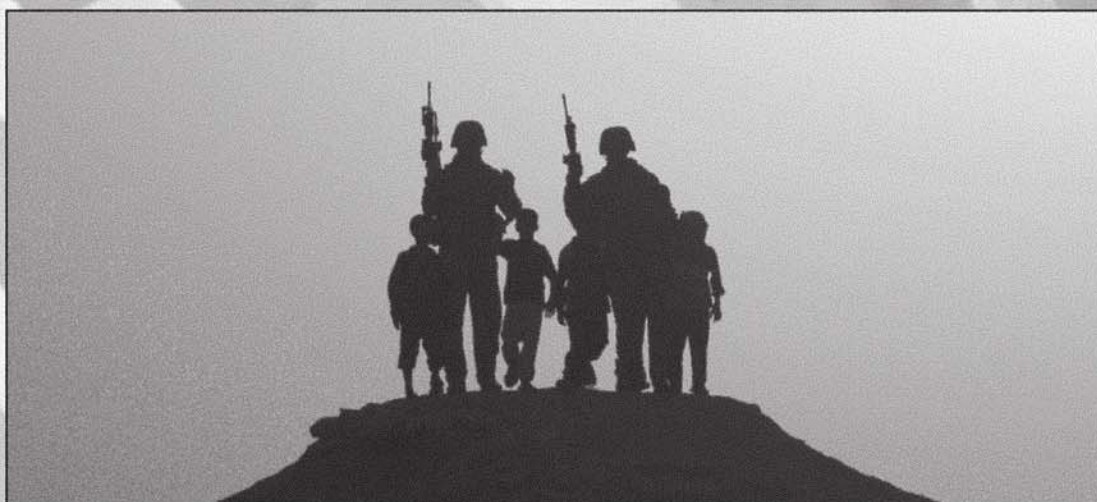
# THE 2008 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

## GRAND MARSHALS

### "TODAY'S HEROES"

Every generation of American service men and women has faced their own unique challenges. And every generation has stood up to meet them with courage, honor, and integrity. As we gather to salute our military men and women of all generations, we pay tribute to the heroes of the current generation.

The 2008 National Memorial Day Parade, with a special salute this year to the soldiers of the United States Army and Army Reserve, honors those from the U.S. Army—and all of the services—who have distinguished themselves by embodying the ideals of the American service man and woman. These representatives from our current generation are the worthy heirs to a tradition of service dating back to our nation's founding. Please join us in welcoming the Grand Marshals of the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade—“Today's Heroes.”



### *With Special Guest*

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR, U.S. ARMY RESERVE  
CSM LEON CAFFIE



Joining our Grand Marshals will be CSM Leon Caffie, Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve—the highest-ranking enlisted man in the Reserve. His career began in 1970, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army, and would continue from Vietnam to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In his capacity as CSM of the Army Reserve, he serves as the Chief of Army Reserve's advisor on all enlisted Soldier matters, and is the Army Reserve enlisted Soldiers' representative at all levels within the Army. His many awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), the Bronze Star (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), Meritorious Service Medal (4<sup>th</sup> Award), and the Air Medal.

We welcome CSM Caffie to the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade as a representative not only of the Army Reserve, but of all enlisted men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

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# STORIES OF VALOR: A NEW GENERATION

The mission of the American Veterans Center is to help share with the public the stories of service and heroism that are commonplace among our military men and women, from the "Greatest Generation" through the latest generation. We are honored and humbled to have with us at the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade a collection of these heroes, from every generation.

Over the next few pages, we share with you the stories of several of the 2008 parade's Grand Marshals: "Today's Heroes" whose service has stood out among their peers, all of whom have brought credit to their generation with their devotion to duty, honor, and country.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4  
MICHAEL ZANDERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY



CWO4 Michael Zanders does not call himself a hero; just someone who did his job and answered the call of his comrades. But the people he saved on April 15, 2006 would beg to differ. His instinct and courage on that day will not be soon forgotten.

April 15, 2006 would prove to be unlike any other day during CWO4 Zanders' near 800 hours of combat flight in Iraq. Around mid-day in the city of Mosul, Zanders received a "911" call from a nearby combat outpost. He took off in one of two Kiowa Warrior helicopters from Forward

Operating Base Mosul and arrived on site in minutes. As he and his fellow soldiers approached, they saw gunfire and explosions blackening the desert. The heavy dust rising from the chaos obstructed the choppers' view of the kill-zone, forcing them to fly as close to the ground as possible. After frantic communications from the combat outpost warning that their position could be overrun, the Kiowa helicopters went into action. Zanders' sister ship took the lead. Both choppers unloaded on the attacking insurgents with volleys of high explosive rockets and 50-caliber machine gun fire.

After several low-flying orbits of the battlefield, the other chopper took hostile fire and was forced to pull out of the fight. The pilot had smelled gas and performed an emergency landing within a kilometer of the engagement zone to assess the damage. Zanders kept one eye on the downed aircrew and the other on the still pitched battle.

The Army pilots had feared such a situation could arise. With insurgents threatening to overwhelm their haphazard landing zone, the pilots knew there was no time to wait. Without pause, Zanders landed next to the downed crew – the most vulnerable sort of maneuver for a helicopter – and signaled to the pilot and co-pilot of the fellow Warrior to climb onto his craft's weapons struts and hold on. With a "thumbs up" from the precariously secured aircrew, Zanders climbed back into the sky, and flew at over 80 knots back to FOB Mosul.

Flying through the Iraqi air with an additional aircrew barely on board made for a challenging flight in the insurgent-contested territory. As he flew past a Black Hawk helicopter that had scrambled to perform the rescue, Zanders saw the surprise on the face of the passing pilots as they took in the sight of the downed aircrew strapped to the side of Zanders' chopper. That heroic act – which Zanders modestly called "instinct" – was later confirmed to be the first ever attempted of its kind. After successfully evacuating the aircrew at the base, Zanders prepared to head back out. The situation at the besieged combat outpost was stabilized while he refueled and rearmed, but instead of debriefing, he took off again to provide security around the downed chopper until it could be recovered.

For his efforts, Michael Zanders will receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, and has been awarded the Bronze Star, a testament to his courage, honor, and sense of duty.

STAFF SERGEANT  
JASON FETTY  
UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE



Chalk this one up in the category of doing the right thing under an extraordinary amount of pressure.

It was February 20, 2007. Staff Sgt. Jason Fetty, a pharmacist from Parkersburg, W.Va., was at a ceremony for the opening of an emergency room at Khost City Hospital in Afghanistan, a scene that would have never taken place had it been Afghanistan of a decade earlier under the Taliban.

But Fetty saw something was wrong by looking at a man that was standing in front of him, dressed as a doctor.

"He was crazy in the eyes," Fetty said to the American Forces Press Service (AFPS) for its October 12, 2007 issue. "He looked like he was on drugs, and he was acting very erratic. He definitely didn't look right."

It turned out Fetty was right. As it all began to unfold, Fetty's military training kicked in. He began going through his "escalation of force" commands: "Stop. Get down." However, the disguised "doctor" ignored him and tried to grab Fetty.

Fetty stalled his attacker, drawing him away from the crowd, hoping the small crowd would see what was going on and flee, but he kept his focus on the attacker.

"The last thing I wanted him to do was lose focus on me, because he didn't want me," Fetty said to AFPS. "The governor of the province was there, and he was the primary target. Suicide bombers rarely attack Americans; they want government officials. So I had to keep his focus on me."

Fetty fired his weapon, first at the ground near his feet, then into his stomach, not wanting to risk firing in his chest – for fear of setting the bomb off, although he had been told he could safely do so.

Fetty then took three steps before diving. The blast came as he hit the ground, peppering him with shrapnel all over his body. The remnants were a big hole in the ground. Fetty ended up thwarting the suicide attack and saving countless people.

For his actions, he was awarded the Silver Star, the first Silver Star earned by an Army Reserve soldier in Afghanistan.

Though he's proud of his Silver Star, Fetty told AFPS anyone in his shoes would have acted the same way. "I don't really believe in valor that much," he said. "It's more like the set of circumstances you're put in. I think there are plenty of people over there who are just as brave as I am, who fortunately never found themselves in that situation."

*SSgt. Jason Fetty is one of only three Silver Star recipients from the Army Reserve.*

HOSPITAL CORPSMAN SECOND CLASS  
SAMUEL S. JORDAN  
UNITED STATES NAVY

The role of a Corpsman often goes unappreciated by American civilians who have not witnessed their courage on the battlefield or experienced the critical care that these men and women provide. Corpsmen consistently put their lives in harm's way to care for their wounded and incapacitated comrades.

Very few are recognized as they deserve to be, yet because of Hospital Corpsman Samuel S. Jordan's heroic actions in Iraq on September 4, 2006, he was named the USO Sailor of the year for 2007. During his sustained combat operations Hospital Corpsman Jordan delivered timely medical care to Marines, fellow coalition forces, and civilian personnel. His decisive actions demonstrated exceptional professional expertise and resulted in 12 Marines and three Iraqi Army Soldiers receiving lifesaving care.

While under enemy fire, Jordan treated a Marine who was burning, extinguishing the flames with his bare hands. Jordan received 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns on both hands for which he was awarded the Purple Heart. Despite his wounds he continued to provide medical care to two Marines until they reached the aid station. His courage and exceptional leadership reflected unwavering commitment to the mission and was critical to the success of the battalion. His accomplishments, perseverance, and devotion to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps, and for these heroics he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

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**SPECIALIST  
KATE NORLEY  
UNITED STATES ARMY**



Spc. Kate Norley with a young Iraqi girl in Baghdad.  
*Photo by Terry Boyd, Stars and Stripes*

Kate Norley's call to duty occurred following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when she realized that her country needed her, and she subsequently put her education on hold to go join the military.

After completing basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC, in 2001, Kate received medical training at Ft. Sam Houston in San

Antonio, TX. Spec. Norley was assigned to Ft. Hood, TX where she served under the 1st Cavalry Division and completed desert-warfare training at the National Training Center in the Mojave Desert, CA—an exercise in how the weather and sand in a desert environment will effect both medical equipment and transport. She deployed to Iraq in December 2003 for a combat-tour of 16 months, serving as a medic during combat operations in Fallujah, Sadr City, and Ramadi—some of the most challenging arenas in the war.

While doing so, Norley was awarded the Combat Medic Badge for providing medical care while under fire. She continued to travel throughout Iraq as medical support on patrols, and also provided emergency response to ambushed units. When working with mobile-forward support elements, Spc. Norley met with Army sniper teams, and collected valuable information regarding morale and sleep logs used between missions to provide reports to top commanders in the theater.

Spc. Norley has additional specialty training in handling combat stress, and she served as the sole female combat-stress specialist to more than 20,000 troops. In addition to conducting critical event debriefings, Spc. Norley also managed the task of identifying troop remains alongside Mortuary Affairs teams throughout Baghdad. Towards the end of her tour, she was presented the honor of addressing female students at the University of Baghdad about gender equality. Upon returning from Iraq, Spc. Norley was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Facility (Washington, D.C.) where she completed her initial military obligation. She has since spoken at the Cross-Cultural Solutions Global Summit regarding gender equality and monitoring the stress of volunteers during transition when abroad. Spc. Norley continues to be involved with helping U.S. service men and women and is currently attending George Washington University with plans to pursue a career as a Physician's Assistant.

**CAPTAIN  
EDWARD SLAVIS  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**



Former Marine Corps Captain Edward Slavis attended the prestigious United States Naval Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, excelling in both his studies and his training. After graduation and his commissioning as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Marines, he served three tours in Iraq where he would go on to lead a company of over 200 men. His company worked to secure Baghdad and ran security in Fallujah for the first National Election in Iraq. Since his tours in Iraq, Capt. Slavis has continued to serve his country by training over 5,300 Marines in Iraqi culture, tactics and techniques to prepare them for their deployment overseas. He has been accepted to John Hopkins school of Advanced International Studies, and will continue his education this fall.

**SENIOR AIRMAN  
MARY C. BULLOCK  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

Senior Airman Mary C. Bullock is an Imagery Analyst with the 11th Intelligence Squadron (IS), Hurlburt Field, FL, and was named Air Force Special Operations Command's 2007 "Airman of the Year". As the first Airman assigned to the newly established 11<sup>th</sup> IS unit and with only two-days notice, Senior Airman Bullock deployed for 179 days in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and promptly demonstrated the expertise of a seasoned non-commissioned officer. From providing rapid intelligence to secure a downed helicopter crew, to coordinating critical unmanned aerial vehicle oversight for special operations forces, Airman Bullock was recognized as the theater's full motion video expert. She was also a major contributor to the unit being selected as Air Force Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance "Intelligence Unit of the Year" for 2007.

**SPECIAL AGENT  
JAC CHRISTIANSEN  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

Jac Christiansen is a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Special Agent Christiansen was lead investigator on 158 counter-improvised explosive device (IED) missions. As a result of his work, he and his team identified 20 insurgents making IEDs targeting coalition forces. On April 20, 2007, his vehicle was hit by an IED injuring the driver, gunner and himself. Despite his injuries, he aided the others while the convoy remained under attack by small arms fire. On July 26, 2007, his vehicle was hit again and severely damaged by an IED, and Special Agent Christiansen was knocked unconscious. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Air Force Combat Action Medal for his actions in Iraq.

**STAFF SERGEANT  
JOHN AUGHTMAN  
UNITED STATES ARMY**



Staff Sgt. John Aughtman served on three deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, with his most recent deployment to Iraq being August 2006-October 2007. Aughtman deployed with the Bravo Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne as a Squad Leader. In his role, Aughtman led his Soldiers in conducting multiple combat patrols and raids which enabled them to remove many high-value targets. During one patrol mission, Aughtman and two of his Soldiers in their vehicle were struck by a grenade, causing them injury. Aughtman and his Soldiers rendered themselves aid and self-med evacuated back to the Forward Operating Base. For his brave service Aughtman received the Purple Heart and the prestigious Bronze Star Medal. SSgt. Aughtman is currently stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

**MASTER SERGEANT  
RONALD D. BEADLES  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

MSgt. Beadles is the 319<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant at Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND. He went on 25 combat patrols and performed IED sweeps and wire sweeps while deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has been commended for his leadership from the front, ensuring the effectiveness of over 250 combat personnel providing logistical support to more than 3,000 Coalition Forces. For his heroic acts, he has been awarded the Bronze Star.

**CAPTAIN  
HAYES PRESTON  
UNITED STATES ARMY**



Capt. Hayes Preston deployed twice, most recently returning in March 2008 from Baghdad, Iraq with the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 158<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team. While deployed he served as the Squadron S-Intelligence Officer and was responsible for Squadron intelligence operations including assessing the internal threat within the Iraqi Correctional Officer

Population. Now back home, the Baltimore, MD native is currently a member of the Maryland National Guard.

**CAPTAIN  
ROBERT HOLCROFT  
UNITED STATES ARMY**



Capt. Robert Holcroft served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, with his most recent deployment from October 2006 to his return in January 2008. He deployed with the Bravo Company, 4-227 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion as an Assistant Operations Officer and Company Commander. During this deployment, he also served as a Pilot in Command and came to the aid of several troops on the ground who came under close combat fire by the enemy during a night attack. He provided support to the Soldiers by firing a 30 millimeter and hellfire missiles to enable the ground troops to pull wounded Soldiers from the area. For this brave service, he received the Air Medal with Valor device. He currently serves as a Company Commander with the 1st Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, Texas.

*The National Memorial Day Parade is honored to have with us these, and other "Heroes of Today" as the 2008 Grand Marshals.*



# THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

## WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT

The American Veterans Center, with its two divisions - the World War II Veterans Committee and the National Vietnam Veterans Committee - is grateful for the continued support of thousands of individuals in our shared mission of preserving the history and legacy of America's veterans and active duty service members. Through its various programs, the Center has sought to provide an outlet for veterans to share their experiences with the public, and to teach their lessons to the younger generation. The support of so many patriotic Americans has allowed the Center to expand its efforts over the years, instituting a number of quality projects, including:



### ➤ The National Memorial Day Parade

Held each year along the National Mall in Washington, DC, and featuring nearly 200 elements and nearly 250,000 spectators. Since its creation in 2005, the parade has grown to be among the largest in the nation, and serves to remind Americans of all generations of the sacrifices made by our uniformed men and women.

### ➤ American Valor Quarterly

Our magazine, which provides the opportunity for veterans to share their stories, in their own words with an audience of tens of thousands of people. Copies of *AVQ* are also donated to nearly 200 VA hospitals and vets centers around the country, as a way to say "thank you" to our veterans, and those who care for them.

### ➤ Documentaries and Radio Series

The Center has a long history of producing quality radio documentaries in association with the Radio America network. Included is the award-winning *World War II Chronicles* on which this publication is based, *D-Day: They Were There* and *Pearl Harbor: 60 Years of Echoes*. More recently, the Center has sponsored two weekly radio series, *Veterans Chronicles* and *Proudly We Hail*, both programs featuring interviews with America's great heroes.

### ➤ Annual Veterans Conference

Every Veterans Day weekend America's greatest veterans gather to share their experiences with an audience of several hundred students, fellow veterans, and the public. The conference has been televised live on C-Span, and viewed by thousands of Americans. The videos of the conference speakers and panels can be viewed at the Center's website at [www.americanveteranscenter.org](http://www.americanveteranscenter.org)

### ➤ Youth Activities and Educational Outreach

The underlying theme of each of our programs is to build an appreciation of America's veterans and military history among young people. Students and youth groups are encouraged to participate in AVC activities, and the Center sponsors essay contests, a high school and college scholarship, and an internship program, all providing an opportunity for young people to learn about - and from - America's uniformed heroes.

### ➤ Supporting Our Troops

In addition to featuring the stories of those currently serving in our publications and radio programs, and including them in the National Memorial Day Parade, the Center is proud to sponsor regular events for our wounded heroes currently undergoing rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital.



Honoring those who have sacrificed, The American Veterans Center is proud to support those veterans and service members who have been wounded in the line of duty.

Pictured above is Medal of Honor recipient Col. Robert Howard with representatives of the Young Marines and our wounded service members at a reception in their honor at the U.S. Navy Memorial.



Interns and students are given the opportunity to meet, and learn about, America's greatest heroes. Here, former intern Michael O'Donnell visits the grave of Joe Ronnie Hooper, the most decorated soldier of the Vietnam War. Michael researched Hooper's story, which he wrote for our publication, *American Valor Quarterly*.



From the Greatest Generation to the latest generation, it is the lessons and inspiration provided by those veterans who have come before that is so valuable to the young people of today. Through the American Veterans Center's many events, we seek to bring these generations together, as above, where young ROTC students speak directly to the legendary Tuskegee Airmen at the 2007 conference.

For information on how you can support the American Veterans Center and its many projects, call 703-302-1012 ext. 214 or e-mail [avc@americanveteranscenter.org](mailto:avc@americanveteranscenter.org)

## THE 2008 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Presented by

THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

In association with

The White House Commission on Remembrance and The U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute

### PARADE PRODUCTION STAFF

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- American Veterans Center  
MACKIE CHRISTENSON - Parade Director  
- American Veterans Center  
TIM HOLBERT - Program Director  
- American Veterans Center  
JIM MICHELS - Development Director  
- American Veterans Center  
JORDAN CROSS - Communications Director  
- American Veterans Center  
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- Music Celebrations International  
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- Under the Sun Productions, Inc.  
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LARRY MADISON - Stage Manager  
ANGELA BOWLES - Event Manager  
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MATTHEW REIPRICH - Parade Production  
JEREMY WILLIAMS - Parade Production  
ANNIE WOODS - Parade Production  
JEFFREY R. RUDEEN - Credentials  
RON ENGLE - Official Photographer

### Parade Announcers:

ADRIAN CRONAUER  
THE HONORABLE BLANQUITA WALSH CULLUM

### Reviewing Official:

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER,  
M.D., Ph.D.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.  
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THE D.C. OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
THE WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION ON REMEMBRANCE  
THE D.C. METROPOLITAN POLICE  
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### A very special thanks to:

ANNA TYLER - Parade Manager  
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REBECCA CAUFIELD and RON HART -  
Reception and Lunch  
KATHY FARLEY - Sign-In Coordinator  
CRAIG HORN - Ground Transportation  
JANE PERRY - World War I Section Coordinator  
LORI ALLEN and SUREE KLANGNOK -  
Honorees Float Coordinators  
NICOLE MCKAN - Golf Cart Coordinator  
CHRIS GRAHAM - Photographer  
MARY JANE GARNER - Military and Education Liaison

### SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH TODAY'S SPECIAL EVENT AND TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

#### Thanks to all of the individual antique/classic car owners and Car Clubs

Washington Area Collectors of Military Vehicles Blue and  
Gray Military Vehicle Trust - Montclair, VA  
National Capital Region Mustang Club - Vienna, VA  
F-Body Hideout Camaro & Firebird Club - Manassas, VA  
Central Virginia Mustang Club - Mechanicsville, VA  
1948 Cadillac Convertible - Randy Denchfield - Chevy Chase, MD  
1963 Buick Wildcat Convertible - Randy Denchfield -  
Chevy Chase, MD  
1962 Chevy Impala Convertible - Randy Denchfield -  
Chevy Chase, MD  
1964 Mercury Convertible - Barry Reichenbaugh - Annandale, VA  
1981 Rolls Royce Convertible - Frantz Dengler -  
Schaefferstown, PA  
1937 Lincoln 7 passenger Touring - Dave Johnson - Summitville, OH  
Southern Maryland Model A Club - Huntingtown, MD  
George Washington Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America -  
Manassas, VA  
Lake Anna Cruisers - Louisa, VA

#### Special Groups

Bartlett High School Air Force JROTC - Webster, MA  
Paint Branch High School Navy JROTC - Burtonsville, MD  
Prince Georges County Public Schools JROTC - Maryland  
United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps - Annapolis, MD  
New Jersey National Guard - Fort Dix, NJ  
Youth Challenge Academy

Program edited by Tim Holbert with assistance by  
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Jeff Poor & Vanessa Schütz

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Veterans," out of which The National Memorial Day Parade grew.

#### Young Marines Program

Col. Mike Kessler (USMC-Ret), National Executive Director  
Joseph E. Bles, Inspector General for the Young Marines  
National Headquarters - Washington, DC

#### Participating Young Marines Units:

Eno River Young Marines  
Upper Marlboro Young Marines  
Manassas Young Marines  
Sacramento Young Marines  
Annapolis Young Marines  
First Maine Battalion Young Marines  
Quantico Young Marines  
Cumberland County Young Marines  
Williamsport Young Marines  
Young Marines of Central Maryland  
Hillsborough, NC  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
Manassas, VA  
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# HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

## LT. GENERAL JACK C. STULTZ

CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE & COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND



Lt. General Stultz became Chief, Army Reserve and Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command on May 25, 2006, after serving as the Command's Deputy Commanding General since October 2005. Prior to assignment to the Army Reserve Command, Lt. Gen. Stultz served as the Commanding General of the 143rd Transportation Command, which provides command and control to 12 units in the southeast U.S.

Entering active duty in 1974, Lt. Gen. Stultz received his commission from the ROTC at Davidson College. He rose to command Company B of the 20th Engineer Battalion before leaving active duty for a civilian career in 1979. At the same time he began his Army Reserve career with an assignment to the 108th Division (Infantry OSUT) headquartered in Charlotte, NC. He began his career with the Transportation Corps in 1987 with an assignment to the 32nd Transportation Group (Composite), which mobilized and deployed for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Stultz was responsible for providing transportation support to XVIII Airborne Corps and VII Corps in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait. He also commanded transportation battalions which deployed to the Balkans and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout much of 2004, he was responsible for port and ground transportation operations for the largest movement of forces since World War II. He returned to the U.S. in August 2004 after 22 months in theater.

Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (w/1 oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (w/3 oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (w/4 oak leaf clusters) and the Army Achievement Medal.

## HONORARY MARSHALS

REPRESENTING VETERANS OF EACH OF THE MODERN ERAS OF AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY

### Honorary Marshal for World War II MICKEY ROONEY



When the United States entered World War II in 1941, Mickey Rooney was already one of the biggest stars in the world. His career in show business had begun when he was 17 months old, when he was discovered in a Chicago theatre. Mickey's first film role came in 1926, and in 1934 was discovered by MGM producer David O. Selznick, who convinced studio chief Louis Mayer to sign him to a long-term contract. By 1939, he was the number one box office actor in the country, known for his work in films such as "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Boys Town," "Babes in Arms," and of course, the hit "Andy Hardy" series. He starred alongside such Hollywood leading ladies as Lana Turner and Judy Garland. Mickey joined the Army in 1944, and headlined a three-man jeep tour of the front lines in Europe, performing for the men and working to raise morale. The tour proved invaluable, as many entertainers outside of the military were reluctant to go near the front lines, where they could be exposed to enemy fire. For his service, Mickey Rooney was awarded the Bronze Star. A living legend, he continues entertaining people around the world to this day.

### Honorary Marshal for the Vietnam War GENERAL VOLNEY F. WARNER UNITED STATES ARMY - RET.



Volney Warner enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and transferred to the Army the next year upon receiving an appointment to the United States Military Academy. Following graduation, he saw combat in Korea as a platoon leader in the 24th Infantry Division. He was assigned to Vietnam in 1963 as a Province Senior Advisor. He would return to the U.S. to serve on the White House Staff, was Chief of Staff for the 82nd Airborne Division, and commanded the 9th Infantry Division. In 1979, General Warner assumed the duties of Commander-in-Chief, United States Readiness Command where he was responsible for the joint training and readiness of U.S. Army and Air Forces in the United States and putting together the four-service Rapid Deployment Force for the Persian Gulf. He retired in 1981, and is currently President and CEO of V.F. Warner & Associates, a Washington-based consulting firm. His awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Award, two Silver Stars, three Legion of Merit medals, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and three Bronze Stars with V Device.



### Honorary Marshal for the Korean War LT. GENERAL JULIUS W. BECTON, JR. UNITED STATES ARMY - RET.

Julius Becton joined the Army Air Corps enlisted Reserve in 1943, and called to active duty in 1944. He switched to the Infantry and served the Pacific where he served as a platoon leader and executive officer for the 369th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Infantry Division, a racially segregated unit. During the Korean War, he served as platoon leader and company commander with the 9th (Manchu) Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division. He was twice wounded—once while leading an attack out of the Pusan Perimeter, and again along the Chinese border while leading a reconnaissance mission.

Becton went on to serve in Vietnam and rise to the rank of Lt. General, serving in a variety of military and civilian posts, including director of FEMA, president of his alma mater of Prairie View A&M University, and CEO/Superintendent of DC Public Schools. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, two Legion of Merit medals, and two Purple Hearts.

### Honorary Marshal for the Gulf War GENERAL FREDERICK M. FRANKS UNITED STATES ARMY - RET.



Frederick Franks graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1959, commanding Armored Cavalry units at the platoon, troop, squadron, and regimental levels in the 11th and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiments over the next 25 years. General Franks saw combat in Vietnam before being wounded in action in Cambodia in May, 1970. After having his leg amputated below the knee, he was permitted to remain on active duty and returned to service in 1972. He received several commands, including that of VII Corps in Germany from 1989-91. He commanded the 146,000 U.S. and British forces of VII Corps as they attacked over 250 km in 89 hours in the liberation of Kuwait. General Franks retired from active duty on December 1, 1994. He has since collaborated with Tom Clancy on the book, *Into the Storm: A Study in Command* and is currently Chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission. General Franks has received the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with V Device, Air Medal, and two Purple Hearts.

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# HONORARY MARSHALS

## JOE MANTEGNA



Winner of the Tony Award for his acclaimed performance in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Glengarry Glen Ross," Joe Mantegna currently stars as FBI Special Agent David Rossi in the CBS series "Criminal Minds." He is also the co-author of the play "Bleacher Bums," which was adapted for television and earned an Emmy Award. He received Emmy nominations for his role in "The Last Don," and "The Rat Pack" in which he played Dean Martin. In addition to dozens of other film and TV credits, Mr. Mantegna can be heard in the recurring role of Fat Tony on "The Simpsons."

In 2004, Mantegna was named chairperson for the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This organization helps focus public attention on VA medical centers with the goal of increasing the number of VA volunteers. Also, for the last several years, he has served as co-host, along with Gary Sinise, of the National Memorial Day Concert, broadcast across the nation on PBS the evening prior to Memorial Day.

## GARY SINISE



Currently starring as Det. "Mac" Taylor on CBS's "CSI: New York," Gary Sinise will forever be linked with the character of Lt. Dan in the Oscar-winning film "Forrest Gump," which earned him nominations for an Academy Award and a Screen Actors Guild Award.

Sinise has become one of the most popular supporters of our military men and women, due to his extensive charitable work on their behalf. Since 2003 he has traveled to Iraq three times and to Afghanistan, and is the co-founder of "Operation Iraqi Children" with author Laura Hillenbrand. His band, the Lt. Dan Band, has gone on two-dozen USO tours and played over 40 benefit concerts. He is also the spokesperson for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation. Mr. Sinise served as the Grand Marshal of the 2006 National Memorial Day Parade, and his support has been instrumental in building the parade into the great tradition it has become in such a short time.

# SPECIAL GUESTS

## LT. GENERAL ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER, M.D., PH.D.

### 2008 National Memorial Day Parade Reviewing Officer



Lt. General Eric Schoomaker is the 42nd Surgeon General of the United States Army and Commanding General, United States Army Medical Command. He previously served as Commanding General, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He assumed his current assignment on December 11, 2007. He holds a medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School and a Ph.D. in Human Genetics.

## MISS AMERICA 2008 KIRSTEN HAGLUND



Crowned on January 26, 2008, Kirsten Haglund became the 83rd Miss America. She is currently a student at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Included in her year-long tour of the nation was a recent stop at the U.S. Army Reserve's 100th Anniversary Gala, where she met with soldiers recently returned from serving in Iraq. She performed the National Anthem at a ceremony at the White House in which 100 Reserve soldiers re-enlisted to continue their service to our country.

## CHAPLAIN (BG) DOUGLAS E. LEE

Office Chief of Chaplains  
Assistant Chief of Chaplains for  
Mobilization and Readiness  
United States Army Reserve



*Chaplain Lee will deliver the pre-parade benediction.*

## REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTINE M. BRUZUK-KOHLER U.S. Navy Nurse Corps



*RADM Bruzek-Kohler will lead a special tribute to the 100th Anniversary of Navy Nursing in the parade.*

## BRIGADIER GENERAL R. STEVE RITCHIE U.S. AIR FORCE - RET.



*The only Air Force "ace" pilot of the Vietnam War and recipient of the Air Force Cross.*

## COLONEL LAURA J. RICHARDSON Garrison Commander Fort Myer Military Community United States Army



*Col. Richardson will accompany the "Ft. Myer Flyer," a working replica of the military's first airplane, in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of military aviation.*

## BOB FELLER



*Hall of Fame baseball pitcher for the Cleveland Indians and veteran of the USS Alabama in World War II.*

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# THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE WELCOMES AMERICA'S GREATEST HEROES RECIPIENTS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

**MASTER SERGEANT JOHN F. BAKER, JR.**  
UNITED STATES ARMY - RET.

On November 4, 1966, then-PFC John F. Baker, Jr.'s company, part of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry, moved into an area in Tay Ninh Province in South Vietnam, near the Cambodian border, in an attempt to assist another company pinned down by the enemy. The next morning, surrounded by thousands of Vietcong soldiers, Baker's unit came under attack as they moved out to relieve their embattled sister company. When the lead man in his column went down, Baker moved to the front, and along with another soldier charged the two bunkers from which the heaviest fire came from. When the man with him was mortally wounded, Baker dragged him to safety, before returning to the fight. At the end of the two-hour long battle, Baker had destroyed six machine-gun bunkers and saved eight of his comrades. He was told he was to receive the Medal of Honor on the day he was to leave Vietnam in August of 1967, and it was presented to him on May 1, 1968, by President Lyndon Johnson.



**COLONEL ROBERT L. HOWARD**  
UNITED STATES ARMY - RET.

By late 1968, then-Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Robert Howard had been recommended for the Medal of Honor on two separate occasions for his valor in Vietnam. However, it was for his actions on December 28 of that year that he would finally receive America's highest military honor. His Special Forces unit was ordered to rescue a wounded Green Beret when, shortly after arriving at the landing zone, they came under fierce attack from about 250 North Vietnamese soldiers. He was knocked unconscious and, along with his lieutenant, was seriously wounded by a claymore mine. He came to shortly thereafter, awakened by smell of an enemy soldier burning the bodies of Howard's comrades with a flamethrower. Howard, blinded by blood and his hands mangled by shrapnel, managed to throw a grenade at the enemy soldier and crawled to his lieutenant, pulling him down to a ravine where the other survivors had taken refuge. Despite being pursued along the way, Howard and his wounded lieutenant fought off their attackers. Upon reaching the other survivors, Howard took charge and called in air strikes on the enemy's position. Three days later, they were finally evacuated to safety.



**CAPTAIN THOMAS J. HUDNER**  
UNITED STATES NAVY - RET.

On December 4, 1950, then-Lt. (JG) Thomas Hudner piloted his F4U Corsair on a combat mission inside North Korea, during the legendary Battle of Chosin Reservoir. Among the pilots in the five other fighters that accompanied him was his wingman, Ensign Jesse Brown, the first black pilot in the history of the U.S. Navy. While strafing enemy positions, Brown's plane was hit by antiaircraft fire, and forced to crash-land. Upon first glance, Brown's fellow pilots assumed him to be dead, due to the severity of the wreck. Yet to Hudner's amazement, Brown opened the canopy of his plane and waved to him, albeit very weakly. Realizing that a rescue helicopter would take quite some time to arrive, Hudner made the decision to crash-land his own plane, in an attempt to rescue his friend and fellow aviator from the wreckage. When he got to Brown, Hudner realized that his right leg had been crushed, and lodged behind the damaged instrument panel. Hudner spent hours attempting to free Brown, but to no avail. Brown, now drifting in and out of consciousness, spoke a few final words to his friend: "Tell my wife that I love her." Jesse Brown was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions in combat. Thomas Hudner, with Brown's wife on hand, would be awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism by President Harry Truman on April 13, 1951.



**GEORGE T. SAKATO**  
UNITED STATES ARMY

In 1942, George Sakato tried to enlist in the Army Air Corps, but was rejected due to his draft status—4-C—or "undesirable alien." Like many Japanese Americans, he was treated with suspicion in the country of his birth. The next year, however, due to the heroic exploits of the lone-Japanese American unit in the military, the government decided to expand the opportunities to serve to others. George Sakato immediately enlisted in the Army, and after training, was shipped to Europe as a replacement with the all-Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Just before midnight on October 28, 1944, outside the town of Biffontaine, France, near the German border, Sakato's company was ordered to flank the German positions, and attack from the rear. While they met their objective, the enemy counterattacked, mortally wounding one of Sakato's best friends, who died in his arms. Sakato then took charge of his squad and directed the defense against the onslaught, allowing his men to hold their positions until help arrived. A few days later, he was seriously wounded, and hospitalized for eight months. While recommended for the Medal of Honor, it was not awarded for another 55 years, when President Bill Clinton finally placed it around his neck on June 21, 2000.



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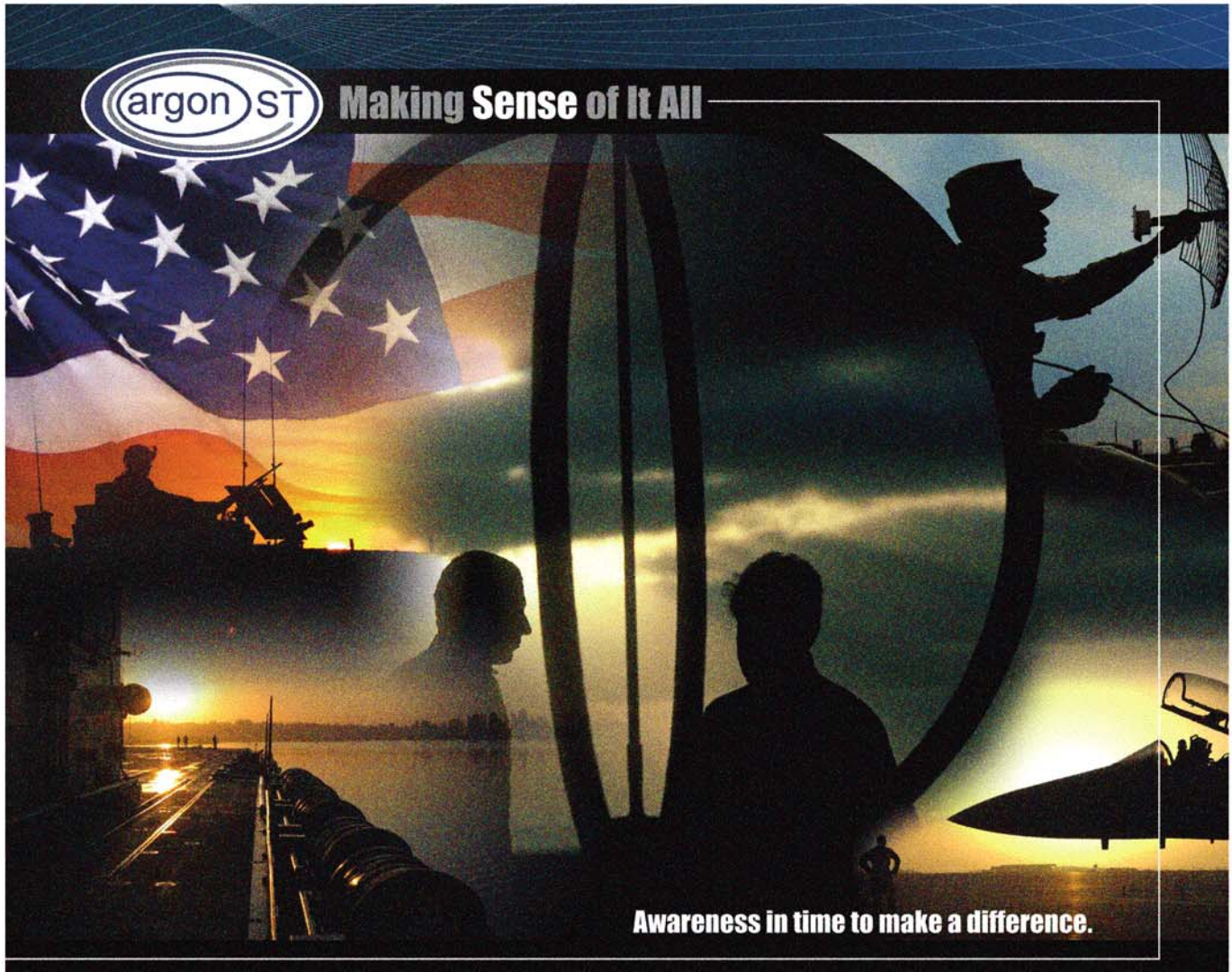


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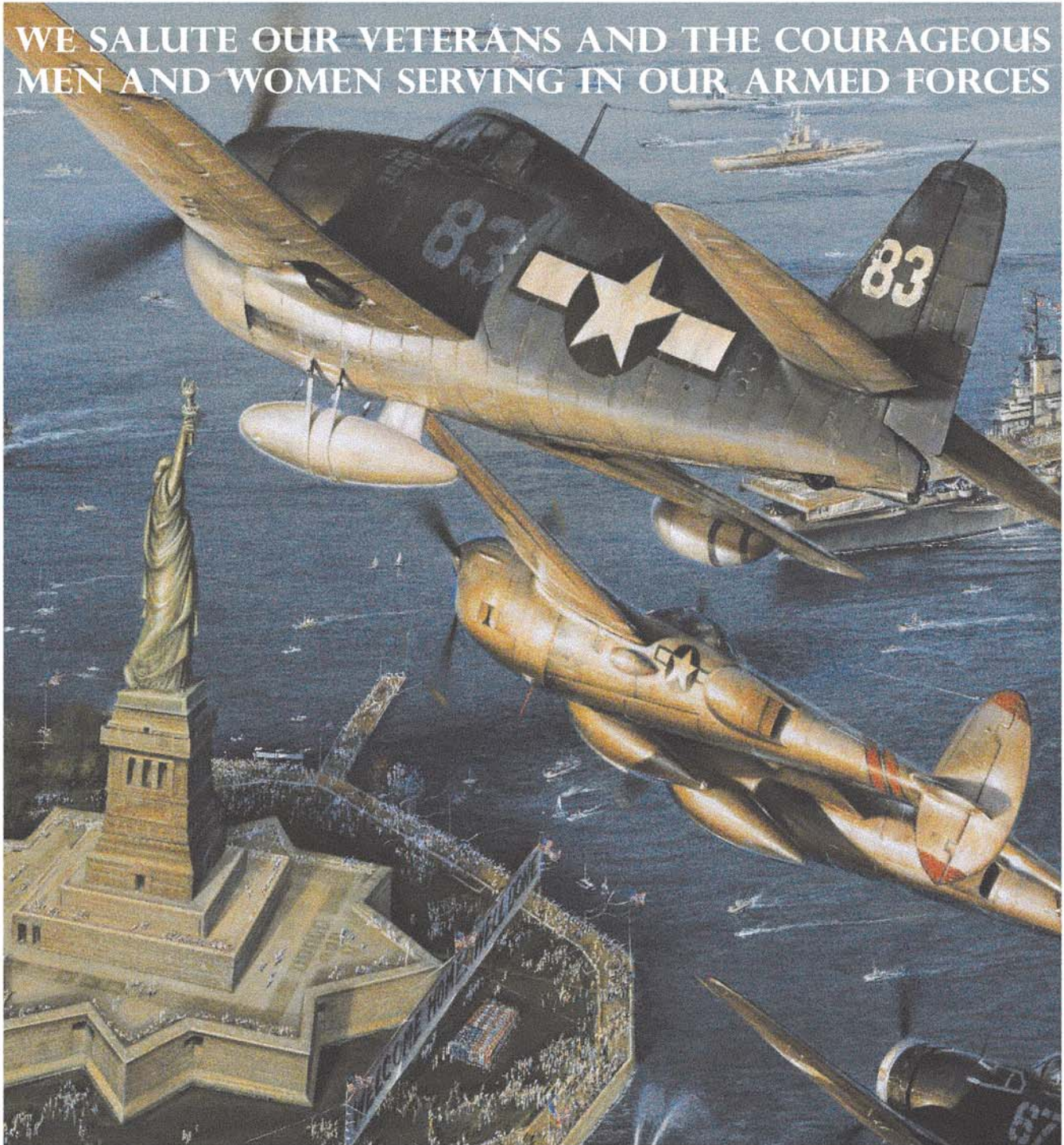
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MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES



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# Kuwait Remembers...

*On this day the people of the state of Kuwait remember with deep gratitude and pride those fallen heroes of the Gulf War, and the sacrifices they made on behalf of a noble and important cause.*

To learn more about how you can help support Gulf War veterans, e-mail:  
[gulfwar@americanveteranscenter.org](mailto:gulfwar@americanveteranscenter.org)

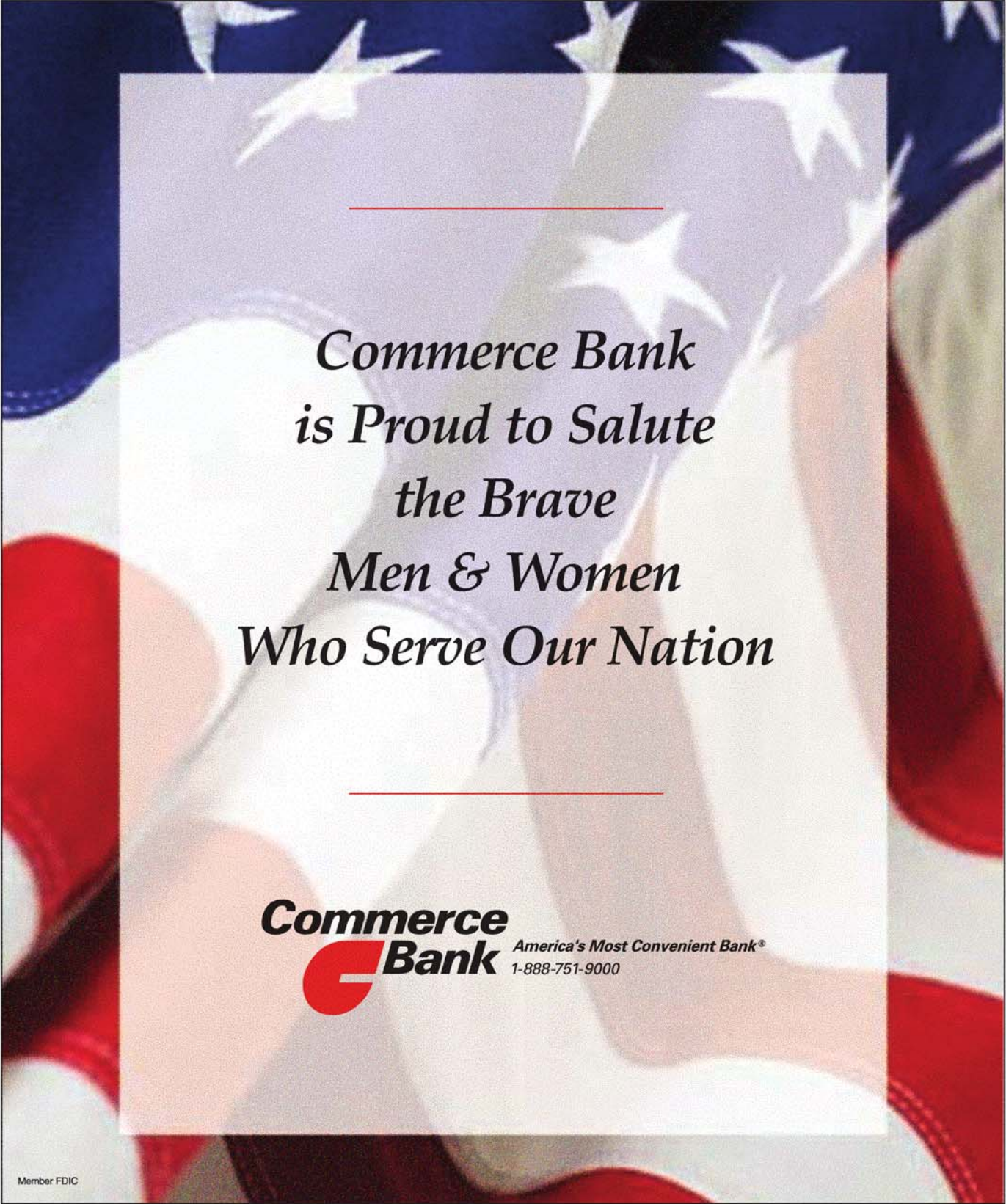


KUWAIT REMEMBERS  
GULF WAR VETERANS...

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## "LT. DAN" CONTINUES HIS MISSION

You can hardly ask for a Hollywood personality to be more dedicated and more giving of his time to those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces than actor Gary Sinise.

Sinise, best-known for his role of Lt. Dan in the Oscar-winning film "Forrest Gump," first became involved with veterans in 1984 during a Chicago production of "Tracers" – a play about a group of Vietnam veterans. The Illinois-native and father of three can currently be seen as "Detective Mac Taylor" in the highly rated CBS series "CSI: NY."

An avid supporter of our military men and women, Sinise has visited U.S. military installations all over the world. He completed his 30<sup>th</sup> tour for the USO early this year in April in a stateside performance at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. He has also spent time with our wounded service members at the Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Aside from service for military personnel, Sinise has performed benefits for the Soldier Ride and Wounded Warrior projects and has also given time and money to victims of Hurricane Katrina and victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. He along with "Seabiscuit" author Laura Hillenbrand began "Operation Iraqi Children," a national campaign designed to build a stronger relationship between the servicemen and women in Iraq and the Iraqi people by sending school supplies for the troops to give to the Iraqis.

Sinise has received two awards from the Disabled Americans Veterans and presently serves as the spokesman for the American Veteran Disabled For Life Memorial, a campaign dedicated to the construction of a national memorial in Washington, D.C. for wounded veterans. He was also presented the GI Spirit Award at the first annual GI Film Festival in 2007, for his work in helping to promote the positive stories of our uniformed men and women.

In 2003, Sinise created a band named after the character he portrayed in "Forrest Gump" – the Lt. Dan Band. The 11-member band first performed at a military base in November 2003 for the USO at Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois. Since then, the band has performed in Korea, Singapore, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, as well as many domestic military bases from coast to coast, including Hawaii.

"Performing for troops is something that's extremely special to me and my band," Sinise recently told the USO. "We entertain them because they work hard and sacrifice their

lives for us everyday. The truth is, they give us more than we could ever give them, our freedom – that's the real gift."



Gary Sinise with his Lt. Dan Band performs at the Pentagon in 2006.

Sinise's first feature film as an actor was in the World War II film "A Midnight Clear" in 1992. Later that year, Sinise combined his acting and directing abilities for "Of Mice and Men." He appeared in "Apollo 13" with his "Forrest Gump" co-star Tom Hanks in 1995, and then starred in the HBO film "Truman." Yet, despite his continued success, he has always found time for the troops, especially on Memorial Day.

"It's really a very important day to remember the sacrifices that our service men and women have made over the years," Sinise said during the Pentagon Channel's coverage of the 2006 National Memorial Day Parade. "I can't think of a better place to spend it than Washington, DC."

We could not agree more.

*Gary Sinise was the Grand Marshal of the National Memorial Day Parade in May 2006. He will serve as Honorary Marshal in this year's parade, helping to draw attention to the stories of this year's Grand Marshals—"Today's Heroes."*

## HOLLYWOOD AT WAR: MICKEY ROONEY IN WORLD WAR II

Perhaps he was destined for greatness one way or another, but Mickey Rooney achieved that pursuit two ways. Rooney, best known for his acting accomplishments, has a successful Hollywood career stretching back to 1927. However, he also served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

In June 1944, Rooney joined the Army and began his service at Ft. MacArthur, near San Pedro, Calif. Shortly thereafter, he was sent to Ft. Riley, Kan. for cavalry training, where he earned his sharpshooter badge and was promoted to squad leader. Soon he was on his way to Camp Sibert near Gadsden, Ala. for U.S. Army Chemical Warfare School.

But before he started his training however, something happened. USO entertainers weren't willing to perform on the frontlines of World War II. The Army decided to improvise and find entertainers from within. Soon Rooney was re-assigned to the 681<sup>st</sup> Special Services Battalion and was on the *Queen Mary*, bound for England.



Then-PFC Mickey Rooney imitates famous Hollywood actors for an audience of Infantrymen of the 44th Division, as part of his three-man jeep tour of the front lines.

After he arrived in England, and serving 21 days of KP duty to prove he, along with the other entertainers, weren't being given special treatment, Rooney and the other troops were sent into France. Eventually the 153 entertainers were split into three-man teams since it was deemed impossible to move such a large group around the Western Europe.

They were given a jeep and usually consisted of a musician, a singer and an MC who told jokes. Rooney assumed the role of MC. His first show was three miles from the front in Belgium between two Sherman tanks for a crowd of 60 combat troops. Rooney's shows were enthusiastically received and often took place in harshly cold weather.

But it wasn't all glitz and glamour touring the battlegrounds of Europe during World War II. Rooney had close brushes with the enemy. In early 1945, Rooney and his troupe were about to perform near Radonge, Belgium. But, a general interrupted and informed the three-man team the headquarters they were set to perform at was about to blow up, so they better move fast.

Rooney and his team sped off in their jeep and were flying down the road when they encountered an unfamiliar sound and determined it was a tank – except this tank had a swastika painted on the side and an 88-mm cannon protruding from its turret.

After stopping for a brief moment, Rooney and company didn't think twice about sticking around, so they sped off down the road.

The company often performed shows that stretched into the wee hours of the night. One show lasted so late that if it

had gone much longer, the men would have found themselves in the middle of the Battle of Remagen. The battle resulted in the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge by U.S. forces, which allowed the Allies to begin their first major crossing of the River Rhine, considered the last natural line of defense for the Germans.

Rooney also performed in several hospitals and witnessed some of the brutalities of war. But he was also there to console the wounded in times of their deep despair. He also entertained the likes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Army Group and Patton's Third Army, having covered over 150,000 miles in one year.

After the war ended on May 7, 1945, the three-man shows began to wind down and a larger group of entertainers got back together to put on larger productions. Later that year, Rooney went on to direct his own original music review called the "O.K.-USA" in Mannheim, Germany. He spent his last days as an announcer for the Armed Forces Radio Network.

Rooney achieved the rank of sergeant before he was eventually discharged. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, seven bronze star device and the World War II Victory Medal, in addition to his sharpshooter badge. Like so many American soldiers, upon coming home he went back to the life he knew. Mickey continues to entertain the world with his wife Jan Rooney in their multi-media musical "Let's Put On A Show!" They will be at the Hilton Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City July 6-11, 2008.

*Mickey Rooney is the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade's Honorary Marshal for World War II.*



# AN INTERVIEW WITH JOE MANTEGNA

Joe Mantegna is a familiar face on stage and screen, having made his acting debut nearly 40 years ago. He recently starred in the critically acclaimed "Joan of Arcadia" on CBS, and can now be seen on "Criminal Minds," also on CBS. He especially enjoys his role as the voice of Fat Tony on "The Simpsons." ("Nothing interferes with my doing the Simpsons!" he says.)

In addition to his long career in film and television, Mantegna has been a strong supporter of America's veterans and active duty service members, having been named chairperson for the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2004. Also, for a number of years he has served as co-host of the National Memorial Day Concert on PBS (not affiliated with the National Memorial Day Parade).

Mr. Mantegna, who will be joining us for the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade, recently sat down with Tim Holbert, Program Director for the American Veterans Center, to talk about why supporting our military men and women is of special importance to him. Here, we share with you the transcript.



Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise, co-hosts of the National Memorial Day Concert on PBS. Photo courtesy of KET.

**Tim Holbert:** For many people these days, Memorial Day means a day off work, cookouts, and the opening of the neighborhood swimming pool—the real meaning of the holiday is often lost in the shuffle of their lives. Yet for the past several years, you have taken time from your schedule to come to Washington and co-host the National Memorial Day Concert on PBS, and are here with us for the National Memorial Day Parade. I wanted to know, what motivates you to do that?

**Joe Mantegna:** Well, to be honest with you I think I was one of those people you talked about, seven years ago before I did that first concert. Memorial Day didn't have as much significance for me before, as it has over the past several years, partly because while I have a lot of family who served in the military, we were fortunate that everyone came home alive. While some were injured, they never really talked about it much. So Memorial Day for me was a lot about the barbecues and the Indianapolis 500.

Then I did that first concert seven years ago as a favor to Charles Durning, a dear friend and a hero. That first concert brought it all home to me just how important that holiday is. How it is much more than just barbecues. The fact that so many people made sacrifices so we would be able to enjoy ourselves like that. But we should know what the holiday is all about. It has occurred to me over these years that there was a dichotomy in the sense that Memorial Day is a holiday that in many ways is the memorial to those who passed, and yet is probably the most living holiday that we have, because it is a holiday as poignant today as it was when it was first created. We are remembering the sacrifices our nation's military men and women have made for us. They are putting their lives on the line as we speak, and are giving up their bodies as we speak. So it is very important to take pause and realize that, on this one day of the year, we should focus on those who have stepped up and gone above and beyond the call of duty.

**Tim Holbert:** That's right. What I've noticed is that Memorial Day is that one holiday which brings so many generations of Americans together to salute those who have sacrificed.

**Joe Mantegna:** Yes, a holiday for every age group. So many children have mothers or fathers or grandparents who have served, or they may have lost, so they have an appreciation for each other on so many different levels.

**Tim Holbert:** Speaking of an appreciation for family members who served, you had quite a few in your family who served in the military during World War II. Could you tell us about them?

**Joe Mantegna:** All four of my mother's brothers served in the war, one of them, Uncle Willie, I bring each year to the Memorial Day concert. He fought with Patton's Third Army during the war, was injured and hospitalized. His other brother, my Uncle Tony, was a bombardier in the Army Air Corps. He was shot down over Italy and taken to Germany where he was imprisoned in

a POW camp for over a year. My Uncle Jack, the older brother, was a Marine and an aide to Admiral Halsey on the *USS Enterprise*. He was on the *Enterprise* even before the war, enlisting in the Marine Corps prior to Pearl Harbor and serving through the war. My Uncle Junior—Joe, the youngest of the four—was also in the Army, getting in late because he was young, and served in Hawaii.

My dad had a brother, Sam, who served in the Marines, and served aboard the *USS Chicago*. He was at Pearl Harbor, but was hospitalized at the time with a foot injury and survived the attack. My father would have served, but spent most of the war in the hospital with tuberculosis, which was still devastating in those days. As you know, that generation was a special generation—the "Greatest Generation" as Tom Brokaw said. So many of them sacrificed so much, but I was lucky enough to have all five of my uncles come home. We were very fortunate.

**Tim Holbert:** It is amazing just how pervasive World War II was among that generation. It touched every family—every family has somebody who has a story connected to the war. It is a generation that deserves all of the credit that they get.

**Joe Mantegna:** I took Uncle Willie to the opening of the World War II Memorial. We were at the opening ceremonies, and I was taken by the fact that when they asked for the WWII veterans in the audience to stand, out of the hundreds of thousands there, a comparative few stood. I looked at my uncle, and in our area there were about five guys out of a few hundred standing, and that was duplicated throughout the masses. It made you realize how quickly we are losing them and that we need to remember them, what they did, and what it was about so it can never happen again.

**Tim Holbert:** What did you learn from your family members who served?

**Joe Mantegna:** Well I think that it was the basics of what is right and what is wrong. In other words, everybody will have

flaws, but when push comes to shove and when something is of real importance, you need to pull together and do what needs to be done. It is not as if you are doing anybody a favor; this is an obligation, and a duty, and you do it. Their service wasn't something they talked about or dwelled on, but their experience set an example for me. And when the war was over with, like a true warrior would do, they were content to lay down the sword and move on.

It was not until later that they spoke of their experiences. I remember talking with my Uncle Willie around the time that *Saving Private Ryan* came out. It spurred him to start talking more about the war, which was probably the case for a lot of ex-soldiers. When that movie came out, it affected them to the point where they opened up a little more, and spoke of the memories that they kept buried inside.

**Tim Holbert:** For the past several years you have been hosting the concert, and I am sure you have met all kinds of people with amazing experiences, whether they were top-ranking officers or just regular people who stepped up and served. It is always emotional enough just watching the concert. What has it meant to you to be a part of it?

**Joe Mantegna:** Well, all I can say is that it has been a privilege to do it. People say to me, "You give your time and your energy to it," but really, I give nothing. For me, it's that ability to be able to take that day out of the year to help point out the real heroes out there. If being in the public eye and the line of work that I'm in allows me to help put some focus on that, that's great. Every year has been a tremendous experience, and as you said, I have met some fantastic people. It is also important to recognize just how non-partisan it is; it transcends politics and political parties. This is for our nation.

**Tim Holbert:** Well if there is one day we should come together and put politics aside, and focus on those who have served and sacrificed, this is it. Finally, is there anything you would like to say to those people attending the National Memorial Day Parade who have served, or are serving today?

**Joe Mantegna:** I would just say that I hope you know that there are so many of us out there who support you 110%. We live in a free country, and there will be times when people voice differing opinions, but regardless of politics, we need to make sure that the men and women in uniform receive our full support. And hopefully, someday, Memorial Day can become, in a way less significant, a time when we honor those in the past who have sacrificed to ensure that the present is without conflict.

Joe Mantegna will serve as Honorary Marshal in the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade, riding with our Grand Marshals - "Today's Heroes" - to help bring attention to their tremendous stories of valor.

## In Flanders Fields

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)  
Canadian Army

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*



## SERVING OUR NATION, IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM

Born 1926 and raised in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Lt. General Julius W. Becton Jr. attended and graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1944. Upon graduation, Becton entered a segregated Army near the end of WWII at age eighteen. Over nearly forty years in the Army, he rose to the rank of lieutenant general serving as commanding general of the U.S. VII Corps in Germany and deputy commander of Training and Doctrine Command and the Army Inspector of Training before retiring in 1983.

His Korean War experience shaped his life and gave him principles that he lives by still today. He fought at the break out of the Pusan Perimeter and the battle for Hill 201, during which the then-young lieutenant took actions which earned him the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

His Silver Star commendation reads in part:

"Lt. Becton led his men in a courageous attack upon the enemy positions. Although subjected to intense mortar, automatic weapons and small arms fire, he spearheaded his men through the heavy and hostile fire in a spirited charge up the forward slope of the hill."

Despite being wounded, he continued to lead his men forward, inflicting severe casualties on the enemy. Even when cut off from friendly forces, he set his men up in a strong defensive position, inflicting further damage upon the enemy, before they moved back to link up with the main force.

Lt. Becton was wounded a second time in Korea, earning him yet another Purple Heart. His battlefield service did not end in Korea; he commanded Airborne Cavalry in Vietnam, where he earned another Silver Star and multiple Bronze Stars.

Following retirement from the Army, Becton joined the Reagan Administration in 1984 as Director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance for the Agency for International Development. From 1985 to 1989, he was director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. After a brief several months in private industry, he became the fifth president of his alma mater, Prairie View A&M University.



Veterans retired Army Lt. Gen. Julius Becton (left) and former Sergeant Robert W. Fletcher chat about their experiences at a ceremony honoring the service of veterans of the Korean War. Fletcher spent 33 months as a POW.  
Photo by Rudi Williams

His final post was as CEO/Superintendent of public schools in the District of Columbia. Becton was listed several times by *Ebony* magazine as "One of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in America."

In 2007 he received the George Catlett Marshall Medal, the highest award presented by the Association of the U.S. Army, for being a "soldier, combat commander, administrator, educator, public servant, government leader, and role model." His autobiography, *Becton: Autobiography of a Soldier and Public Servant* was recently published by Naval Institute Press. General Becton has devoted his life

to service, both during and after his Army career. His devotion to his country and sense of duty are an example we should all strive to follow.

Lt. Gen. Julius Becton will serve as Honorary Marshal for the Korean War in the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade.

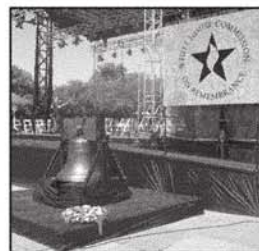
## THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY BELL: SALUTING THE FALLEN

The *Spirit of Liberty Bell* is one of the only traveling full-scale replicas of the original Liberty Bell, commissioned by The Providence Forum from Whitechapel Foundry in London, maker of the original Liberty Bell. It stands 6 feet tall, weighs 3,200 pounds, and peals in E-flat, exactly as the original, giving the listener an experience as close to hearing the original Liberty Bell as possible. The bell is mounted permanently in a steel superstructure, allowing it to be both securely transported and rung. The yoke of the bell incorporates wood from the last of the thirteen original Liberty Trees.

As The Providence Forum's traveling ambassador, *Spirit of Liberty Bell* has crisscrossed our nation, taking center-stage


at countless events and becoming the main attraction at various patriotic festivities and venues, including military bases, religious and government functions, and White House events.

Today, the *Spirit of Liberty Bell* joins the National Memorial Day Parade, where it will be rung during the 3:00 PM National Moment of Remembrance. The bell will be rung six times—once each for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines, to honor those who have fallen in their service.



The Spirit of Liberty Bell at a White House Commission on Remembrance ceremony honoring the fallen.

Appearing with the *Spirit of Liberty Bell* in the parade will be "HOMELAND," a patriotic vocal group from Birmingham, Alabama. "HOMELAND" is the official entertainment for the Independence Fund, a group that raises money to buy electric wheelchairs for wounded servicemen. They will be singing "Let Freedom Ring," aboard the float. "HOMELAND" is comprised of Larry Tidwell, Ed Jones, Boyce Smith, and Carl Jones, a Vietnam Marine and disabled veteran. To learn more, visit [www.homelandhitsusa.com](http://www.homelandhitsusa.com).



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## MISS AMERICA HELPS HONOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS

Kirsten Haglund is very fond of our service men and women, as well as our veterans. Her grandfather served in World War II while her father is a veteran of the Air Force, so she understands the tremendous sacrifice and burden that our service men and women must endure for our freedom. That's why as Miss America she has sought to bring attention to these wonderful men and women who protect our rights as Americans. Recently Miss Haglund had the opportunity to help celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Army Reserve. The event proved to be very moving and emotional for her, in which she was able to sing the National Anthem prior to a re-enlistment ceremony for 100 Reservists who have decided to continue their service.



Miss America 2008 Kirsten Haglund visits with U.S. Army Reservists at their re-enlistment ceremony in April.

"What a sincere honor to stand next to these brave men and women," she said. "I have had the opportunity as Miss America to visit Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval Hospital, and each time I leave I feel, of course, an ache for them and their families, the lives impacted by their sacrifice...and I feel incredibly humble and blessed."

When asked if she had anything to say to our men and women who are currently serving, Miss America told us, "A simple 'Thank You' is not enough to express the gratitude I have for your service to this country. I want you to know that not a day goes by when the courage and strength of your minds, bodies, and spirits is unappreciated...I thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving of yourselves,

for sacrificing and serving this nation and honoring the values of the American people and by answering the call of duty."

### **The Battle Hymn of the Republic** By Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910) (First Stanza)

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:  
His truth is marching on.*

When we asked Miss Haglund to appear with our Wounded Warriors, she was overwhelmed.

## 100 YEARS OF NAVY NURSING



On May 13, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Naval Appropriations Bill authorizing the establishment of the Nurse Corps as a unique staff corps of the Navy. Candidates were required to travel to Washington, DC, at their own expense and take oral and written examinations. The

female nurses, known as the "Sacred Twenty," established the foundation of service and caring that defines the Navy Nurse Corps.

For 100 years, members of the Navy Nurse Corps has answered the call. They've worked in contagious disease wards during the Spanish Influenza epidemic, treated and cared for the sick and wounded in World War I base hospitals, worked in World War II prisoners of war camps, Pacific operating theaters, served aboard hospital ships in the Korean and Vietnam wars, and they are currently serving at the fleet hospitals supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Over 4,000 active duty and reserve Navy nurses are serving in operational, humanitarian, and traditional missions on the home front and abroad.

Walking in today's parade to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps are current active duty members of the United States Navy Nurse Corps, led by Rear Admiral Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler and alumni of our United States Navy Nurse Corps.



# Salutes Our Veterans!

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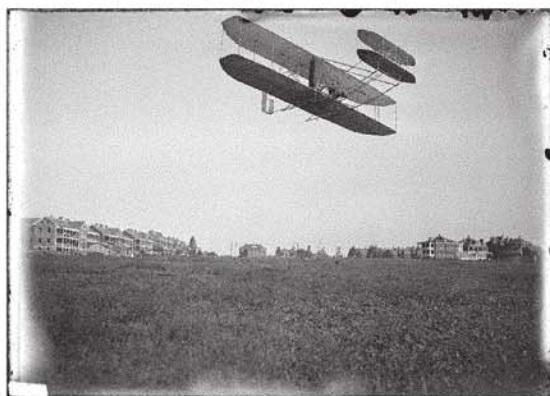


# 100 YEARS OF MILITARY AVIATION

When the Wright Brothers proved that powered flight was possible, nobody took any notice. Their longest flight at Kitty Hawk totaled 852 feet and they spent less than a minute in the air. Given the distance, duration and clumsiness of their aircraft, people saw little value in aviation. In fact, as they improved their design, they appear to have met widespread public disbelief.

In some ways the Wrights contributed to their own lack of public credibility: they were very secretive about their design, fearing they'd lose control of their patent.

But everything changed when Orville brought a plane to Fort Myer in 1908 for possible sale to the U.S. Army. Five years of product development honed the original design into a workable aeroplane. People came from miles around to see their plane. But getting there was a tough road.



Orville Wright pilots his Wright Aeroplane over Ft. Myer, VA in September, 1908.

Our story really begins in 1898 when Samuel Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, received a grant from the Army to develop powered flight. Langley was recognized as one of the foremost experts in aerodynamics and had built a series of quarter-scale aircraft. He developed full-size versions of previous (rubber band powered) experiments with a 52 horsepower steam engine. Both aircraft that Langley developed in this program crashed in 1903; further requests for money were declined by the Army as military leadership turned its attention to more practical technologies, such as the internal combustion engine.

Perhaps Langley's greatest achievement was to inspire others. When Langley died in 1906, Wilbur Wright wrote:

*The knowledge that the head of the most prominent scientific institution of America believed in the possibility of human flight was one of the influences that led us to undertake the preliminary investigation that preceded our active work...he advanced the art greatly by his missionary work and the inspiration of his example... His work deserved neither abuse nor apology.*

Two years after Langley's death, the Wrights moved forward on a new venture: selling aircraft. Further development of their product required customers with the resources to purchase these expensive aircraft and fund further research.

Wilbur traveled to France in 1908 while Orville went to the U.S. Army at Fort Myer, Va. A 1950s era documentary credits 1st Lt. Frank P. Lahm, a champion balloonist, with getting Orville Wright an audience with Army leadership at Fort Myer. Considering earlier failures, one can only imagine Army leadership's response to a pair of bicycle salesman offering to build what Samuel Langley could not.

Orville's flights at Fort Myer started off quietly on September 3, 1908 and public enthusiasm grew over the next week as he consecutively set several world records for endurance flying on September 9.

These flight trials were attended by a number of celebrities:

- Secretary of War William Howard Taft
- Senate and House leaders
- Secretary of the Navy Metcalf
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Glenn Curtiss (a fellow aviator)
- Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.
- Donald Douglas - age 16

Interestingly, the Navy was scouting this Army experiment looking for ways to place aircraft on ships. In a Washington D.C. news article:

"Secretary Metcalf was asked if the Navy intended to buy an aeroplane as a beginning in the application of aeronautics to that branch of the service."

"I cannot say what we might do," he replied. "Of course we would need funds for that purpose. There is only one reason I can see why Mr. Wright's machine impracticable for use in the Navy, and that is his starting apparatus. An officer has been detailed to observe the flights and what we do will depend on what is learned from these tests."

The 1908 Flyer was launched with the aid of a catapult: not so different from the way planes are launched from aircraft carriers today.

On September 17, the trials ended in disaster with the first fatality in a plane crash. Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge was killed and Orville Wright severely injured when a propeller shattered in flight, causing the plane to fall from an altitude of 75 feet.

But Selfridge didn't die in vain – Wright was allowed to build another plane and return to Fort Myer in July of 1909 where he completed flight testing and secured a contract to sell the Army its first airplane.

The contract totaled \$25,000–\$30,000 for the airplane and a bonus for exceeding the minimum speed requirement of 40 mph. A training facility was established at College Park that same year and in 1910, the Army's first plane was delivered to Fort Sam Houston where Lt. Benjamin Foulois established the first flight detachment. The rest is history.

*The Ft. Myer Flyer's appearance in the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade is made possible by Booz Allen Hamilton.*

Read more at [www.discoveryofflight.org](http://www.discoveryofflight.org) or [www.wrightexperience.com](http://www.wrightexperience.com)

## ABMC COMMEMORATIVE CEMETERIES INSPIRE, TEACH HISTORY

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) maintains 24 overseas military cemeteries and 25 memorials worldwide. These commemorative sites are part of our nation's history—places of lasting beauty that teach history and inspire feelings of gratitude and patriotism in visitors of all ages.

"Since 1923 when Congress established it, ABMC has been about honoring the service, achievements and sacrifice of those who died fighting for our own freedoms and for the freedoms of others," said ABMC Chairman, General Frederick M. Franks Jr., USA (Ret).

The Commission traces its roots back to World War I, when more than one million Americans deployed to Europe to resolve "the war to end all wars." Many of its cemeteries are off the beaten path, near famous battlefields of World Wars I and II. Others are near tourist centers that cater routinely to Americans.

Most Americans traveling in Europe know about the American cemetery in Normandy that overlooks Omaha Beach. Few realize that ABMC maintains cemeteries just as beautiful in locations such as Cambridge, England; Paris, France; and Florence, Italy. The Commission encourages all Americans to include these splendid shrines in their travel plans abroad.

Visits to ABMC's lesser-known World War I cemeteries are particularly appropriate during this 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the end of the First World War. Many of these cemeteries go unnoticed despite their importance in American history. For example, the Aisne-Marne Cemetery in France holds special significance in U.S. Marine Corps history, while the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery in France is important in Army history, with over 14,000 soldiers buried there who gave their lives in the successful Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918.

Most of those buried or memorialized in the Cambridge American Cemetery outside London died during World War II in the strategic bombardment of Northwest Europe or in the Battle of the Atlantic. In the Ardennes American Cemetery southwest of Liege, Belgium are many who died in the Battle of the Bulge. Others, including General George S. Patton, are buried in Luxembourg American Cemetery just three miles east of downtown Luxembourg City.

"We have an important responsibility to perpetuate the stories of competence, courage and sacrifice that those we honor can no longer tell for themselves," added General Franks. "It is not enough that future generations honor our war dead by their visits. They must understand the significance of what our fellow Americans have done for us and others around the world."

ABMC cemeteries are part of our national heritage. The Commission is proud to maintain them for the American people—to honor and respect in inspirational settings the service of America's armed forces, and to fulfill the promise of General John J. Pershing, the Commission's first chairman, that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

You can learn more online at [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov).



## A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Generations of Warner family members have more than just genetics in common—they share a tradition of military service and a deep vein of patriotism for this country that runs through the bloodline.

Volney Frank Warner, a retired United States Army four-star general, has fathered two sons—a retired brigadier general and a retired colonel—and two daughters. His children have themselves gone on to raise United States Military Academy at West Point graduates and soldiers who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I can't help but be extremely proud of them all and their willingness to serve their country as obvious patriots," Warner said of his family.

General Warner's family's unwavering dedication to the military remained steadfast even after experiencing the ultimate sacrifice—losing a loved one in battle. Warner's granddaughter, 24-year-old First Lieutenant Laura Walker, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005, making her the first female West Point graduate to die in combat.

"Being a military personnel in a time of war, you understand what's at stake," Warner said. "But losing our granddaughter was a terrible loss."

Despite this devastating loss, Warner's other grandchildren retain strong ties to the military. Granddaughter Valerie Bushman served two tours in Iraq as a contractor for SAIC and grandson Brian Walker departs for Afghanistan with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division this month. As one grandson, Cadet Duncan Walker, graduates from West Point at the end of May, another grandson, John Warner, enters the academy at the end of June.

"As a matter of choice [my family] chose the profession and they understand what the risks are," Warner said. "But it

doesn't make it any easier for us as grandparents that worry about their safe return."

It may be the strong example that Warner set during his stretch of duty in the Army that provides inspiration to his offspring.

"To lead soldiers you first have to be one," he said.

General Warner served with distinction himself, as an infantry platoon leader in the 24<sup>th</sup> Division in the Korean War following his graduation from West Point, and would go on to serve in Vietnam as a Province Senior Advisor. Subsequent positions included Chief of Staff for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, and Commander of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. His final assignment was as Commander-in-Chief at the United States Readiness Command, where he was responsible for the joint training and readiness of the U.S. Army and Air Forces and for putting together the four-service Rapid Deployment Force for the Persian Gulf. His decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Bronze Star.

Still, it was not merely for his exemplary service that General Warner was asked to join the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade as Honorary Marshal for the Vietnam War. Just as significant is the fact he has raised a family that has not only learned the value of service and sacrifice, they have lived it.



1st Lt. Laura Walker, granddaughter of General Warner. While we honor those who have served, we ask that you pause today to remember those who have been lost, and to pray for them and their families.

When rancher Bill Innman decided to show there's more to America than what's seen on the nightly news, he hopped on his horse Blackie and started riding...and riding...and riding. Come Memorial Day, he will have ridden all the way across the country from his home in Oregon to Washington, DC, where he will end his trek by riding down Constitution Ave. as part of the National Memorial Day Parade.

Weary of the daily stories in the news about war, crime, poverty and assorted social ills, Innman and his wife have burned through their life savings in an attempt to tell the stories of hardworking, honest everyday people throughout America and to collect inspiring letters along the way to send to the troops overseas. They have started a website, [www.uncoveringamerica.com](http://www.uncoveringamerica.com), to help share these stories, and Bill has received coverage of his journey from press around the world. Innman soaks it all in atop Blackie, a 16-year thoroughbred-quarter horse mix who's averaging 20-25 miles a day along back roads from Oregon to Washington.

"Unfortunately, the image (the media) are portraying is there's corruption in every politician and there's criminals running everywhere," he says. "I guess guys that rope like me, we wouldn't need to rope steers. You could just sit out there and rope a criminal because they're coming by every 10 minutes." Innman continued, regarding the disproportionate coverage the news pays to crime



Innman started June 2 from his hometown of Lebanon, Oregon. During his cross-country trek dubbed Uncovering America by Horseback, he's rolled over 4,000 miles. His wife, Brenda drives ahead in a pickup with a horse trailer filled with water and provisions for Blackie, three dogs and themselves.

"The scenery in America is changing and I'm really proud we're taking a snapshot at slow motion of this time period because 20 years from now it will be different," he said.

The couple estimates the journey will cost them \$45,000. They want to make a documentary film and write a book, and a filmmaker and Web site operator are tagging along.

"If we waited until we could afford to do it, we could never do it. It was do it now or never do it," Brenda said. "We gave everything up in our lives to do this. We used all our savings and everything else."

Said Bill: "It's probably the most stupid thing I've done financially, but I truly believe in it."

He arrives in town with jeans tucked into boots with spurs, a sweat-stained Stetson and a weathered face, leaving no doubt that ranching has been part of him all his life. As with most stops, they rely on a combination of media coverage and word-of-mouth to let people know about the ride.

"He's got my respect. I can tell from talking to him he's going to make it. Just be a cowboy, that's all you got to do," said Kurly Hebb, a former cowboy, now a rancher.

Besides being a cowboy, Bill Innman is a veteran of the Gulf War, and while he will be riding in the parade, representing his fellow veterans from that era, his mission is less about him, and more about bringing attention to what is right about America. "Don't be afraid to look for opportunity in your community and in other places throughout our great nation," he says. "With determination and courage, we can overcome adversity."

Credit for most of this article is given to the Associated Press.

## MEMORIAL DAY: FROM NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON

Traveling to Washington to participate in the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade will be nearly 200 veterans from the City University of New York system of colleges. These student veterans have all served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and will represent the over 3,000 veterans attending CUNY, the largest urban college system in America. CUNY has more than 23 campuses in New York, and almost all of them have veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan attending classes.

The trip from New York to Washington will be an especially moving one for these veterans, according to Ariel J. Luna, who is the Veterans Coordinator at the NYC College of Technology. These veterans feel a special bond with the nation's capital, following the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Said Luna, "We're excited to be participating in this year's parade, representing the City University of New York and student veterans everywhere." He continued, "Hopefully, many of the people who cheer for us as we go up the street will also think about what they can do to help returning veterans get the benefits and resources that will help us not only transition into civilian life but will enable us to continue to make contributions to our nation and society, just like veterans of past generations."

Watch for these brave young men and women in this year's parade, marching with the "grand finale" section of active duty service members and veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq.

### A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO THE YOUNG MARINES

As you might imagine, the National Memorial Day Parade requires a tremendous amount of work to put on, mostly volunteer. One such organization that has volunteered since the parade's beginning is the Young Marines, a youth education and service program for boys and girls ages eight through their completion of high school. Throughout the parade you will see Young Marines carrying the banners and flags; a necessary job of course, but one that allows these boys and girls an opportunity to join our veterans and active duty service members in participating in the event. To learn more about the Young Marines program, and how your child can get involved, visit [www.youngmarines.com](http://www.youngmarines.com).





# V-J DAY IN TIMES SQUARE

Edith Shain was simply looking for a place in New York City to celebrate the end of World War II on the afternoon of August 15, 1945 when the 27-year-old nurse and student found herself forever immortalized by the click of a camera and the kiss of an unfamiliar sailor.

"He was fighting for me, and I was really grateful for his service," Shain said of the still unidentified American sailor who grabbed her, leaned her back and planted a giant kiss on her mouth in Times Square shortly after she exited the subway. "It was a wonderful time to see these men who had suffered so much coming into the city and living it up. The scene was wild, and everyone was happy."

The moment was captured on film by photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt, and the image, better known as V-J Day in Times Square, later published in *Life* magazine.

Although she recognized herself as one of the subjects in the photo and was single at the time, Shain kept her identity a secret for 35 years.

"I didn't tell anyone because I was embarrassed," said Shain, who later became a kindergarten teacher and attended

graduate school. "I didn't think it was appropriate at the time."



Eisenstaedt's legendary photo, titled "V-J Day in Times Square." The nurse, whose identity was long-secret, was then-27 year-old Edith Shain.

Times changed, and so did Shain's desire to remain closemouthed about her place in photojournalism history. She wrote Eisenstaedt a handwritten letter submitting her claim, and met with the photographer in California.

"When I picked him [Eisenstaedt] up for the first time he said he recognized me from the picture by my legs when I got out of the car," she said.

Although Shain was validated as the nurse in the image, the sailor's identity has never been confirmed despite correspondences from 25 men all claiming to be the givers of that memorable kiss. In fact, figuring out the identity of the young serviceman is Shain's regret from that day.

"At the end of the kiss, when he unleashed me, I walked one way and he walked the other," she said.

"If I could do it over again I would grab the guy and ask him

what his name was so I would know and not have to judge who it was from the people writing to me."

Shain may not have found love that day from her unforgettable kiss, but she did eventually meet and marry an Army veteran, Edward Shain, who fought in the World War II efforts in Africa.

"The men didn't think about picking anyone up that day," she said. "At that time they weren't thinking about anything permanent. They were just celebrating and having fun."

The jubilation was well deserved, according to Shain, who found the day as a commemoration of the American spirit.

"In that war we were all together about things," she said. "We gave up tobacco, we gave up meat, and gasoline and butter were rationed. Women left the homes and went to work in factories. We were all part of it and motivated to do what we could."

Today, the photojournalism icon continues to show her support for the military by her participation in the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade.

"I remember when the men came back [after WWII] and they were victorious, positive and enthusiastic," she said. "They really did wonderful things for us."

*Catch a glimpse of the nurse that has won our hearts with this legendary photo as Edith joins us for the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade.*

## STORIES OF SERVICE PROGRAM

### MOBILIZING YOUTUBE GENERATION TO PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

Hollywood spends millions of dollars to produce epics like *Saving Private Ryan*, *Band of Brothers* and *Flags of Our Fathers*, casting movie stars to portray the ordinary heroes who fought in World War II. But now thanks to an innovative program called Stories of Service, middle- and high-school



Kids from the Stories of Service program march in the 2007 National Memorial Day Parade. They return again to march this year.

students across America are volunteering their time and talent to help veterans in their communities to star in their own "mini-movies" that will educate and inspire future generations.

Using computers and digital editing software, teens combine photos, music, sound effects and the veteran's own voice to create powerfully moving "digital stories" that are being shared with schools, libraries and museums and with a worldwide audience on the Internet. More powerful than just oral histories, these multimedia videos have the "look and feel" of Ken Burns' *THE WAR* series and documentaries seen on The History Channel, both of whom have endorsed the program.

"The experience of producing a digital story has a deep impact on both the youth and the veteran," explained Ryan Hegg, National Stories of Service Program Director. "Youth develop a much deeper understanding about the true meaning of service to community by learning about the courage of young Americans not much older than themselves who were asked to do extraordinary things for their country. The vets are grateful to have an opportunity to tell their story, in their own words, and in a way that makes it easily accessible to anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world."

Stories of Service started in California's Silicon Valley in 1998 by the Digital Clubhouse Network, a nonprofit created by NASA, that was one of the founding partners of the Veterans Oral History Project of the Library of Congress, and which has received three medals from the Smithsonian for its "visionary use of information technology to improve society." The program has received support from the AMVETS California Service Foundation to develop teaching resources and a web site that will be introduced to more than 800,000 youth and teachers as part of National History Day and The History Channel's "Bring a Vet to School" program. Academy Award winning actor and WWII veteran Ernest Borgnine has volunteered to be Stories of Service National spokesman, urging his fellow WWII vets to come forward and share their stories.

While the emphasis has been on preserving the legacy of World War II veterans who are now passing away at an

estimated rate of one every 90 seconds, Stories of Service also encourages youth to preserve the stories of vets from the Korea and Vietnam eras. In 2005, a special version of the program was created to assist Gold Star families who lost loved ones in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, produce videos to honor the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Youth who participate in Stories of Service by contributing videos, are invited to represent their school and community by carrying a picture



Stories of Service National Spokesman Ernest Borgnine with Edith Shain.

of their veteran in the annual National Memorial Day Rally, and taking part in special wreath laying ceremonies at the major military memorials and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Other national events are planned for Veterans Day and to commemorate the end of WWII in August.

*For more information about Stories of Service and how you and your community can get involved, please visit [www.stories-of-service.org/joinus](http://www.stories-of-service.org/joinus).*



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## *Salutes Our Troops*

**1945—First U-Haul® Trailer Built by Navy Veteran to Satisfy Needs of Returning WWII Vets**

**Achilles®**  
**FREEDOM TEAM**  
*of Wounded Veterans*



Since 1945, U-Haul has been serving the do-it-yourself moving household. Like many other successful ventures, the concept for U-Haul was generated out of need. After World War II, there existed a widespread need for do-it-yourself moving equipment on a one-way, nationwide basis. U-Haul co-founders L.S. "Sam" Shoen and his wife, Anna Mary Carty Shoen, recognized that need and acted upon it. Their visionary approach shared the cost of ownership among many users, facilitating the mobility of the population of the U.S. and Canada. The covered wagon of the pioneers morphed into orange U-Haul trailers. In the process, an industry was born.



*Thank You  
for Serving*





# A SOLDIER'S LEGACY

Legacy wears many faces, and reflects many moments in time. These faces we know. The craggy wrinkles and knowing eyes of a WWII Veteran, one of over a thousand we lose daily, taking with them the insight into the history they shaped. The steely stare and hardened jaw of a Vietnam War Veteran, who faced distrust and social abandonment upon return from the jungle. The furrowed, compassionate and youthful brow of an Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran, returning home a wounded warrior but with heart and soul intact thanks to the supportive embrace of a steadfast Nation.

These Soldiers – these Americans – live with an appreciation for the price of Freedom. No matter where, when or how they served, their time spent as Soldiers changed their lives forever; their personal experiences created the legacy that is the U.S. Army.

Story by story, the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute program hopes to share this legacy.

Recognizing the bond between Soldiers, Veterans, Family and community, over the past three years this program has honored more than 1.3 million members of the Army Family with a free, personalized Commendation thanking them for their service in the United States Army.

Freedom Team Salute serves as the centerpiece of the essential and enduring bond between our U.S. Army and every American who lives with an appreciation for the price of Freedom.

More than 14 million Soldier Veterans remain as our living connection to generations of duty, honor and patriotism – and yet often have not been thanked for the significant role they played in American history. Freedom Team Salute honors this role and the sacrifices made by our Soldiers. One story at a time, one Commendation at a time, the Army Legacy is being honored.

## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY?

Visit [www.FreedomTeamSalute.com](http://www.FreedomTeamSalute.com) to join our nationwide campaign to honor Army Veterans.

or contact us at Freedom Team Salute • 2461 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 1406 • Alexandria, VA 22331

# THIS MEMORIAL DAY SAY THANK YOU

  
**[FreedomTeamSalute.com](http://FreedomTeamSalute.com)**

Freedom Team Salute is sponsored by the Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff. There is no cost to participate. Anyone can honor a discharged U.S. Army Veteran. Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Soldiers can also honor their Parent, Spouse and Employer.