

SALUTE THEIR SERVICE, HONOR THEIR HOPE

# The Spirit of Americans

COMMEMORATING 75 YEARS SINCE THE END OF WWII



For more information, visit <https://www.75thwwiicommemoration.org>

**This book, which was created for the 75th Commemoration of the End of World War II, honors the patriotism, sacrifice, and spirit of the American people, who worked together as one team to preserve freedom for all mankind.**

**It features the words and stories of noted Americans, brought to life with lovingly restored photos taken during the war.**

**The book is inspired by the life, legacy, and values of Bob Hope, who selflessly traveled the world for half a century to entertain millions of our troops.**

**We hope that you enjoy this collection of heroes, leaders and entertainers whose words and deeds embody The Spirit of Americans.**

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# Jimmy Doolittle Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

"If we should have to fight, we should be prepared to do so from the neck up instead of from the neck down...The first lesson is that you can't lose a war if you have command of the air, and you can't win a war if you haven't." — World War II Medal of Honor Recipient James H. Doolittle



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# Daniel K. Inouye Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

**“Let us remember all those who have had the courage to put on the uniform and sacrifice for our great nation. Our way of life has always been, and will always be, protected and preserved by volunteers willing to give their lives for what we believe in.” — World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Daniel K. Inouye, December 7, 2002**



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# Audie Murphy Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

**“Loyalty to your comrades, when you come right down to it, has more to do with bravery in battle than even patriotism does. You may want to be brave, but your spirit can desert you when things really get rough. Only you find you can’t let your comrades down and in the pinch they can’t let you down either.” — World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Audie Murphy**



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# Bob Hope Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

"One thing the guys overseas caught on to in a hurry was that a buddy's race, religion or ancestry just didn't matter. A bullet coming your way didn't know the difference, and you didn't ask the guy who shared your foxhole with where his parents came from or what church he went to back home. He was in there pitching on your team. That was what mattered up front—and it's all that mattered back home." — *Bob Hope*



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# Douglas MacArthur Speaks to America

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*"Out of the blood and carnage of the past, a better world must emerge, founded upon faith and understanding among peoples of every race and creed, and dedicated to the fulfillment of man's most cherished wish for tolerance and justice. Today freedom is on the offensive, democracy is on the march." — From Surrender Ceremony on USS Missouri, September 2, 1945.*

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# Chester Nimitz Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

**"Uncommon valor was a common virtue....On ordered rows of crosses and Stars of David on the Pacific Islands are names that are a cross-section of democracy: Culpepper, Tomaino, Sweeney, Bromberg, Depew, Melloy, Ponzani. They fought together as comrades in arms, they died together and now they sleep side by side. Only with the same teamwork can we be sure their sacrifices will make a better, safer world in which to live." — Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz**



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# Bud Anderson Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

"There wasn't a family in the country that wasn't affected by the war... All production of consumer goods was turned into war production. We had rationing of food, rationing of cigarettes, rationing of tires, all kinds of hardships at home and patriotism was at an all-time high in our country. You think about Desert Storm as a time when we saw patriotism kind of return. You multiply that by 1,000 and you might get a feel for what it really was like." — From *"To Fly and Fight,"* the autobiography of America's only living WWII Triple Ace.



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# Charles McGee Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

**"I am bothered that so few young people understand WWII history, including the unique contribution of the Tuskegee Airmen. It's important for our young people to not only know where our country is going, but also where it's been. And in the case of the Tuskegee Airmen, their hope of being allowed to fly and fight for their country, their goal of training to be the best fighter pilots while overcoming unbelievable odds, and their examples still ring true today." — From BGen. McGee's words on the Tuskegee Airmen panel at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.**



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# FDR Speaks to America

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"We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction, that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon...If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships—the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace."

— *Franklin D. Roosevelt*



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# Harry S. Truman Speaks to America

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"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and on an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." — *Harry S. Truman*



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# Dwight D. Eisenhower Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

**“The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you...I have full confidence in your courage and devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory! Good luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.”**

**— From Gen. Eisenhower’s Order of the Day, June 6, 1944.**



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# Gerald R. Ford Speaks to America

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“Whoever watched the Pacific churned by winds of wars comes to this hallowed place with feelings overcoming words. Our shipmates who rest in honor here, our comrades in arms who sleep beneath the waves and on the islands that surround us need no eulogy beyond the eternal gratitude of the land they loved.” — *President Gerald R. Ford, at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1975. He is shown reading a sextant during his Navy service aboard the USS Monterey in the Pacific in 1944.*



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# John F. Kennedy Speaks to America

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**"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."**

**— President John F. Kennedy, November 1963.**



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# George H.W. Bush Speaks to America

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"Our greatest victory in World War II took place not on the field of battle, but in the nations we once counted as foes. The ideals of democracy and liberty have triumphed in the world once threatened with conquest by tyranny and despotism."— *President George H.W. Bush, at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1991. Photographed in the cockpit of his U.S. Navy TBM Avenger during WWII.*



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# Bob Dole Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

"It is often said that my generation is the 'greatest generation.' That's not a title we claimed for ourselves. Every generation of young men and women who dares to face the realities of war—they are the greatest generation."— *From Bob Dole's book One Soldier's Story: A Memoir. Photographed in his U.S. Army uniform during WWII.*



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# Bob Hope Speaks to America

THE 75TH COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WWII

*"I saw your sons and your husbands, your brothers and your sweethearts. I saw how they worked, played, fought, and lived. I saw some of them die. I saw more courage, more good humor in the face of discomfort, more love in an era of hate, and more devotion to duty than could exist under tyranny." — From 'I Never Left Home,' Bob Hope's 1944 book about going on tour to entertain the troops during WWII.*



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# Salute their service. Honor their hope.



"Our WWII veterans fought to save the world from tyranny. The freedom we know today is thanks to their bravery and valor. They taught us the true meaning of patriotism and we remain forever grateful for their sacrifices. We promise to carry their stories forward, instilling in America's leaders of tomorrow a new appreciation for the sacrifices made by an entire generation."



# Salute their service. Honor their hope.



"As World War II challenged America as never before, we fought back—one nation, indivisible, under God. Whether their contributions to the war effort came in a fighter plane or factory, Americans pulled together and led the world to a victory that created Peace in the Pacific that has lasted for 75 years. We thank our Greatest, and Bravest, Generation for proving that nothing can defeat the Spirit of Americans."



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# Salute their service. Honor their hope.



"The impact of World War II on the culture and character of our nation was huge. The can-do attitude, innovative and entrepreneurial spirit, patriotism and integrity became the legacy of 'Our Greatest Generation.' It changed the way Americans lived, gave us confidence and positioned our nation as the champion of peace and freedom world wide. Along the way, we built a national will that elevated the Spirit of all Americans."



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# Salute their service. Honor their hope.



"WWII officially ended in Europe on May 8th, 1945. The war in the Pacific continued until September 2nd, 1945. Once all hostilities had ceased a commitment to peace and global friendship began in the United States that was strongly supported by what Tom Brokaw called the 'Greatest Generation'. Their efforts combined with a dedicated sense of personal responsibility have endured and flourished for the last 75 years."

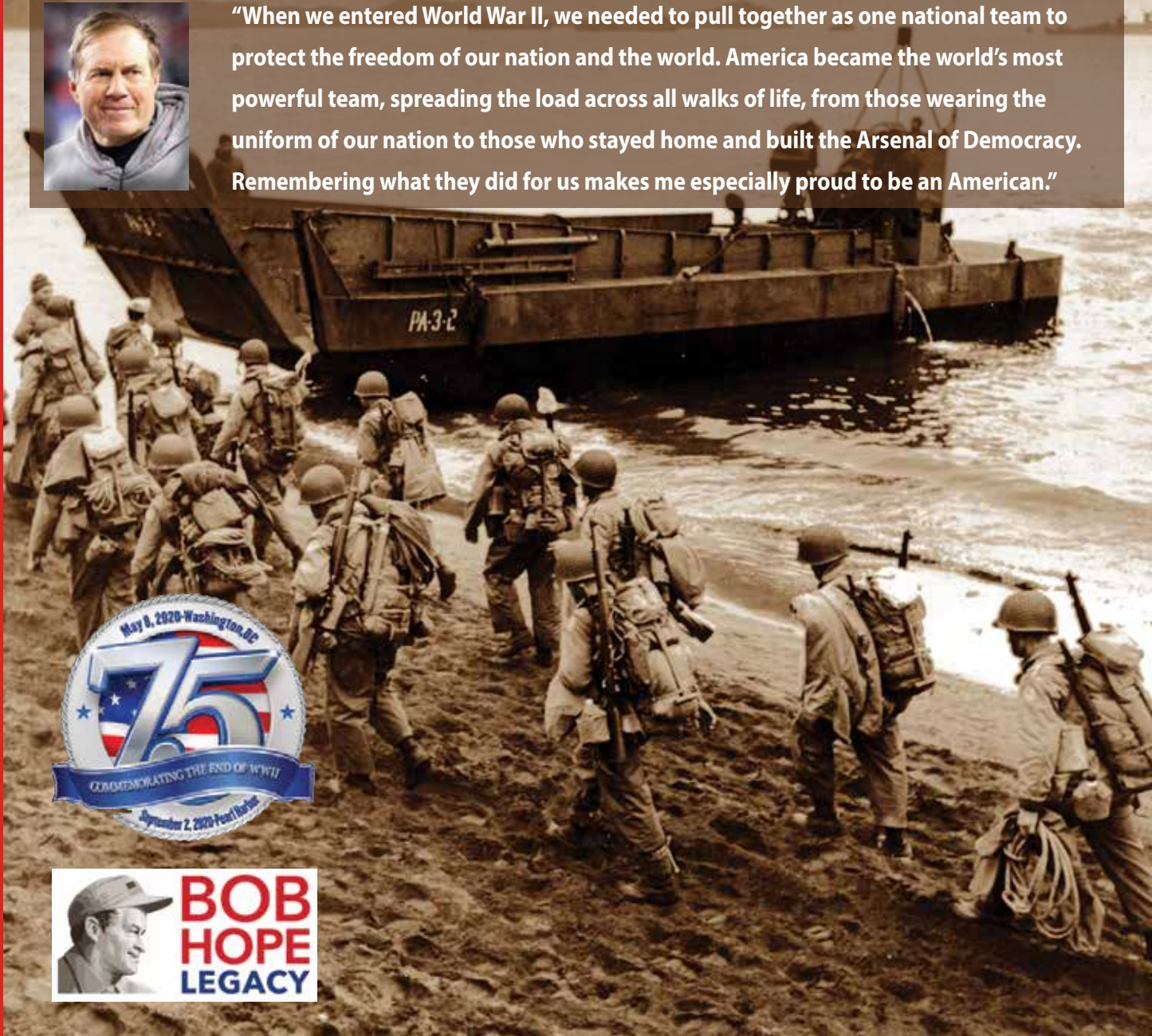


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# Salute their service. Honor their hope.



"When we entered World War II, we needed to pull together as one national team to protect the freedom of our nation and the world. America became the world's most powerful team, spreading the load across all walks of life, from those wearing the uniform of our nation to those who stayed home and built the Arsenal of Democracy. Remembering what they did for us makes me especially proud to be an American."



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# Salute their service. Honor their hope.



"On September 2, 1945, the Instrument of Surrender that ended World War II was signed aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Peace in the Pacific was celebrated with a giant flyover of the ship by hundreds of American aircraft. It was one of the greatest days for 'Our Greatest Generation,' a day of joy around the world and the beginning of the wonderful partnership between the United States and Japan."





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# WWII Aces: Richard “Dick” Bong

With 40 aerial victories during World War II, Maj. Dick Bong is America’s top ace of all-time. Raised on a Wisconsin farm, he was handpicked for the new 475<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group by General George Kenney. Bong excelled in air-to-air combat missions from Papua New Guinea to the Philippines, flying his Lockheed P-38 Lightning “Marge”, named for the young woman who later became his wife. In 1944, he was awarded the Medal of Honor by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He was killed during a P-80 test flight in Burbank, CA on August 6, 1945.



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# WWII Aces: Thomas B. McGuire, Jr.

Maj. Tommy McGuire's 38 aerial victories during World War II rank him second all-time among American fighter aces. Born in Ridgewood N.J., McGuire became Commander of the elite 475<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group's 431<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron in the Pacific Theater, piloting a series of five "Pudgy" P-38s named in honor of his wife. He was killed in a crash while flying a combat mission in a backup Lightning on January 25, 1945. For his valor and leadership, Maj. McGuire posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor.



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# WWII Aces: David McCampbell

Capt. David McCampbell is the all-time leading ace of the U.S. Navy, with 34 aerial victories. On October 24th, 1944, piloting his Hellcat from the USS Essex, McCampbell shot down nine enemy planes, the most ever in one day by an American pilot. In 1943, McCampbell assumed command of Air Group Fifteen, which destroyed more enemy planes and sank more ships than any other naval air group in the Pacific. His accomplishments earned the Bessemer, AL native the Congressional Medal of Honor. He retired from the Navy in 1964.



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# WWII Aces: Francis “Gabby” Gabreski

Gabby Gabreski was an Air Force pilot who served with distinction in WWII and Korea and retired with the rank of colonel in 1967 after 26 years of military service. Gabreski was one of the few U.S. pilots to be airborne during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Later, he became the all-time leading American ace in Europe, with 28 aerial victories in his P-47 Thunderbolt during WWII. After D-Day, he crashed, was captured, and was sent to the Stalag Luft I prisoner of war camp. He was rescued in March of 1945, returned to duty, and became an ace in Korea as well.



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# WWII Aces: Robert S. Johnson



In May, 1943, Robert Johnson was assigned to the Army Air Forces's 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and travelled with them to England. A year later, flying P-47 Thunderbolts, the Lawton, OK native achieved 27 aerial victories. In doing so, Maj. Johnson was the first pilot to surpass World War I "Ace of Aces" Eddie Rickenbacker's record of 26 victories. Johnson flew a total of 91 combat missions in the European Theater. After he completed his tour of duty in 1944, he joined Republic Aviation as an engineering executive.



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# WWII Aces: Charles “Mac” MacDonald

In July 1943, Army Air Force 475<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Commander Charles H. MacDonald (left) welcomed a legendary visitor to the group’s base at Hollandia, New Guinea—Charles Lindbergh. Col. MacDonald was himself a noted pilot, finishing WWII with 27 victories in his “Putt Putt Maru” P-38, tying him for fifth most victories among American pilots. He was praised for both his piloting skill and his leadership. The Pennsylvania native inspired a fighting tradition that made the 475<sup>th</sup> one of America’s most renowned WWII air combat units.



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# WWII Aces: George Preddy

Maj. George Preddy of the Army Air Forces was America's greatest P-51 ace in World War II. Piloting Mustangs in the 352nd Fighter Group's 487th Fighter Squadron, he was credited with a total of 26 aerial victories during his service in the European Theater. The North Carolina native was so dedicated to his unit that he volunteered for four 50-hour extensions to the standard 200-hour tour of duty. He was killed by friendly ack-ack fire while pursuing a FW-190 near Liege, Belgium on Christmas Day, 1944.



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# WWII Aces: Pappy Boyington

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gregory "Pappy" Boyington was one of America's greatest and most colorful pilots, with a total of 26 aerial victories for the Marines and Claire Chennault's AVG Group during WWII. Pappy commanded VMF-214, known as the "Black Sheep Squadron," which flew Corsairs to one of the best records in the USMC. He was shot down and presumed dead on January 3, 1944, over New Britain, then was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. But on August 28, 1945, a very alive Pappy walked out of a POW camp, and he later received his Medal of Honor in person from President Harry S. Truman.



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# WWII Aces: Joe Foss

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Joe Foss was the leading Marine ace of WWII, with 26 aerial victories in his F4F Wildcat. All but three of these victories were achieved from October 9 to November 19, 1942 near Guadalcanal. On May 18, 1943, Foss received the Medal of Honor from President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After the war, Foss left active duty and joined the South Dakota Air National Guard. He retired as an Air Force Brigadier General. He also held many civilian leadership positions, including serving as Governor of his native South Dakota and as the first Commissioner of the American Football League.



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# WWII Aces: Robert M. Hanson

Robert M. Hanson was a United States Marine Corps flying ace who shot down 25 enemy planes while piloting the F4U Corsair in the South Pacific during World War II. A member of VMF-215, First Lt. Hanson was the 10th-ranked American ace during the war, and was famed for downing 20 enemy planes in a six-day period. He was killed in action on February 3, 1944 at Cape St. George, Southern New Ireland, New Guinea. Hanson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



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