



2020: A New Structure for a New Year

The past year has been a good one for The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial. We now need to build on these successes. To do that, we need a larger team that will increase our resources, bring new ideas and energy and accelerate the progress towards our goal.

To this end, the Board and our leadership structure will be expanding through the addition of committees that will lead important aspects of the organization, including:

- Project Management
- Finance
- Capital Campaign
- Community Engagement
- Communications

The chairs of these committees will form the Executive Committee, who along with the chairs of the Education Coalition and Veterans Advisory Council, will become part of the Board of Directors.

Additionally, after 7 years as president (and several more years before that volunteering with Honor Flight), Debi Hollis is stepping down. Her new role as the Past President will allow her to play a critical role in the completion of the memorial. She will serve as a member of the Executive Committee and will remain on the Board. We know you will join us in thanking Debi for her many years of service to our WWII veterans and this project which honors their legacy.

The board has elected John Maten to serve as President and as the chair of the Executive Committee. John has a long background of leading projects during his career at General Motors. He is a current member of the board and has served as Treasurer as well as the Vice President for Program Management. As a recent retiree from GM, John can now use his time and talents to lead the new, expanded structure for the Michigan World War II Legacy Memorial.

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial Board of Directors

John Maten, President
Kim Jones, Secretary
Michael Cameron

Debi Hollis, Past President
Russell Levine
Judy Maten





A Note from Debi Hollis

Happy New Year to all our supporters!

As we find ourselves at the beginning of a new year, we always anticipate change. New Year's resolutions. Lifestyle changes. New challenges and opportunities. We go into the new year with a desire for change and to embrace something new.

It is with these changes in mind that I will be stepping down as president of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial. We are at such a critical time of transition that I felt this was the right time to turn the reigns over. I have been with this organization for 11 years, since the very early days of Honor Flight Michigan and have proudly served as the president for seven years. The WWII veterans are my heart and soul and I love each and every one of them.

I will remain on the Executive Committee and the Board of the organization and am deeply committed to its mission and goals. While I will continue to work side-by-side with our entire team to ensure that we complete the memorial and its associated programming, I have made the choice to allow myself the time I need to focus on my business.

In the months ahead, I look forward to spending more of my time "in the trenches" working more directly with the veterans, enjoying the events and truly being engaged at that level. I look forward to welcoming the many new people who will be joining us.

John Maten will be taking over as president. John is equally invested in the success of this project and has been on board for 3 years. John has a solid understanding of the project details and our goals - we are in good hands.

To our supporters - I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your time, interest and support of our *Greatest Generation*. To our veterans - I will never be able to thank you enough for all that you did for our country and the example you have set for all Americans. To all - please see this project through with us.

Together, we will get there!

Introducing John Maten

I would first like to thank all of the men and women who make up the *Greatest Generation*. Your sacrifices, exceptional character, and hard work have inspired us all.

One of the most rewarding aspects I have personally experienced working on this project over the last 3 years has been meeting and talking with WWII veterans and their families, as well as others who contributed on the home front. I am reminded at each experience of the reason why The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial is so important. We are committed to honoring each of you by educating current and future generations.

For my entire adult life, I have volunteered in many different capacities, with nearly everyone of them involving educating youth. Whether as a Boy Scout leader, soccer coach, starting a school for 800 students, or coaching fifth to twelfth graders FIRST robotics for 18 years, each of these experiences had elements of not only teaching the basic skills, but also building teams, working together, and accomplishing tasks.

I have recently retired after 42 years at General Motors. My job the last several years at GM was as an assistant chief engineer. This required bringing a multifaceted team together to develop and put a new transmission into production. It is the background and experience I have from all of these that I will use to lead the team as President of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial.

The new and expanded structure outlined above will provide for each committee to work autonomously under a coordinated plan towards a central goal. We are excited to welcome new leaders who will head each of the committees and who will bring others together to accomplish our objectives.

I would like to personally thank Debi Hollis and all of the others that have volunteered for Honor Flight Michigan and The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial over the last several years.

Thank you for your continued support. Please encourage others to join us in our work.

[Click here to volunteer!](#)

Supporting the Memorial through your Taxes



Last year, through the hard work of Representative Marty Knollenberg and Senator Steve Bieda, The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial was added as a charity to the Michigan Voluntary Contribution Schedule. This allows taxpayers to make contributions to our organization using the Michigan Voluntary Contribution Schedule, form 4642. This schedule is an additional form and not part of the standard MI 1040 form.

This is an incredible opportunity for The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial. Last year over 2200 residents donated \$22,000 towards the memorial. Our goal is to increase these numbers through promotion of this opportunity.

As supporters, we encourage you to share this information with friends and family as an easy way to support the memorial project. We thank you in advance for your donation!

[Download Form 4642](#)

[For More Information](#)

International Remembrance Day



On January 27, 1945, Soviet troops liberated more than 6,000 prisoners from the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. As Allied troops moved forward, more camps were liberated--giving witness to the world of the atrocities of the Nazi regime. The largest of its kind, Auschwitz included a concentration camp, labor camp, gas chambers and crematoria at Birkenau--specifically set up for the mass extermination of Jews and other "non-desirables." Of the 1.3 million taken to Auschwitz, 1.1 million were exterminated.

The United Nations General Assembly has designated January 27 as International Remembrance Day to mark the anniversary of the liberation as well as give honor to the 6 million Jews who perished and the millions more who were victims at the hands of the Nazis.

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial salutes the men and women of the *Greatest Generation* for their efforts in the march towards victory over Nazism as we seek to educate generations to eradicate hatred.

For more information on International Remembrance Day from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, click on the link below:

[Information & Classroom Lessons](#)