



*"Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction."
Ronald Reagan*



Celebrating the Legacy



President's Day is the federal holiday set aside to honor our presidents. Too often we tend to think of these Mondays as opportunities for three-day weekends instead of understanding the meaning behind the celebration.

The third Monday in February is set aside to celebrate the legacy of every U.S. president. Each one's time in office has had a lasting impact on America's history--which affects us every day.

Why is a legacy important?

Some people may ask, "What does the name of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial represent?" Many will focus on the term "Memorial" and think of a solemn and reverent way to honor those from our state that contributed to WWII, which is one of the purposes for the memorial. I would like to focus on another word: "Legacy."

Merriam Webster dictionary gives two definitions of "Legacy":

1. A gift by will, especially of money or other personal property
2. Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past

In the case of WWII, the legacy given to us by the Greatest Generation was a gift, not of money, but of sacrifice, freedom, unity and so many other human values. This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of war that changed the world.

The mission of The Michigan WWII Legacy memorial is to honor, celebrate and educate, thus handing on their legacy. What better way to honor these men, women and children who contributed and sacrificed for their country than to think about how relevant their contributions are to our everyday lives today? We can learn a lot from doing so.

We welcome anyone who shares in this mission and extend an invitation to you to volunteer to work with us. Please see the article below for ways you can become involved and click on the link to volunteer. We look forward to working with you!

John Maten, President

Working Toward the Mission

Part of the legacy of the Greatest Generation was their ability to rise to the task at hand and tackle challenges. Today is no different!

[Click here to volunteer!](#)

We are looking for supporters who would like to use their talents on one of the many committees being formed. If you would like to help out--please contact us through our Website and we will get back with you.



We are in need of people who can help in the following areas:

- Work on capital campaign outreach
- Plan and work on various community events
- Are pros at social media and can help with marketing, communication and donor outreach
- Write curriculum focusing on Michigan's WWII contribution

Donating at Tax Time: Help Us Get the Word Out State-wide



The Michigan Voluntary Contribution Schedule, form 4642, allows tax payers to contribute to a select group non-profit organizations when submitting the state income tax return. The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial is on the list. This is an incredible opportunity for us to engage donors from across the state.

This schedule is an additional form and not part of the standard MI 1040 form. To download the form or for more information, please click on the links below.

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](#)

Save the Date for The Victory Gala!



Saturday, November 21, 2020

Detroit Marriott Troy
200 W. Big Beaver, Troy

Enjoy an evening of fun and fundraising as we gather at the Marriott for the fifth annual Victory Gala. The event will feature a live and silent auction, delicious food and drink as well as The Victory Award. Mark you calendar and see you at the Gala! Registration will be on our Website beginning in April.

Celebrating President's Day



Did you know that several US Presidents were veterans of WWII?

- **Dwight D. Eisenhower** was a five-star General who led the D-Day invasion
- **John F. Kennedy** was in the Navy and piloted PT 109; he was injured in the line of duty and for his heroic efforts in saving a crew member was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal (the highest non-combat decoration awarded to heroism) as well as a Purple Heart
- **Lyndon B. Johnson** served in the US Navy Reserve and was awarded the Silver Star, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal and the WWII Victory Medal
- **Richard Nixon** served in the US Navy Reserve and was awarded two Service Stars as well as the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal and the WWII Victory Medal
- **Gerald Ford** served in the US Navy, earning the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal with nine engagement stars as well as the Philippine Liberation medal with two bronze stars, the American Campaign and WWII Victory medals
- **Ronald Reagan**, often called the Great Communicator, served in the US Army Reserve and the US Army Air Forces, serving as a spokesperson and motivational leader who was assigned to the 1st Motion Picture Unit
- **George H. W. Bush**, US Naval Reserve was one of the youngest Naval aviators in the Pacific theater; was shot down; awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two gold stars, and a Presidential Unit Citation