

★ ★ NATIONAL ★ ★ WWII MEMORIAL

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2000

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN



Senator Bob Dole

Thanks to your continued great efforts, we've rounded third and we're heading for home.

I am pleased to report that the campaign has \$85 million of the \$100 million we need to cover design, construction, maintenance and ceremony costs of the memorial. It's gratifying to see the target within sight.

Support from corporations, foundations, veterans groups, professional and fraternal associations, states and communities across the country continues to grow, as does the generosity of individual Americans. Memorial Society membership exceeds 370,000, and more than 400,000 names are enrolled in the Registry of Remembrances.

I hope you saw The History Channel documentary about the memorial project. The thoughtful education program they developed is reaching into America's schools, increasing appreciation for the importance of WWII in our history and prompting school children to say thank you to their grandparents for standing tall for freedom not so many years ago.

I recently visited St. Hugh's School in Greenbelt, Md., to accept a donation for the memorial from its elementary and junior high students. The children were wonderful, and it's gratifying to see that spirit repeated throughout the country.

On a sad note, in this issue we report the passing of Roger Durbin, the WWII veteran who was the spark for this project back in 1987. What was once a glimmer in this one man's eye is moving ever closer to reality.

The pace of activity remains high. Our pledge to you is to keep the pressure on until the job is done. Thank you.

AMERICAN LEGION ACHIEVES FOUNDER STATUS WITH RECENT GIFT



Senator Bob Dole receives a donation of \$2.75 million from Commander Alan Lance, The American Legion; Commander Rick Cook, The Sons of the American Legion; and President Elizabeth Stewart, The American Legion Auxiliary. The check represents contributions from each of the three organizations. With this gift, the American Legion family joins only three other "founder" contributors who have given \$2 million or more.

MEMORIAL MERCHANDISE ONLINE

You asked for it - You got it! Many of you have called, written and e-mailed asking to purchase merchandise featuring the National World War II Memorial emblem. The wait is over!



Just go to the memorial Web site at WWII Memorial.com, click the link to our online partner E-Store.com, and you'll be ready to purchase everything from golf shirts and umbrellas to coffee mugs and travel bags.

So what are you waiting for? Visit today!



CHRONICLES OF WAR

OPERATION ARGUMENT

By the end of 1943, the United States and Britain had spent nearly six months pursuing a “combined bomber offensive” against Germany. According to a directive issued by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, this strategic bombing campaign aimed to achieve “the progressive destruction and dislocation of the German military, industrial and economic systems, and the undermining of the morale of the German people to a point where their capacity for armed resistance is fatally weakened.”

Since the campaign’s commencement during the summer, the Allied air forces had made constant strikes against German targets, the U.S. attempting precision daylight raids, and the British concentrating on nighttime “area” attacks.

The Allies were generally optimistic about the effectiveness of these raids, but German fighters often made the attacks costly. Furthermore, planners recognized that despite the destruction of enemy planes in the air and occasional attacks against aircraft plants, German fighter strength was actually increasing and, worse, the Allies had yet to gain air superiority over anything but the fringes of German-held territory.

This would have to change, not only because it would enable a more effective bombing campaign, but because it would be vital to the success of the Allied invasion of France only months away.

Thus, in early February 1944, the Combined Chiefs ordered the Allied bomber commands to achieve the “depletion of the German air force...by all means available.” The first attempt to carry out this new order was *Operation Argument*, also known as “Big Week.”

The focus of Big Week was a massive

six-day assault against the German aircraft industry. In theory, the raids would strike a fatal blow at enemy aircraft production. More importantly, they would provoke the Luftwaffe into mounting a maximum defensive effort, drawing its planes into the air to be destroyed by the numerically superior Allies.

As before, the RAF would strike at night, while the American 8th Air Force, based in England, and the 15th Air Force, based in Italy, would perform daylight attacks.

The first action of Big Week was by the RAF on the night of February 20,

attacked dozens of major targets throughout German territory.

As damage assessments began trickling in, the Allies believed that they had effectively wiped out 75 percent of the enemy’s aircraft industry. Dropping 19,000 tons of bombs during 3,300 sorties, they destroyed 700 Bf 109 Messerschmitt fighters that were either combat-ready or nearly so, along with hundreds of other fighters. Pilots and gunners claimed more than 600 enemy fighters were destroyed in aerial combat. By comparison, the Allies lost but 226 bombers and 28 fighters. A high price, but seemingly well worth it.

In truth, Germany’s aircraft production had been damaged, but not as badly as the Allies first believed. Production figures dropped to 50 percent of expected totals during March, but by April, industry was producing almost as many fighters as before. This was mainly the result of the production dispersal program Germany began after air raids during the summer of 1943.

Despite its limited effect on aircraft manufacturing, Big Week did indeed have an impact

on the overall goal of gaining air superiority over the Luftwaffe. The German fighter squadrons had suffered enormous losses, and while the downed aircraft were ultimately replaced, the lost pilots were another matter. The Luftwaffe was just not able to train replacements quickly enough.

The losses inflicted by Big Week were not crippling, but definitely tipped the scales of air superiority toward the Allies. Over the next few months, the Germans would lose thousands of additional planes through combat and accidents. By May, the Allies had effectively won control of the air.



The famed B-17 (photo courtesy of The Boeing Company)

1944, when 800 bombers attacked aircraft production facilities at Leipzig. The next day, more than 1,000 American B-17 and B-24 bombers, reportedly the largest group ever assembled, made their way toward targets in Germany and Poland, escorted by 700 fighters. The Luftwaffe responded in force to the attack, but because of the protective screen of fighters, managed to shoot down only 21 bombers.

Poor weather greatly impeded operations on February 22, but the raids were more effective over the next few days. By the time Big Week ended on February 26, the Allies had successfully

ROGER DURBIN (1921-2000)

The man that in 1987 asked the question that started a national effort to establish a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., won't see his dream fulfilled.

Roger Durbin, a World War II veteran who saw action with the 10th Armored Division in the Battle of the Bulge,



Roger Durbin at an event in 1998. To the right are Rep. Marcy Kaptur, his wife Marian, and Sen. Bob Dole. (Photo by Carl Cox)

died Feb. 6, 2000, at the age of 79. Durbin's question to his Ohio representative, Marcy Kaptur - why isn't there a WWII Memorial in Washington? - was the genesis of a project that has since captured the interest of corporations, veterans groups, and communities across the country.

In a letter to Durbin's family and friends, Senator Bob Dole said, "Roger has been the public persona - the beacon - of the drive to build a National World War II Memorial in our nation's capital. The memorial was Roger's dream, and he willed that it become our dream and the dream of millions of Americans who shared the common experience of living through the largest and most devastating war our world has known."

A retired rural mail carrier, Durbin lived most of his life in Berkey, Ohio, and most recently in the rural Blissfield, Mich., area. He was an active member and officer of the Joseph W. Diehn American Legion Post in Sylvania, Ohio, for 55 years.

Roger was an active participant in the memorial project, testifying on its behalf before Congress and helping President Clinton dedicate its National Mall site on Veterans Day 1995.

His granddaughter, Melissa Growden, is a member of the Memorial Advisory Board appointed by the president.

SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE HELP MEMORIAL

Schools across the country have answered the call to help build the National World War II Memorial. So far, more than 235 schools have contributed a total of nearly \$125,000! Students have held penny drives, bake sales, car washes, and many other activities to help raise funds. Some schools have staged huge events featuring U.S.O.-style shows, vehicle displays, and talks from local WWII veterans.

The most important aspect of these activities, however, is

the opportunity for students to learn about the war, especially the part played by their family and friends.

As a young student from Alabama remarked, "We'll be the last generation to have [living family members] in this war, so it's important to find out all we can."

For more information about the school programs, contact Bob Lewis at 703-696-8437, or e-mail lewisb@WWII Memorial.com.



Senator Dole with three of the students from St. Hugh's School in Greenbelt, Md., who collected more than \$1,300 for the memorial.



Rep. Marcy Kaptur accepts a check to the memorial for \$3,878 from Dakota Hills Middle School in Eagan, Minn.



NFDA EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!

The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) kicked off its \$5 million campaign for the National World War II Memorial on April 8 in El Dorado, Kan. More than 1,200 Butler County residents (about ten percent of El Dorado's population!) helped pack and ship 16,000 fund-raising kits to funeral professionals nationwide. NFDA's national chairman, Dick Morris, hosted this incredible event, which united more than 20 different veteran and civic organizations.

NFDA's campaign will culminate with a nationwide balloon release on Veterans Day 2000. For more information, please contact Anne Derby at (703) 696-5125, or by e-mail at derbya@WWII Memorial.com. *(Photos by Anne Derby)*



NFDA National Chairman Dick Morris (right) with NFDA campaign coordinator Jean Plummer and his wife, Denise (left).



Lola Mae Osmer, 96, a real-life "Rosie the Riveter" worked the assembly line in El Dorado.



Event volunteers included members of the local police force.



One of the younger helpers.

SBC SUPPORTS \$3M GIFT WITH EMPLOYEE, RETIREE DRIVE TO HELP MEMORIAL REACH \$100 MILLION

SBC Communications' philanthropic arm, the SBC Foundation, has already contributed \$3 million to the memorial campaign, one of the first and largest donations to date. Now SBC's employees and retirees have launched a grassroots campaign to help the memorial meet its fund-raising goal.

The group recently formed a committee aimed at educating local communities about the importance of the WWII memorial, and members will give talks at schools, civic groups and senior organizations to explain the urgency of erecting a monument to a generation that is now fading away. While the main focus of SBC's campaign is education, employees hope that their efforts will also lead to additional donations.

"Every employee's and retiree's family has been touched in some way by the World War II effort," said Tom Morgan, president of SBC Consumer Markets and campaign chair for the company's memorial drive. "As the months tick by, fewer and fewer veterans are alive to witness this memorial, which is already long overdue. Our company and employees realize there is no better way to say thank you."

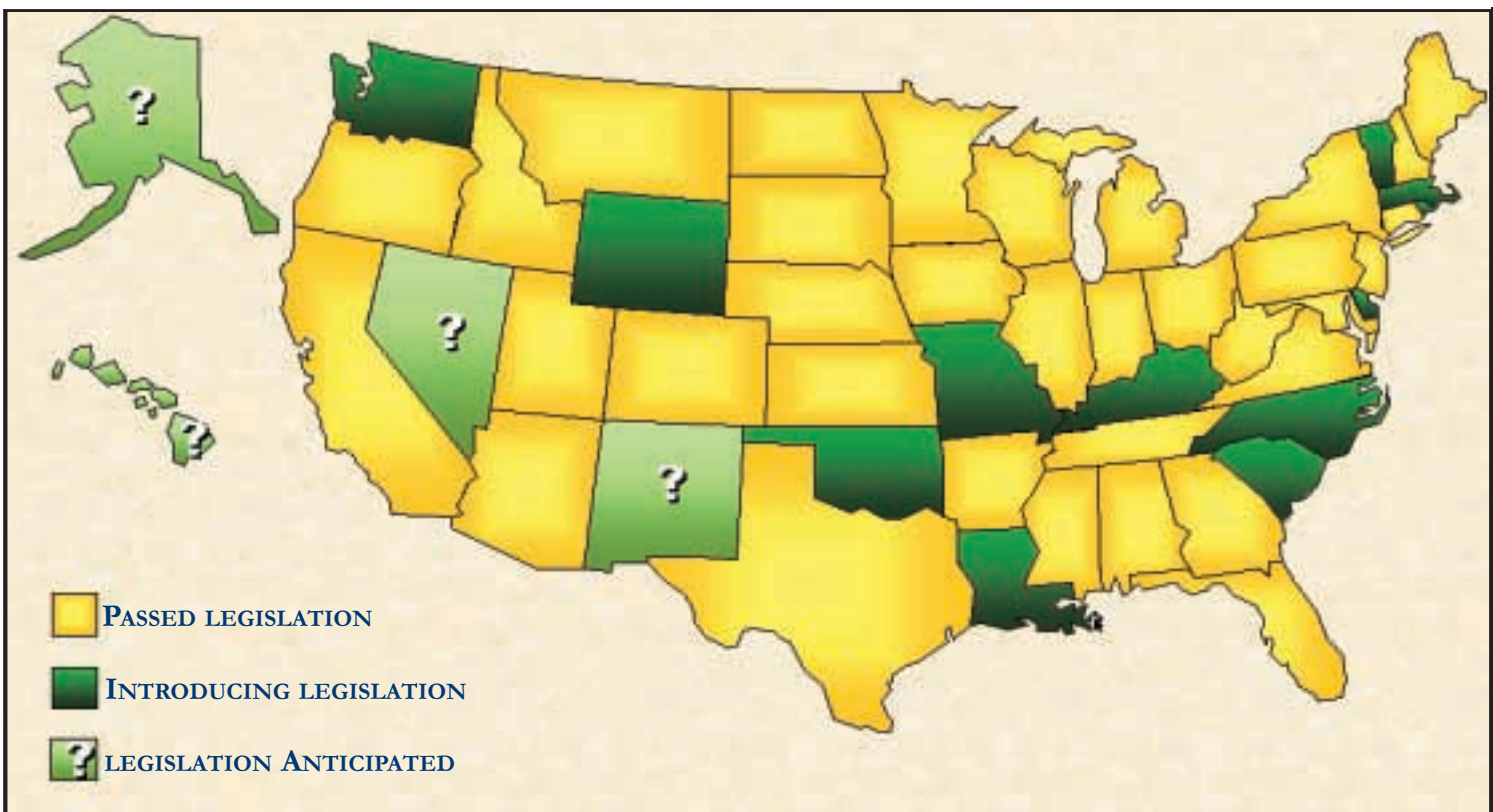
The committee has set up a special Web site at www.sbcpioneers.org/wwii where the public can find answers to frequently asked questions about the memorial and personal profiles of employees who served during WWII.

STATE CAMPAIGN NEARING FINISH LINE

We're almost there! Thirty-four states have passed \$1 per vet legislation, ten of them since our Winter 2000 newsletter! As this issue went to press, three of these states had bills awaiting their governors' signature: Florida (\$248,000), Georgia (\$324,373) and Illinois (\$987,000).

The memorial campaign is also working closely with state legislators in the following states where the \$1 per vet legislation is facing some legislative hurdles: Kentucky (\$312,000), Oklahoma (\$268,000), Louisiana (\$278,000) and Massachusetts (\$569,000).

If you would like more information on this legislation, please contact Carol Lindamood at 1-800-639-4992 x3 or by e-mail at lindamoodc@WWII Memorial.com.



MAIL CALL

We welcome your letters, and will print a selection in each issue of the newsletter. Letters are subject to editing and should be sent to Editor, NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL Newsletter, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 501, Arlington, VA 22201. Please include a daytime phone number and, if available, an e-mail address.

ALEUTIAN CAMPAIGN

I read your article on the Aleutian Campaign and felt I needed to make a comment. There were two attacks on Dutch Harbor on June 3 and 4. During one of those attacks, a Japanese Zero was shot down and found to be in good condition. This plane was sent back to the states where it was restored and studied. I have read that this plane may have saved many pilots' lives because we discovered some of the Zero's weaknesses.

Ned F. Smith
Janesville, Wisc.

The Winter 2000 newsletter was especially interesting to me because of the story about the Aleutian Campaign, which has been all but forgotten. I served in the Navy as an Electrician's Mate First Class and my first assignment was at the U.S. submarine base at Kodiak Island, Alaska. At the beginning of the campaign, we had only two WWI destroyers and a WWI submarine. There was nothing on the island except for us and a small army garrison.

When the Japanese were on Attu and Kiska, we were certain they would eventually get to us and then the mainland, because we could have done very little with what we had, not to mention the fact that we were all green kids - except for the commanding officer and the cook, who were both regular Navy. Fortunately, as set forth in your story, the tide was turned and the enemy embarrassed.

Thanks again for your efforts at the memorial. It's comforting to know that we old timers who did our share to

preserve democracy will be forever remembered.

Finally, I would appreciate hearing from anyone who served aboard *Chaffee* (DE 230) and LSM 472, especially C.D. Smith of Baton Rouge, and Gordon F. Dougherty of Boston. I can be reached at 1440 Pineville Rd., New Hope, PA, 18938.

Albert Pincus
New Hope, Penn.

REQUESTS FOR HELP!

If you were in the 360th AAA Searchlight Battalion and served in North Africa or Italy, please contact me at 547 Sishin Circle, North Augusta, SC, 29841-3124.

James V. Parker
North Augusta, S.C.

My dad served in the AAF in the Air Transport Command on a base near Aden Yemen and a village named Shaykh Uthman. In all the research I've done, I have not been able to find any information about this base. If anyone can give me any information or leads for my research, I would be most appreciative. I would also like to hear from people who served in that area from 1943 to 1945. I can be reached at 4433 South 12th St., Terre Haute, IN, 47802, or e-mail hchoneybee1969@yahoo.com.

John Hoff
Terre Haute, Ind.

READER THOUGHTS

As a veteran who appreciates the work you are doing to establish the memorial, I totally agree that the funds be raised by private donations. I believe the memorial is important not so much for the veterans, but as a reminder to succeeding generations that when push comes to shove, Americans unite, put their shoulders to the wheel, and get the job done.

I would also like to pass along an idea: I plan to inform my children and grandchildren that instead of a Christmas

gift this year, they should contribute the cost of a gift to the memorial. This idea can be linked to other holidays as well. I hope you find this suggestion worthwhile, and if so, that it will prove successful.

Joseph O'Grady
Dover, Del.

I think the concept of the memorial project is excellent. I would like to suggest another way to honor the memory of deceased servicemen in their families in a more personal way. In years to come, our children and grandchildren may want to learn more about their ancestors who served. It's up to us to share our memories with them in writing. You don't need to be a professional author - just start writing and you'll be surprised to see how much you recall.

Begin your story with the person's childhood. Interview people who knew them and draw on your own memories as well. Tell them what they did before, during, and after the war. I reprinted photos, photocopied documents, and put together a loose-leaf book for each of my children, so that their children will know the great grandfather they never met.

Anita Goldwater
San Jose, Calif.

Some readers brought to our attention incorrect information about the fund-raising campaign published in the May issue of *VFW Magazine*. Contrary to what the article implies, we have not met our \$100 million goal.

As Senator Dole mentions on page one, we have \$85 million of the \$100 million we need to cover costs of designing, building and maintaining the memorial. Our fund-raising campaign will continue in earnest until all the necessary funds are in hand.

NEW MAJOR DONORS

The campaign continues to receive generous donations from private and public sector contributors. The following list presents the major donations since our last newsletter. For a comprehensive listing, see "The National Campaign" section of our Web site.

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIVING

LEADERSHIP GIFTS - \$1,000,000 TO \$1,999,999

- THE HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION, INC.
- OMNICOM GROUP

PATRON GIFTS - \$500,000 TO \$999,999

- THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

VICTOR GIFTS - \$250,000 TO \$499,999

- BANK OF AMERICA FOUNDATION
- RICHARD KING MELLON FOUNDATION

CENTURION GIFTS - \$100,000 TO \$249,999

- BD (BECTON-DICKINSON)
- BETHLEHEM STEEL FOUNDATION
- BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY
- CITIGROUP
- THE CREAN FOUNDATION
- F.M KIRBY FOUNDATION, INC.
- GENERAL MILLS FOUNDATION
- HALLIBURTON COMPANY
- ALBERT AND ETHEL HERZSTEIN FOUNDATION
- M.S. CARRIERS, INC.
- ZALE CORPORATION
- ZIPPO MANUFACTURING Co.

VETERANS, STATE AND ORGANIZATIONAL GIVING

VICTORS GIFTS - \$250,000 TO \$499,999

- STATE OF INDIANA
- STATE OF IOWA
- STATE OF VIRGINIA
- WILBERT FUNERAL SERVICES INC

CENTURION GIFTS - \$100,000 TO \$249,999

- STATE OF MARYLAND

GUARDIAN GIFTS - \$50,000 TO \$99,999

- STATE OF ARIZONA
- STATE OF IDAHO
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

PROTECTOR GIFTS - \$25,000 TO \$49,999

- COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL OF READING, PENN.

DEFENDER GIFTS - \$10,000 TO \$24,999

- 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
- ARMY AVIATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (QUAD A)
- AMERICAN WORLD WAR II ORPHANS NETWORK
- CASINO SPOTLIGHT 29
- CIRCA 21
- CITY OF BOCA RATON, FL
- COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL OF LITTLETON/DENVER, CO
- DORIC PRODUCTS INC.
- USS INTREPID
- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEW YORK STATE DISTRICT 3
- SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE
- WESTERN COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

SUPER 8 UPDATE

On Memorial Day 2000, Super 8 Motels, Inc. will complete its successful WWII Memorial fund-raising campaign. In addition to its generous \$500,000 contribution, Super 8's V.I.P. Club promotion, radio and television advertising, in-motel advertising and brochure distribution have created substantial public awareness of the memorial project and generated an additional \$70,000 in donations to date. Further, through Super 8's relationship with NASCAR, the memorial's public service announcement can be seen at NASCAR events throughout the racing season.

The memorial is proud of these achievements, and thanks Super 8 Motels for its outstanding support.



DID YOU KNOW...?

Unlike many of the warring nations, the United States emerged from World War II essentially unscathed, primarily due to the vast stretches of ocean that lay between it and its enemies.

However, Axis planners were always looking for ways to attack the Arsenal of Democracy, even if only for propaganda value. Japan was especially motivated to strike after suffering the minor, but humiliating Doolittle raid in April 1942.

One scheme it developed to strike the American mainland involved a force of its huge, four-engined H8K float planes. The plan called for 30 H8Ks, freshly refueled by submarines at a rendezvous point off Baja California, to fly halfway across the U.S. to bomb the Texas oilfields.

After the attack, the seaplanes would meet up with a group of German "tanker" U-boats in the Atlantic that would support them as they flew up and down the East Coast launching terror raids on major cities.

Although the Germans were supportive of this plan and prepared the necessary U-boats, the Japanese ultimately called off the operation because of their deteriorating situation in the Pacific.

Source: *Dirty Little Secrets of World War II*, by James Dunnigan and Albert Nofi.

Reminder! The History Channel's documentary *Save Our History: The WWII Memorial* will repeat on May 19 at 6 a.m., and May 27, 2000, at 11 p.m. (EST/PST), 10 p.m. (CST), and 9 p.m. (MST)

Contact us!

For information about the memorial, the design concept, how to make a donation, who's who, what's new, and a whole lot more :

visit our web site
WWII Memorial.com

or call
1 (800) 639-4WW2

or e-mail
custsvc@WWII Memorial.com

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN

National Chairman
Bob Dole

**National
Co-Chairman**
Frederick W. Smith

Honorary Chairmen
George Bush
Jimmy Carter
Gerald Ford
Ronald Reagan

Committee
Thomas J. Donohue
Melvin R. Goodes
Herman Harrington
Jess Hay
Amo Houghton
Thomas P. Infusino
Ralph S. Larsen
Timothy J. May
Sonny Montgomery
Lee R. Raymond
R. Albert Roensch
Richard M. Rosenberg
Walter Shorenstein
Stanley Star
John Teets
Jack Valenti
Edward E. Whitacre Jr.

Executive Director
James W. Aylward

EVEN THE YOUNGEST CONTRIBUTED



"New York City Boys organized a tin club. These patriotic young men not only collected but also processed more than half the amount of tin needed to build an Army fighting plane - and all in one day."
(Photo and caption from the National Archives)

PLANNED GIVING

Through planned giving, it's easy to become a major donor to the National World War II Memorial Fund. A planned gift is a win-win option that provides a generous charitable contribution to the National World War II Memorial and may yield financial and tax advantages to you. Such an investment will help ensure that the achievements of a special generation of Americans are forever preserved in a lasting memorial in our nation's capital.

We will be glad to consult further with potential donors and their advisors on planned giving options. The various planned giving techniques include donating appreciated assets such as stock to the memorial, naming the memorial as a beneficiary in your will or revocable living trust, designating the memorial as the beneficiary of your life insurance policies or retirement accounts, and creating a charitable trust that benefits both your family and the memorial.

We urge you to consider how you can become a "major donor" by making a planned gift. Through your donation, you can make a lasting impact on future generations' understanding of the importance of WW II to America and the world.

Please contact the National World War II Memorial Assistant Director of Individual Giving at (703) 696-7873 or by e-mail at mccarthy@WWII Memorial.com for more information or to request a planned giving brochure. You are urged to consult your tax advisor before making a final decision regarding these planned gifts.