

★ ★ NATIONAL ★ ★ WWII MEMORIAL

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2000

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CO-CHAIRMAN



Frederick W. Smith

As we enter the next century, I realize how important it is to look back and learn from the lessons of the past — the great effort put forth on our behalf by the WWII generation. The veterans who led us through this tumultuous period are leaving us now, about a thousand of them every day.

It is time to say thank you. I am pleased many of you already have. What is even more encouraging is the number of school children learning about the impact of the war and becoming involved in the campaign.

In my hometown, Memphis City Schools' "Pennies for Patriots" program raised more than \$10,000 for the memorial and taught our children some important lessons along the way. More schools are joining the effort every day, and teaching materials introduced by our partner, The History Channel®, will help students fully understand the impact and significance of World War II.

The campaign momentum has picked up steadily since the fall. We have more than \$70 million of the \$100 million needed to design, build and maintain the memorial.

As this newsletter goes to press, 350,000 Charter Members have contributed more than \$24 million to the campaign. Military organizations and reunion groups have donated almost \$4.5 million. Corporate gifts from 162 companies total almost \$30 million. NFL teams have pledged a million dollars.

Thank you, America, for answering the call of duty once again and helping us build this memorial. With your help, the lessons of the past will continue to teach future generations in the years to come.

PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS \$2 MILLION



Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge and Stanley Wojtusik, national vice-president of veterans affairs for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, present Senator Bob Dole with a \$2 million check honoring the Pennsylvanians who served in World War II. (Photo by Terry Way)

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PROFILED IN HISTORY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY

Mark your calendars! On February 15, 2000, The History Channel® will world premiere *Save Our History™: The WWII Memorial*. This original documentary traces the memorial's development with those playing key roles in its creation, interweaving the personal stories of WWII veterans and home-front volunteers. It will not only inform viewers of the memorial's meaning, but inspire them to become part of the creation!

During the program, you will hear memories and comments from the campaign's national chairman, former Senator Bob Dole, and former presidents Gerald Ford and George Bush. Many other veterans are also featured in clips throughout the program, including Roger Durbin, the Battle of the Bulge veteran who began the campaign to build the memorial.

Also appearing are Marcy Kaptur, the Ohio Congresswoman who introduced the memorial legislation, historian Stephen Ambrose, and architect Friedrich St. Florian.

(continued on back page)

CHRONICLES OF WAR

THE ALEUTIAN CAMPAIGN

Winter is an excellent time to recall one of the little-remembered campaigns of World War II — the struggle for Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Stretching more than 1,100 miles across the northern Pacific, the Aleutian archipelago was an unlikely source of conflict due to its isolation and terrible weather. However, a decision by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Japanese combined fleet, would bring war to this inhospitable island chain.

The Japanese attack on the Aleutians in June 1942 was not intended to secure a staging area for an assault into mainland Alaska. Instead, it was a diversionary element in Yamamoto's plan to draw the battered American fleet out of Pearl Harbor and into a decisive battle with the powerful Japanese Navy at Midway.

Unfortunately for Japan, the diversion failed because U.S. Navy intelligence had broken the Japanese codes and was aware of Yamamoto's intentions. The attack at Midway would become a disaster for the Japanese Navy and a turning point in the war.

In an effort to ease the sting of the Midway defeat, Yamamoto ordered his northern fleet to continue its operations in the Aleutians. The fleet had already launched an air attack against American military installations in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on June 3, and now turned its attention to the islands of Attu and Kiska at the western end of the archipelago. The Japanese landing forces encountered no opposition, and by June 7, both islands were under their control.

Although the original plan envisioned the occupation of the islands only during the summer months, Yamamoto now decided to establish permanent airfields and naval facilities to harass American forces. Despite the fact that these installations were militarily insignificant, there was considerable concern on the home front, fanned by

frequent media speculation, of an attack on the United States from the north. To allay these fears, planners decided it was necessary to clear the enemy from the Aleutians.

It was not until the spring of 1943 that the U.S. was able to collect the forces it needed to assault the islands. The 7th Infantry Division, stationed at Fort Ord, Calif., was selected to retake the first objective, Attu Island, which was thought to contain only 500 enemy troops. The Americans eventually learned that the enemy garrison numbered nearly 3,000!

After several days of weather delays, elements of the 7th Division landed unopposed at cold and foggy Attu on May 11. As they attempted to advance, however, enemy fire began to rain down from the tops of the island's jagged hills.

After more than two weeks of hard fighting in often harsh weather, the battle ended when the final Japanese troops, estimated to number 800, launched a last ditch charge against the American lines on the night of May 29. By morning, the Japanese had been completely defeated and the Army took possession of Attu.

The battle had killed nearly all of the Japanese defenders (only 28 surrendered), and left the Americans with more than 500 dead and 1,100 wounded. Further, the poor weather had sidelined 2,100 American troops — who had come unprepared for extended combat in cold conditions — with non-combat injuries.

Taking stock of the experience of Attu, the U.S. Army committed more than twice as many troops to the attack on Kiska three months later. The Japanese garrison, which numbered



The military installation at Dutch Harbor burns after a Japanese air attack.

around 5,000, was also subjected to continual bombing raids and a heavy pre-invasion naval bombardment.

This time, however, the enemy decided not to fight a hopeless battle. In a bold gamble, a small naval force, aided by an almost continuous fog, managed to evacuate the entire garrison in less than an hour on July 28.

U.S. forces, whose intelligence gathering had been hampered by poor weather, were unaware of the evacuation, and invaded on August 15. Encountering no initial opposition, many assumed that the enemy had merely retired to the island interior and would fight to the last man as the defenders of Attu had done. It wasn't until August 22 that the Americans finally realized what had happened.

Although undefended, the seizure of Kiska was not without cost. Several troops were killed or wounded by booby traps and other mishaps, but the most serious loss occurred when a Navy destroyer sank after hitting a mine, killing 70 and wounding nearly 50.

(continued on page 7)

WWII AMBULANCE DRIVER PITCHES IN

Thanks to the generosity of Jim Sanders, a veteran ambulance driver, the memorial campaign will receive the proceeds from the sale of a World War II ambulance!

Sanders, who lives in Modesto, Calif., spent his World War II days behind the wheel of a 1942 Dodge WC54 ambulance as a member of the 586th Ambulance Company carrying wounded from the European battlefields.

In 1990, he began a labor of love — restoring to running order a WWII ambulance like the one he had driven. Over the last few years, he has driven the ambulance at various events and shows and done much to educate people on its role in World War II. In 1998, he made the decision to sell the ambulance and donate the proceeds to the National World War II Memorial.

Last October, Sanders had the ambulance delivered to Arlington, Va., where arrangements are being made for its sale. It is expected to sell for \$10,000 - \$15,000, all of which will go to the memorial campaign.

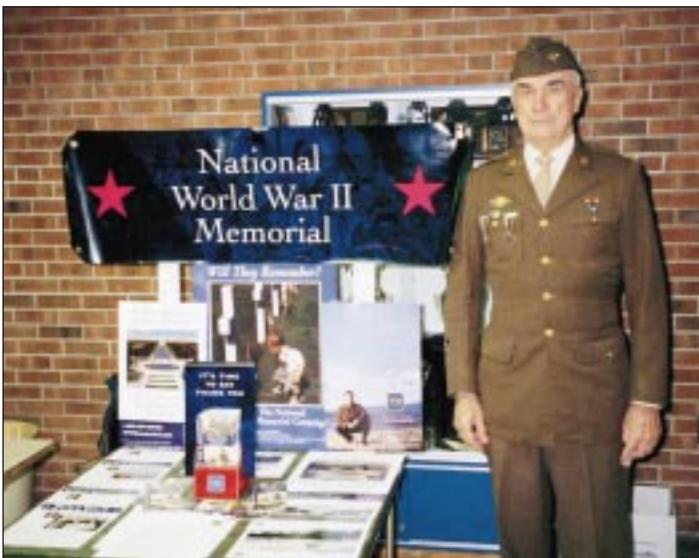


Jim Sanders stands before the 1942 Dodge ambulance he donated to the World War II Memorial campaign. (Photo by Betsy Glick)

MASSACHUSETTS TOWN DONATES \$25,000

Bruce P. Eaton, a volunteer Field Representative from Danvers, Mass., and his wife, Martha, made their initial donation to the National World War II Memorial in 1997. The donation honored Mrs. Eaton's first husband, Tracy F. Woodman II, who was killed in action near Insviller, France.

Since then, Eaton developed a keen interest in promoting the memorial and ensuring that the 1,725 servicemen and women from Danvers would be remembered for their participation in the war.



Bruce P. Eaton, in his World War II uniform, manning his display at the Danvers Town Meeting on Nov. 29, 1999. (Photo by Janet Brown)

In June 1999, Eaton wrote an editorial in the *Salem Evening News* promoting the memorial project. He then met with town managers and selectmen to seek their approval of a civic donation to the memorial in honor of the men and women of Danvers who rendered wartime service.

After winning their support, Eaton turned to the Town Finance Committee, which also approved the idea and endorsed a measure to donate \$25,000 to the National World War II Memorial. Eaton attended the meeting, manning a display of campaign materials he received as a volunteer, and spoke in support of the measure.

The legislation passed by a wide margin, putting Danvers at the top of a list of communities nationwide that have made contributions to the memorial.

Eaton is not resting with this success. He is now working on plans to challenge the citizens of Danvers to make personal donations to match the town's gift, potentially increasing the total support to \$50,000.

Eaton's project is just one example of how individuals can make a tremendous contribution to the success of the memorial campaign.

If you would like more information about becoming involved locally to support the campaign, please call Tim Taravella, assistant director - grassroots at (703) 696-8384, or e-mail him at taravellat@wwiimemorial.com

CALENDAR DRAWS COMPLIMENTS, CRITIQUES

Tens of thousands of you responded to our year 2000 calendar with new donations to the campaign. Many recognized themselves, a spouse or relative, or a fellow veteran in one of the photos.

We've been pleased to provide extra copies upon request and can do so until supplies run out. Call us at (800) 639-4992 if you would like an extra copy to share with a neighbor or relative. There is no charge, but we appreciate any extra donation to help move us along toward our \$100 million goal.

For the Record

Not all was perfect unfortunately. Several of you contacted us to say that Joe Rosenthal's famous photo of the second flag raising on Iwo Jima, shown in the month of February, was not "posed," nor were the troops "under fire" during the first flag raising. Those readers were correct. We regret the mistake and any confusion we may have caused regarding this historic photograph or the actions of the heroic Marines who fought on Iwo Jima.

We also caught a mistake ourselves. In August, we show the Allies landing in southern France on Aug. 7, 1943 and Aug. 15, 1944. The correct date is Aug. 15, 1944.

Thanks for keeping us accurate and for your continued support. Happy New Year to you all.



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES ENDORSES WWII MEMORIAL

Plantation, Fla., Councilman Lee Hillier introduced a resolution to the Florida League of Cities (the state organization of the National League of Cities) to support the National World War II Memorial.

The resolution, which was passed by the League's membership, cited the Second World War's enormous impact on the State of Florida and noted that Florida is home to the largest concentration of World War II veterans.

Furthermore, it urged all members of the Florida League of Cities to honor these heroic veterans by supporting the

construction and dedication of the memorial.

Hillier is now working on a project to get each member community in the state to develop Community Action Councils. These Councils have the potential to reach each of the more than 600,000 veterans living in Florida, along with their families and neighbors.

If you are interested in working with Hillier in Florida, or would like information on how you can establish a council in your own community, please contact Tim Taravella, assistant director, grassroots, at (703) 696-8384.

REUNION GROUPS SHOW SUPPORT

To date almost 150 World War II reunion groups representing units, groups, and ships from each of the military services have made donations to the National World War II Memorial.

Donations have been received from reunion associations and the individual members. Many groups have earned a listing in the Donor Book of Remembrances.

If your reunion group would like information on how to make a donation to the campaign, contact Kimberly Frazier, associate for veterans affairs, at (703) 696-9274.

NFDA CELEBRATES OUR FREEDOM

The world's oldest and largest funeral service organization, the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), has joined the National World War II Memorial Campaign's list of supporters. At its recent convention in Kansas City, Mo., NFDA passed a resolution pledging a highly committed role in fund raising for the memorial.

"Fifty years ago, we had the privilege and honor of serving the families of those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war," said NFDA National President William Aaron.

"We continue to serve the surviving family members of these noble men and women, and feel it is our obligation to help build a memorial that will acknowledge our nation's involvement in World War II and the many sacrifices of these people in helping win that terrible struggle."

NFDA's fund raising efforts will culminate with a nationwide balloon release on Veterans Day, 2000, marking the celebration of the freedom guaranteed to all Americans by the heroics of the World War II generation.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Aldrich at (703) 696-7809 or at aldrichs@wwiimemorial.com.

STATES CONTINUE TO GIVE!

Thanks to the diligent efforts of our readers, 24 states honored their WWII veterans with an appropriation to the National World War II Memorial in 1999. Please check the map to see if your state participated.

We expect even more states in 2000! As of January, 25 states have indicated their intention to introduce legislation to support the memorial. You can find these states on the map colored in dark and light green.

The list below indicates how much each state would give if it pledged \$1 for each of its citizens that served in uniform during WWII. If you live in one of these states, please contact your governor and state legislators to let them know YOU support the \$1 per veteran legislation!

If you know a legislator who may be interested in this commemorative legislation, please forward them a copy of your newsletter with a note indicating how important the memorial is to you. For more information, call Carol Lindamood at (703) 696-0677 or the memorial's toll free number, (800) 639-4992 ext. 3, or e-mail her at: lindamoodc@wwiimemorial.com.

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|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Alabama | \$321,000 | Indiana | \$412,000 | No. Carolina | \$392,000 |
| Alaska | \$15,000 | Iowa | \$278,000 | Oklahoma | \$268,000 |
| Arizona | \$69,000 | Kentucky | \$312,000 | Rhode Island | \$96,000 |
| Delaware | \$35,000 | Louisiana | \$278,000 | So. Carolina | \$68,000 |
| Florida | \$243,000 | Maryland | \$250,000 | Vermont | \$38,000 |
| Georgia | \$334,000 | Massachusetts | \$569,000 | Virginia | \$334,000 |
| Hawaii | \$100,000 | Missouri | \$438,000 | Washington | \$231,000 |
| Idaho | \$66,000 | Nevada | \$21,000 | Wyoming | \$33,000 |
| Illinois | \$987,000 | New Mexico | \$69,000 | | |

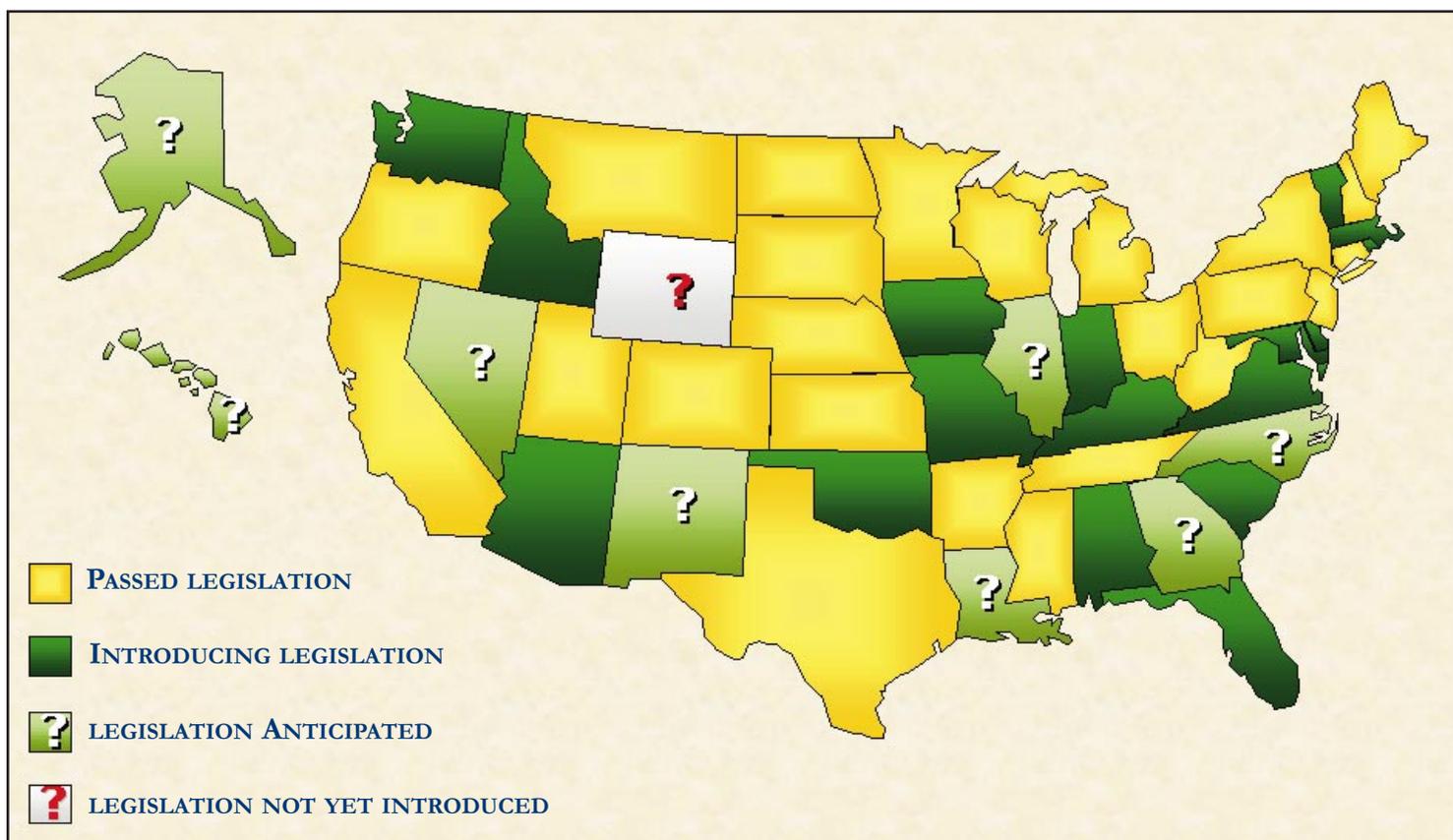
INDIANAPOLIS SERVICE CLUB SUPPORTS MEMORIAL

In a November ceremony, the Service Club of Indianapolis presented the memorial with a check for nearly \$38,000. More than \$25,000 of that amount was a matching contribution from P.E. MacAllister, a noted Indianapolis businessman and civic leader who is also a WWII veteran.

The Service Club of Indianapolis was originally formed in 1920 by a group of WWI participants who wished to continue the comradeship they found in the military services. The majority of the club's current membership are World War II veterans.

Club officials noted that the organization is generally not a forum for public or private fund raising, but they made an exception for the memorial.

American Battle Monuments Commission chairman General Fred Woerner accepted the donation on behalf of the campaign.



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.

REQUESTS FOR HELP!

My father, Walter J. McCloskey, Infantry Company E, 255th Regiment, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action during an assault on the Siegfried Line in the vicinity of Ommersheim, Germany on March 17, 1945.

I am searching for anyone who might be able to tell me more about this event or my father's involvement in it. Please write to me at 1018 Coralberry Drive, Richmond, VA, 23236, or by e-mail at candleacho@mindspring.com

Christine McCloskey Eacho
Richmond, Va.

I am looking for information regarding my uncle, Lester W. Travis, of the 15th Regiment, 3rd Division, New York. He was killed in battle in France on January 26, 1945.

If anyone knew him or served with him, please contact me at 165 Bittersweet Dr., Farmington, NY 14425 or by e-mail at yardfan23@aol.com

Mark Travis
Farmington, N.Y.

We are searching for individuals of family members of those who served aboard *Bangust* (DE-739) during WWII. We are compiling histories, stories, and diaries of our shipmates.

We also have a Web site (members.xoom.com/Don/index.html) and hold a reunion each year. If you have any information, please write to 3163 Manley Dr., Lompoc, CA, 93436-2371, or e-mail dpdon@usa.com

Don Pond
Lompoc, Calif.

My wife, Elizabeth Rigdon Rich, is looking for individuals who served with her father, Johnny Walker Higdon of Arkansas, on the battleship *California* or the heavy cruiser *Portland*. He was aboard *California* when it was bombed at Pearl Harbor, and then served aboard *Portland* from 1942-45. At least part of his time aboard the latter was spent as CPO in charge of firefighting.

If anyone can help, please contact my wife or me at 15474 Duomo Via, Los Angeles, CA, 90077.

J. Peter Rich
Los Angeles, Calif.

I am seeking information on persons that served in the military before their 17th birthday. Please contact me at 7101 E. 6th Ave., Anchorage, AK, 99504.

Elsie Sexton
Anchorage, Alaska

I am searching for anyone who may have known my grandpa, Peter Koning, who served aboard the *Sangamon* as an ammunition passer, and as a barber in non-combat time.

He died before I was born, so there are many questions I would have loved to have asked him about his part in the war. I feel a great sense of pride in him, and would appreciate any information anyone might have about him.

Please contact me at 738 Vine Maple SE, Lacey, WA, 98503, or by e-mail at vandersys@hotmail.com

Robyn VanDerSys
Lacey, Wash.

I am looking for anyone who knew or served with my late father, Davis Michael Hershfield. Dad served in Company K of the 263rd Infantry regiment in France and Germany.

Please contact me at Suite 1800, The World Trade Center, 401 East Pratt St., Baltimore, MD, 21202, or by e-mail at lhershfield@stkgirlaw.com

Leslie D. Hershfield
Baltimore, Md.

I am searching for anyone who served in the U.S. Coast Guard Mobile "Loran" Chain (Project M) in the southwest Pacific, 1944-45, particularly on Moratai Island. I was an RT 2/c "Loran" in Station #195.

I can be reached at 10773 Esmeraldas Dr., San Diego, CA, 92124-2009.

Walter R. Schmersal
San Diego, Calif.

I am looking for anyone who served with me in the 831st Amphibian (DWKW) Company of the 147th Battalion. I can be reached at 2497 E. Hawthorne Rd., Bartlett, TN, 38134.

W.J. Marshall
Bartlett, Tenn.

I am searching for buddies from the 3rd Platoon of Battery A, 54th AAA Battalion, at Camp Callan, Calif. between Dec. 1943 and April 1944.

I'm especially searching for Bill Taets from the Rock Island, Ill., area. We both served in the 97th Infantry Division in Europe. I'm also looking for Guy L. Miller, originally from Mich., who was in the 322nd Engineers.

Any help would be appreciated. I can be reached at P.O. Box 156, Lena, WI, 54139-0156.

Edward Konop
Lena, Wisc.

I am searching for individuals who may have known or served with my father, Joseph Thompson, who was in the 63rd Bomb Squadron, 43 Bomb Group (H), from May 1941 to Dec. 1943.

Please contact me at P.O. Box 352, Bridgetown, West Australia, 6255, or e-mail kcsdsmith@telstra.easymail.com.au

Sandra Smith
West Australia

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 fall newsletter. For a comprehensive listing, see the "The National Campaign" section of our Web site.

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIVING

VICTOR GIFTS

\$250,000 TO \$500,000

- BLOCKBUSTER ENTERTAINMENT
- FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

CENTURION GIFTS

\$100,000 TO \$250,000

- GENERAL MILLS FOUNDATION
- THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
- MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER & CO.
- UNION PLANTERS CORPORATION

VETERANS, STATE AND ORGANIZATIONAL GIVING

LEADERSHIP GIFTS

\$1 MILLION TO \$2 MILLION

- STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

PATRON GIFTS

\$500,000 TO \$1 MILLION

- STATE OF MICHIGAN

CENTURION GIFTS

\$100,000 TO \$250,000

- THE BLUM-KOVLER FOUNDATION
- STATE OF OREGON

GUARDIAN GIFTS

\$50,000 TO \$100,000

- QUAD CITY COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PROTECTOR GIFTS

\$25,000 TO \$50,000

- AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
- TOWN OF DANVERS, MASS.
- SERVICE CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS

DEFENDER GIFTS

\$10,000 TO \$25,000

- 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
- AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS
- JOSEPH J. DIAMOND MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
- COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL OF PADUCAH, KY.
- HOUSEHOLD CREDIT SERVICES CORPORATION
- INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE
- INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRONIC, ELECTRICAL, SALARIED, MACHINE & FURNITURE WORKERS
- ITALIAN AMERICAN WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.
- KENT TRUMBLE
- LOCAL AARP CHAPTERS
- MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
- MILWAUKIE HIGH SCHOOL, MILWAUKIE, ORE.
- NASDAQ VETERANS DAY 10K RUN
- RESERVE OFFICER ASSOCIATION
- SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION

CORPORATE PARTNERS UPDATE

Waffle House recently ended its "Give A Buck to Say Thanks" campaign to support the National World War II Memorial. Although the contributions are still being counted, it's clear that the promotion was very successful in raising public awareness. Waffle House is considering another promotion for Memorial Day 2000.

Also, look for the National World War II Memorial logo on the car of NASCAR driver Bill Elliot during February's Daytona 500! As part of its effort to raise awareness about the memorial, Super 8 Motels has generously replaced their logo on Elliot's car with the memorial's. The Super 8 Memorial V.I.P. promotion is also underway. Look for the radio and television ads between now and Memorial Day.



ALEUTIANS CAMPAIGN

(continued from page 2)

Despite its limited impact on the overall war, the Aleutian campaign furnished several important lessons in amphibious and poor weather operations that were applied in later campaigns in the European and Pacific theaters. It also provided green American troops with valuable combat experience.

For the public though, the most important aspect of the victory was that it secured America's "northern flank," and eased fears that the islands would be used to launch an invasion against the mainland.

For Japan, the Aleutians diversion was a failure. Although it had provided morale-boosting propaganda at home, it was ultimately a waste of valuable resources.



Troops landing at Kiska in August, 1943.

Contact us!

For information about the memorial, the preliminary design, 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@wwiimemorial.com

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN

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R. Albert Roensch
Richard M. Rosenberg
Walter Shorenstein
Stanley Star
John Teets
Jack Valenti
Edward E. Whitacre Jr.

Executive Director
James W. Aylward

GETTING READY FOR THE HUNT....



An armorer of the 15th Air Force checks ammunition belts of the .50-caliber machine guns in the wings of a P-51 Mustang fighter plane before it leaves an Italian base for a mission against German military targets. The 15th Air Force was organized for long range assault missions and its fighters and bombers ranged over enemy targets in occupied and satellite nations, as well as Germany itself.
(Photo and caption from the National Archives)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

(continued from page 1)

In addition to the documentary, The History Channel will sponsor a major outreach to schools with a nationwide SAVE OUR HISTORY™ initiative to educate future generations about the war and create awareness for the memorial.

The initiative will include a penny drive, a free 56-page teachers manual, a video contest for middle and high school students, and on-line support at historychannel.com. Teachers can request the free manual by calling 1-877-87-LEARN.



AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER SAYS THANK YOU

The American Music Theater, located in historic Lancaster, Penn., will host a benefit premiere of its new musical revue "HITWAVE" on April 8, 2000.

HITWAVE celebrates the sights and sounds, music and dance of the war and post-war years. This special tribute is sure to bring back special memories!

The production will run through September, and a portion of the proceeds will go to the memorial.

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was instrumental in arranging this affiliation between the theater and the memorial.

Tickets for the benefit premiere are \$50 per seat. Tickets for the remainder of the run are \$28; group rates are available. For additional information, contact the theater at 800-648-4102.