

# ★ ★ National ★ ★ WWII Memorial

Volume 4, Number 1

A Newsletter of the World War II Memorial Society

Fall 2001

## Work Begins at Construction Site National Chairmen Say “Thank You”

**A**fter years of effort and months of delay, construction of the memorial finally has begun and the necessary funds have been raised.

Think back to early 1997: an approved site, but no design; just \$10 million in the bank, nearly all of it start-up funds from the federal government. Today we have an approved design, work underway, and \$175 million in cash and pledges—\$150 million of it raised through our public campaign.

Your generous monetary gifts are just part of the important role you played over the past several years. You spread the word about the memorial through your communities, conducted innovative promotional events, and wrote letters of support to newspapers and the commissions that must approve the site and design.

This newsletter is filled with the names of corporations, organizations and individuals who made our Campaign Across America a resounding success. As one of the articles mentions, it's impossible to single out everyone who contributed. Those who led the way financially—Wal-Mart Stores, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, SBC Communications, the National Funeral Directors Association, FedEx Corporation, the Lilly Foundation, and the State of Pennsylvania—got the headlines, but it took the united

efforts of hundreds of thousands of individuals across the country to make this memorial a reality.

We owe a debt of thanks to Congress, and not just for the funding they provided the project. The non-partisan support of its members has been steadfast since the initial authorizing legislation was passed in 1993. Most recently, President Bush signed legislation on Memorial Day that directed the expeditious completion of the memorial and cleared the way for construction to begin.

Months have passed since November's ceremonial groundbreaking. What a glorious, but bittersweet day that was, looking out as thousands of WWII veterans rose to accept the thanks of family and friends, while remembering the mil-



*Sen. Bob Dole  
National Chairman*



*Frederick W. Smith  
National Co-Chairman*

lions of comrades who no longer answer the call.

The spirit of that event will remain with us through construction, until we gather together again on the National Mall to dedicate this tribute to sacrifice and achievement. We send our personal thanks to each and every one of you who helped nurture the National WWII Memorial. We will push those involved to “get it done.” Too much time has been wasted the past several years.

May God bless you, your families, and this great nation.



*Construction kicked off on Aug. 27, 2001, with site preparation work at the Rainbow Pool on the National Mall. News media were on hand to document the initial survey team's arrival. See story on page 4. (Photos by Bob Patrick)*

## BATTLEFIELD EXPLOITS....

*In the World War II Almanac 1931-1945, Robert Goralski documents the Sept. 12, 1944, surrender of a German force of 20,000 men under Maj. Gen. Erich Elster to the U.S. 83rd Inf. Div. According to Goralski, Gen. Elster suggested a face-saving mock battle that would be "won" by the Americans, but the U.S. commander turned him down. The following account from a letter that appeared in the Oct. 2, 1979, issue of the Washington Star newspaper provides an interesting perspective on the surrender. The letter was written by Norman T. Hatch, who lived in Alexandria, Va., at the time it was published. Hatch served in the Marine Corps in the Pacific during the war.*

**C**ol. Bertram Kalisch, with whom I worked for 20 years, was photographic officer for Gen. Bradley's 12th Army Group, and one day, while searching for photo opportunities, he met Lt. Sam Magell, who told him about a German general who wished to surrender his whole division.

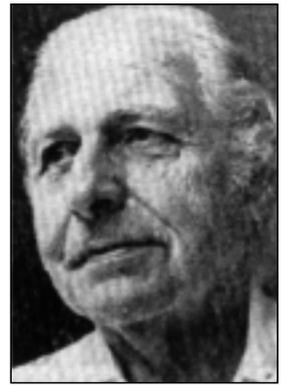
The general's main concern, realizing that he was surrounded and that to fight would cause many unnecessary deaths, was how he could surrender honorably so that his family would not suffer under Hitler's madness. All field commanders had explicit orders to "stand or die."

Sensing a story, Kalisch, who had served in all four military services and had a distinguished career in the newsreel industry, had Mag-

ell pave the way for him to meet Gen. Elster.

Accompanied by motion picture and still cameramen, Kalisch entered Elster's command post under the watchful eyes of the German guards and established a rapport with Elster. He convinced the general that to prove later to the German public that his command was intact and not demoralized, he should allow the U.S. cameramen to photograph the command post personnel at work. This was undoubtedly the only time a German staff headquarters was photographed by their enemy while fighting was still underway.

Kalisch, following his journalistic tendencies, offered Elster an out. If he agreed to march his division to a certain open field near the U.S. headquarters and surrender to an American general, Kalisch would ensure complete press coverage, guaranteeing that the ceremony would be published worldwide, thus showing the world that Elster was an



*Col. Bertram Kalisch*

honorable career officer doing the correct thing. The effect on worldwide public opinion would be such as to save Elster's family from the wrath of Hitler and the general public condemnation in his homeland.

Elster agreed!

Now Kalisch had to sell this idea to several U.S. generals. After several days of reasonable suspicion on all sides, everyone agreed. Kalisch set the time of surrender for shortly after noon, based on the best light to photograph the ceremony. He then planned the most complete photographic arrangements, including a camera airplane which could get the scope of a whole division stretched out on the open plain. He invited all of the news media in the area, of course.

*See **Surrender**, p.11*



*This photo appeared in the Washington Evening Star in September 1944. The caption read: "GERMAN GENERAL SURRENDERS ARMY WITH A SMILE—Lt. Col. J.K. French (right) of Fairfax County, Va., and Lt. Col. Bertram Kalisch (left) of Forest Hills, Long Island, discuss terms of surrender with Gen. Erich Elster and his staff at Romorantin, France. Twenty-two thousand German soldiers, trapped in Southern France and harassed by members of the Maquis, laid down their arms.—Signal Corps Photo" (Photos copyright Washington Post; reprinted by permission of the D.C. Public Library.)*

# ... AND HOME FRONT HEROES

*A remarkable group of Americans known as short-wave monitors have been referred to as "Home Front Heroes." These individuals were a loosely knit group that listened nightly to Axis Sally, Germany's propaganda broadcaster, to get the names of Americans taken prisoner of war. What they did with those names is described in a letter from Frank Davis of Newport, Del., that is excerpted below.*

I was a paratrooper in the 506th Parachute Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division that jumped into Normandy during the D-Day invasion. After 30 some days of fighting, we went back to England and later jumped into Holland in the Market Garden Affair. After 71 days of intense fighting we were relieved and sent to a rear area in Mourmelon, France. Almost immediately, we were sent back into action at Bastogne during the German breakthrough in the Ardennes.

During action at Foy, just outside Bastogne on Dec. 19th, I was badly wounded with shrapnel wounds in my back and in the backs of my arms and legs. The medics pulled me off the battlefield and stuffed my wounds full of sulfanilamide powder. I was taken to the 101st Division Field Hospital and received a shot of pain killer, but before I had a chance to have my wounds treated, the Germans overran the field hospital and I was taken prisoner. I would later learn that the Army reported to my family that I was badly wounded and missing in action.

When Allied bombs hit nearby towns and villages, the Germans

had us locating and extracting bodies of civilians. On one occasion when we were walking from one work site to another, a woman who claimed to be from the Red Cross interviewed us. She said she knew we were only able to give our name, rank and serial number, but if we would give her our home addresses, the Germans would broadcast on short-wave that we had been taken prisoner. As a result of these broadcasts, our families would know we were still alive. Several of us in the group decided to go along with her and if it did eventually happen, it would be a big help to our families.

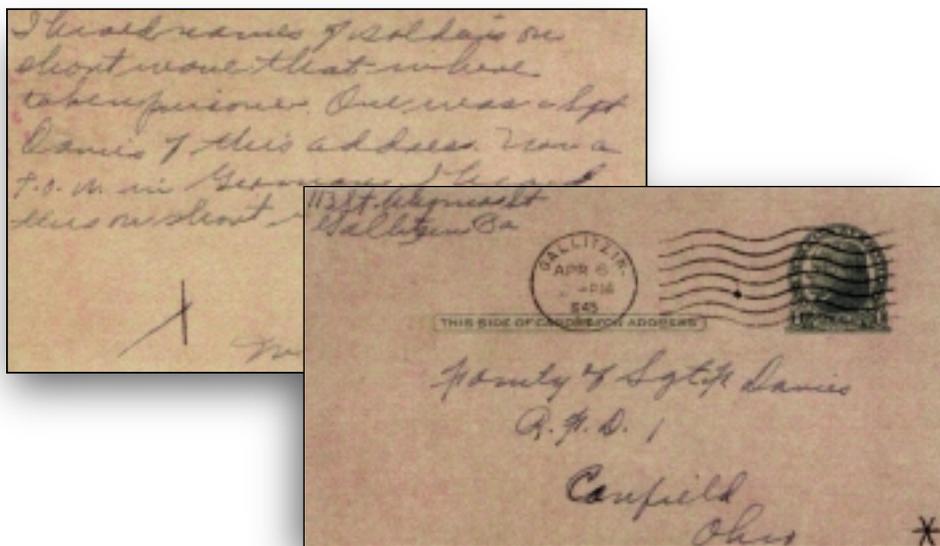
Axis Sally did broadcast the names, ranks, serial numbers and home addresses of many POWs from Dec. 11, 1941 through May 6, 1945. The Germans thought this would sap the morale of the GIs and their families, but it had the opposite

effect. Many civilians picked up Axis Sally's broadcasts on their short-wave radios and sent postcards to the families of the POWs, letting them know that their sons, husbands, brothers and fathers were still alive.

The night my name was broadcast, 38 people listening to their short-wave radios heard Axis Sally's broadcast and sent postcards to my parents. When I got home, mother told me again and again how wonderful it was to receive word from so many others who were sharing her anxiety for loved ones. Each message was additional encouragement. Receiving their messages meant so very much to her.

Forty-nine years later, in 1995, while looking through some of my parents' effects, I came across an envelope that contained the 38 postcards and letters they received from

*See Postcards, p.12*



*This is one of 38 postcards received by Frank Davis' family in April 1945, advising them that he was alive and a POW. The marks on the card were made by his mother to indicate that a thank-you note had been sent. This type of exchange occurred throughout the U.S. during the war.*

# Site Preparation Work Signals Start of Memorial Construction

The memorial project passed a major milestone on Aug. 27 when the joint venture of Tompkins Builders and Grunley-Walsh Construction began preparing the National Mall site for construction.

Scheduled activity during the first few weeks included surveying the site and existing utilities; surveying and mapping new utilities; installing security fencing, project trailers, temporary parking, and erosion control measures; and establishing and mulching tree protection areas.

Actual construction, beginning with utility relocation and preliminary foundation work, could begin by the end of September. The memorial is scheduled for completion in early 2004.

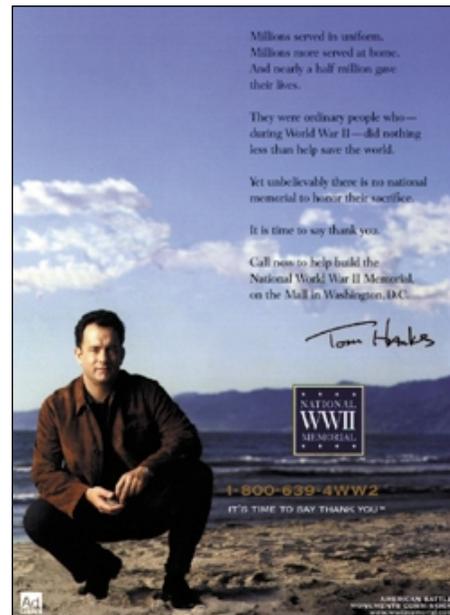
The Tompkins/Grunley-Walsh joint venture was awarded the \$56 million construction contract in June. Tompkins Builders, established in Washington, D.C., in 1911, is the third largest general contractor in the Washington Metropolitan area. Grunley Construc-

tion and Walsh Construction, both headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, trace their roots to the Grunley-Walsh Construction Company founded in 1955.

Construction and renovation projects the companies participated in collectively include the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, the Reflecting Pool, the National Air and Space Museum, the White House, and the U.S. Capitol Building.

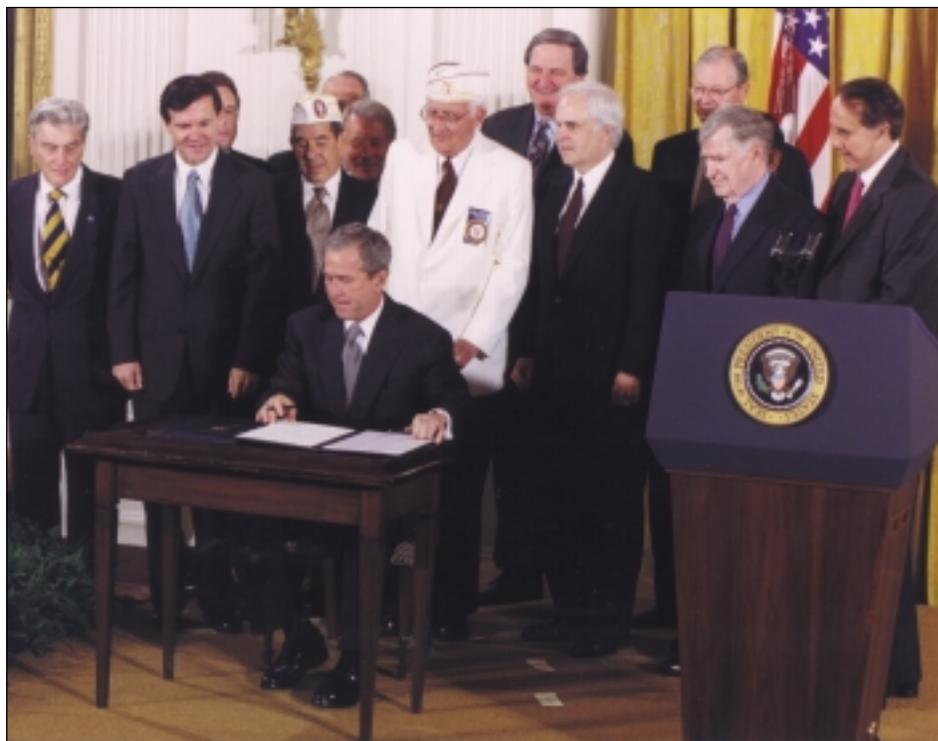
Meanwhile, the memorial design continued to receive support from the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Since approving the final architectural design last fall, the commissions approved several ancillary structures— an information pavilion, comfort station, access road and contemplative area – and the granite that will be used in the memorial.



*Fund raising received a dramatic boost from public service advertisements featuring actor Tom Hanks. The PSA campaign, conducted in partnership with The Advertising Council, generated \$90 million of donated advertising from print, radio and television outlets. The impact of the ads on national awareness is reflected in the number of calls received by our toll free number, which increased from 5,000 to more than 350,000. The ads were created for the campaign by Marsteller Advertising.*

*President Bush signs legislation to expedite construction of the National WWII Memorial. Attendees at the Memorial Day ceremony in the White House included Sen. Bob Dole, national chairman of the memorial campaign, far right; Amb. Haydn Williams, chairman, ABMC WWII Memorial Committee, second from right; Frederick W. Smith, national co-chairman of the memorial campaign, third from right, front row; Sen. John Warner, far left; Sen. Tim Hutchinson, second from left; other Members of Congress and veterans group representatives. Rep. Bob Stump, not shown, sponsored the legislation in the House of Representatives. (White House photo)*



# Memorial Campaign Hits \$175 Million; Public Response Is Overwhelming

**T**he National WWII Memorial fund-raising campaign has received \$175 million in cash and pledges.

The four-year campaign received donations from corporations, foundations, veterans groups, civic, fraternal and professional organizations, states, students and hundreds of thousands of individual Americans.

American Battle Monuments Commission Secretary Major General John P. Herrling, USA (ret), credited the success of the campaign to the leadership of Senator Bob Dole, national chairman, and Frederick W. Smith, chairman and CEO of FedEx Corporation, who serves as national co-chairman.

"The commitment of time and effort given to the memorial by Senator Dole and Fred Smith is a tribute to their public service," General Herrling said. "They brought a national focus to our fund-raising effort that allowed us to achieve our goals."

The campaign received a significant boost in 1999 when public service ads featuring academy award winner Tom Hanks began appearing across the country. Hanks' message to the American people, that "it's time to say thank you" to America's WWII generation, struck a responsive chord and created a groundswell of support.

The thanks came from a variety of sources:

From Wal-Mart and SAM's Club associates and customers, who donated \$14.8 million, the largest single gift...to Zane Fayos, a 12-year-old from Fayetteville, N.Y., who donated his life savings of

<b>Funding Sources</b>	
<i>Cash and pledges were received from the following sources:</i>	
Corporations	\$ 48.9 million
Charter Members / Individuals	\$ 46.2 million
States	\$ 16.2 million
Federal Government	\$ 15.8 million
Foundations	\$ 14.3 million
Veterans Groups	\$ 13.8 million
Earned Interest	\$ 8.6 million
Fraternal & Professional Groups	\$ 6.2 million
Cause Related Marketing	\$ 3.0 million
Community Action Councils	\$ 1.7 million
Schools	\$ .8 million
	<b>\$175.5 million</b>

\$195 after seeing a Hanks' public service ad.

From the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which is leading all veterans groups with its goal of \$6 million...to students and community action councils nationwide that together raised \$2.5 million.

From The American Legion and SBC Foundation, who gave more than \$3 million each...to the National Funeral Directors Association, The Lilly Endowment and FedEx Corporation, \$2 million or more each...to states asked to donate one dollar for each state citizen that served in uniform during WWII, a program that generated \$16 million led by Pennsylvania's \$2 million gift.

The \$175 million received includes nearly \$16 million provided by the federal government and \$8 million interest earned on funds

deposited with the U.S. Treasury.

Funds remaining or received after all project costs are paid will remain in the National WWII Memorial Trust Fund. The funds will be used by the American Battle Monuments Commission solely to benefit programs of the WWII Memorial.

**FOR INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE  
WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL:**

*visit our web site*  
**WWII Memorial.com**

*call*  
**1 (800) 639-4WW2**

*or e-mail*  
**custsvc@wwiimemorial.com**



*The north arch and several pillars representing the states and territories are depicted in a setting of fall colors in this perspective from the plaza. (Design by Friedrich St. Florian; rendering by artist Michael McCann)*



*A springtime visitor to the memorial will see this view while looking across the memorial toward the arch and pillars at the southern end of the plaza. (Design by Friedrich St. Florian; rendering by artist Michael McCann)*

# Wal-Mart, VFW Lead Campaign Success

To list all contributors that made our Campaign Across America a success would take more pages than are available in this newsletter. We would be remiss, however, if we did not spend a few paragraphs describing some of the campaign highlights.

## Corporations

Just as Corporate America, the nation's "Arsenal of Democracy," was essential to the success of the Allied victory in the Second World War, so too has today's Corporate America played an essential role in supporting the memorial. Approximately 280 corporations and companies—large and small—contributed nearly \$50 million.

## WAL★MART®

Eleven corporations contributed a million dollars or more: Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., SBC Communications, Inc., FedEx Corporation, Boeing Company, Abbott Laboratories, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Daimler Chrysler Corporation Fund, Eastman Kodak, Exxon Mobil, Omnicom Group, Inc., and Tyco International.

Three of them supported our efforts in other ways. Wal-Mart customers and associates not only made the largest single contribution—\$14.8 million—but its promotional efforts through 3,000 stores and its national advertising provided unparalleled outreach in local communities.

FedEx Corporation's support touched all facets of the campaign, including developing and launching the memorial web site, providing in-kind shipping for educational and promotional materials, and underwriting campaign events.

SBC Communications, Inc. made a \$3 million contribution to

the memorial – the second largest corporate contribution – and its employee/retiree drive reached friends, family members, neighbors and community leaders throughout SBC's 25-state territory and raised another \$335,000.

## Charter Members / Individuals

More than 500,000 individuals gave a total of \$46 million. Sarkis Acopian's \$1 million gift topped the list of individual donors.

Our charter members donated \$33.4 million through the campaign's direct mail program, and \$7.7 million through our web site or toll free telephone number.

## States

States, commonwealths and territories honored their WWII veterans through the State Donor Program. All fifty states and one territory donated \$16.2 million, led by Pennsylvania's \$2 million gift.

This program succeeded through the dedication and support of governors, state directors of veterans affairs, and legislators across the country who sponsored bills and fought for this recognition of their state's WWII veterans.

## Veterans

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion stepped forward to lead the way in support of the memorial.

In 1998, the VFW began a "matching gift" program whereby the organization matched each dollar they collected with 50 cents from the VFW national organization. Their goal is \$6 million, which will be the second

largest gift of the campaign.

The American Legion family, including the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion, were the first major veterans organization to join the campaign. The Legion raised more than \$4.3 million.

The Disabled American Veterans gave an initial gift of \$500,000, then conducted a membership drive that brought in another \$148,000.

Major gifts of \$100,000 or more were received from the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Association of the United States Army, Military Order of the World Wars, and The Retired Officers Association. In all, over 400 veterans organizations and WWII reunion groups contributed.

## Federal Government

Although the legislation that authorized the memorial in 1993 specified that funding come from private sources, the federal government contributed nearly \$16 million.

In 1996, \$9.8 million was provided to cover initial start-up and on-going administrative costs of the project: \$5 million from the Department of Defense WWII 50th Anniversary account, and \$4.8 million from the sale of 50th Anniversary commemorative coins.

Last year, Senator John Warner sponsored legislation that authorized an additional \$6 million for the memorial from the sale of titanium reserves.

## Foundations

More than 160 foundations contributed \$14.3 million. The fol-



lowing gave \$1 million or more: the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Starr Foundation, the Harry and Grace Steele Foundation, the Knight Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., and the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

### Fraternal

The B.P.O. Elks, one of the nation's oldest and most distinguished fraternal organizations, exceeded its goal of raising \$1 per member nationwide. The Elks, through lodge contributions and individual gifts, raised more than \$1.3 million and contributions continue.



The Knights of Columbus are continuing their nationwide campaign for the memorial after exceeding their \$500,000 goal.

Major gifts were also received from the Daughters of the American Revolution (\$480,000), the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity (\$101,000), the Fraternal Order of Eagles (\$61,000), the Sons of Italy in America (\$100,000 pledge), and Image Tours (\$65,000).

### Professional

The National Funeral Directors Association conducted the largest single nationwide fund-raising event during the campaign. On Veterans Day, November 11, 2000, at 2 p.m. EST, millions of bio-degradable red, white and blue balloons were released across the country as the keystone event in the NFDA's "Celebration of Freedom" Campaign.

The NFDA raised more than



\$2.6 million. Their campaign got a jump-start with a \$250,000 pledge from Wilbert Funeral Services, Inc. and a \$100,000 pledge from Batesville Casket Company.

When their fund-raising campaign concludes, the NFDA will continue to gather names of WWII veterans and home front workers for the memorial's Registry of Remembrances.

The National Association of Federal Credit Unions exceeded its \$100,000 goal and continues to raise funds through a nationwide membership drive. Major gifts in the professional associations donor program were also received from the Alabama Farmer's Federation, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, and the National Association of Electrical Distributors.

### Cause Marketing

With the enthusiastic help of companies such as Super 8 Motels, Philips Lighting and others, public awareness brought thousands of calls and millions of dollars in support. People were able to say "thank you" during the course of their shopping day or while traveling across the country.



While most cause-related marketing campaigns have drawn to a close, a few will continue to allow the public to honor the memories of WWII veterans in special ways.

Through the end of this year, American Forests Famous and Historic Trees is selling a Dwight D. Eisenhower Green Ash Tree in Wal-Mart Stores and at events with local veterans organizations; Star Roses' WWII Memorial rose bush is available through April 2003; and later this year, American Entertainment Concepts' *From the Heart of the American Veteran* is scheduled for production.

### Community Action

Nearly 500 volunteers, working alone and in Community Action Councils, dedicated time, creativity, and enthusiasm to promote the campaign.

Volunteers organized events, made thousands of presentations, and contributed hundreds of editorial letters and articles. They spent countless hours standing in front of stores, manning information booths at local fairs, and canvassing neighborhoods, raising almost \$2 million.

Thirty volunteers and Community Action Councils raised more than \$10,000 each, led by Viola Lyon and Linda Johnson, Community Action Council of the Quad Cities of Illinois and Iowa (\$86,629); Christine Dialectos of Wyomissing, Pa. (\$63,559); and Dave Hilliard, Readers of the Daily Item in Lewisburg, Pa. (\$62,937). Another 127 exceeded the \$1,000 threshold.

Just as America united to defeat tyranny in the 1940s, the nation again united to say thank you to the members of our WWII generation.

Thank you, America, for making this campaign a resounding success.



*Quad-City Community Action Council co-chairs Linda Johnson (left) and Viola Lyon at a White House reception honoring the WWII Memorial. (Photo courtesy of the Dispatch/Argus Leader)*

# Students, History Channel Benefit Memorial

**H**undreds of thousands of students from across the nation spent the past two years learning about the Second World War while supporting the memorial in the process.

Selling snack food, collecting loose change and organizing everything from car washes to bake sales, students raised nearly \$800,000. More than \$1,000 each was raised by 197 schools.

Leading the way were Eagle High School, Idaho; Bakersfield High School, Calif.; the students of Louisiana; Altoona Area School District, Penn.; the Memphis City Schools, Tenn.; and Milwaukie High School, Ore.

Many of the schools used materials developed by The History Channel to promote awareness of WWII. The History Channel honored WWII veterans with two World Premiere SAVE OUR HISTORY

specials, an award-winning national campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education.

In 1999, the network debuted *Dear Home: Letters from WWII*. As told through the letters sent home by the soldiers who experienced it, viewers learned what it was like to be on the front lines during WWII.



**THE HISTORY CHANNEL.**  
WHERE THE PAST COMES ALIVE.

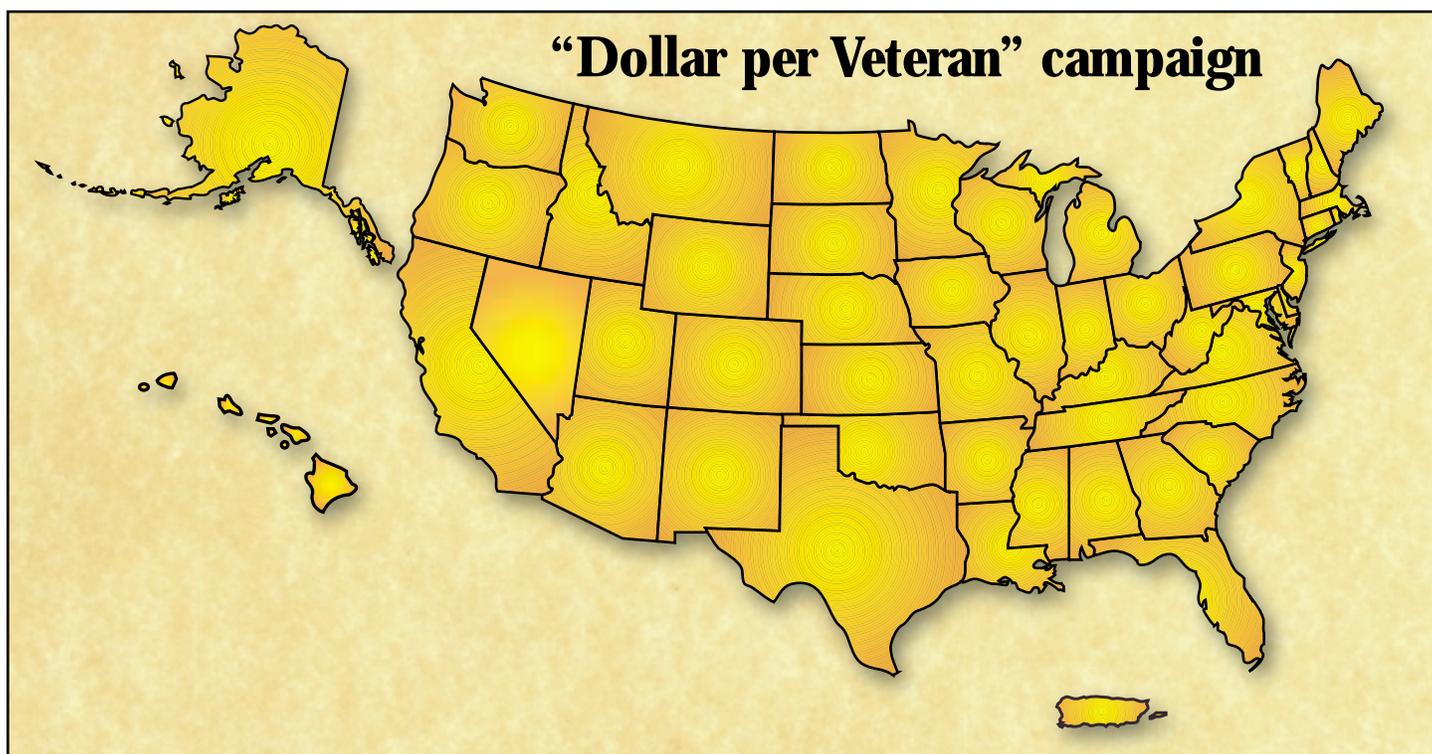
In 2000, The History Channel presented *The National World War II Memorial* that traced the memorial's development through those playing key roles in its creation, interweaving personal stories of veterans and home front volunteers that informed viewers of the memo-

rial's meaning and inspired them to become part of the creation.

The network created a variety of components to complement these specials as part of its community outreach initiative. Both specials featured a teacher's manual geared toward students in grades 4 through 12 that provides an interdisciplinary approach to teaching about the WWII effort and guidelines for recording oral history. Manuals were distributed to more than 75,000 educators nationwide.

More than 1,200 schools participated in various phases of the memorial education program. Above all, the program was an educational experience for participating students, not a fund-raising competition.

The benefits of students' outreach to WWII heroes in their families and communities, hearing firsthand the incredible stories of those who lived through the war years, is priceless.



All fifty states and Puerto Rico have honored their World War II veterans by participating in the National World War II Memorial "Dollar per Veteran" campaign.

# Teens' Aviation Magazine Supports Memorial

It may be common for young people to acknowledge their appreciation for veterans, but few have devoted their personal lives to honoring them and supporting their causes. Such is the case of an enterprising group of four teenagers, high school and college students, from Montoursville, Pa.

They have labored since 1994 to document the exploits of American airmen, culminating in the production of an aviation history magazine called *Ghost Wings*.

Now in its second year of publication, *Ghost Wings*, released quarterly, features 48 glossy color pages of seldom-heard accounts from WWII to the Gulf War. The cover of the magazine proudly displays its mission statement: "Preserving the Sacrifices of America's Veterans."

Inspired by their grandfathers' service stories and pictures from WWII, the teens began producing an aviation newsletter in 1994, which evolved into the first issue of *Ghost Wings* magazine in May 1999. They were soon selling the magazine at air shows, retail outlets, and on their award-winning web site [www.ghostwings.com](http://www.ghostwings.com). These young entrepreneurs, on their own, raised the funds to produce each of the five issues to date.

The staff of *Ghost Wings* has used the publication and web site to raise awareness for the WWII Memorial Campaign. They have devoted their back cover ad space to memorial announcements and handed out fund-raising brochures at over 30 air shows.

This past September, Editor Adam Makos represented the views of his staff when he testified before the National Capital Planning Commission during the final

approval hearings for the design of the memorial.

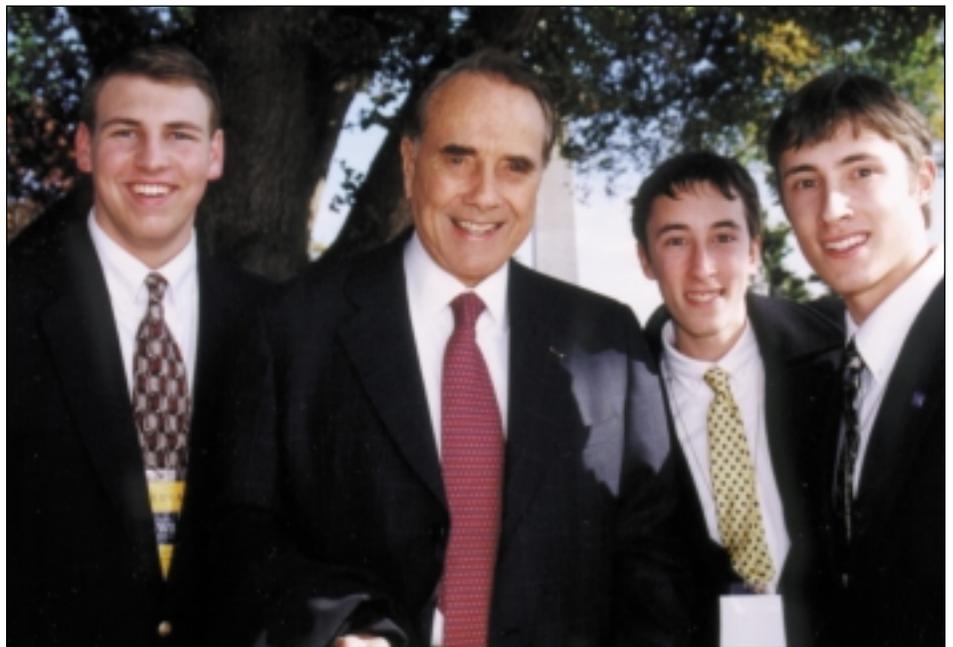
With the magazine now expanding to 56 pages to accommodate the great stories pouring in, the primary need for continued success, according to Makos, is an increase in readership. Veterans are helping by ordering gift subscriptions for their children, grandchildren, and local libraries.

Support has also come from groups like the 8th Air Force Historical Society, which endorsed the magazine, and individuals like author Stephen Ambrose, who encouraged the work of *Ghost Wings* during a visit with the publishers last fall. Others can help this outstanding project by assisting the staff in the search for



new subscribers, advertisers, and retail outlets.

To learn more, visit [www.ghostwings.com](http://www.ghostwings.com), e-mail [ghostwng@csr-link.net](mailto:ghostwng@csr-link.net), or write to *Ghost Wings* Magazine, 1004 Yeagle Road, Montoursville, PA 17754.



*Ghost Wings* staff members (from left) Joe Gohrs, Bryan Makos and Adam Makos with Senator Dole at last November's ceremonial groundbreaking.

## WWII Generation Honored at Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony

A crowd of 15,000, mostly WWII veterans and families and friends, attended the ceremonial groundbreaking for the National WWII Memorial on Veterans Day last fall at the memorial's Rainbow Pool site on the National Mall.

President Clinton told those gathered, "We are the children of your sacrifice, and we thank you forever."

Senator Bob Dole thanked his fellow WWII veterans for their service, and said, "For some this memorial will be a place to mourn. For millions of others, it will be a place to learn, to reflect, and to draw inspiration for whatever tests confront generations yet unborn."

Haydn Williams, chairman of ABMC's memorial committee, said that WWII "changed forever the face of American life and the direction of world history. The addition of the WWII Memorial to the Mall's great landmarks will represent a continuation of the American story. It will provide a linkage to the democratic ideals of the past."

"The members of my generation hold within them thousands of stories," said Tuskegee Airman Luther

Smith, "stories of events that unfolded many years ago. The telling of those stories will end all too soon, but the lessons they teach must be remembered for generations to come."



Actor Tom Hanks brought a hush to the crowd when he read a dispatch that WWII war correspondent Ernie Pyle had filed from Italy in December 1943.

Other participants included Rep. Marcy Kaptur, who introduced the legislation to authorize the memorial; WWII veteran Members of Congress; and representatives of the WWII generation, including 101-year-old Gold Star Mother Winifred Lancy.

Production costs of the ceremony were underwritten by Steven Spielberg. Others contributing to the program's success were Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., FedEx Corporation, The History Channel, The Coca-Cola Co., Signature Advertising, LLC, the Department of Defense and Military District of Washington, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and hundreds of students and volunteers.

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### *Surrender, continued from p.2*

On the day set for the surrender, all were present on the U.S. side. Our generals were still somewhat dubious. The time for Gen. Elster's appearance came and went. Another hour went by and then a second. Still no Elster. By this time, Kalisch was having General Trouble, but he convinced the staff to wait another 30 minutes.

Finally, down the road came Elster in his staff car, and marching behind him came his whole division. They reached as far back as one could see, and slowly but surely they marched into the open field and stacked their arms. Gen. Elster

offered his side arms in symbolic surrender, and everything was photographed in great detail.

Gen. Elster was late because he had had a flat tire and it had to be patched before they could travel on it. He apparently wanted to arrive in style and almost missed his own party.

So ends the story of the only surrender in history of an entire enemy division arranged primarily for photographic purposes. Whatever the reason, it saved many lives.

*An editor's note at the end of the letter read: "Col. Kalisch modestly con-*

*firms this account. 'I was just fortunate to be at the right spot at the right time,' he explains. His rapport with the German general was established when Col. Kalisch mentioned that his mother came from a village in Wurtemberg near Gen. Elster's birthplace. 'Ah, we are neighbors!' the general exclaimed."*

*(Col. Kalisch died in 1985 at the age of 83. The letter and photos were brought to our attention by Charter Member Bob Wilson, Col. Kalisch's nephew.)*

# Bush Names New ABMC Commissioners

**A**sitting governor and six retired general officers are among 11 commissioners appointed to the American Battle Monuments Commission by President Bush.

The new commissioners replace those appointed during President Clinton's administration. Appointed were:

Lt. Gen. Julius W. Beaton, Jr., U.S. Army (Ret), Va.; Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady, U.S. Army (Ret), Wash.; and Gen. Frederick M. Franks, Jr., U.S. Army (Ret), Pa.

Gen. P.X. Kelly, U.S. Marine

Corps (Ret), Va; Col. Antonio Lopez, U.S. Air Force (Ret), Tenn.; and Mr. Joseph E. Persico, N.Y.

Gov. Thomas J. Ridge, Pa.; CMSgt. Sara A. Sellers, U.S.

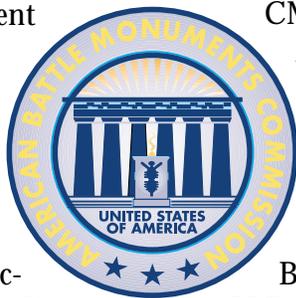
Air Force (Ret), Tenn.; and Former Senator Alan K. Simpson, Wyo.

Maj. Gen. Will Hill Tankersley, U.S. Army Reserve (Ret), Ala.; and

Brig. Gen. Ellen Turner, U.S. Air Force (Ret), Texas.

Maj. Gen. John P. Herrling, U.S. Army (Ret), will continue to serve as secretary of the commission.

ABMC, the federal agency designated by Congress to establish the



National WWII Memorial, is responsible for 24 American military cemeteries and 27 memorials, monuments and markers in 15 countries, including five memorials in the U.S.

## Postcards, continued from p.3

the short-wave operators. They came from the East Coast, the Southern and central parts of the country.

I immediately wrote to all 38 original addresses of those who had written a card. The letter explained my background and that I was hoping to hear from the person who had written the original card, or maybe from their immediate family. I wanted to express my sincere thanks not only for myself but also on behalf of all the other POWs.

It has always astonished me that so few people ever knew that the short-wave monitoring took place. Only the families of those who did the monitoring and the families of POWs who received their cards were aware of these activities.

As a result of my letters and newspaper and magazine articles, my wife and I have been able to identify many more of the short-wave monitors. When we started, we had hopes of identifying maybe a hundred or more of these wonderful people, but at last count we have the names and addresses of 469!

The short-wave monitors were an important part of the lives of the POWs, their families and our national history.

*(If you have information on individuals who were short-wave monitors during WWII, please contact Frank Davis by writing to 1600 Victory Drive, Newport, Del. 19804.)*



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