

1945

2020



75th

KEEP THE SPIRIT OF '45 ALIVE

In 2010, Congress passed a resolution establishing the 2nd Sunday of every August as "Spirit of '45 Day" to preserve the World War II generation legacy as a source of inspiration for future generations:

"Whereas, August 14, 1945, marked not only the end of the war, but also the beginning of an unprecedented era of rebuilding in which the United States led the effort to restore the shattered nations of the Allies and their enemies alike and to create institutions to work towards a more peaceful global community."

In 2013, Oregon became the first state to legislate a permanent "Spirit of '45 Day". This day forever honors the WWII Generation's example of courage, shared-sacrifice, 'can-do' attitude, spirit, unity and service.

Our mission is to commemorate the achievements and virtues of the World War II Generation, on the 2nd Sunday of every August, so as to inspire future generations.

Today is the 2nd of five Spirit of '45 Days that observe World War II 75th anniversaries. Each year through 2020, the nation will honor the turning points of WWII. In 2017, we recognize WWII's Air Power and the 75th Anniversary of the Doolittle Raid over Tokyo.

WWII 75th Anniversaries

WWII Event

- 1941 Pearl Harbor Attack
- 1942 Jimmy Doolittle Raid
- 1943 Eisenhower In Command
- 1944 D-Day, Battle of the Bulge
- 1945 V-E Day V-J Day

75th Theme

- 2016 Seaborne Services
- 2017 Air Power
- 2018 Ground Forces
- 2019 All Service Branches
- 2020 Spirit of '45 Day

Oregon Spirit of '45 Day

Sunday, August 13, 2017, 11 AM

Willamette National Cemetery

Flyovers by Portland Air Guard F-15s & West Coast Ravens



Doolittle and Oregon Raiders from Portland, Salem, Medford, Cottage Grove, Marshfield Salute to Dick Cole (far right), the last Raider survivor @ 101 years young

Prelude.....	Spirit of '45 Anthem	Bret Lucich
Invocation.....	.....	Chaplain Joseph White
Assembly .....	.....	Bob Rutherford
Presentation of Colors.....	.....	Civil Air Patrol
National Anthem.....	.....	Karin Penn
Pledge of Allegiance	Spirit Message	Barbara Jensen
.....	.....	Oregon Spirit of '45 Founder/President
Welcome .....	.....	George Allen
.....	.....	Willamette National Cemetery Director
Congressional Salute	Evan Hessel for US Senator Ron Wyden	
Wreath Presentation .....	.....	WWII Veterans
.....	.....	Recognized by OR Dept. of Veterans Affairs Director Cameron Smith
'Air Power' Keynote Speakers .....	.....	Benjamin Berry, Jr.
.....	.....	Son of Tuskegee Airman, Benny 'Flaps' Berry
.....	.....	Jonna Doolittle Hoppes
.....	.....	Granddaughter, Aviation Pioneer General Jimmy Doolittle
'One Hero', Military Honors .....	.....	American Legion
Taps .....	.....	Bob Rutherford
Benediction .....	.....	Chaplain Joseph White
Retirement of the Colors .....	.....	Civil Air Patrol
.....	.....	Dismissal & Postlude

Officer of the Day: Navy Captain Leo Sidebotham (Retired Military)
Master of Ceremonies – Jacob Platt (Willamette National Cemetery)