NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM

A National Treasure Honoring the Heroes of World War II

New Orleans, LA – Originally founded as the National D-Day Museum in 2000, the National World War II Museum interprets the American experience during World War II with moving personal stories, historical artifacts and powerful interactive displays. From the invasion of Normandy to the sands of the Pacific islands, the museum brings to life the teamwork, courage and sacrifices of the men and women who won the war and helped change the world.

The 70,500-square-foot Museum features a number of permanent exhibitions that give everything from an overview of World War II’s economic and political roots to the build-up and military mobilization of Allied Forces in the 17 D-Days around the world. Some of the museum highlights include a reproduction Higgins landing craft; interactive galleries with electronic maps, mini-theaters and photomurals; oral history stations where visitors can hear the stories of veterans and home front workers; a 110-seat auditorium where Academy Award nominated films are broadcast; and more than 6,000 artifacts and 100 linear feet of materials on the history of America’s role in the war.

 Visitors start their self-guided tour on the top floor and work their way down to the bottom level. Special exhibitions have also highlighted topics such as baseball during the war, Hollywood, medals of honor, snapshots of D-Day, the Marshall Plan and the liberation of Italy. The National World War II Museum store also features period music, house ware, posters and the largest collection of War War II books in the country. It takes roughly two to three hours to tour the entire facility.

New Orleans played an important role in the war and locally-based Higgins Industries produced the landing crafts that brought US soldiers to shore in every major amphibious assault. Andrew Jackson Higgins and his 30,000 Louisiana workers designed, built and tested more than 20,000 crafts. President Dwight Eisenhower once claimed that Higgins was “the man who won the war for us.”

In the summer of 2009, the museum will open its Victory Theatre, a state-of-the-art movie venue that will feature 4-D technology, 180-degree screen, surround sound and atmospheric effects like steam from the jungles of Guadalcanal and snow in the Ardennes. The theatre will feature regular showings of Beyond all Boundaries, a cinematic experience designed exclusively for the museum by director Paul Hettema and producer Tom Hanks, a longtime supporter of the museum and its mission.
Adjacent to the theatre, the *Stage Door Canteen* will be a music, dining and entertainment venue that transports visitors back to a time when dancing and entertainment was an integral part of the war effort. When the museum’s entire expansion is completed by 2014, the museum will have more than tripled its size with five additional exhibition pavilions.

The National World War II Museum Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization established in 1992. More than 40 national and international corporations are members of the Museum's Founder's Society. The museum is located at 945 Magazine St. in New Orleans. It is open Tue.-Sun. from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call (504) 527-6012 or visit [www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org).


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