



HEARTS VETERANS MUSEUM OF TEXAS

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May 2017 95th Edition

World War II

On May 7, 1945 in a small red brick schoolhouse in Reims, Germany, General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of all German fighting forces thus ending World War II in Europe.

Historically the war is said to have begun in September 1939. However, many historians believe that the seeds of the Second World War were sown at the Treaty of Versailles. Although many did not realize it at the time the war effectively began in 1933 when Adolf Hitler became the German Chancellor. In 1937 Adolf Hitler held a secret conference in the Reich Chancellery and revealed his plans for the acquisition of Lebensraum, or living space, for the German people at the expense of other nations in Europe. Over the next two years Germany conquered or controlled almost all of Europe.

The tide of the war in Europe changed in 1943. Germany was defeated at Stalingrad and the allies invade Sicily and Italy. On the Eastern Front, the Allied invasion of Sicily and the Allied invasion of Italy which brought about Italian surrender. In 1944, the Western Allies invaded German-occupied France, while the Soviet Union regained all of its territorial losses and invaded Germany and its allies.

The war in Europe concluded with an invasion of Germany by the Western Allies and the Soviet Union, culminating in the capture of Berlin by Soviet troops and the subsequent German unconditional surrender.

World War II altered the political alignment and social structure of the world. The United Nations (UN) was established to foster international co-operation and prevent future conflicts. The victorious great powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, the United Kingdom, and France—became the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

In This Issue

- World War II
- Military Humor
- Museum Attendance
- Directors Notes
- Volunteer Page
- Memorial Day
- Veterans Corner

The Soviet Union and the United States emerged as rival superpowers, setting the stage for the Cold War, which lasted for the next 46 years.

World War II involved every major military power of that time. It was the most widespread war in history, and directly involved more than 100 million people from over 30 countries. In a state of "total war", the major participants threw their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities behind the war effort, erasing the distinction between civilian and military resources. World War II remains as the deadliest conflict in human history.

Director's Notes

"To Our Unsung Heroes"

What do you think of when someone talks about a Hero?

Often when people think of heroes the names that come to mind are public figures, they might be sports figures, political figures, military, law enforcement, fire fighters, etc.

I agree that many of these individual are true heroes, but I think too often we miss those heroes that we see everyday. They are all around us.

These heroes are not hard to find. Sometimes we just forget to look.

If you want to find a hero just look around you. They are the people who are constantly giving of themselves. Just who are these 'Unsung Heroes". They are:

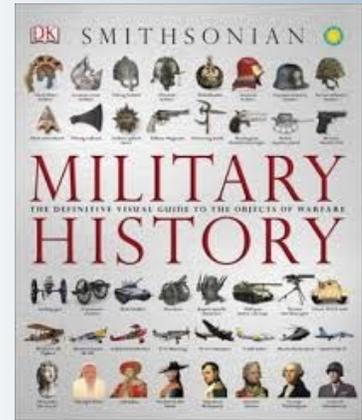
The person at the hospital who asks if you want a paper.

The volunteer who helps at the animal shelter.

The youth leader at the church.

The volunteer who helps build houses for the needy.

The scout leader who has served for over 30 years.



This Month in Military History

May 1, 1960 - Francis Gary Powers U-2 spy plane was shot down over Sverdlovsk Russia

May 8, 1942 - The Battle of the Coral Sea began. The battle was Japan's first major defeat of the war.

May 11, 1862 - To prevent its capture by Union forces the Confederate navy destroyed the Merrimac. The earlier battle between the Merrimac and the Monitor changed naval warfare forever.

May 14, 1942 - An Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp

Upcoming events....Mark your calendars

May 9 (remember all those socks that you have lost)	Lost Sock Memorial Day
May 10	Clean Up Your Room Day
May 14	Mother's Day
May 17 (hopefully you cleaned your room last week)	Pack Rat Day
May 20	Armed Forces Day

Museum Visitors

Last month we had 381 total visitors from 14 states, and 3 foreign countries, The Netherlands, Norway, and Belgium

102 students visited the museum and volunteers conducted 4 group tours



Military Humor

Notable Quotables

The cost of freedom is high and Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission.

John F. Kennedy

Life is like riding a bicycle.
To keep your balance, you must
keep moving.

— Albert Einstein



VOLUNTEER PAGE

"Shifty" By Chuck Yeager

Shifty volunteered for the airborne in WWII and served with Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 101st Airborne Infantry.

If you've seen Band of Brothers on HBO or the History Channel, you know Shifty. His character appears in all 10 episodes, and Shifty himself is interviewed in several of them.

I met Shifty in the Philadelphia airport several years ago. I didn't know who he was at the time. I just saw an elderly gentleman having trouble reading his ticket. I offered to help, assured him that he was at the right gate, and noticed the "Screaming Eagle," the symbol of the 101st Airborne, on his hat.

Making conversation, I asked him if he'd been in the 101st Airborne or if his son was serving. He said quietly that he had been in the 101st. I thanked him for his service, then asked him when he served, and how many jumps he made. Quietly and humbly, he said "Well, I guess I signed up in 1941 or so, and was in until sometime in 1945 ..." at which point my heart skipped.

At that point, again, very humbly, he said "I made the 5 training jumps at Toccoa, and then jumped into Normandy . . . do you know where Normandy is?" At this point my heart stopped. I told him "yes, I know exactly where Normandy is, and I know what D-Day was." At that point he said "I also made a second jump into Holland , into Arnhem .." I was standing with a genuine war hero ... and then I realized that it was June, just after the anniversary of D-Day.

I asked Shifty if he was on his way back from France , and he said "Yes... And it 's real sad because, these days, so few of the guys are left, and those that are, lots of them can't make the trip." My heart was in my throat and I didn't know what to say.

I helped Shifty get onto the plane and then realized he was back in coach while I was in First Class. I sent the flight attendant back to get him and said that I wanted to switch seats. When Shifty came forward, I got up out of the seat and told him I wanted him to have it, that I'd take his in coach.

He said "No, son, you enjoy that seat. Just knowing that there are still some who remember what we did and who still care is enough to make an old man very happy." His eyes were filling up as he said it. And mine are brimming up now as I write this.

Shifty died on Jan. 17 after fighting cancer.

There was no parade. No big event in Staples Center

No wall-to-wall, back-to-back 24x7 news coverage.

No weeping fans on television.

And that's not right!

Memorial Day Service

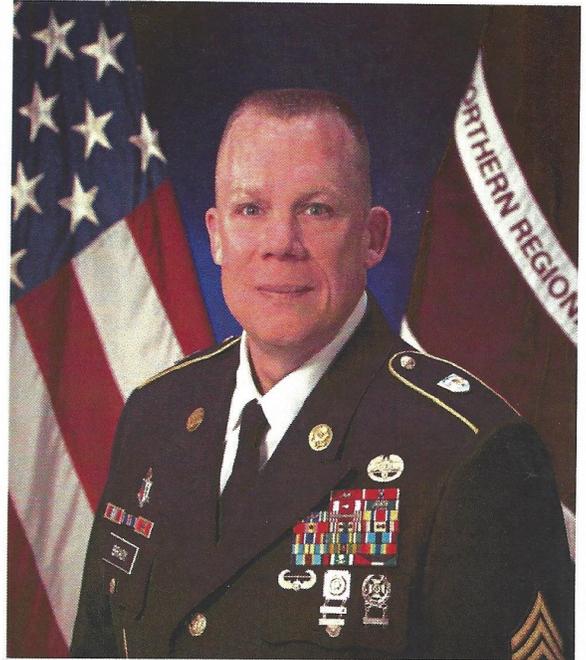
Honoring Those Who Have Made the Ultimate Sacrifice



LTC Champe Miller
Master of Ceremonies



Kevin Brady
U.S. Congressman
Honored Guest



Command Sergeant Major
Matthew Brady

Keynote Speaker



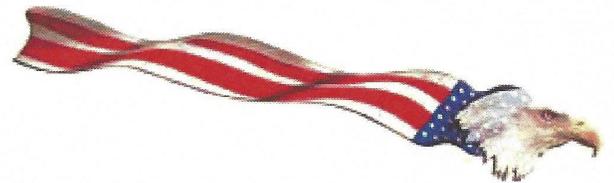
Huntsville Men's Choir



Latrelle Lindon
Soloist



Dale Underwood
Huntsville Men's Choir
Director



Lest We Forget... Freedom Is Not Free

Monday, May 29, 2017 @ 7 PM

Veterans Conference Center – Next to Prison Museum

PUBLIC WELCOME - FREE ADMISSION



*For More Information Please Call
H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum 936-295-5959*



HEARTS Staff and Volunteers prepared for the 2017 Walker County Fair & Rodeo Parade





**Want to Donate to
H.E.A.R.T.S.**

**Every Time you shop at
Kroger?**

**Call Teresa for More
Info @ 936-295-5959**

VETERANS CORNER

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS:

WALKER COUNTY **GERALD NORWOOD** **936-435-2474**

TUES, WED, THURS **8:00AM – 4:00PM**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY **KAY LEE** **936-539-7842**

MON thru FRI **8:00AM – 4:00PM**

TRINITY COUNTY **EUGENE PRATER** **936-594-8067**

MON & TUES **8:00 AM—12:00 PM**

V.A. Medical Center – Houston **1-800-553-2278**

2020 Holcombe Houston, TX 77030 **1-713-791-1414**

V.A. Appointment Center **1-800-639-5137** **1-713-794-8985**

Conroe V.A. Outpatient Clinic **1-800-553-2278 ext 1949**

690 South Loop 336 (FLOORS 3&4) **Conroe, TX 77304** **1-936-522-4000**

VETERANS CRISIS LINE **1-800-273-TALK** **1-800-273-8255**

PHARMACY **Refills 1-713-794-7648** **1-800-454-1062**

FREE LEGAL ADVICE **Every FRIDAY 2:00pm – 5:00pm** **1-713-228-0732**

READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES **1-866-644-5371**

WOMEN VETERAN'S SUPPORT GROUP **936-668-2151**

HEARTS VETERANS MUSEUM **936-295-5959**

TEXAS/UNITED WAY HELPLINE **Dial 211**