



Notes from the Board



As fall approaches and the beauty of a new Michigan season brings cooler temperatures and a vibrant array of colors, it is exciting to envision the completion and dedication of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial next year during such a beautiful time in our community. We continue to see enthusiastic and growing support for the project and are so grateful for the help this past month of Royal Oak's Mayor Mike Fournier and City Commissioner Kyle DuBuc who hosted a fundraiser for us. We are truly fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who have been working hard on the myriad of details around our annual gala, which promises to be a fabulous evening. We look forward to sharing many more successes with you in the months ahead.

No one would have been more proud or excited by the success than our dear friend and Honorary Director, L. Brooks Patterson. We are saddened by this tremendous loss and offer a tribute to him and his legacy at the close of this month's newsletter.

Many thanks to all of you for your ongoing support.
Debi Hollis, President

The Importance of Attending The Victory Gala



Hello to our Faithful Supporters,

It is that time of year again. Our annual fundraiser, The Victory Gala, is right around the corner. This year we are hosting the event at the GM Heritage center in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

As many of you are aware, our organization was founded by my father, David Cameron. We started as "Honor Flight Michigan" and in that time flew over 1,400 veterans to visit the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

We are now furthering Honor Flight Michigan's mission as The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial, building a lasting tribute to Michigan's *Greatest Generation* in Memorial Park, Royal Oak. Our goal is to share the legacy of how residents came together in the most significant event of the 20th century to change the course of history. They are our inspiration as we strive to educate future generations through their legacy.

With the continued help of our supporters we are going to achieve our goals. This is where you are needed. Please come to our Victory Gala and be an important part our success. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Gratefully,
Michael Cameron

Register Now for The Victory Gala



Saturday, October 12, 2019

GM Heritage Center
6400 Center Dr., Sterling Heights

[Click Here to Register](#)

**Register for The Victory
by October 2**

- Do you love to golf?
- Need a vacation?
- Looking to add some excitement to your life?
- Planning a party and don't have time to cook?
- Wanting to freshen up your home decor?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this year's live and silent auctions are just for you!



Enjoy the fabulous food of Two Unique Catering as you bid on auction items displayed amid classic and concept cars.

Sip our signature cocktail as we toast the evening's successes.



Wax up your charge cards and be ready for a great night out!

Honoring our Heroes: The 2019 Victory Award Recipients

The Victory Gala is an important fundraising event for our organization and we are grateful to our volunteers, sponsors, auction item donors, ad purchasers, attendees and many, many others who play roles in making the event a success. But at the heart of this event is The Victory Award, given to those who placed service to country and community at the forefront of their lives.

This year The Victory Award will be given to:

Montford Point Marine Trailblazer



Henry Baul was the fifth African American Marine to enlist after President Roosevelt ordered that the armed forces be open to all those willing to serve. After training at the Montford Point training camp in North Carolina, Gunnery Sergeant Baul served with

distinction in the South Pacific on Iwo Jima and Tarawa. Upon his return to civilian life he ran two successful transportation companies in Detroit.

D-Day Higgins Boat Pilot



John Sobeck, before founding Chicken Shack in 1956 and serving generations of metro Detroiters, provided a very different kind of service. On June 6, 1944, D-Day, Navy Petty Officer Second Class Sobeck piloted a Higgins landing craft repeatedly across the English

Channel, dropping off soldiers under heavy fire as part the largest amphibious landing in history. In all, he served in the European Theater of

On June 27, 2012, surviving Montford Point Marines, including Gunnery Sergeant Baul, were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Operations from 1943 to 1946. Throughout his life John was well-known for his devotion and commitment to the community. His wife, Iola, will be accepting the award in his memory.

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial on the Red Carpet

On September 14, The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial was featured during the Royal Starr Film Festival's showing of "The Silent Soldier and the Portrait," a film featuring WWII veteran and father of the director, Garland Waller and her co-director and husband, Barry Nolan.

The documentary told the story USS Leopoldville survivor John Waller. On Christmas Eve 1944, a German U-boat sunk the ship full of Army soldiers crossing the English Channel to Cherbourg on their way to the Battle of the Bulge. Eight hundred lives were lost in the icy waters and fearing the affect on morale back home, the soldiers were sworn to secrecy. The film retraces John's journey back to England and France at the age of 93 to return a "souvenir" taken from a French chateau. Daughter Garland Waller, award winning producer, writer and director of the TV Graduate program at Boston University, and her father, John, are interviewed on the red carpet in front of our display.



WWII veteran John Waller and his daughter, Garland, are interviewed prior to the showing of The Silent Soldier at the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak.

[Learn more about John Waller's story](#)

In Tribute to L. Brooks Patterson

We were saddened by the loss of our dear friend, L. Brooks Patterson. Brooks was an Honorary Director of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial and a long-time, devoted supporter.

From his own experience as a veteran, to his renowned work on behalf of Oakland County and its residents and businesses, to his efforts to honor the Greatest Generation in our region and the state, Brooks has been a remarkable public servant. He always enjoyed his interactions with the WWII veterans at our events and demonstrated his utmost respect to them for their service. He became one of our biggest advocates – truly cheering us on as we worked towards building a lasting legacy to this WWII generation.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Brooks and to get to know him and understand his dedication to the causes that were important to him. His legacy will live on through projects such as this one. He will be sorely missed.

