



2019: What a Year it Has Been!

The holidays are often a time to reflect on the past year, assessing how we have grown as we plan for the year ahead.

This year we took a deep dive into our mission and asked the hard questions:

- Why is The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial important to the people of our state?
- What should our focus be in order to affect positive change in today's world, inspired by Michigan's Greatest Generation?



In reflecting on these questions, the best way to achieve these goals is to imagine the memorial as an outdoor classroom. Education and community engagement are our focus as we honor Michigan's Greatest Generation, inspiring current and future generations.

We are grateful for your continued support and interest. We want to share with you the progress made this year as well as invite you to consider how you can be a part of this amazing endeavor.

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial Board of Directors

Debi Hollis, President
Russell Levine, Vice-President
John Maten, Vice-President

Kim Jones, Secretary
Michael Cameron
Judy Maten

2019 Milestones

New Website, Newsletter Launched, Social Media Presence Grows:

We launched a new Website as well as a monthly newsletter to keep our supporters better informed. The Website allows visitors to make donations, register for events, and purchase bricks and stars while online. Our social media presence on Facebook continues to educate as well as announce activities and updates. We have close to 1200 followers with an expanded audience as posts are shared.

Education Coalition Formed:

Education is the foundation of our efforts. In collaboration with the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, teachers from across the state have joined in the effort to create experiential learning experiences for classroom students and visitors of all ages based on the themes contained in the Memorial. These lessons will be made available on our Website for use by instructors, civic organizations, faith-

based groups and veteran organizations nationwide. Lessons are aligned with national and state education standards and will promote critical thinking and creativity as we strive to solve today's challenges inspired by Michigan's WWII ingenuity, fortitude and conviction.

Veterans Advisory Council Established:

Veterans are our strength. It is critical they play an integral role in the development of the memorial, both as consultants and in community engagement. Consisting of veterans from WWII to present day, as well as veteran organizations, this group will provide vision and leadership for outreach as well as provide input in the areas of veteran's issues.



Rosie the Riveter Event at UAW-Ford National Program Center:

March 21 has been designated National Rosie the Riveter Day. In recognition of Rosie's contributions to the labor force, the UAW-Ford purchased third-scale bronze replica of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial's Rosie the Riveter statue, which was unveiled by sculptor Larry Halbert at a special event held at the UAW-Ford National Program Center. They dedicated the UAW auditorium to Rosie and hosted 13 original Rosie's from all over the country, who shared stories of their experiences. President Debi Hollis spoke as part of the program.

George Luz, Jr. Speaks at the Kilgour Scottish Centre in Troy:

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-Day, we hosted an evening with George Luz, Jr. who spoke about his father, George Luz, a member of the 101st Airborne's Band of Brothers. The group was made famous in the book by Stephen Ambrose and the movie of the same name. Nearly 100 attended the event.



American Legion Partnership:

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, is working with us on a state-wide outreach to their members for purposes of exposure, brick sales and star sponsorships. Individual chapters and members are being asked to participate and support the project.



First Statue being Prepared for Full-Size Casting:

Sculptor Larry Halbert is preparing "Joe" for full-size casting. Part of the Mail Scene, the statue features a soldier in a foxhole reading a letter from home. This is one of nine life-sized, bronze statues in the memorial.

Royal Starr Film Festival Participation:

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial was invited by Garland Waller, film producer and director, to participate in the Royal Starr Film Festival held at the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak. Waller's film, **The Silent Soldier and the Portrait**, recounted the story of her father, John's WWII experience serving in France.

The Victory Gala held at the GM Heritage Center:

Our fourth annual fundraiser was held in October. With over 200 in attendance, the evening was incredibly moving as we honored Montford Point Marine Henry Baul and Navy D-Day veteran John Sobeck. A strolling dinner and silent and live auction were also featured. The event raised over \$34,000.



Hazel Park/Royal Oak Ruck March:

Over 200 people (plus several dogs) braved the cold weather to participate in the Ruck March, raising awareness for veteran suicide. Personal items were collected by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154 for distribution to needy veterans. Registration fees were donated to The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial, totaling \$3,000.

Significant Donations

In-kind Donations:

The Rock Shoppe, Plymouth:

Owners Marco and Helena Scappaticci have committed an in-kind donation of 25 boulders that will create the "War in Words", a series of boulders surrounding the core design with quotes giving context to the larger war.

Dignity Memorial of Michigan:

Community Relations Manager Barry Burnham worked with his team of funeral directors, committing to an in-kind donation of bronze needed for placards used throughout the memorial.



Monetary Donations:

August Memorial Park Fundraiser:

Royal Oak Mayor Mike Fournier and Commissioner Kyle DuBuc hosted a fundraiser to benefit The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial. Open to the public, the event raised over \$12,000.



Michigan Voluntary Tax Contribution:

Over 2200 Michigan residents donated to The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial when filing their state taxes using Form 4642. Over \$22,000 was donated to our project.

UAW-Ford Commits to Sponsoring Labor Pillar:

The UAW-Ford has committed to donating \$25,000, in addition to their previous donation of \$50,000. The Labor pillar, part of the colonnade of pillars, will be sponsored by the UAW-Ford.

Brick Sales:

During 2019, donations totaling around \$8,000 were received for 48 bricks for the Walk of Honor. There has been a total of 1,127 bricks dedicated to date.



Individual Cash Donations:

We are grateful to those individual donors who made significant contributions throughout the year. Many thanks to WWII veteran Henry Gruzowski for his \$20,000 donation and to an anonymous donor for another \$25,000.

Be an Integral Part of our Success



While we had significant successes this year, we are in need of substantial donations to begin construction.

Your help is needed! You might be asking, "What can I do?"

You can help by:

- Making a donation (monetary, stock, or in-kind)
- Connecting us to others who may want to invest in the project
- Purchasing a brick for the Walk of Honor or star for the Wall of Stars to remember a loved one
- Volunteering at events
- Liking us on Facebook and sharing posts and updates with others

We thank you for considering being a part of this historical project.

Contact Us

Support the Campaign