



"It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past -- a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance, and justice."



US General Douglas MacArthur, from his opening statement at the Japanese surrender, Sept. 2, 1945



The surrender of Imperial Japan on August 15, 1945 and the signing of the formal surrender documents on September 2, brought an end to WWII.

While nations celebrated, there was work to do. Allied forces worked to resettle displaced communities, reconstruct countries decimated by war, and conduct trials for war crimes. WWII ushered in the atomic age. The horrors of the Holocaust brought to light issues of human rights and ethics.

On the home front, returning manufacturing to production of consumer products brought new challenges. Labor issues, including women in the workplace, racism, and civil rights were on the forefront. The building up of the middle class brought new challenges as the GI bill allowed returning soldiers opportunities for advanced degrees and upward mobility--which also brought challenges as people moved to the suburbs.

Historians say WWII was the defining event of the 20th century. The world was forever changed. The legacy of the Greatest Generation has much to teach us as we face today's challenges and forge new paths.

This story is an important part of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial.

### **We Need your Help to tell the Story.**

People often ask "When will the memorial be finished?" The pandemic has had an effect on our ability to fundraise. It is at this time we extend the invitation to each of you to get involved.

We are looking for volunteers interested in working on the Capital Campaign committee. This group will help to identify grants and potential donors. If you have had experience in grant writing, capital campaigns or fundraising, click on the link below to contact us.

We need your help to accelerate fundraising. If you would like to contribute, volunteer or know someone who could contribute, please let us know!

I want to help!

## Thank you to our 75th Anniversary Celebration Video Sponsors



The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial celebrated the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII through a series of short videos which ran from August 14-September 2 on our Facebook page.

The series focused on Michigan's role in the march to victory, both on the home front and overseas. Many veterans and an original Rosie shared their memories. The entire 75th anniversary video series can also be viewed on The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial website.

Several organizations sponsored the video series and we would like to take time to thank them for their support and generosity:

- AMDG Financial, Plymouth
- American Legion Cub Scout Pack 1604, Royal Oak
- Boy Scout BSA Troop 1629, Royal Oak
- D & D Gunsmiths, Troy
- DAR Stoney Creek Chapter, Rochester
- DAR Three Flags Chapter, Lathrup Village
- Frank Wendland American Legion Post 253, Department of Michigan
- Hollywood Markets
- MGA Architects, Royal Oak
- Michigan Heroes Museum, Frankenmuth
- Royal Oak Ford, Royal Oak
- Women in Defense, Michigan Chapter

The generosity of our supporters is greatly appreciated.

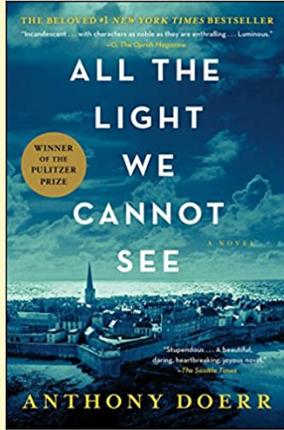
The video series will also be run on WROK cable station for Veterans Day. Look for more details on our Facebook page or upcoming newsletter.

[View Complete Series on our Website](#)



## September's Book of the Month Club

Anthony Doerr has written a stunningly beautiful bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.



Follow the lives of 6-old Marie-Laure who is blind and lives in Paris with her father, and 8-year-old Werner Pfenning, a young orphaned boy in Germany and see how their lives and stories eventually meet. While Marie and her father take refuge at her uncle's home in Saint-Malo, Werner is placed in a boarding school where he hones his technical skills, eventually being placed in the Whermact.

This book is so beautifully written, it is almost poetic. A must read for those who want to get lost in a novel that teaches history through the background story of WWII.