



"The world must know what happened,
and never forget."

General Dwight D. Eisenhower



Remembering VE-Day



We are several weeks into quarantine. Most of us may be asking, "When will this end?" Comparisons are being made to the time the world was engaged in battle and under attack. We asked WWII veteran and

Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson his thoughts and he replied: "There is a similarity between what we are going through now and WWII. We knew the enemy then and we don't fully know the enemy now, but, in both situations we have to rise to the occasion, do what we have to do to survive and stay strong. Both were scary but we will survive."

Alex's words give hope that we too, through perseverance, will prevail.



May 8th marks the 75th anniversary of victory in Europe (VE-Day). Germany surrendered and it was said that celebrations were heard around the world. WWII veteran Bill Rosnyai shares his remembrance of VE-Day in this video as we pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much, so that we may revel in victory.

In the words of General Douglas MacArthur, "There is no substitute for victory."

John Maten, President

Tax Form Contributions:

Your Donations are Critical



With deadlines extended due to the pandemic, there is still time to contribute to The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial when filing your state income tax.

The Michigan Voluntary Contribution Schedule, form 4642, allows tax payers to contribute to a select group of non-profit organizations when submitting your state income tax forms. The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial is on the list. This is an incredible opportunity for us to engage donors from across the state.

This schedule is an additional form and not part of the standard MI 1040 form. To download the form or for more information, please click on the links below.

As supporters, we encourage you to share this information with friends and family as an easy way to support the memorial project. We thank you in advance for your donation!

[For more information](#)

[Download Form 4642](#)

Living the Legacy Family Activities: Recording Your Family's Stories

Why Oral Histories Matter

By Molly Gale, Education Coalition chair

When I was student at Gettysburg College, my Historical Methods professor assigned us a project to not just study history, but to *do* history. I had never completed an oral history before, and I was intimidated.

I ended up completing an oral history of my great uncle, Harry Pfanz, who lived in Maryland and was thus a short drive from where I was in Pennsylvania. I thought I knew a lot about him already. He was a well-known historian, having served as chief historian of the National Park Service and historian of the Gettysburg National Military Park. He had written three acclaimed books about the Battle of Gettysburg. I knew he had served in World War II and had been wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. But what I didn't realize until I sat down with him and talked for a couple of hours, asking questions, and letting my recorder run, was how World War II had shaped his later life. Like many in the Greatest Generation, he had served his country overseas—far from his home in Ohio—and had come home to lead a selfless and productive life.

Upon completing his oral history in the fall of 2003, I felt urgently motivated to capture my grandparents' oral histories as well, and I completed one of my grandma and grandpa



Living the Legacy: The Importance of Knowing Another Person's Story

Our latest addition to the Living the Legacy Activities series focuses on how to record an oral history, including how to put together interview questions.

Be sure to check out all of the activities, which can be found on our Website or by clicking on the button:

[Living the Legacy Activities](#)

that following year. For all three, the World War II era had been central to their lives. It had shaped them in profound ways—instilling patriotism, community, sacrifice, and hard work deep in their personas. The wonderful thing is that I have their words captured for myself, my family, and posterity. They take up no room in the house—as heirlooms might—but they are laden with meaning and emotion.

Oral histories allow us to capture people's stories forever. Since they are conducted as an interview, they are conversational and tend to bring out stories and anecdotes that have escaped traditional recountings of their lives. The main challenge of conducting an oral history is finding the time. But with the current stay-at-home order and technology like audio recording and video chats at our fingertips, now is the perfect time to capture our family members' stories.



Share Your Activities with Us

We love to hear from you. If your family did any of the Living the Legacy activities, share them with us. We will share your creations on our Facebook page.

You can send your submissions to us through messaging us on our Facebook page. You can also email us by clicking [here](#).

Looking forward hearing from you!

