



## *Daughters of World War II*

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It is an honor and a privilege to introduce you to **Daughters of World War II**, a 501(c) 3 organization based in Dallas, Texas

**WHO WE ARE:** Daughters of World War II is one of the fastest growing organizations dedicated to honoring the men and women who were children of the Great Depression and who became veterans of World War II and ultimately members of what we so fittingly reference as “The Greatest Generation.” These veterans have an average age of 90 and they are a fading group of quiet heroes who can still be credited (67 years after the war) as the men and women who saved the world.

**WHAT WE DO:** Our extensive list of events reflects the commitment Daughters of WWII has made to ensure WWII veterans are remembered and that each program we plan is one of educational and community value. We work to preserve the personal history of our WWII veterans and to provide programs through-out the year to honor them. By doing this we not only provide them with opportunities to join with other veterans (which is often quite a healing process), we also have opportunities to educate current and future generations about this part of our history.

### **Inaugural Daughters of World War II Events**

- Inaugural Luncheon at the Hall of State with Lt. Col. James “Maggie” Megellas.
- David Eisenhower Book Signing
- 66th Anniversary of the Invasion of Iwo Jima at the Majestic Theatre with James Bradley, author of *Flags of our Fathers*.
- Remembering V-J Day. Frontiers of Flight Museum
- Veterans Day Parade and Luncheon, 11-11-11 with Major General James Singlaub. 400 WWII veterans honored by 1,200 at the Omni Hotel. Largest gathering of WWII veterans on 11-11-11 in the Nation. SOLD OUT.
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance.

## 2012 Daughters of World War II Events

- February: 67th Anniversary of the Invasion of Iwo Jima with Major General James Williams.
- March: Trip to the Island of Iwo Jima with two battle of Iwo Jima survivors.
- May: Remembering V-E Day: Liberators and the Liberated. A discussion with WWII Veterans who liberated concentration camps and survivors from those camps. Joint program with the Dallas Holocaust Museum. National News coverage. SOLD OUT.

Memorial Day Remembrance—Honoring WWII veterans with Dallas Baptist University.

- July: Patriotic Pops Concert with Plano Symphony Orchestra. *Saluting the Armed Forces*. SOLD OUT
- August: Celebration of the end of WWII. B-29 crew member and POW engaging With Japanese Kamikaze pilot. Discussion moderated by Talmage Boston And filmed by C-SPAN History. SOLD OUT crowd of over 730 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum
- Nov: 3rd Annual Veterans Day Luncheon: *Celebration of Heroes Among Us: A Tribute to our World War II Veterans*. Anatole Hilton, Dallas, Texas. November 12, 2012. WWII Veterans are FREE.

### WHO WE REACH:

Daughters of World War II has reach to over 1,000 WWII veterans in the North Texas area and is reaching across the state as well as nationwide. We do not restrict our attendance at our events to North Texas WWII veterans – all WWII veterans are welcomed. We focus on WWII veterans and senior citizens as our specific target but the turnout at our events shows that there is interest and support from all members of our community, young and old. At our 2011 Veterans Day Parade and Luncheon, over 200 people volunteered to assist in the event. We were host to veterans from towns across east Texas and as far south as San Antonio and Austin. Several veterans came from Wichita Falls and Stephenville and even Hot Springs, AR. It was our honor to also host two veterans who travelled from upstate New York and the farmland of Indiana. We plan to continue to expand our outreach for our 3rd Annual Luncheon. We are successful in our outreach because of our extensive network of supporters:

### OUR SUPPORTERS:

**Honor Flight Hubs across Texas:** Honor Flight is an organization which raises funds to take WWII veterans to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials built in their honor. These

organizations have an extensive database of WWII veterans. Many of these veterans have been on the waiting list for several years and may not be able to make the trip due to the finances of their geographic Honor Flight Hub and/or their personal health. Being able to attend events hosted by Daughters of WWII provides the veterans with opportunities to visit with other WWII veterans and to be honored for their service.

**Senior Communities** (independent and assisted living): Senior communities have proven to be an excellent resource of WWII veterans and their spouses. Daughters of WWII have been fortunate to have established contacts with an extensive list of these communities and have worked with them to communicate our programs to their residents. We estimate the WWII population at North Texas senior communities to be 500+ and this is not inclusive of their spouses. For our 2011 Veterans Day Luncheon as well as our recent V-J Day event, multiple senior communities in Dallas/Forth Worth bussed their residents (WWII veterans as well as non-WWII veterans) to DWWII events.

**Community Partners:** Community partners have proven to be an important branch of our outreach not only to WWII veterans and their families, but to all members of our community. Our list of community partners is extensive and grows with each event. Our community partners include other non-profit organizations, veterans & military groups (VA, VFW, etc.), city/county senior citizen community groups, private individuals, clubs/civic organizations/churches, schools/colleges/universities, local businesses and national corporations.

**Media:** Daughters of WWII has relationships with multiple media outlets and has experienced excellent press coverage at all of our events. Our May 2012 V-E Day event had national coverage (television and print) and our recent V-J Day event on August 14th was filmed by C-SPAN History, in addition to being covered by local television and newspapers.

## **OUR VETERANS:**

Daughters of WWII wants to educate the community about the “Heroes Among Us” and works to preserve stories of WWII veterans for future generations. Some of the “Heroes Among Us” include:

**Mr. Burgin:** U.S Marine Corps. Pacific Campaigns including the battles of Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and Okinawa. His story was documented in the book, *Islands of the Damned*, and was featured in the HBO series, *The Pacific*.

**Mr. Hanley:** Army Air Corps Flight Engineer onboard a B-29 shot down over Japan. Special POW of the Japanese Kempei Tai. His story was told in the book, *Accused American War Criminal*.

**Mr. Leavelle:** His face will forever be remembered as the Dallas Police Detective photographed with Lee Harvey Oswald at the moment he was shot. However, Mr, Leavelle is one of our few local survivors of Pearl Harbor.

**Mrs. LaCroix:** Army Nurse Corps providing surgical care onboard a hospital ship in the Pacific. She treated the severely wounded soldiers from the battles of Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

**Mr. Blatnik:** Army. Sergeant Major to General Teddy Roosevelt, Jr. Fought in all major battles across Europe and North Africa including D-Day landing on Omaha Beach.

**Mr. Trechter:** U.S. Army OSS Officer in Burma and China. Helped open the Burma Road.

**Mr. Waller:** U.S. Navy. 16 island invasions, witness to multiple Kamikaze attacks and present at the surrender of the Japanese strong-hold, Truk.

**Mr. Adair:** U.S. Army. Survived three years as a Japanese POW when captured on Corregidor. He was part of the Bataan Death March.

## ALLIES OF FREEDOM AWARD RECEIPIENTS

2010 Lt. Col. James “Maggie” Megellas

2011 Major General John Singlaub



Talmage Boston moderates discussion between Fiske Hanley (left), B-29 crew member and Japanese POW and Bill Nagase (right), 15 year old Kamikaze pilot, at a V-J Day program sponsored by the Daughters of World War II, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum.

*SOLD OUT EVENT – 730 guests and 180 WWII veterans*