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V-E Day Event Toolkit

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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75th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Program

The Department of Defense (DoD) honors all who served or contributed to our nation during World War II and to the Allied countries whose Service members fought side-by-side with American forces.

This toolkit has been created to help your community successfully commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) on May 8, 2020.

In this toolkit, you will find the following:

- ☐ Information about V-E Day and the 75th Anniversary commemorations
- ☐ Ideas on how your community can help thank and honor local veterans of WWII
- ☐ How to download the official WWII 75th Anniversary seal
- ☐ How to register your event online at Defense.gov/WWII75



History of V-E Day

May 8, 1945



- ❖ Victory in Europe, or V-E Day is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allied nations of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. German military leaders signed the surrender documents at various locations in Europe on May 7.



- ❖ The surrender prompted mass celebrations in European and American cities. President Harry S. Truman dedicated V-E Day to President Roosevelt, who had died just weeks earlier, and is quoted with saying “Our victory is only half over,” in reference to continued fighting in the Pacific Theatre.

- ❖ May 8, 2020 will mark the 75th Anniversary of V-E Day.

Washington, D.C. Plans for V-E Day

The Office of the Secretary of Defense plans to support a number of commemorative activities in Washington D.C.

Arsenal of Democracy is planning the Historic Aerial Parade over the Washington National Mall in D.C. Approximately 114 World War II aircraft will take to the sky in 20 historically sequenced warbird formations. These formations will fly over the Washington Mall in two minute intervals. The formations will represent the war's major battles, from the Battle of Britain through the final air assault on Japan, and concluding with a missing man formation.

World War II Memorial Commemoration

Date: Friday, May 8, 2020
Time: 11:00 am
Location: WWII Memorial on National Mall, 1750 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024

Pentagon

Pentagon employees will be able to witness this historic flyover from the Pentagon Parade field to honor and thank the veterans from WWII

Outside of the DC area? Livestream the event!

A livestream will be available for audiences not able to witness in Washington, D.C. at the following link: www.defense.gov/WWII75

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Ideas on how you can help commemorate V-E Day in your local community

For Organizations...

- ❑ Create an event in your community and invite local veterans, senior military officials and/or civilian leaders to thank WWII veterans and families
- ❑ Work with your local military service and veteran service organizations, local companies, and/or youth organizations to help honor veterans in your community
- ❑ Work with your local library on a display highlighting WWII veterans in the community
- ❑ Interview a veteran or family member about their experiences during WWII. Upload the interview online and share with us all using the hashtags #WWII75, #DoDRemembers75, #KnowYourMil

Example of interview and questions can be found here:

<https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/2054993/going-for-gold-for-the-rosies/>

For Educators...

- ❑ Livestream the WWII National Mall flyover in Washington, DC and discuss the significance of V-E day in your classroom
- ❑ Invite WWII veterans for school assemblies to share their experiences – make history come alive!
- ❑ Encourage students to research local veterans who served during WWII
- ❑ Organize a letter writing campaign to thank veterans for their service
- ❑ Hold panel discussions on WWII books at high schools or universities
- ❑ Show a WWII documentary or film in your classroom
 - ❑ U.S. Army Center of Military History is a great resource: www.history.army.mil/

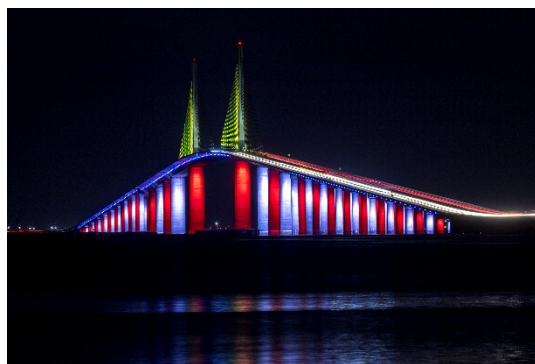


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Encourage your local community to light up Red, White & Blue on V-E Day, May 8, 2020!



Indianapolis' Monument Circle



Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Florida



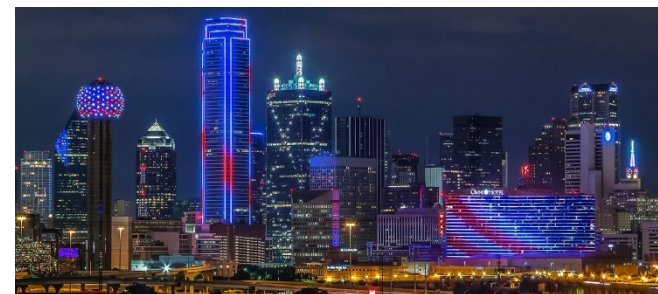
Minneapolis



Independence Hall in Pennsylvania



Downtown Cleveland Ohio



Dallas Skyline

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How your organization can promote the 75th Anniversary of V-E Day on social media

The following social media platforms will be amplifying content in support of the commemoration for V-E Day. Feel free to retweet, repost, and share any content!



FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM/TWITTER:

DoD examples:

“ On this day, 75 years ago, Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allied Forces. This became known as Victory in Europe, or VE Day. German military leaders signed the surrender documents at various locations in Europe. Everyday, but especially today we remain thankful for the selfless sacrifices made by WWII veterans – the Greatest Generation. #WWII75 #DoDRemembers75 #KnowYourMil ”

“ Today, over 100 historic warbirds will fly over Washington, DC as a symbol of Victory. We salute the Greatest Generation for protecting our freedom. The cost of victory will never be forgotten. #WWII75 #DoDRemembers75 #KnowYourMil ”

“ May 8, 1945: Victory in Europe Day! Thank you for joining with us to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. We honor the legacy of the Greatest Generation by remaining ready to face an increasingly dynamic regional security environment. Let us never forget. #WWII75 #DoDRemembers75 #KnowYourMil ”

Thank you for using #WWII75 #DoDRemembers75 #KnowYourMil

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How your organization can promote its event

Here is a draft press release
you can edit as you see
appropriate to send to your
local press to promote your
75th Anniversary of V-E Day
commemoration.

We suggest emailing this press
release to your local media a
week or so before May 8, 2020
to help spread the news of
your event.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [Your name]

Date: [Of the release]

Phone: [Your contact phone number where you can be reached]

[Installation or organization name] Commemorates the 75th
Anniversary Victory in Europe (V-E) Day.

[Installation or organization name] will recognize the 75th
anniversary of V-E Day on May 8, 2020 at [time] to thank and
honor veterans of WWII. The United States remains forever
indebted to WWII veterans, who demonstrated selfless service and
sacrifice in defense of global peace and security.

The following event will take place: [list the events that will take
place on your installation by your organization].

For more information on the 75th World War II Anniversary
Commemoration Program, call [your name/organization] at [phone
number] or visit our website or social media platforms [list web
address, social media platforms, etc.].

For more information about the Department of Defense's WWII75
commemoration program, visit www.defense.gov/WWII75.

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Inviting local community leaders and veterans to your commemoration

We encourage organizations to invite local WWII veterans, local leaders and community members to join their commemorations.

Here is sample language to help invite these community members to your event.

Draft invitation for local community leaders /elected officials:

Dear [name of community leader/veteran]

As part of the 75th Anniversary of V-E Day, we would like to invite you to [location of event] to join in with our commemoration.

We will be commemorating V-E Day at [insert time] on May 8, 2020. If you are available to attend or have any questions, please contact [contact's details].

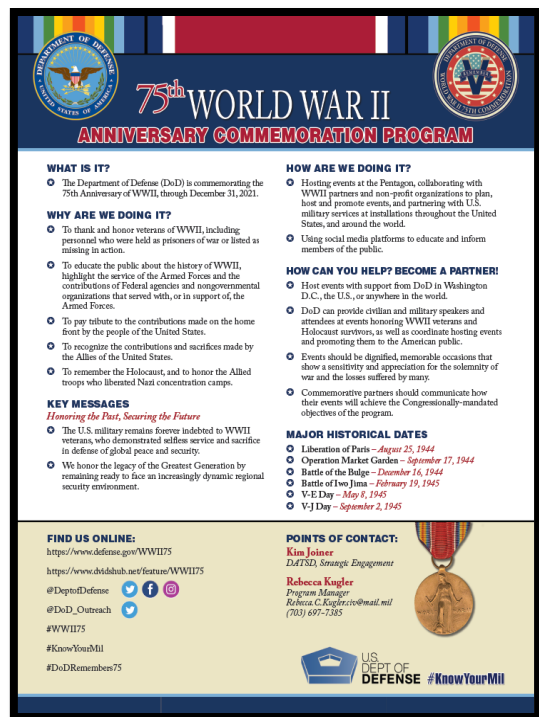
Best,

[Name]

[Name of organization]

WWII 75th Anniversary Products/Resources Available

WWII Explainer One Pager with generic talking points



The official seal for WWII 75th Anniversary Commemorations can be downloaded from the DoD website here:

www.dvidshub.net/feature/WWII75

We encourage you to use the nonproprietary seal to promote and brand your events throughout the 75th Anniversary of WWII, including on social media.

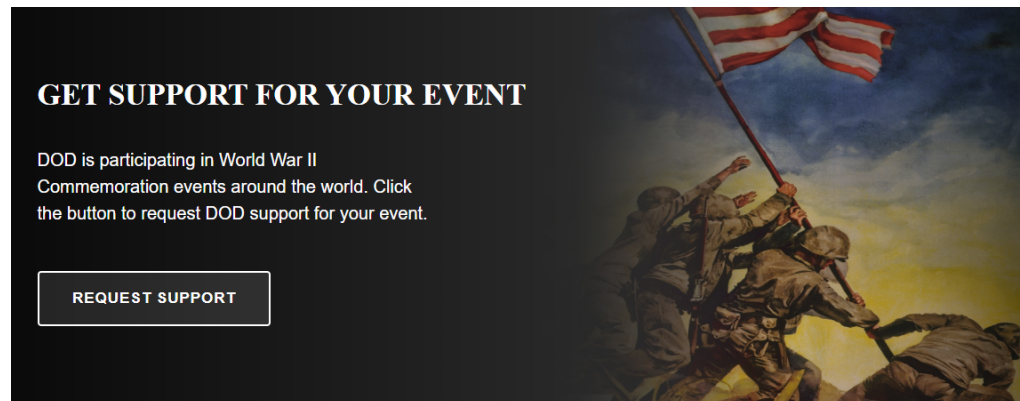
Send photos of your events with the seal to:

osd.engage@mail.mil

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How to register your event on the Defense.gov official website

The DoD is collecting and building an all-inclusive calendar of events in support of the commemoration.



Please register your event in support of the 75th Anniversary of WWII on the website here: www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/WWII/Support-Request/

It takes just a few minutes!



Thank you for your support in commemorating the 75th Anniversary of World War II

Next commemoration: V-J Day, September 2

www.Defense.gov/WWII75

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