

TRUMAN LIBRARY INSTITUTE MEMBER MAGAZINE

TRU

REMEMBER

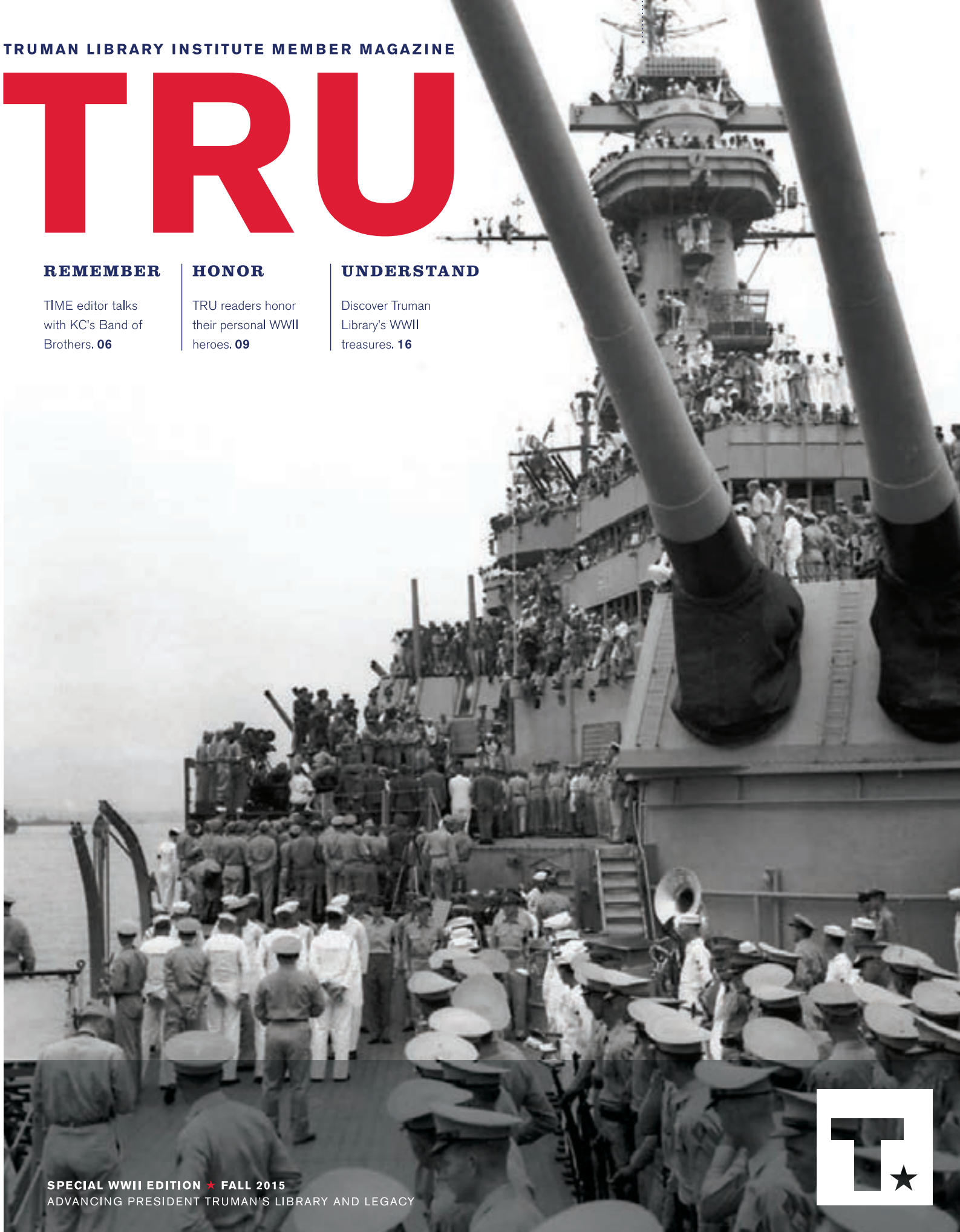
TIME editor talks with KC's Band of Brothers. **06**

HONOR

TRU readers honor their personal WWII heroes. **09**

UNDERSTAND

Discover Truman Library's WWII treasures. **16**



SPECIAL WWII EDITION ★ FALL 2015
ADVANCING PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S LIBRARY AND LEGACY



COVER: The surrender ceremony between Japan and the United States aboard the USS Missouri, September 2, 1945 (Courtesy of the National Archives, Army Signal Corps Collection)

Whistle Stop



“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”

Harry Truman

PHOTO: President Harry S. Truman presents the Medal of Honor to Sgt. John D. Hawk in Olympia, Washington, June 1945. (Courtesy Harry S. Truman Library and Museum)

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WWII Comes Alive

Greater Kansas City student wins gold at National History Day for his dramatic performance as Churchill.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a terrific experience and great honor it has been to play a part in our nation's commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

My passion for World War II history began as a schoolboy when my Uncle Morgan – for whom I'm named – began sharing some of his favorite WWII books with me.

Guadalcanal Diary. The Battle of Leyte Gulf. Run Silent Run Deep. A Bridge Too Far.

I can still recall the thrill of discovering the tremendous moments of bravery, courage and sacrifice contained in these and many other great books.

But it's one thing to read about World War II – often called the greatest drama in human history – and quite another to spend a good part of a year meeting and talking with the men and women who lived it.

During the past year – and with support from our partners listed on the inside back cover – the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum was the site for events and exhibits commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Events marking the anniversary included an all-new WWII Lecture Series; our digital archives project, "Marching to Victory"; World War II Weekends in the Museum; a USO-style fundraising event, Wild About Harry; a 1945 film series; free community sessions in The White House Decision Center and much more. This issue carries the highlights.

Without a doubt, the most meaningful moments of the past year have been those shared with America's World War II veterans – from Kansas City's hometown heroes Henry Bloch, Ed Matheny and Bill Dunn, Sr.; to WWII Brig. Gen. Bob LeBlanc, who provided the keynote address for our V-E Day commemoration; to the thousands of World War II veterans who attended our events and visited the museum.

Along with free museum admission from V-E Day to V-J Day, WWII veterans were honored with specially designed WWII Truman Challenge Coins and ribbons recognizing their veteran status.

As one of our team members pinned a blue ribbon on the lapel of a visiting veteran, she thanked him for his service to our nation. His quick reply was, "You're welcome. And you're worth it."

These men and women – an entire generation – answered the call to valiant service in World War II. Some sacrificed all. Others paid a terrible price. This issue of TRU Magazine is dedicated to each one of them. They're worth it.

Alex Burden

Executive Director | **Truman Library Institute**

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TRU is published for friends and members of the Truman Library Institute, the nonprofit partner of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, one of 13 presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.



“What a terrific experience and great honor it has been to play a part in our nation's commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.”



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TRU LETTERS

“The work you do is so important for the citizens, educators and students of this community.”

EMANUEL CLEAVER II

As the U.S. Representative for Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I wish to offer my appreciation for your gracious invitation for my staff to attend The White House Decision Center (WHDC). My interns tell me that you were a most hospitable host and engaging guide.

The work you do is so important for the citizens, educators and students of this community. Accessing knowledge about our country's past allows us to evaluate and move our nation forward in a positive way. The historical simulations offered to students and other groups at The WHDC are an excellent tool to promote education, democracy and leadership.

I applaud your efforts to fulfill President Truman's vision for the library serving as a classroom for democracy. Thank you for your commitment to the study of our precious history and making it accessible to the young citizens of Missouri's Fifth District. If I can be of any assistance to you in the future, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,
Emanuel Cleaver II
U.S. Representative
(D-MO 5th District)

I thoroughly enjoyed the recent Wild About Harry celebration in Kansas City. I commend you and your team for putting together a wonderful evening

that was also a financial success for the Institute. Congratulations on a great event, and please let me know if I can ever be of assistance.

Best wishes,
Jim Slattery
Former U.S. Representative
(D-KS 2nd District)

Thanks so much for your sponsorship of the Madison talk on Thursday night. You folks did a brilliant job of organizing it, and the crowd was terrific! I'm proud to have been part of your "Hail to the Chiefs" series.

Best,
David O. Stewart
Author of *Madison's Gift*

Once again, God and Harry were on our side...another fabulous ceremony and day! Thank you for the opportunity to co-sponsor a luncheon to honor our veterans. What a wonderful idea! Your staff are a delight to work with. Again, thank you so much, and I look forward to working with you again.

Dorothy Ballew
American Legion Tirey J. Ford Post 21

Editor's Note: The Truman Library Institute was honored to provide free admission, hospitality and a tented luncheon for veterans at the Truman Library on May 8, 2015 – the 131st anniversary of President Truman's birth and 70th anniversary of V-E Day. Many partners made this possible, including the Veterans

of Foreign Wars of the U.S.; Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc.; Courtney S. Turner Charitable Trust, John H. Mize, Jr. and Bank of America, trustees; and American Legion Tirey J. Ford Post 21.

I attended the Truman Library's Summer Teachers' Conference last week and would like to thank you for a wonderful experience in The White House Decision Center. The depth at which the simulation ["Ending the War with Japan"] reached was beyond what I had expected. All I can say is WOW, and I wish I lived closer. It means a lot that places like the Truman Library and The White House Decision Center exist for use not only by the general public but also students and teachers who are trying to change the world.

John Denham
Pekin (IL) Community High School

Editor's Note: Unlocking the lessons of history for America's next "great generation" is at the heart of our mission. Thank you, John, for your dedication as a teacher, and thanks to our donors and members who make programs like this possible. Your membership makes a difference!

The Truman Library's Summer Teachers' Conference is one of the best professional development opportunities I've discovered. Each year, scholars share ideas and insights with the teachers, who then take this content knowledge back to our classrooms. I appreciate the depth and breadth of the sessions and topics. It is simply a highlight of my summer each year. Thank you!

2015 Conference Attendee

NEWS BRIEFS



New Library Director

The Truman Library Institute is pleased to welcome **Kurt Graham** as the new director of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. Appointed by the archivist of the United States, Graham joined the Truman Library on July 27, 2015. Previously, he directed the Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he spearheaded the redesign of the museum's principal history exhibition. Prior to that, he served as the director of the McCracken Research Library at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Clifton Truman Daniel, eldest grandson of President Truman, said, "His leadership in the museum industry and, in particular, his commitment to making history more accessible through interactive exhibits designed to engage all ages, make him a wonderful fit for this position."



Truman Economic Medal

Join us for the 2015 Truman Medal for Economic Policy Award Luncheon honoring **John B. Taylor**. The biennial award will be presented on the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri on October 15, 2015. Taylor is the George P. Shultz Senior Fellow in Economics at the Hoover Institution and the Mary and Robert Raymond Professor of Economics at Stanford University. He chairs the Hoover Working Group on Economic Policy and is director of Stanford's Introductory Economics Center. His book *Getting Off Track* was one of the first on the financial crisis; his latest book, *First Principles*, offers an economic plan to restore America's prosperity. Full event details are online at TrumanLibraryInstitute.org.



Welcome, New Board Members

The Truman Library Institute proudly welcomes the following individuals to its Board of Directors: **Kay Martin**, a professional educator and respected community volunteer in Greater Kansas City; **Dennis Merrill, Ph.D.**, a University of Missouri Curator's Teaching Professor and an internationally recognized expert on the Truman administration; **Adam P. Sachs**, partner at Husch Blackwell, LLP; **Timothy W. Triplett**, General Counsel for Black & Veatch; **Roger Novak**, CPA with Novak Birks, P.C.; **Marilyn Krigel Berenbom**, community volunteer; and **Janet Napolitano** (left), who was the Democratic governor of Arizona (2003-2009) before becoming Secretary of Homeland Security under President Barack Obama (2009-2013).



TRU HISTORY

VICTORY!

“I have received this afternoon a message from the Japanese Government...”



At 7 pm on August 14, 1945, President Harry Truman stood before reporters gathered at the White House and announced the unconditional surrender of Japan. The Pacific War was over. Although the formal signing of the terms of surrender ending World War II would not occur until September 2nd, the announcement of Victory Over Japan Day, or V-J Day, sent millions of Americans – citizens and members of the armed forces, out into the streets of cities and towns across the country and around the world.

ABOVE: “American servicemen and women gather in front of ‘Rainbow Corner’...” August 15, 1945, McNulty, Signal Corps photographer. Rainbow Corner was a popular club for American service men and women in Paris, France – one of more than a dozen opened and operated by the Red Cross in that city.

LEFT: White House photographer Abbie Rowe was in the Oval Office of the White House on August 14, 1945, when President Truman announced Japan’s surrender to members of the media.

WWII BY THE NUMBERS

2,174

Number of days WWII lasted.

60,000,000

Deaths. That's 1,150 deaths per hour, or one every 3 seconds for six years.

6

Continents engaged in WWII.

12,000

Allied aircraft aloft on D-Day at Normandy.

190,000

Number of soldiers in U.S. Army in 1939. It would grow to 8.3 million.

16,112,566

Americans who served in uniform during WWII (nation's population at the time was 130 million).

11,000

Number of young men drafted into the Army and Navy every day by 1944.

Number of natural teeth draftees needed. This health standard was forgotten by 1944, when you could be drafted by the Army if you were blind in one eye or deaf in one ear.

12

Number of American soldiers killed in action in Germany during April 1945, the last full month of the war.

11,000

The cost of WWII to U.S. taxpayers - that's \$4 trillion in today's currency.

\$296 billion

Tons of war material provided for the European theater by American industry; this included 800,000 military vehicles, 40 billion rounds of small arms ammunition and 56 million grenades.

18 million

Amputations among U.S. soldiers; 1,700 were left blind, and 11,000 suffered at least partial paralysis of one or more limbs.

18,000

American deaths in WWII, including 291,000 killed in action.

400,000

American citizens alive today whose duty it is to remember.

320 million

KANSAS CITY'S BAND OF BROTHERS.★

TIME Magazine's David Von Drehle talks with three of Kansas City's most recognizable WWII veterans



LEFT TO RIGHT:

William H. Dunn, Sr.; Edward T. Matheny, Jr.; Henry W. Bloch



“My most profound thanks to Bill and Ed and Henry for what you did then and for all you’ve done since then. It’s been a singular honor for me to be here with you this evening.”

DAVID VON DREHLE | EDITOR AT LARGE, TIME MAGAZINE

On March 25, 2015, TIME Magazine editor-at-large David Von Drehle interviewed three of Kansas City’s most recognizable veterans of the Second World War – civic giants Henry W. Bloch, William H. Dunn, Sr., and Edward T. Matheny, Jr. The public program kicked off a WWII lecture series and was taped for rebroadcast by C-SPAN. TRU Magazine is honored to share David Von Drehle’s riveting introductory remarks.

World War II – a catastrophe of almost unimaginable scale – left more than 60 million human beings dead, or three of every 100 people on earth. It was an event that stamped the lives of every American and especially the lives of the young men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

World War II called for sacrifice from every social stratum and every walk of life. An entire generation answered that call bravely, even eagerly, for they understood the cherished ideals of human dignity and individual freedom were literally at stake. Easily more than half a million Missouri and Kansas citizens served during the war. Three of those individuals have generously agreed to share and reflect on their experiences in this terrible yet

galvanizing war that ended 70 years ago this year.

Henry W. Bloch was a student at the University of Michigan when the United States entered the war. Having learned in school the horrors of trench warfare in World War I, he resolved to do his service above ground and enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Trained as a navigator, he was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 95th bomb group. As it turned out, Henry Bloch had chosen the most perilous service of World War II, the rough equivalent of serving as an infantry man in a World War I trench. The imminent historian of World War II, Rick Atkinson, has written of the very period when Henry was flying: “The losses were dreadful. Only one in four eight air force bomber crews could expect to complete the minimum quota of 25 missions.”

Henry Bloch completed 31 missions, including a raid on Berlin for which the 95th was awarded its third presidential unit citation, making it the only unit of the Air Force to win three during the war. Restored to civilian life, Mr. Bloch joined with his brother, Richard, to build one of Kansas City’s great entrepreneurial triumphs, H&R Bloch. With his late wife, Marian, he forged a philanthropic career that will benefit Kansas Citians for many generations to come. From the Henry W. Bloch School of Management at UMKC to the architecturally acclaimed Bloch building of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, to the priceless collection of paintings that he and his wife donated to the museum, to the Marian Bloch

Neuroscience Institute at St. Luke’s Health System to the Marian and Henry Bloch Family Foundation in Kansas City, it can literally be said of this man as was once said of London’s Christopher Wren, “If you seek his monument, look around you.”

WWII POV: HENRY W. BLOCH

“On one particular mission we were bombing the Pulaski oil fields. I wanted to see where the bombs were falling, so I went up to sit behind the bomber. When I went back to my seat, it was gone; there was just a big hole in the side of the plane. We were shot up on about every mission, but we were very fortunate. Seventy-one percent in the Eighth Air force died. We were very lucky...”

The same could literally be said of **Bill Dunn**, who built this building that we’re sitting in. He was a student at Notre Dame University, when he was not working at his father’s construction company as a laborer that paid \$1.00 a day. He followed his older brother, Ernie Jr., into the service, enlisting in the United States Navy as an aviator. In those

EVENT:

When Kansas City Went to War (Inaugural event of the Truman Library Institute’s WWII Lecture Series)

PANEL:

David Von Drehle; Henry W. Bloch; William H. Dunn, Sr.; Edward T. Matheny, Jr.

ATTENDANCE:

677 attended the live event, which was co-presented by the Kansas City Public Library.

days, before satellite reconnaissance, Mr. Dunn was trained to fly what very likely were suicide missions – low-altitude scouting flights in slow, lightly armored, single engine C planes. He was preparing to take part in the invasion of the Japanese home islands when President Truman's decision to deploy the atomic bombs brought an end to the war. Back home, Mr. Dunn built his father's firm, J.E. Dunn Construction, into one of the largest and most admired contractors in the United States. He and his wife also imbued his family and his colleagues at the company with a passion for charitable giving and philanthropic leadership. Every year more than 10% of pre-tax earnings at J.E. Dunn goes to charity.



WWII POV:

EDWARD T. MATHENY, JR.

“I reported to Admiral Spruance on the first day of August 1945. At that point they were getting ready for the invasion of Japan, and I recall vividly what he said. He said, “Are you looking for excitement?” Well, six days later, thanks to President Truman, the atom bomb was dropped. That certainly saved my bacon.”

Ed T. Matheny was captain of the basketball team at the University of Missouri when the war found him. Graduating on an accelerated schedule, Mr. Matheny entered the United States Navy. His talents were quickly spotted, and he was assigned to the staff of Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the War in the Pacific. As a plotting officer, it fell to Ed and his colleagues to track the movements of every known vessel – friend and foe – in the world's largest ocean. Assigned first to Pearl Harbor and later to Guam, Mr. Matheny was among the officers who entered Japan after V-J Day to begin the work of the American occupation. After the war, he attended Harvard Law School and then joined the Kansas City firm of Caldwell Downing as its tenth lawyer. After decades of growth, much of it led by Mr. Matheny as

managing partner, that little outfit has grown to become the international firm of Husch Blackwell. In his “retirement,” Mr. Matheny has become an important historian of Kansas City and its institutions. His seven books tell the stories of his law firm, of St. Luke's Hospital, of the West Bottoms, and, most relevant to this evening, Kansas City's experience in World War II.

These gentlemen will be honored along with Senator Bob Dole, who we all know gave a tremendous sacrifice and left part of himself on the battlefields of Italy, but my most profound thanks to Bill and Ed and Henry for what you did then and for all you've done since then. It's been a singular honor for me to be here with you this evening.



WWII POV: WILLIAM H. DUNN, SR.

“I'm here today because of Harry Truman. I'd been assigned to the battleship Wisconsin, which was going out for the big push. It was going to be from island to island. A lot of people criticized President Truman for dropping the two bombs, but we'd have probably lost at least another million men if he hadn't. He stopped the war. That's for sure.”



HONOR: WORLD WAR II TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gifts In Honor

All WWII Veterans

Department of Missouri American Legion

Richard A. Barber

Thomas V. Murray

William H. Biggers, USA

Barlow Biggers, USA (Ret.)

Henry W. Bloch

Ann Canfield and Stan Bushman
Mary and John Hunkeler

Carl V. Blomgren

Twila Dell and Carl V. Blomgren

Hal A. Burnett, M.D.

Thomas V. Murray

Byron Constance

Jane Taylor

Robert J. Dole

Annie Presley and Jay Selanders
Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics
The Fried Family

William H. Dunn, Sr.

Mary and John Hunkeler

Harvey J. Fried

The Fried Family

Andrew Johnson

Joyce and Robert Slater

Harry S. Jonas

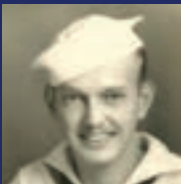
Kim and Tom Rausch

James Ralph Martin, USA, Ret

Judith and Paul Martin

Edward T. Matheny, Jr.

Mary and John Hunkeler
KCPT Public Television



William (Bill) Thomas McMune

U.S. Navy,
Y1c, USS Anacapa AG49
South Pacific Theater
Elberta and Delmar Sutton

Robert M. Murray, Jr.

Thomas V. Murray

Jerome S. Nerman

The Nerman Family

Sgt. Norman L. Purdy

USAAF
Nancy and Marvin Sands

Cameron R. Reed, USA

Page and Bruce Reed

Glenn Woeltje

Commander Dennis Woeltje

Kurth Wesche, USA

Barlow Biggers, USA (Ret.)

Horace Wesche, USA

Barlow Biggers, USA (Ret.)

Gerald Wesche, USA

Barlow Biggers, USA (Ret.)

Howard Wesche, USA

Barlow Biggers, USA (Ret.)

William K. Wieland

Thomas V. Murray

2nd Lt. Houston D. Wilson, USA

Diane and Murray Blackwelder

Gifts In Memory

LTJG William Houston (Bill) Abbot

Nancy and John Dillingham

CWO3 George Anderson

Carol Anderson

Dr. Alvin J. Beer

D-Day +5
Proud Veteran
Adele B. Levi

Albert C. Bean, Jr. (USS McKenzie)

Ann and Ed Matheny

William Coleman Branton

Page and Bruce Reed
Mary Shaw Branton

Maj. William H. Burden, USA

Stacia Stelk and Alex Burden

James David Clegg

Joanna M. Martin

Alvin J. Cook, USA

Judy and Bill McMurray

CPT John Kenneth Dear

Nancy and John Dillingham

Frank DeBusk

Barbara and Rick DeBusk



John J. Demkovich

U.S. Navy (1943-45)
Radioman 3/C
Dick Kirschten

Col. Archie Campbell Edwards

USAAF
Susan and Bert Edwards

Sgt. Stanley Friedman

North Africa, Italy
1942-1945
Darnell G. Jones

Lt. Vincent Kerwin

USS Carter Hall
LSD-3
Jeannine Strandjord

Kenneth Krakauer

Navigator
European Theater
27 missions, AM&5 OLC
Randee and Michael Kelley

Cpl. Morris Louis Gerchick, USA

Pacific Theater, Manila
1942-1945, Victory
Bonnie and Michael Gerchick

Stanley A. Hamilton

Laurie J. Hamilton

James Hill, USN

Judy J. Turner

Albert Hines

Barbara and Rick DeBusk

Ed Jage, USA

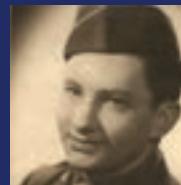
Sybil and Greg Orman

Donald C. Johnson

Niel M. Johnson

Milton P. Kayle

Dorothy P. Kayle



Virgil P. Keller

U.S. Army
Battle of the Bulge
Diane and Sanford Beckett

Jeff Long

Melinda and Thomas Beal

George T. Love

Karen Ball and David Von Drehle

William E. MacDonald, Jr.

Daisy and John MacDonald

James L. McCartney

Doris McCartney

William K. McMurray, US

Navy
Judy and Bill McMurray

F. Carl Mesle, Jr.

Ann Mesle

LCDR Ralph J. Metcalf, US

Navy
Stacia Stelk and Alex Burden

Jacques C. Miller, Navy Seabee

James J. (Jimmer) and Sarah (Sally)
B. Miller

Frances E. (McElhern) Miller,

Navy WAVE
James J. (Jimmer) and Sarah (Sally)
B. Miller

Merrill H. Myers

USAAF
China/Burma/India
Elizabeth A. Myers

1st Lt. Jack I. Neenan

Barbara McCause

Fred H. Olander, Jr.

Mina and L. Lance Steen

George E. Powell, Jr.

Cappy and Peter Powell

Clark Barton Rollins, Jr.

Molly and Steven Rollins

Richard Roman

June Beaver

Earl Schrader, USA

Susie Evans

Larry Schrader, USN

Susie Evans

Lawrence M. Selanders

Annie Presley and Jay Selanders

John Slater

Mary Russell

Ora Paul Smith

Harold Ivan Smith

LaMar A. Steen

Mina and L. Lance Steen

Robert Vincent Sullivan

Jo Ann and Bill Sullivan

Dennis J. Taylor

Jane Taylor

Charles C. Underwood, MD

Ann and Lynn Kindred

William Odell Wagnon, Sr.

Joan and William O. Wagnon, Jr.

2nd Lt. Ronald A. Wipperman

Katie and Clyde Wendel

Capt. William Clay Woods, Jr.

Nancy and John Dillingham

Walter C. Wendel

CPO / SKV 3c
Katie and Clyde Wendel

Sgt. Steve D. Xidis

23 Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division
Cannon Company, 1942-1945
Kathleen and Robert Xidis

We are grateful to our many friends who chose to honor their WWII heroes with a gift in support of the Truman Library. To give in honor or in memory of a loved one, please visit TrumanLibraryInstitute.org.

JANUARY 25

BATTLE OF THE BULGE ENDS

The Battle of the Bulge was the bloodiest battle for American forces on the Western Front during WWII – 20,000 Americans were killed in this battle; tens of thousands more were wounded, missing, or captured. Despite these great losses, the Battle of the Bulge ended with an Allied victory.



GENERAL BRUCE C. CLARKE

“It was a seven-day battle in which I had no time to lay down to go to sleep... the weather was terrible, we had no air support because of the poor weather. I lost two thousand men killed in that battle in seven days. But at the end of seven days the high-water mark of the German army was reached and we, from then on, just went and finished up the war. That was the greatest battle I ever took part in.”
 – GENERAL BRUCE C. CLARKE



MARCH 9

TOKYO FIRE RAIDS

On the night of March 9-10, 1945, American B-29 bombers barraged Tokyo with napalm in the most devastating aerial bombardment in history.



FEBRUARY 23
IWO JIMA

For Americans, one iconic image of Iwo Jima predominates: Joe Rosenthal's photograph of troops raising the American flag over Mount Suribachi on February 23.



1945 WWII TIMELINE

FEBRUARY 4-11

THE YALTA CONFERENCE

“Nazi Germany Is Doomed”

From press release issued at Yalta on February 12



FEBRUARY 13-15

THE BOMBING OF DRESDEN

“...the armada of U.S. Air Force planes pounded Dresden in the most intensive bombing of any single city anywhere in the world, ever, that night. ...After the all-clear sounded, toward 3 a.m. on Wednesday morning, Feb. 14, 1945, our guards roused us again and forced us to climb back up to ground level. There we beheld another never-to-be-forgotten spectacle: the entire city of Dresden burning around us in all directions.”

– GIFFORD DOXSEE

APRIL 1

BATTLE OF OKINAWA

American troops land on the Pacific island of Okinawa, initiating one of the bloodiest and most important battles of World War II.



DIGITAL ARCHIVES / WWII TIMELINE

Marching to Victory

70 years ago, World War II ended under President Truman's decisive leadership. Now, explore key events from the war's final months through the Truman Library Institute's series, "Marching to Victory: WWII Highlights from the Truman Library's Archives and Collections." The blog series opened the vaults at Truman's presidential library to share eyewitness accounts and historic artifacts related to major conflicts and monumental victories – from the Battle of the Bulge to the unconditional surrender of Japan.

**APRIL 11
LIBERATION OF
BUCHENWALD**



**APRIL 29
LIBERATION
OF DACHAU**



**MAY 7
GERMANY'S SURRENDER**

General Eisenhower presented his commander in chief, President Truman, with the pens used to sign the surrender agreement; part of the Truman Library's permanent collection, the pens are currently on special exhibit.



BERNARD BERNSTEIN

"As we came through the entrance to the main building there were three trucks... filled with naked corpses. Then I went into one of the buildings where there were furnaces and there was half a body lying in one of the furnaces. I also saw the hooks on the walls where bodies were hung before burning."

— BERNARD BERNSTEIN

TIMELINE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**APRIL 12
TRUMAN'S ASCENSION
TO THE PRESIDENCY**



"I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."

— HARRY S. TRUMAN



**JUNE 2
VICTORY GARDENS**

Although Nazi Germany had surrendered weeks earlier and the Japanese Empire was near collapse, President Truman sent an urgent message to Americans on June 2, 1945 about winning the war: "In this fourth year of war the need for every ounce of food which the American people can produce and preserve is greater than ever before.... Civilian supplies of commercially canned fruits and vegetables are now at the lowest point of the war, and next winter will be one-fourth less than last year." President Truman's challenge to Americans: grow victory gardens, preserve the harvest, and conserve, "wasting not an ounce."

**APRIL 30
DEATH OF ADOLF HITLER**

With the Red Army only blocks away — Hitler killed himself in the Führerbunker beneath the city streets of Berlin.



BATTLE OF OKINAWA

Two months into the battle, Truman delivered a special message to Congress in which he cautioned that Japan's only hopes for achieving peace on its own terms lay in "America tiring of this war—becoming weary of the sacrifices it demands." He warned that the Japanese "hope that our desire to see our soldiers and sailors home again and the temptation to return to the comforts and profits of peace will force us to settle for some compromise short of unconditional surrender." Three weeks later, the Battle of Okinawa ended in an Allied victory. The island was now in U.S. control, but the combined death toll for Americans, Japanese, and native Okinawans numbered over a quarter of a million, with many more wounded and missing.



JUNE 5

WWII AND CIVIL RIGHTS

When Congress abruptly dropped appropriations for the Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC) – the agency in charge of protecting Americans from discrimination in defense industries or government – in the spring of 1945, Truman launched an impassioned defense of the FEPC and civil rights.



“Discrimination in the matter of employment...is un-American.”
– HARRY S. TRUMAN



JULY 16

TRINITY TEST

At 5:29 AM on July 16, 1945, an enormous explosion rocked the bleak desert of southern New Mexico. The cause of the blast was a device called the Gadget, which exploded with the force of forty million pounds of TNT. It produced intense heat, a light brighter than the sun, and a mushroom cloud 7.5 miles high that glowed yellow, then red, then purple. People felt the shockwave 100 miles from ground zero, and newspapers reported that a blind woman 150 miles away asked: “What’s that brilliant light?”



JULY 26

THE POTSDAM DECLARATION

The Declaration ended with ominous words that have echoed ever since. “We call upon the government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.”

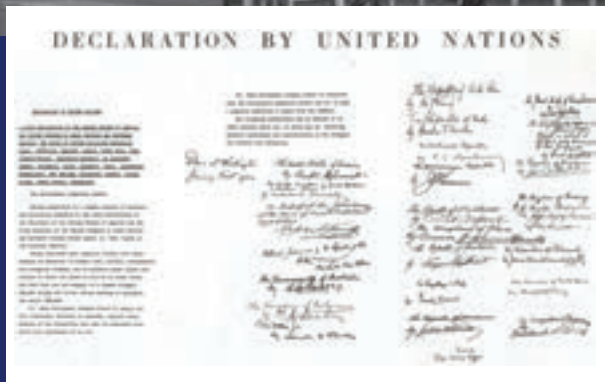


1945 WWII TIMELINE (continued)

JUNE 26

THE CREATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Representatives from 50 nations signed the United Nations Charter, establishing an intergovernmental body promoting peace and international cooperation.



JULY 5

WAR BONDS

On July 5, 1945, President Truman received a plaque representing the efforts of 30 million schoolchildren. It read:
TO PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF OUR ARMED FORCES
AMERICA'S SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE PROUD TO PRESENT
WAR EQUIPMENT TO THE VALUE OF \$715,000,000
THROUGH THE PURCHASE OF WAR BONDS
DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR ENDING JUNE 1945



JULY 17

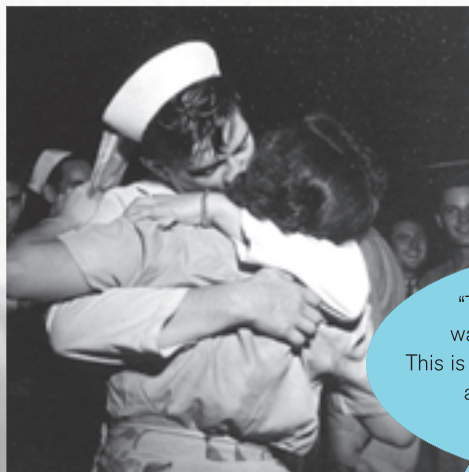
POTSDAM CONFERENCE



AUGUST 6

THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA

At 8:15 AM on August 6, 1945, an American B-29 bomber opened its bay doors over the Japanese city of Hiroshima and released a solitary bomb. Forty-four seconds later, it exploded 1,900 feet above the city. This single explosion brought the Second World War into its final phase and revealed to the world a new and devastating weapon.



“This is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbour. This is the day when Fascism finally dies, as we always knew it would.”
 – HARRY S. TRUMAN

AUGUST 15

JAPAN SURRENDERS

Emperor Hirohito of Japan announces the news of his country's unconditional surrender in World War II over a radio broadcast to the Japanese people.

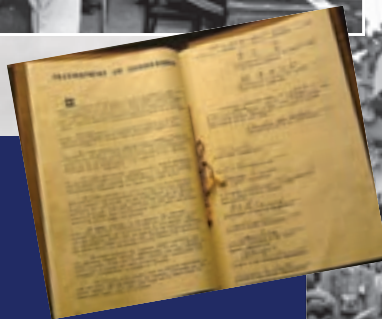
AUGUST 9

THE BOMBING OF NAGASAKI

U.S. airmen Ashworth and Barnes preserved Fat Man's safety plugs. In 1988, Barnes donated the plug in his possession to the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. For a limited time, visitors can see the plug in the temporary exhibit Till We Meet Again.



“It is our responsibility—ours, the living—to see to it that this victory shall be a monument worthy of the dead who died to win it.”
 – HARRY S. TRUMAN



SEPTEMBER 2

FORMAL SURRENDER OF JAPAN

Aboard the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, Japan formally surrenders to the Allies, bringing an end to World War II.



“EXPLORE THE MARCH TO VICTORY”
 at TrumanLibraryInstitute.org or on Facebook
 (The Truman Library Institute).

WILD ABOUT HARRY★



EVENT LEADERSHIP

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USO-Style Event Breaks Fund-Raising Record

The Truman Library Institute hosted its 16th annual fundraising dinner on Thursday, April 25. The 1945-themed celebration attracted 730 attendees and ultimately raised \$513,000 in support of the presidential legacy and library of Harry S. Truman

An evening of tribute to Harry Truman was also an evening to honor those who fought in World War II, a war historian Rick Atkinson described as “the greatest self-inflicted catastrophe in human history.”

“The first duty of all of us – 320 million strong – is to remember,” Atkinson said.

In his keynote speech at the annual Wild About Harry dinner, held Thursday evening in Kansas City, Atkinson described the war in broad outlines and in human detail. Four well known veterans of the war were singled out, too.

Ed Matheny, a longtime Kansas City attorney, was in the Pacific during the war. He said Truman got it right in deciding to use the atomic bomb to force Japan’s surrender.

“The actions he took saved my life and that of a lot of others by his courage in dropping the atom bomb,” Matheny said in a video that honored him along with Bill Dunn Sr., a Navy pilot in the Pacific and former chairman of the J.E. Dunn Construction Group; and Henry W. Bloch, who flew 31 B-17 missions in the 95th Air Group in Europe and came home to found H&R Block, along with his brother. All three appeared at the event.

“That had to be the toughest decision that a president ever had to make. ... and I think it was probably the right decision,” said former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole. It ended the war and stopped the killing of soldiers on both sides, he said.

Dole, who lost the use of his right arm when he was hit by machine-gun fire and nearly died in northern Italy in the war’s final weeks, was given the Truman Library Institute’s annual Legacy of Leadership Award for his long political career that included years as the Senate minority and majority leader and being the 1996 Republican nominee for president.

Clifton Truman Daniel pointed out that Dole was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with a designation for valor. He spent years recuperating and learned to write with his left hand. He said he developed a new skill: learning how to make people in the hospital smile. A doctor told him something that stuck: “He said, you’ve got to use what you have left.”

He had high praise for Truman, who he said learned much about leadership when he served in the Army in World War I, just as Dole did in World War II.

“He had a lot of that good common sense that we’re so proud of in the Midwest,” he said, and he called Truman “a wonderful president.”

“Harry Truman was the first president to do a lot about civil rights, and that gets forgotten sometimes in history,” he said.

Dole was instrumental in getting the World War II Memorial built on



“I’m very proud to be here. Very proud and very honored to receive an award named after President Truman.”

THE HON. ROBERT J. DOLE

Recipient, Harry S. Truman Legacy of Leadership Award

the National Mall in Washington, D.C. “If you have a father or grandfather who served in World War II, you need to come,” he said.

The event was held in the historic ballroom at the Muehlebach in downtown Kansas City, a room with strong ties to Truman. It was full on April 25, with an announced attendance of 730, and it raised more than \$500,000 for the Truman Library Institute.

“We may be outgrowing the venue,” joked Clifton Truman Daniel. “Next year’s event will be at the Truman Sports Complex.”

Excerpt from “Wild About Harry Honors Sacrifice of WWII Veterans” by Jeff Fox. Originally published by The Examiner; reprinted with permission. Find the full article at examiner.net.



TRU TREASURES

Inside the Vault

The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum is home to some 32,000 artifacts, including numerous World War II objects. From the safety plug from the atomic bomb “Fat Man” to the metal prayer book that saved a soldier’s life (both currently on display at the Truman Library), these artifacts help bring history to life. Only a fraction of the entire collection can be displayed in the Museum at any one time, but from May through September, the Truman Library opened the vault to share WWII artifacts during new Museum sessions titled “White Glove Wednesdays.” For this special edition of TRU Magazine, we asked Truman Library curator Clay Bauske to share some of his personal favorites with you.

OPPOSITE: Flag from Nagasaki

Army PFC William Henry Myers obtained this small Japanese flag while touring Nagasaki, Japan, in September 1945, a month after the city was largely destroyed by the second atomic bomb.

**Nazi Treasure**

Inscribed "LAH" for "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler," this wine glass belonged to the elite SS unit that served as Adolf Hitler's personal bodyguard formation. Truman's associate Fred Canfil obtained them while at Potsdam in July 1945.

**Japanese Short Sword**

Forged about 1291 A.D. by master sword maker Masamune of Kamakura, this extremely rare Japanese short sword was presented to President Truman in 1946 by General Walter Krueger as a gift from a Japanese official.

**First Victory Bond**

President Truman purchased the first Roosevelt Memorial Victory Bond in October 1945. The \$200 Series E, No. R1E bond was finally redeemed by his daughter Margaret Truman Daniel in 1984.

**MacArthur Pen Cover**

General Douglas MacArthur dropped this pen nib cover on the deck of the USS Missouri during the Japanese surrender ceremony, where it remained, possibly because picking it up would have required MacArthur to bow before the Japanese delegation.

**Liberty Road Marker**

This sculpture containing earth from the graves of American soldiers in France is a small bronze replica of one of 1,146 stone kilometer markers along "La Voie de la Liberte" – the Liberty Road – that follows the route of the American Army in 1944 from Normandy to Bastogne.

**Daggers for Servicemen**

Jesse Lee McCoy of Springfield, Illinois, sent this handmade dagger to President Truman. Calling himself "The Daggeman," McCoy had made more than 9,500 daggers that he presented as gifts to American servicemen after the Second World War.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS★

The Buck Stops Here Society

Pinney L. Allen
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Stephanie Guerin and Larry Jacob
Ginanne Long
Kay Martin
Darlene M. McCluskey
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Karen Ball and David Von Drehle
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Margi and Keith Pence

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Chad Harris
Marsha and Peter Kirk

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Cyprienne Simchowicz and Gerald White

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Jan Roepe and Jim Blau
Sharon and John Blevins
Laura Burson and Dennis Fernandes
Sam Childers
Tammy and John Ciccolella
Pennie and Cliff Cohn
Bradley Cordes
Ernest B. DeCamp
John Eise
Sandra and Ed Elliot
Pat H. Filippone
Beth Franklin
Pamela Fulmer
Teresa and Jeff Griffith
Marjorie and Fred Hahn
Virginia and Bob Hendrickson
Barbara and Robert Hicks
Katherine J. Hoggard
Chalice and Mike Jeffries
Virginia F. Johnson
Patty and Gary Johnson
Pam Mauch and Patrick Kane
Jane and Bill Kloeckner

Dennis Lowrey
Dennis Mayberry and Anna Magruder
The Hon. William Mahoney
Bridget McCandless and Dennis Taylor
Deborah and Gregory McIntire
Judy and Bill McMurray
Suzanne Meunier
Peggy and Gene Meyer
Margaret and John Monroe
Suzanne and George Nerren
Carol and Dennis Nichols
Lloyd Norman
Karen and Robert North
Duane and Frank O'Sullivan
Julia and Richard Parker
Jeremy Povenmire
Anne and Andrew Purdes
Jill Quaney
Barbara and Richard Rexroth
Jeannie and Stephen Richards
Sandy and Blake Roberson
Michael Rosenberg
Sandra Schiess
Helen Stechschulte
Don Thomson
Joleen Goff and Donald H. Wallace
Susan and Tom Waters
Cindy and Michael Wilhite
Joann and Larry Wilson
Jeffrey Wilson
Linda and Dwight Wolfe
Bernard Zolot

Basic Level

Kristin Alexander
Barbara and Richard Atlas
Martin Ayers
Joyce Bartel
Paul Bond
Guy Buice
Laura and Gardiner Davis
James Edward and Vivyan Dean
Barbara and Rick DeBusk
Edward Dillon
William M. Downer
Kate Drake
Judy and Robert Edsall
William Edwards
Marianne Fazzino
M. Rogene Fike
Janet Fisher
Paula Francisco
Helen French
Sandra and Ralph Fritz
Shirley and Leonard Gallup
Bonnie Ginn
Paula D Gold
Donna Henry
Chris Hile
Cynthia Hogle
Ann Hyde
Mary and Evan Jorn
Clare and James Law
Harold Lockwood
Evelyn Maddox
Aaron Million

Alan Oliver
Joyce Paulsen
George Pottinger
Patricia and James Pressley
Sam Richardson
Gina and Steven Roth
Ebrahim Shirazi
Wilson Siemens
Grace Thornton
Patricia and Gary Thorpe
Sharon Treese
Rhonda and Mark Trosen
Jim and Eva U'Ren
Keith Vickers
Lisa and Steve Windle
James Winka
Robert E. Winner

Teacher Level

Trudena Fager
Mark Hoduski
Stewart Koesten
John Masterman
John Orłowski
Michele Robnett
Ludwika Rozwadowska
Donald Sutton
Elizabeth A. Vrabac
Anne and Edward White
Tarvish Whiting
Wendy Williamson

New memberships received
8/20/2014 - 8/3/2015



THE HOWARD AND VIRGINIA BENNETT FORUM ON THE PRESIDENCY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY ★

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015
6 p.m., Unity Temple on the Plaza
Kansas City, Missouri

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin will discuss her books, the American presidency, and leadership lessons from the White House. She will be joined onstage by legendary journalist Bill Moyers.

SPECIAL GUESTS

DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

Doris Kearns Goodwin is a world-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Author of six critically acclaimed and *New York Times* best-selling books, including *Team of Rivals* and her most recent, *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism* – Goodwin has been called “America’s historian-in-chief” (*New York Magazine*).

BILL MOYERS

Bill Moyers is an author, journalist and political commentator who served as White House Press Secretary in the Johnson administration from 1965 to 1967. Moyers has been recognized as one of the unique voices of our times and is often called “America’s conscience.”

TICKETS

\$10 general admission tickets are on sale now.

MEMBER TICKETS

This event is FREE for Truman Library Institute members. The number of free tickets is determined by membership level. Learn more and RSVP online at TrumanLibraryInstitute.org. To check your membership status, call or email Kim Rausch at kim.rausch@nara.gov or 816.268.8237.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about The Howard and Virginia Bennett Forum on the Presidency at TrumanLibraryInstitute.org/events.



CHANNELING CHURCHILL ★

At 14, Jay Mehta took first place in the 2015 National History Day competition with his depiction of Winston Churchill. In this excerpt of an on-air interview, KCUR's Steve Kraske asks the GKCNDH program participant student why the English Prime Minister inspired him, and how he prepared for the role of a lifetime.

Jay Mehta at the National History Day awards ceremony with National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman William Adams and (right) as Winston Churchill.

Photos: Route 1 Multimedia

SK: There were different categories, but there were 600,000 kids involved in this competition, and you came out on top. How does it feel to be a national champ?

JM: It's nice because you put a lot of work into these projects, and they're a big commitment over a long period of time. Whether or not you place, it's a great experience; but, obviously it's nice to win.

SK: I think the question everyone wants to know, Jay, is "Why Winston Churchill?" I'm guessing that if you asked 100 fourteen year olds who he was, 96 will give you a blank stare.

JM: I went to London last summer on vacation. We were at Oxford, at a book store in Oxford, and there was a book called *Great British Wit* by Rosemary Jarski, and there was Churchill on the front with his victory sign. I bought the book just because I appreciate British wit, and reading it over the next couple of months I realized how many of his quotes were in there – he had his own chapter in the book, as well. So he was on my mind, I knew who he was, when they announced that the theme for this year was "Leadership and Legacy." I was making my lists, and it became very clear that no one could keep me that entertained and interested over a long period of time...

SK: I should point out that you didn't take on just the role of Winston Churchill in your 10-minute performance. You also did FDR and two other characters. Who are they?

JM: This year I constructed my performance in a way where I had a character and a narration, character and narration... there were 4 characters. I wanted to cover the time and the topic over the course of the ten minutes.

My first character was Neville Chamberlain, Churchill's predecessor. He was infamous for appeasement. Obviously, it falls to the blame of his predecessor, as well; it was a

policy that had been around for awhile. So the idea of that performance was to show how Churchill was a whistle blower but also looked at as a warmonger. And then to close the gap I go to Churchill in 1940, and then I do FDR in 1945 to get an international perspective and to sort of talk about what we thought of Churchill at the end of the war. And then my last character is David Cameron, the current prime minister of England, so I could tie it to today and show how Churchill mattered.

SK: You spent more than 300 hours reading books, scanning documents, watching documentaries. You became a real historian. One of your teachers said that you dived into all the original research you could get your hands on.

JM: You have to pick a topic that you love and you have to pick a topic that you're willing to become that obsessed about.

SK: You became obsessed about it. Why?

JM: I think that Churchill's special. He keeps you entertained as well as informed – when you're doing a project on him as well as when you are part of the country he was leading. He kept you amused, he kept you entertained. And he led the country with a lot of skill. For me personally, as a history nerd, it was very easy to become obsessed, and being obsessed is very beneficial.

SK: You also interviewed a WWII pilot – you did this on your own – and a survivor of the London blitz bombing raids. Why did you do that?

JM: Interviews are one of the great joys of doing a National History Day project. Again, for somebody who loves history, it's sort of a dream come true to be able to sit down and talk with a man who jumped out of a plane over Europe in 1944. So I jumped at any chance I could to do that chance to do that, whether or not it would help me with my project, it's just that having that WWII perspective as part of your knowledge is invaluable.



More than 500 students participated in the Greater Kansas City National History Day (GKCNHD), organized and hosted by the Truman Library on February 28. Fourteen participants were awarded medals at the state competition; seven advanced to the final round. Congratulations to these students who represented GKCNHD at The Kenneth E. Behring National History Day contest on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, June 14-18, 2015. The 2015 theme for the academic challenge was "Legacy & Leadership in History!"

MILES ALLAIN

Walt Disney: The Pursuit of a Dream

LAUREN BROOKINS

Susan B. Anthony: Women Work, Women Vote

GRACE COGAN

Paving the Moral Path: Frances Perkins' Leadership in Forming a Legacy for Workers' Rights

JAY MEHTA

Victory at All Costs: The Leadership and Legacy of Winston Churchill

ANNA PRAISWATER

J. Robert Oppenheimer: The Ethical Side of Science

MICHAELA SCARROW

Hans Berger and the Electroencephalograph

HANNAH SCOTT

The Conscience of Kansas City: Lucile Bluford and Her Unparalleled Leadership in the Call for Change



Listen to the full interview, including a brief on-air performance by "National History Day champion" Jay Mehta, at KCUR.org. Search on the keywords "Channeling Churchill."

NHD WORKSHOP - Educators are invited to attend the Truman Library's 2016 NHD Workshop on October 24. Please contact Mark Adams at mark.adams@nara.gov for details.





MORE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Sign up for event alerts at TrumanLibraryInstitute.org

WWII Lecture Series

When Presidents Go to War

Featuring Ted Wilson
May 5, 2015 | Attendance: 275

Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire

Featuring Richard Fank
July 14, 2015 | Attendance: 160

We Fight! Red Tails, Black Soldiers and the Civil Rights Movement

Featuring Carol Anderson
September 24, 2015 | Attendance: 300 (est.)

V-E Day Commemoration

Featuring WWII Brig. Gen. Bob LeBlanc
May 8, 2015 | Attendance: 200

World War II Weekends at the Museum

May 9-10, June 13-14, July 11-12, August 8-9, September 12-13, 2015
Attendance: 3,243

Member Event

The Girls of Atomic City

Featuring Denise Kiernan
June 9, 2015 | Attendance: 395

Advance Film Screening

The Bomb

A New Documentary Film by PBS
Featuring Director Rushmore DeNooyer
July 23, 2015 | Attendance: 249

Distinguished Authors Events

The Wright Brothers

Featuring David McCullough
June 19, 2015 | Attendance: 750

The Triumph and Tragedy of Lyndon Johnson

Featuring Joseph A. Califano
July 15, 2015 | Attendance: 760

V-J Day Commemoration

August 15, 2015 | Attendance: 645

Vets Visit Free Days

Complimentary Museum Admission from V-E Day to V-J Day

More than 3,100 U.S. Veterans Honored

TRU EVENTS

01★**Truman Medal for Economic Policy**

2015 Award Luncheon Honoring John B. Taylor

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 | InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza, Kansas City, Mo.

Join us for the 2015 Truman Medal for Economic Policy Award Luncheon honoring John B. Taylor, the George P. Shultz Senior Fellow in Economics at the Hoover Institution and the Mary and Robert Raymond Professor of Economics at Stanford University. He chairs the Hoover Working Group on Economic Policy and is director of Stanford's Introductory Economics Center. His book *Getting Off Track* was one of the first on the financial crisis; his latest book, *First Principles*, offers an economic plan to restore America's prosperity. For tickets or information on sponsor benefits, please visit TrumanLibraryInstitute.org.

02★**Hail to the Chiefs****TAFT: Chief Executive to Chief Justice**

Featuring Lewis Gould

Thursday, October 15, 2015 | 6 p.m. Wine Reception | 6:30 p.m. Program

Truman Forum, Kansas City Public Library – Plaza Branch, 4800 Main Street, Kansas City, Mo.

William Howard Taft was the only man ever to lead two of America's three governing branches. But between these two well-documented periods in office, there lies an eight-year patch of largely unexplored political wilderness. Now, eminent presidential historian Lewis L. Gould provides the first in-depth look at this period in Taft's singular career, revealing how a man often derided for his lack of political acumen made his way through the hazards of Republican affairs to gain his objective.

03★**The Honorable Ike Skelton Veterans Day Ceremony**

Sunday, November 8, 2015 | Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

Commemorate Veterans Day at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum with a patriotic program, 21-gun salute, live patriotic music, and a keynote address by Joseph L. Galloway. The journalist covered the Vietnam War from the front lines while embedded with the Command Unit of the 1st Cavalry Division. His detailed account, co-authored by Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore (Ret.), became a runaway *New York Times* best-seller and then, in 2002, film starring Mel Gibson, *We Were Soldiers*. Co-presented by the Truman Library Institute, the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum and the City of Independence, Missouri.

Included with paid Museum admission. Members, veterans and active military FREE.

**JUST FOR TEACHERS:**

Annual High School Trivia Contest | October 19, 2015

National History Day Workshop | October 24, 2015

04★

Beyond the Gowns

Lady Bird and Lyndon

Featuring Betty Boyd Caroli

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 | 6 p.m. Wine Reception | 6:30 p.m. Program

Truman Forum, Kansas City Public Library – Plaza Branch, 4800 Main Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This fresh look at Lady Bird Johnson upends her image as a plain Jane who was married for her money and mistreated by Lyndon. This Lady Bird worked quietly behind the scenes through every campaign, every illness, and a trying presidency as a key strategist, fundraiser, barnstormer, peacemaker, and indispensable therapist.

05★

The Howard & Virginia Bennett Forum on the Presidency

The State of the American Presidency

With Special Guests Doris Kearns Goodwin and Bill Moyers

6 p.m., Saturday, November 14, 2015

Unity Temple on the Plaza, 707 W. 47th Street, Kansas City, Mo.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin will discuss her books, the American presidency, and leadership lessons from the White House. She will be joined onstage by legendary journalist Bill Moyers.

MEMBERS: FREE member tickets available for this special event. For additional details, please visit TrumanLibraryInstitute.org or contact Kim Rausch at kim.rausch@nara.gov or 816.268.8237.

06★

Sadako Sasaki Crane Installation

With Special Guests Clifton Truman Daniel and Masahiro Sasaki

Thursday, November 19, 2015 | Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

The Sadako Legacy Foundation will donate one of Sadako Sasaki's original origami cranes to the Truman Library. Diagnosed with leukemia due to radiation exposure from the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Sadako Sasaki began folding paper cranes in her hospital bed. According to a Japanese legend, if a person folds 1,000 paper cranes, that person is granted one wish. Although she died in 1955, her cranes have come to symbolize world peace and reconciliation. The program will feature remarks by Sadako's brother, Masahiro Sasaki.



MORE EVENTS AND EXHIBITS ONLINE:

Subscribe to Truman eNews for complete details on public programs, Members-only events, exhibition openings and more. **Snap the QR code to sign-up or visit TrumanLibraryInstitute.org.**

TRU VIEW

“My friendship with survivors began with a little girl named Sadako Sasaki.”

CLIFTON TRUMAN DANIEL



JAPAN: 70 YEARS ON

BY CLIFTON TRUMAN DANIEL

The eldest grandson of President Truman reflects on the 70th anniversary of the use of atomic weapons. Clifton Truman Daniel is the honorary chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Truman Library Institute, the nonprofit partner of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. He is the author of the 1995 memoir, *Growing Up with My Grandfather: Memories of Harry S. Truman and Dear Harry, Love Bess: Bess Truman's Letters to Harry Truman, 1919-1843*, published in 2011.

Over the years, I have met dozens of World War II veterans who shake my hand and tell me that if my grandfather hadn't ordered the use of atomic bombs against Japan, they would likely have died in an invasion of the country's home islands.

I also have friends who have suffered terribly because of my grandfather's decision. They are survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On this, the 70th anniversary of the bombings, we honor both.

In 1947, on a state visit to Mexico, my grandfather laid a wreath at the monument to Los Niños Heroes, six teenage Mexican Army cadets who died defending their military academy against American forces 100 years earlier. When reporters asked him why he had honored former enemies, my grandfather said, "Brave men don't belong to any one country. I respect bravery wherever I see it."

Likewise, suffering and sacrifice don't belong to any one country. We must acknowledge it fully and honestly to move forward in peace.

Fred Mitchell barely escaped as kamikazes destroyed his ship, the USS Drexler, and killed most of his friends. For decades after-

ward, he harbored a deep hatred for the Japanese. Finally, unable to tolerate the poison anymore, he traveled to Japan and met – and befriended – some of the men who had been trained to kill him.

"Looking at these old Japanese men who didn't look much different from me ... it was just so hard to believe that we were trying to kill each other," he said. "They were of the same mind as we were. There comes a time to end the hatred."

My friendship with survivors began with a little girl named Sadako Sasaki.

Sadako was two when the first atomic bomb destroyed her hometown, Hiroshima, in 1945. She and her family survived. Nine years later, Sadako was diagnosed with radiation-induced leukemia. To help in her treatment, she followed a Japanese tradition that says if you fold 1,000 origami paper cranes, you are granted a long life and good health.

Sadako folded about 1,500 cranes, but died of the leukemia in October of 1955. A monument to her and to all the children killed, wounded or sickened by the bomb stands in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park today.

I met Sadako's older brother, Masahiro, and her nephew, Yuji, in May of 2010 in New York. They were donating one of Sadako's final cranes to the World Trade Center Memorial as a gesture of healing. During that meeting, Yuji dropped a tiny paper crane into my palm. It was the last one Sadako folded before dying. That little crane impelled my trip to Japan and the memorial ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Sadako wanted to live her life in a world free of war and nuclear weapons. Though she has been immortalized in books and on film, not many of her own words remain. Those that do are simple, heartfelt and should be a guide for the rest of us on this 70th anniversary of the end of the war and the first and only use of nuclear weapons against human beings.

"I will write peace on your wings," she said off her flock of paper cranes. "And you will fly all over the world."

Editor's Note: Sadako's brother, Masahiro, will present one of the last origami cranes folded by Sadako to the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum at a public program on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

PROFILE: KURT GRAHAM★

The Truman Library Institute welcomes Kurt Graham as the fifth director of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. Appointed by the archivist of the United States, Dr. Graham joined the team on July 27, 2015. We asked the public historian five questions. Here's what he had to say.

READING I read mostly history. I recently finished Jon Meacham's *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*, which is one of the better recent treatments (and there are many) of Jefferson's legacy. One can never read enough about Thomas Jefferson. I am also reading Margaret Truman's biography of her father. I am finding this book particularly valuable because it blends the eye of an insider and the ear of a writer to bring us a very personal portrait of Mr. Truman. I am endlessly fascinated by the lives of our presidents. We look to them for so much more than policy, which is perhaps why the next book on my nightstand is David Brook's *The Road to Character*.

LISTENING I love music and listen to everything from country to classical. Right now I am appreciating James Taylor's new album *Before This World*, which is his first release of original material in more than a decade. Taylor is the dean of the singer/songwriter school and is still its standard bearer. My other standbys include Nanci Griffith, David Wilcox, Lyle Lovett, and many, many more. My teen-aged children ensure that I get a healthy dose of whatever it is that currently plays on the radio. Fortunately, they have good taste and I enjoy a lot of their music. I am blessed with a house full of musicians, so mostly I enjoy the music that they themselves make.

RESEARCHING My research and writing have centered on American political and institutional history. I have published a book about the lower federal courts in the early United States. While not necessarily a topic on the top of most people's need-to-know list, it is, I believe, an important element in our national development. As a former history professor I have seen firsthand the gaps in the collective understanding of how our institutions of government were formed and how they operate. Moreover, I believe a presidential library carries a similar responsibility to that of a university to educate the citizenry. I am currently contemplating a research project that focuses on the Electoral College, which incidentally does not have a football team.

GARDENING David McCullough opens his biography of Truman with this quote from an early history of Jackson County: "As an agricultural region, Missouri is not surpassed by any state in the Union. It is indeed the farmer's kingdom..." I love the fact that Truman was a farmer. My wife and I planted a garden the first spring after we were married and have had one every year

since. For us a garden is more than a source of organic salsa. It represents a connection to the here and now as well as to our agrarian heritage and the generations of farmers who made our abundance possible. I have come to believe there is a reason why the Founding Fathers were in reality the Founding Farmers.

QUOTING The first time I met Harry Truman's grandson Clifton he shared with me his favorite quote from his grandfather: "Never kick a fresh turd on a hot day." As with many of Truman's one liners, this one contains words to live by. At times I feel like a fresh turd; alternatively, I have been the guy with dirty boots. In any event, the insight remains: yes, a mess can eventually be cleaned up, but it is better not to step in it in the first place.

A WORD FROM HARRY

September 1, 1945

Excerpts from President Truman's Radio Address Announcing the Surrender of Japan

The thoughts and hopes of all America—indeed of all the civilized world—are centered tonight on the battleship *Missouri*. There on that small piece of American soil anchored in Tokyo Harbor the Japanese have just officially laid down their arms. They have signed terms of unconditional surrender.

Four years ago, the thoughts and fears of the whole civilized world were centered on another piece of American soil—Pearl Harbor. The mighty threat to civilization which began there is now laid at rest. It was a long road to Tokyo—and a bloody one.

We shall not forget Pearl Harbor.

The Japanese militarists will not forget the *USS Missouri*.

God grant that in our pride of the hour, we may not forget the hard tasks that are still before us; that we may approach these with the same courage, zeal, and patience with which we faced the trials and problems of the past four years.

Our first thoughts, of course—thoughts of gratefulness and deep obligation—go out to those of our loved ones who have been killed or maimed in this terrible war. On land and sea and in the air, American men and women have given their lives so that this day of ultimate victory might come and assure the survival of a civilized world. No victory can make good their loss.

Only the knowledge that the victory, which these sacrifices have made possible, will be wisely used, can give them any comfort. It is our responsibility—ours, the living—to see to it that this victory shall be a monument worthy of the dead who died to win it.

Liberty does not make all men perfect nor all society secure. But it has provided more solid progress and happiness and decency for more people than any other philosophy of government in history. And this day has shown again that it provides the greatest strength and the greatest power which man has ever reached.

We know that under it we can meet the hard problems of peace which have come upon us. A free people with free Allies, who can develop an atomic bomb, can use the same skill and energy and determination to overcome all the difficulties ahead.

General Douglas MacArthur presided over the Japanese surrender ceremony on board the battleship *USS Missouri* on September 1, 1945. Newscasters Webley Edwards and Merrill Mueller described the proceedings. Remarks were offered by General MacArthur, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and, from The White House, President Harry S. Truman. To hear an audio recording of that historic broadcast, scan the QR code or find Truman's historic speeches at TrumanLibraryInstitute.org.

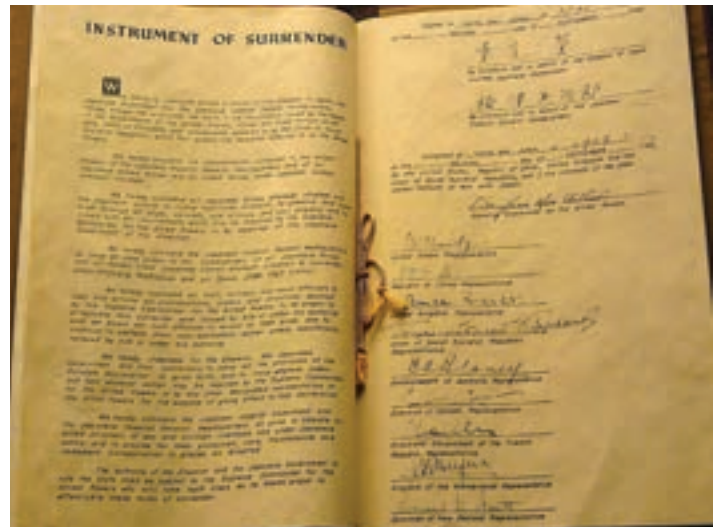
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Years since Japan's
surrender on the U.S.S.
Missouri.



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