



## Spirit of '45 Salute to America's Gold Star Families

As of 4/26/2015 – Note changes due to inclement weather

### Primary contacts:

<b>Dr. E. Bruce Heilman</b>	<b>(804) 873-4700</b> <b>BHeilman@Richmond.edu</b>
<b>Warren Hegg</b>	<b>(408) 857-5252</b> <b>Warren@Spiritof45.org</b>
<b>Linda Laurie</b>	<b>(858) 513-8238</b> <b>LSIZZLE@Aol.com</b>
<b>Bob Sussan</b>	<b>(703) 328-7691</b> <b>BobSussan@americanlegion.org</b>
<b>Bob Christie</b>	<b>(804) 502 - 0997</b>

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### Thurs, April 23

*Local media and USMC networks being alerted. Photo with American Legion Riders to be sent out with post event release*

8:00 a.m. EST Flag raising ceremony  
Quantico Marine Base  
Quantico, VA 22134

Depart by 9:00 a.m. for **Charlotte, NC\***  
via Richmond, and Durham, NC  
(380 miles, est. 6 – 7 hrs)

*American Legion Riders will accompany Dr. Heilman to Charlotte, NC*

Arrive at The Cypress of Charlotte at 3 – 4 p.m. EST

*Harriet and her late husband joined Dr. Heilman in Times Square on 10/14/2014 to announce the countdown to the WWII 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration.*

5:00 p.m. Dinner with Harriet Thompson\*  
The Cypress of Charlotte  
3442 Cypress Club Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28210  
Contact: Theresa Wohlbruck (704) 737-4699

*Atria Senior Living is providing overnight accommodations for Dr. Heilman at several stops, and holds Spirit of '45 Day events at all of its 100 senior living communities in*

**Overnight accommodations being arranged by Atria Senior Living**

Hyatt House Charlotte Airport  
4920 Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28217

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**Fri April 24**

*VITAS is the nation's largest hospice and has been a major force in the Spirit of '45 "movement" for the past several years. VITAS was also instrumental in the creation of "We Honor Veterans," a joint venture between the VA and the palliative care industry that is an active Spirit of '45 supporter promoting the program to its 2000+ members.*

9:00 a.m. Depart for **Atlanta, GA**  
(250 miles, est. 4 – 5 hrs)

Arrive in Atlanta at 2 – 3 p.m. EST

Contact Larry Robert,  
VITAS Innovative Healthcare  
(404) 964-9340

**Overnight accommodations arranged by VITAS  
Holiday Inn Atlanta Downtown Centennial  
101 Andrew J. Young International Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 30303**

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**Sat, April 25**

*The Williams will be celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by appearing in Times Square on 10/14 to officially kick off the WWII 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Weekend.*

*Dr. Heilman is dedicating his coast-to-coast ride to the Gold Stars of WWII and all eras, and their families.*

10 a.m. – 11 am EST

Visit WWII exhibit at the World of Coca-Cola with WWII Navy vets Ray and Ellie Williams  
121 Baker St. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30313

11:00-1:00 Lunch with Gold Star families  
The Varsity 61 N. Ave NW Atlanta, GA 30308

**Overnight in Atlanta due to thunderstorms.**

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**Sun, April 26**

**Joined by Bob Christie and Denis Graffum from American Riders Richmond who drove down to Atlanta with truck and trailer to assist Dr. Heiman drive through thunderstorms in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, to Shreveport, LA Depart by 7:00 a.m.**

**Contact Bob Christie for updates (804) 502 - 0997**

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## Mon, April 27

*NAMPA is a national network of publishers of newspapers and magazines that reaches more than 5.5 million readers in more than 30 states. The objective of this visit is to begin getting the word out to these publications about the Ride so they can cover it when Dr. Heilman rides through their market area, and to begin to build public awareness in their communities about the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration in August.*

Arrive Shreveport, LA by 11:00 a.m. CST  
**Subject to weather conditions**

Press interviews at  
American Legion Lowe-McFarlane Post 14  
5315 South Lakeshore Drive

Contact: Gary Colligas  
Executive Director  
North American Mature Publishers Association  
(NAMPA)  
(313) 347-6839

American Legion Riders Contact  
Ken Harrison (318) 393-9401

Depart at 2:00 p.m. for **Tyler, TX**  
(97 miles, est. 1.5 – 2 hrs)

Arrive at 4 – 5 p.m.

American Legion Riders Contact:  
Mike Croson (903) 593 - 9751

**Overnight accommodations being arranged by Atria Senior Living**

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## Tues, April 28

*The 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum honors the contributions of Texans during WWII and is a symbol of the legacy of Ground Forces that will be honored by the MHPA convoy that will travel across Texas on its way from Virginia to San Diego in the fall of 2015 as "America's Longest Veterans Day Parade."*

7:00 a.m. Depart for **Dallas, TX**  
(110 miles, est. 2 – 2.5 hrs))

Arrive at Dallas-Ft Worth National Cemetery at 11 a.m.  
2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX  
Contact: Deb-B Kamisato (214) 467 – 3374 ext. 213

Depart at noon p.m. for **Abilene, TX (**  
**177 miles, est. 3.5 hrs)**  
Arrive in Abilene at 3 – 4 p.m.

12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Memorial Museum  
289 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Abilene, TX 79601  
Contact: Jennifer Lenches (325) 677-6515

American Legion Riders Parramore, TX 57 302 E. South  
11<sup>th</sup> Abilene, TX 79602  
(312) 325 -5210  
fldowns@yahoo.com

**Chancellor will make his own overnight**

## arrangements

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### Wed. April 29

*The CAF is helping lead the Airpower Legacy Project by encouraging all of its members to fly their airplanes in their local communities on Saturday, August 15 in a show of solidarity for groups and individuals that are preserving these vintage aircraft. We will be issuing a press release in support of the mass flyover by WWII planes that the CAF will be doing on May 8 (VE Day) in Washington, DC, to help publicize the August flyovers.*

8:00 a.m. Depart for **Pecos, TX**  
(243 miles, est. 5 hrs)

Stopover in **Midland**  
(150 miles, 3.5 - 4 hrs)

Arrive at CAF at noon

American Legion Riders  
Tall City, TX Post 119 1403 N. Big Spring St.  
Midland, TX 79701  
432 683 8774

Commemorative Air Force HQ  
9600 Wright Dr.  
Midland, TX 79706

1:00 p.m. CST Depart for **Pecos, TX**

Arrive in Pecos, TX at 2:00- 3:00 p.m. CST  
(95 miles, est. 1.4 hrs)

**Chancellor will make his own overnight arrangements**

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### Thurs, April 30

*Opportunity to promote the Honor Flight Network which has flown more than 100,000 WWII to visit their memorial in Washington, DC since 2006.*

8:00 a.m. Depart for **Las Cruces NM**  
(255 miles, est. 5 hrs)

Arrive at 1:00- 2:00 p.m. MST (Note time change, 1 hour earlier.)

Meet David Melcher at Chevron station just off Exit 142 next to Ramada Palms

Contact: Debra Melcher, Honor Flight New Mexico  
(575) 202 - 6366

Dinner with WWII veterans

**Overnight accommodations being arranged by Honor Flight New Mexico**

**Quality Inn Las Cruces  
2200 Valley Dr.  
Las Cruces, NM**

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**Fri, May 1**

8:00 a.m. Depart Las Cruces for **Tucson, AZ**  
(275 miles, est. 5 – 7 hrs)

Arrive in Tucson at 3 – 4 p.m. MST/PST\*

American Legion Riders  
Morgan McDermott Post 7  
330 W. Franklin St. Tucson, AZ 85701 (520) 622-8703

**Overnight at Atria Bell Court Gardens  
6653 E. Carondelet Dr. Tucson, 85710  
Contact Fletcher Kuhn, Executive Director, or  
Michele Salvo, Life Director Phone: 866 -3600**

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**Sat, May 2**

8:00 a.m. Depart Tucson for **Yuma, AZ\***  
(240 miles, est. 6 hrs)

Arrive at Yuma Marine Air Base by 2 p.m. PST

American Legion Riders

Contact: Jack Harkins (619) 804 - 3200

**Overnight accommodations at Yuma Marine Air  
Base being arranged by Jack Harkins**

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**Sun, May 3**

7:00 a.m. Depart Yuma for **San Diego, CA\***  
(180 miles, est. 3 – 4 hrs)

*While in San Diego, Dr. Heilman will lay a wreath at the grave of Jerry Coleman, who helped introduce Spirit of '45 Day to Major League Baseball. Dr. Heilman will meet with the USS Midway to promote the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events that are being organized by members of the WWII Seaborne Service Legacy Project, and visit the Marine Corps Depot where he received his basic training before serving in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. He will begin the return leg of his ride to Washington, DC on Mother's Day (May 10) with an escort of bikers*

Dr. Heilman to be escorted to San Diego by  
Leathernecks Motorcycle Club

Contact: Jason Dice, Leathernecks Motorcycle Club  
(909) 368-2554

Arrive by 1 p.m. for welcome rally  
hosted by San Diego Harley-Davidson  
4645 Morena Blvd  
San Diego, A 92117

Contact: CJ Machado (858) 735-8487 and Molly of San Diego Harley-Davidson (619) 609-0113

5:00 p.m. Wreath laying at Jerry Coleman's grave at Miramar National Cemetery, 5795 Nobel Dr. San Diego, CA 92122, (858) 658-7360

Contact: Jack Harkins, president, United Veterans Council of San Diego (619) 804 – 3200

**Overnight accommodations being arranged by Jack Harkins at MCASM**

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**Mon, May 4**



Breakfast meeting with Marines TBC

10:30 am PST. Meeting with Mac McLaughlin, President, USS Midway  
910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101

1:00 p.m. meeting at USMC Training Depot  
1600 Henderson Ave. San Diego, CA 92140

5:30 p.m. depart for San Diego International Airport\

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**Sat, May 9**

Dr. Heilman returns to San Diego from Louisville, KY at 8:00 p.m.

Contact: Linda Laurie (858) 513-8238

**Overnight at the Sofia Hotel, 150 Broadway, San Diego**

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**Sun, May 10**

*Dr. Heilman will begin his return ride to WDC on Mothers Day, with a photo at the 25 ft Seward Johnson sculpture depicting the Times Square Kiss, that symbolizes the Spirit of '45 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration*

8:00 a.m. Photo at Kiss statue  
Greatest Generations Walk Tuna Harbor Park  
750 N. Harbor Drive S. D. 92101

8:30 a.m. Depart for Las Vegas, NV with bike escort (300 miles, est. 5 – 6 hrs)

Arrive at 3 – 4 p.m. in Las Vegas

Contact: CJ Machado (858) 735-8487

Welcome fundraiser hosted by Las Vegas Harley Davidson 5191 S. Las Vegas Blvd. NV 89119

**Overnight accommodations (complimentary arranged CJ Machado) at Bally  
3200 Las Vegas Blvd**

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**Mon, May 11**

*This is one of the longest segments of the Ride – 500+ miles. Any and all support along this route will be very much appreciated.*

7:00 a.m. Depart for **Green River, CO**  
(410 miles, est. 8 hrs)

Arrive at 6 – 7 p.m. MST (Note time change 1 hr later)

**Overnight accommodations in Green River, CO or other location en route to be made by Dr. Heilman**

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**Tues, May 12**

*Dr. Heilman is the spokesperson for The Greatest Generations Foundation, which takes WWII veterans to their overseas battlefields. The TGGF has arranged a gathering of WWII veterans and interviews with the press.*

Depart 8:00 a.m. for **Denver, CO**  
(345 miles, est. 6 - 7 hrs)

Arrive by 3 – 3 p.m.

Contact: Timothy Davis, president/CEO  
The Greatest Generations Foundation  
(303) 653-4555

**Overnight accommodation  
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel  
3203 Quebec St. Denver, CO 80207**

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**Wed, May 13**

9:00 – noon Press interviews with NBC, others being arranged by TGGF at Doubletree hotel followed by lunch with WWII veterans

1:00 Depart for **Kearney, NE**  
(360 miles, est. 6-7 hrs)

Arrive at 8-9 p.m. CST (Note time change 1 hr later)

**Chancellor plans to make his own overnight arrangements**

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**Thurs, May 14**

8:00 am Depart for **Des Moines, IA**  
(320 miles, est. 6 – 7 hrs)

Arrive 2:00-3:00 CST

Contact: Paul Pickart, Past Iowa State Commander,  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
(515) 251 – 2375 (w)  
(515) 251 – 3998 (h)

6:30 p.m. Dinner with Paul Pickart at Holiday Inn

**Overnight at Holiday Inn**  
**1050 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Des Moines, IA 50314 (right off the freeway)**

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**Fri, May 15**

*Governor Branstad has been very supportive of Spirit of '45 Day for several years, and has been personally reaching out to all of his fellow state governors in the country encouraging them to support 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events and activities in their communities this year.*

*Iowa is home to the Five Star Freedom Riders.*

9:00 a.m. CST Meeting with Governor Terry Branstad and Robert King, Executive Director of Veterans Affairs, at Iowa State Capitol for photo with Five Star Freedom Riders (30 mins)

Iowa State Capitol Building  
1007 E. Grand, Des Moines, IA 50319

10:00 a.m. Depart Des Moines for **Joliet, IL**  
(165 miles, est. 3+ hrs)

Arrive by 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Diane Nowak, Dignity Memorial  
(708) 567 - 3694

**Overnight accommodations arranged Dignity Memorial**  
**The Hampton Inn Hotel**  
**1521 Riverboat Center Drive**  
**Joliet, IL 60436 (right off the I-80)**

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**Sat, May 16**

*Diane Nowak is organizing a major Spirit of '45 program in Chicago, and is encouraging the 2000+ members of the Dignity Memorial network to participate in the around the world wreath laying Tribute on Sunday, August 15 this year.*

Armed Services Day program being organized by Diane Nowak, Dignity Memorial

**Overnight accommodations at The Hampton Inn Hotel 1521 Riverboat Center Drive Joliet, IL 60436 (right off the I-80)**

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**Sun, May 17**

*Grant Thompson heads one of the most successful Honor Flight hubs, and is arranging a wreath laying with Okinawa veterans during Dr. Heilman's visit.*

10:00 a.m. Depart for **Indianapolis, IN**  
(185 miles, est. 3 hrs.)

Arrive at 1 p.m.

Contact: Grant Thompson, President, Indy Honor Flight  
(317) 702-0306

Dr. Heilman will lay a wreath at the Indiana WWII Memorial in honor of 14,000 Americans who died during the Battle of Okinawa (Time TBA)



**Overnight accommodations in Indianapolis being arranged by Grant Thompson**

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**Mon, May 18**

*Dr. Heilman wants to personally express his appreciation to the American Legion for all of the support they have given to the Ride.*

*Later in the day, he will be welcomed by hundreds of school children and the public as he rides into Cincinnati.*

9:00 a.m. visit to American Legion National HQ  
Contact: Bill Sloan (317) 630 – 1265  
Henry Howard (765) 491 - 3545

Depart by 10:00 a.m. for **Cincinnati, OH**  
(115 miles, est. 2 hrs)

Arrive by noon EST. in **Cincinnati**

Contact: Carole Quakenbush, Vitas Innovative Healthcare.  
(513) 518-0377

**Overnight at Twin Towers Senior Living  
5343 Hamilton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224  
513-853-2000**

Contact: Tina Spicer Events & Program Specialist  
Twin Towers Senior Living Community  
(513) 853-2086

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**Tues, May 19**

*A native of Kentucky, Dr. Heilman is very pleased to be making Louisville the last “whistle stop” of his 6000-mile ride. Dell Courtney, who is leading the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration effort in Kentucky, will meet him on arrival.*

*Dr. Heilman plans to visit the national headquarters of Atria Senior Living, to express his appreciation for their support for his ride and their ongoing participation in Spirit of '45 Day when all of their senior communities throughout the country organize*

8:00 a.m. Depart Cincinnati for **Louisville, KY**

Arrive at 10 a.m .EST in Louisville

Contact: Dell Courtney (502) 387-4412

Visit Atria Senior Living Corporate HQ

Contact: Donna Herbst  
Atria Senior Living (516) 279-8647

**Overnight accommodations in Louisville being arranged by Atria Senior Living**

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**Wed, May 20**

Breakfast with WWII veterans

1:00 p.m. Depart Louisville for **Charleston, WV**  
(245 miles est. 4 - 5 hrs)

Arrive in Charleston at 6 – 7 p.m. EST

**Chancellor will make his own overnight arrangements.**

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**Thurs, May 21**

Arrive home at 2-3 p.m. EST

**Overnight at home in Richmond**

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**Fri, May 22**

1:00 p.m. Depart Richmond for **Fairfax, VA**  
(100 miles, est. 2 hrs)

Arrive in Fairfax at 4:30 p.m.

Fairfax American Legion Riders event

Contact: Bob Sussan, American Legion Riders  
(703) 328-7691)

**Overnight accommodations being arranged by American Legion Riders**

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**Sat – Sun May 23-24**

Rolling Thunder and other events

**Overnight accommodations to be arranged by American Legion Riders**

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**Mon, May 25**

11:00 a.m. Address youth volunteers at Navy Memorial  
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20004

1:00 p.m. Line up for National Memorial Day Parade

2:00 p.m. Step off for Parade with American Legion Riders, et al.

Wreath laying at National WWII Memorial  
(approximately 4 p.m.)

Return to Richmond or overnight in DC area

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