



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact:  
Warren Hegg  
National Supervisor  
Keep the Spirit of '45  
Alive (408) 857 5252  
Warren@Spiritof45.org

### **Lone Bugler to Perform “Taps” at USS Houston Memorial at 12:00 noon Friday, August 29**

*Spirit of '45 Day Express has traveled more than 30,000 miles to honor 'Greatest Generation'*

(HOUSTON, TX) - A lone bugler who has traveled more than 30,000 miles to honor America's 'greatest generation,' will be in Houston to place a wreath at the USS Houston Memorial and play “Taps” in honor of the captain and crew who died when the ship was sunk on February 28, 1942. The ceremony will take place at 12:00 noon, on Friday, August 29, in Sam Houston Park in downtown Houston (1000 Bagby St. 77020)

Auston O'Neill, Jr. is traveling through Texas with his wife, Bonnie, as part of a two-year national tour to help raise public awareness about events planned next year to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II on August 14, 1945. The Spirit of '45 Day Express has visited memorials, museums, veterans homes and schools in 45 states since February of this year. At each stop, O'Neill performs “Taps” in honor of the men and women who were the “ordinary heroes” of the WWII generation.

“I read the recent news reports of about the USS Houston and wanted to honor the memory of the 700 sailors and Marines who went down with the ship,” said O'Neill, whose father served in the Pacific and whose son and daughter-in-law are serving in Afghanistan.

O'Neill said that his goal is to help revive the spirit of the generation that lived through the difficult times of the Great Depression, defended freedom and democracy in WWII, and then went on to build a better future for their children and their children's children. He plans to also perform “Taps” at the Houston WWII Memorial later in the day on Friday.

Attending the wreath laying ceremony will be members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Navy League who have been helping to support the Spirit of '45 Day tour and are planning special events next year as part of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration. Houston-based SCI which owns Dignity Memorial, the nation's largest provider of funeral, cremation and cemetery services, has been supplying wreaths and helping to raise donations for the tour which is self funded by the O'Neill's.

The Spirit of '45 Day Express will be hosted by the Rayford Crossing RV Campgrounds in The Woodlands over the Labor Day weekend, and will be VIP guests at the KISS and Def Leopard rock concert at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion on Sunday evening. The Express will be in Dallas on Tuesday, September 2, where O'Neill will perform “Taps” at the Lone Sailor statue with members of the Trammel Crow family and visit the “Frontiers of Flight Museum” at Love Field. The Express will visit Farmersville, TX, on Wednesday, September 3, to pay tribute to Audie Murphy, America's most decorated WWII combat infantryman, before continuing on to Oklahoma.

For more information about Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive and the Spirit of '45 Day tour, please visit [www.Spiritof45.org](http://www.Spiritof45.org)