



AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Office of the Secretary

February 4, 2015

Mr. Warren C. Hegg
Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive
1650 Senter Road
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Mr. Hegg:

I wish to commend your efforts and that of everyone involved with "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive" to commemorate the end of World War II.

The American Battle Monuments Commission is honored to support your global initiative to remember the achievements and sacrifice of America's Armed Forces. It will be marvelous to witness the rolling ceremonies in each of the time zones across the globe at 11:00 a.m. on August 16, 2015.

Over 405,000 American servicemen and women sacrificed their lives so that we can have the Freedoms and liberties that we enjoy today. The American Battle Monuments Commission is the steward of the shrines that commemorate them. Over 93,000 of those Americans rest permanently in one of our cemeteries overseas. Another 78,900 rest in graves known only to God and are commemorated on ABMC's walls of the missing, lost at sea and buried at sea.

One of my favorite poems is written by Archibald MacLeish, who lost a brother in World War I. In his poem *The Young Soldiers Do Not Speak*, MacLeish writes "We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning." MacLeish challenges us to reflect on the true cost of war.

General of the Armies John J. Pershing, our first chairman, made a promise to families of America's fallen. The promise that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

The American Battle Monuments Commission strives to fulfill his promise through its' commemorative programs. Your efforts with "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive" do much the same.

Thank you for all you have done to recognize the service, achievements and sacrifice of America's World War II generation.

Godspeed!

Most respectfully,



Max Cleland