



Fact Sheet

World War II

Suggested Activities

The 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee has several suggested commemorative activities and projects that military installations, units, civilian organizations and communities can conduct.

Military programs should endeavor to involve the veterans, civilian public, retired military (including those in veteran's and nursing homes and hospitals), and youth at every possible opportunity.

Military Activities

- * Hold tattoo or formal retreat to dedicate or mark a significant event.
- * Publish service, unit, ship, or activity history brochures.
- * Include WW II installation/command activities in your unit's official briefing.
- * Obtain and display WW II U.S. and foreign awards on organizational colors in accordance with appropriate service regulations.
- * Obtain and display WW II Campaign Silver Bands for company/battery/troop guidon staffs in accordance with service regulations.
- * Dedicate National Guard and Reserve annual training periods to a significant WW II veteran or campaign.
- * Dedicate or rededicate an armory, reserve center, or other facility to honor a WW II veteran.
- * Serve a "WW II Thanksgiving meal," featuring fare typical of war years.
- * Highlight the contributions of WW II Special Services by having installation morale, welfare, and recreation agencies present performing and fine arts programs, such as art exhibits and WW II-era musicals, concerts, variety shows, and plays, such as "No Time for Sergeants" and "Stalag 17."
- * Have installation club/recreation programmers plan social recreation activities around 1940s and war-related themes to serve as educational and cultural enlightenment, especially for teens and young adults.

Ceremonies and Community Events

- * Participate in state/local WW II celebrations.
- * Have mayor/city council provide a proclamation; have flags flown at half staff on significant dates.
- * Participate in local parades with a color guard or marching unit in WW II uniforms.
- * Coordinate with U.S. Postal Service for a ceremony on first-day issues of WW II commemorative stamps.
- * Identify distinguished local individuals who served during WW II and include them in your commemoration activities.

* Invite local elected officials and veterans to speak at unit functions including professional development sessions about their WW II experiences.

* Install a 50-year time capsule of WW II artifacts. Keep track of WW II veteran's descendants so they can open the capsule in 2041-2045.

* Develop WW II themes for events such as graduation ceremonies, festivals, balls, races, runs, and organization days.

* Rededicate the names of streets, buildings, or trees to commemorate WW II leaders, Medal of Honor recipients, well-known veterans or campaigns.

* Organize volunteer groups, military and civilian, to visit veteran's homes and hospitals.

* Include WW II activities in the planning of domestic action projects in conjunction with local community.

* Organize volunteer groups to assist local veterans groups in restoring WW II monuments and memorials.

* Hold a retiree/veteran's luncheon and encourage guests' participation in other activities. Hold it at a veteran's home or hospital.

* Get local veterans organizations involved by having a hometown home-coming picnic or other event honoring those who served in WW II.

* Plant trees as living tributes to the men and women who served in WW II. This affords opportunity to include state/local/city park/officials, National Park Service, or scout troops in community-wide tributes.

* Sponsor a recycling drive in honor of the sacrifices of those who stayed behind to support the home front during WW II. Recycling actually started during WW II in an effort to support our service members overseas with the best possible products. Encourage car and van pooling as a means of conserving fuel, oil, tires, etc. (materials needed overseas in the war effort).

* Develop a bumper sticker with a WW II message "Fort/Base/Ship/State/Community (such as San Antonio, Texas or Norfolk Naval Station) is proud to be a WW II Commemorative Community."

* Participate in WW II community run or Volksmarch.- * Hold a WW II hangar dance with 1940s style music and dress.

* Hold a WW II craft fair.

* Sew a WW II quilt. Get public affairs coverage; place it in museum; display in library, or use as a fund-raiser.

* Create a community WW II cookbook.

Exhibits

- * Display WW II exhibits at malls and county fairs.
- * Conduct open houses with WW II exhibits.
- * Renovate a WW II "temporary" building and set up a