



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR PATRIOTS CIRCLE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM
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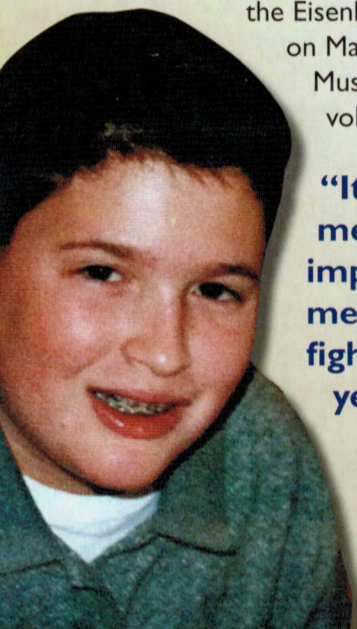
Coming of Age with WWII Museum

Jonathan's grandfather, Benjamin Katz, and his uncle, Allan Katz, were both avid readers and history buffs who shared their love of all things WWII with Jonathan Levy from an early age. "I can still remember weekly visits with my grandfather that included watching old war movies like *Midway* and *Guadalcanal*. Later, when I became interested in history books, my uncle encouraged me to read one of his favorite writers—Dr. Stephen Ambrose, and I think I had finished all of his books within the year. "Dr. Ambrose had the amazing ability to bring the stories of veterans to life while managing to weave them into the larger picture—telling both the macro and micro stories with absolute clarity," said Jonathan.

"When I was in 6th grade, I was looking for something to fill up time not spent on a tennis court, and my mother mentioned to me that the Eisenhower Center had recently received a noteworthy collection of WWII film. She worked to arrange a visit for me to the Eisenhower Center (then housed on Magazine Street—adjacent to the Museum) and to see about a potential volunteer position there."

"It has been an honor for me to be able to help in this important project...it shocks me that most of these heroic fighting men were only five years older than me."

Jonathan Levy, donor & volunteer (Age 14), from an early campaign brochure to open the National D-Day Museum



"It turns out that 12 years old was too young to volunteer with the Eisenhower Center! However, the Director suggested that I go downstairs and see about volunteering with Dr. Ambrose's new D-Day Museum project. Good fortune prevailed, and when I began helping out there was a permanent staff of three. I spent that summer working at the Museum and continued to spend time there after school for the next few years. Ultimately, my efforts included creating a donor database (following Dr. Ambrose's original article in *The Times Picayune* about the Museum), assisting with cataloging artifacts from the St. Lo Collection which formed much of the Museum's original collection, and helping to create a system to track the location of the Road to Victory bricks. It is a testament to the commitment and vision of Dr. Ambrose, Dr. Mueller, the Board and the staff that something that began so small has become such an incredible Museum. It was really amazing to be able to contribute in even the slightest way to such a fantastic project!"



Jonathan on a recent visit to the Museum

However, it was meeting a number of the men who had actually served on the battlefield that made the biggest impressions on Jonathan.

When he wasn't working on other tasks, he would steal away some time and dig through the volumes of books and memoirs in the Museum's collection. It was there that he

continued on page 2

“I give to honor the ordinary Americans who did an amazing thing to save democracy! It’s rewarding to know that these same men and women will be recognized in their lifetime for their sacrifice and devotion to our country and to know that their accomplishments will be preserved for generations to come.” Jonathan Levy, Patriots Circle Member
November 15, 2012

Coming of Age continued...

found a copy of an autobiography by Harold Baumgarten. “He landed in the first wave on Omaha Beach. It was unbelievable to read his firsthand experience and to realize that he was only 4 to 5 years older than me when he was landing on the beaches of Normandy. His is a story of truly remarkable, almost unfathomable heroism and bravery.”

A year later, at the opening ceremonies of the D-Day Museum (which was the beginning of The National WWII Museum) in 2000, Jonathan found himself seated near a number of veterans when the gentleman next to him introduced himself: “I’m Harold Baumgarten. What’s your name son?” “There I was, 15 years old and meeting this incredible man, this hero.” As the two engaged in more conversation, Jonathan explained that he had read his book, to which Baumgarten replied that Jonathan must have been one out of maybe eight people who’d read it or even knew that he had written a book! “I got a kick out of his response,” says Jonathan, “but that really illustrates how important the Museum is—more people need to hear these stories and understand the bravery and sacrifice of our veterans.”

Jonathan, who is now a successful young professional working in Corporate Strategy for American Express, is thrilled to continue to stay involved with the Museum. “While I left my volunteer role and New Orleans to attend college and, later, to pursue a career in New York, I am excited to now be able to help support the Museum financially,” he said. Jonathan doesn’t volunteer any longer because of professional demands but he has been able to support the Museum through his Patriots Circle membership for the past six years.

“I definitely feel a sense of urgency. These amazing men and women whom I’ve met throughout the years—these veterans—they aren’t going to be with us much longer. I’m very sensitive to that reality. I feel that by supporting the Museum via my Patriots Circle membership, I’m not only doing my part to preserve a significant moment in America’s history, but it’s also my way of thanking all these amazing people.”

BAUMGARTEN’S STORY

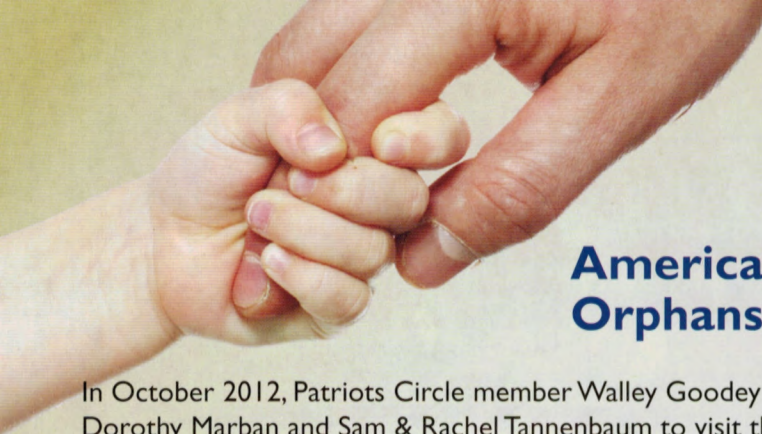
As we approached the beach, a constant hail of gunfire rained down upon us from the Germans holed up in pill boxes. The ramp of the landing craft went down and I plunged into five feet of water, already bright red with the blood of those in front of me. Men were dying before they could even reach the beach.

On the beach, it was even worse. I looked to my right and saw a buddy getting blown to bits. I looked behind me, more of the same. Hundreds of men getting killed all around me. All I could do was move up the beach and keep fighting, wondering why I didn’t get hit. Then it happened: a German 88mm shell exploded in front of me. A piece of shrapnel hit me on my left cheek just below my eye. Blood was pouring out of my face, which I plunged into the dirty water of the English Channel. There was a hole in the roof of my mouth. Teeth and gums were lying on my tongue.

I remember thinking “When will I die?” But instead of giving up, I kept on fighting. I was a good marksman and figured if I could take out some of the enemy before I died, I’d be helping to accomplish the mission.

An excerpt from a letter written by Dr. Harold “Hal” Baumgarten in 2008 explaining his experience as a 19-year-old landing on Omaha Beach.

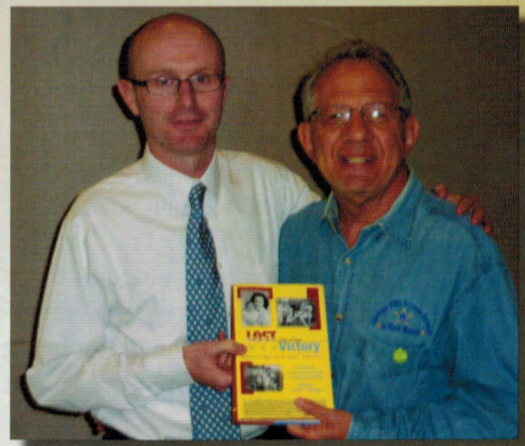




American WWII Orphans Network

In October 2012, Patriots Circle member Walley Goodey brought his guests Dorothy Marban and Sam & Rachel Tannenbaum to visit the Museum. They enjoyed touring the galleries, getting an up-close look at the restoration of PT 305 in the Kushner Restoration Pavilion and attending *Beyond All Boundaries*, the 4-D experience produced by Tom Hanks.

Sam, a Charter Member, visited with Stephen Watson, vice president and COO; Terri Burton, associate vice president of Membership & New Media; and Owen Glendening, associate vice president of Education & Access to share information regarding the American WWII Orphans Network. Founded in 1991, AWON assists individuals who are among the estimated 183,000 US children who were left fatherless as a result of WWII. To learn more about this organization, log on to: www.awon.org.



Sam Tannenbaum (right), presents a copy of "Lost In The Victory: Reflections of American War Orphans of WWII" to Stephen Watson

Mark Your Calendar!

Come see our newest pavilion: We invite you to include a visit to the Museum in your plans this year to enjoy the newest exhibits, galleries, artifacts and experiences found in **US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center**.

Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame documents professional football's rise from humble beginnings in 1892 to its status as the most popular sport in two centuries of American culture. This rich story is told through the use of more than 200 iconic artifacts from the Pro Football Hall of Fame's collection such as Saints kicker Tom Dempsey's shoe, a jersey worn by Johnny Unitas and "Mean Joe" Green's helmet, to name a few.

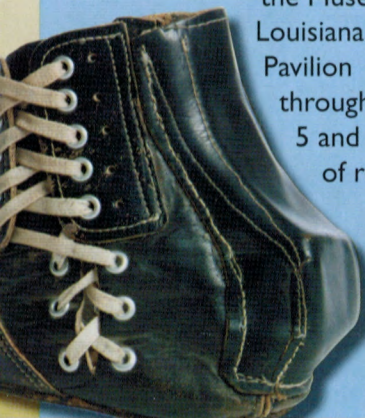
The exhibition, produced by the Pro Football Hall of Fame, will be on display in the Museum's Louisiana Pavilion through May

5 and entry will be included in the price of regular admission.

January 26 - May 5, 2013



Presented by Chevron



Shoe of famed N.O. Saints kicker, Tom Dempsey

Welcome Aboard Gregory Ricks and Associates

We are pleased to welcome Gregory Ricks & Associates to the Patriots Circle. When asked how he came to choose The National WWII Museum as an organization worthy of his support, Mr. Ricks explained, "It is a way of giving to preserve the memories of those that gave so much of themselves for our freedom." We couldn't agree more. Thanks for your membership, Gregory and Stacey Ricks!



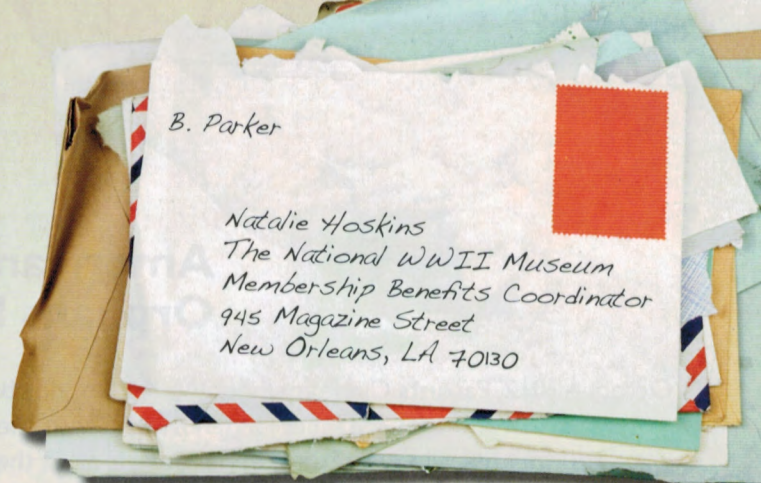
Sue Lampton (left), Patriots Circle director and Lauren Bevis, donor relations manager, receive the second of two donations from Gregory Ricks (center), owner of Gregory Ricks & Associates.

“Let’s Finish the Job!”

Work on the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center ended in early January, but our mission to honor the men and women who fought and won WWII is never over. “Let’s finish the job!” is our rallying cry. We need to complete the Museum’s campus so the remaining WWII veterans and home front workers can experience a grateful nation’s tribute. But we’re not there yet. We need America to help.

We need to raise another \$100 million to complete the Museum in honor of the men and women of the Greatest Generation.

Many who have already given to the campaign are our loyal Patriots Circle members. To learn how you can make a gift and receive permanent recognition on our campus, please contact Trish Eubanks, associate vice president of Corporate Alliances, at 504-528-1944, ext. 329 or email her at: trish.eubanks@nationalww2museum.org.



Patriots Circle Members Ask Natalie...

I used the complimentary tickets that you sent with my membership card on my last visit to the Museum. I'd like to bring my husband, Dad and brother next month. Is it possible to receive more complimentary admission tickets?

B. Parker, PC Member

No worries, B. Parker! You don't have to use the complimentary admission tickets that we send with your membership card to gain access to the Museum. Your PC membership includes free admission for you and your immediate family members for 12 months until your membership expires. Come as many times as you like during that time!

We feel that once people experience the Museum—and with a little encouragement from you—that they are likely to feel compelled to join this circle of patriots who believe in the importance of honoring our country's men and women who fought and won WWII.

So, I'm sending you additional tickets to give away this time. Please don't forget to share how much you believe in what the Museum does and suggest to your lucky recipients that they consider a Patriots Circle membership. We look forward to seeing you and your family next month!

Natalie Hoskins, membership benefits coordinator

SAVE THE DATE:



June 14, 2013

On the Front Lines of Freedom:
America's War Correspondents

