

D DAY THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM NEW ORLEANS

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The National World War II Museum Milestones

Heavy hitters to take part in Museum conference on baseball

November 9-11, 2007

The National World War II Museum announced plans for a conference and exhibition examining the significance of America's national pastime during the Second World War – *Duty, Honor, Country: When Baseball Went to War*. World War II Veterans and famed Major Leaguers including Bob Feller, Dom DiMaggio, Morrie Martin, Johnny Pesky, Jerry Coleman, Lou Brissie and others will join with baseball historians and authors for panel discussions and presentations. Tommy Lasorda will also present.

Site preparations begins for \$300 million expansion

April 2007

Demolition began on the site of The National World War II Museum's \$300 million expansion project. The first building of the new facility will be a 4-D, advanced format theater scheduled to be opened in early 2009. Project completion is scheduled for 2014.

Atomic artifact presented to the Museum by the Kingdom of Norway

November 18, 2006

The Kingdom of Norway presented a barrel to the Museum that had been used by Nazis to transport Heavy Water, a component of an atomic weapon. The barrel was retrieved from the bottom of Lake Tinn in Norway where it had rested for 60 years after the Norwegian resistance sunk the ferry carrying it. News of this important artifact was picked up around the world and nationally in *USA Today*.

Museum presents overwhelmingly successful First International Conference on World War II

November 16-19, 2006

The Museum's First International Conference on World War II was a dramatic success on every level – attendance, scholarship, media attention, and the priceless participation of World War II veterans. Daytime sessions at the Museum were standing room only, and the evening banquets with distinguished speakers the Honorable Madeleine Albright, 60 Minutes personality Andy Rooney, author James Bradley and filmmaker Ken Burns were also sell-out events.

Army Air Force “veteran” finds a home in New Orleans

September 3, 2006

A Douglas C-47 aircraft that flew over the original D-Day invasion at Normandy went on permanent display in the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion. Before finding a home in New Orleans, the aircraft flew other combat missions from Market Garden to the Battle of the Bulge, and participated in the largest airborne drop in history, Operation Varsity. Postwar, the aircraft

ferried returning personnel, served as part of the Finnish Air Lines fleet, and was seen in the 1977 film, *A Bridge Too Far*.

The National World War II Museum is born

June 2, 2006

To honor the expanded mission and the 2003 Congressional designation as “America’s World War II Museum War II Museum,” The National D-Day Museum officially became The National World War II Museum.

Educational center opens to the public

April 21, 2006

The newly built E. J. Ourso Discovery Hall opened to the public and has since provided tens of thousands of K-12 students with an exciting, dynamic place to learn more about the war that changed the world. It also serves as a national hub for virtual field trips, giving classrooms around the country the opportunity to visit the Museum. The Discovery Hall Special Exhibits Hall has been the site for exhibitions focusing on the Medal of Honor, the Battle of Midway and the hugely successful Anne Frank exhibition.

Museum reopens post-Katrina

December 3, 2005

The National World War II Museum, undamaged by Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005, reopens to the public.

Visitation milestone hit

July 30, 2003

The Museum welcomes its 1 millionth visitor.

Founder Stephen Ambrose honored for American Spirit

June 6, 2003

The first American Spirit Award, the highest honor presented by the Museum was awarded to Museum founder and World War II historian, Stephen Ambrose posthumously. The award has since been presented to Senator Bob Dole, Former Secretary of State George Schultz and President George Herbert Walker Bush for their service to their country and to the Museum.

D-Day Museum expands with Pacific wing

December 7, 2001

The Museum continued to grow in size and focus with the grand opening of the *D-Day Invasions of the Pacific* gallery, a celebration that rivaled the grand opening in scope.

Veterans, community and VIPs welcome new Museum

June 6, 2000

The National World D-Day Museum in New Orleans, founded by historian Stephen E. Ambrose, opened its doors with grand fanfare and worldwide acclaim on June 6, 2000. Two hundred thousand onlookers cheered on as military parade wound past the new Museum down Andrew Higgins Drive, including notable supporters Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg.