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## Spirit of '45 Honored by Oregon House With Passage of Senate Bill 832

Salem – Today the Oregon House of Representatives voted 59 to 0 to recognize the second Sunday in August as “Spirit of ‘45 Day” in Oregon. The measure adopted was [Senate Bill 832](#) which reads in part: “Whereas the entire World War II generation, military personnel and civilians alike, has provided a model of unity and community that serves as a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans to come together to work for the continued betterment of the United States and the world...”

The Co-Carriers for [SB 832](#) on the House Floor were State Representatives [Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg and St. Paul) and [Julie Parrish](#) (R-West Linn). [Click here](#) to see Youtube video of today’s floor remarks.

“Senate Bill 832 is about honoring the courage, shared sacrifice and commitment that millions of Americans made during World War II to serve their country during the most destructive war in our nation’s history”, said Thatcher. “This measure is not only about those brave men and women, but also the loved ones who supported them on the home front so we could continue to enjoy the freedoms and liberty we have in the US.”

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1945 is the day President Truman announced the war was over and shortly after Life Magazine published an iconic photo of a joyous sailor kissing a nurse in New York’s Time’s Square. In 2010 Congress created national “Spirit of ‘45 Day” and a five year campaign is underway leading up to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the War.

“This special day is an opportunity to remind us that we have an obligation to support all those who we ask to serve in the cause of defending liberty and freedom,” said Parrish, a mother of three who is married to a retired Army Colonel from the Oregon National Guard and an Iraq War veteran who served in both the Gulf War and Post 9-11 War. “It’s important that we use commemorations like the Spirit of ‘45 Day to instill the values of the Greatest Generation in our children. We can teach them that despite the challenges facing our country, they too, can be ordinary heroes by helping others.”

According to the [Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs](#) approximately 152,000 Oregonians served in WWII. 3,757 service members were killed in action, and around 24,000 WWII veterans are still living in Oregon.

If SB 832 is signed into law by the Governor, Oregon will become the third state to recognize this special day. There’s a national organization sponsoring events for Spirit of ‘45 Day across the country and several are being planned around Oregon. The group works in partnership with several other programs such as the [Oregon WWII Memorial Foundation](#), and [Oregon Honor Flight](#). Timing of today’s vote was coincidental with a special flight out of PDX this morning. The recently organized [Portland Honor Flights](#) flew around 50 WWII veterans to visit the national WWI monument in Washington, D.C.

Today was Armed Forces Day at the Capitol sponsored by the Oregon National Guard with military displays on the Capitol Mall. Members of the [Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge](#) alternative high school program were also serving as House Pages on the floor today. Representatives Thatcher and Parrish encourage Oregonians to take time to recognize Oregon veterans on Memorial Day and for a list of events going on around the state May 27<sup>th</sup>, go to this link: <http://oregondva.com/2013/04/29/oregon-memorial-day-events-set/>



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Joy Beebe is a WWII War Bride who grew up in England and met her husband Carl during the war. They moved back to Carl’s hometown of Keizer in 1948, ran several businesses and raised a family. Now 87 years old, Joy and her daughter, Barbara Jensen, have worked tirelessly to get SB 832 adopted by the legislature. Barbara is Oregon’s representative for the national [“Spirit of ‘45 Day” initiative](#).