

THE
MEDALLION

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



SUMMER 2020

75 YEARS OF
HONORING TEXANS
IN WORLD WAR II



DORIS MILLER MEMORIAL, WACO | DISCOVER MORE WWII DESTINATIONS ON PAGE 12



THE **MEDALLION** TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 SUMMER 2020

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To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

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TEXAS HISTORICAL
 COMMISSION
 LEADERSHIP LETTER

As veterans of the armed services, we're honored to introduce *The Medallion* magazine issue commemorating the roles played by Texas and Texans in World War II on the 75th anniversary of the end of the global conflict.

While the war was horrific in every sense, the following articles help us understand the sacrifices and contributions of our state and our ancestors in preserving the democracies of the Allied nations of WWII.

More than 1.5 million Americans trained at hundreds of military installations in Texas. Of the 750,000 Texans in uniform, more than 22,000 died.

Among those who gave their lives was Doris Miller, an African American man from Waco who was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism at Pearl Harbor and whose ship was torpedoed and sunk two years later. In addition, Felix Longoria from Three Rivers was killed in battle in the Philippines.

Audie Murphy from rural Hunt County won the Medal of Honor in Europe, was among the most decorated of American veterans, and starred in Hollywood films for decades to come.

Admiral Chester Nimitz served as Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Area.

Learn about him at the modernized Nimitz Museum, part of the THC's National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, his hometown.

The Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site in Denison offers visitors background on General Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and future President of the United States.

Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby was the first woman awarded the Army's Distinguished Service Medal as director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in WWII.

The Medallion helps illustrate the dramatic impact of Texas and Texans from 1941-46, among the Real Stories of Texas history that should make any Texan proud.

J. J. King *Brian Birdwell*

Senator Juan 'Chuy' Hinojosa, McAllen
 Senate District 20
 U.S. Marine Corps,
 Vietnam veteran

Senator Brian Birdwell,
 Granbury
 Senate District 22
 Lt. Col., U.S. Army retired,
 Desert Storm veteran,
 Pentagon survivor,
 September 11, 2001



ABOVE, TOP: Trench art created from an ashtray, cartridges, and bullets by a WWII soldier. ABOVE, BOTTOM: This hand-painted map created by a Navy hospital corpsman depicts his location on Ulithi Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Both items are part of the National Museum of the Pacific War's collection. Photos courtesy NMPW (Ruth Ann Hattori and Carlos Sanchez). ON THE COVER: The Doris Miller Memorial was dedicated in Miller's hometown of Waco on December 7, 2018. Photo by Patrick Hughey.

75 YEARS OF HONOR

THC CONTINUES COMMEMORATING WORLD WAR II'S ENDURING LEGACY

By Stephen Cure
Coordinator, THC Military History Program

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, it is an appropriate time to reflect on how the conflict shaped Texas and how Texans contributed to the largest and most costly war ever experienced.

By the time the war ended, over 750,000 Texans served in uniform with more than 22,000 of them making the ultimate sacrifice. The U.S. spent the modern equivalent of \$4 trillion on the war effort, altering the Texas landscape, economy, and society for generations to come.

Over the past several years, numerous 75th anniversary commemorations have taken place in communities to honor the people and events of the war. In the process, Texans from all walks of life large and small have been recognized for their service and actions.

A few hundred people assembled at the birthplace of Claire Chennault, organizer and leader of the famed Flying Tigers, for the dedication of a historical marker in Commerce. Meanwhile, on the beaches of Normandy, hundreds of veterans and a crowd of 12,000—including Clifford Stump, a 95-year-old World War II veteran from Dallas—joined world leaders on June 6, 2019, for the 75th anniversary D-Day commemoration.

Many activities scheduled for May 2020 to celebrate the end of the war in Europe were postponed until autumn or canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Planning for these events across the state and nation is underway and will be adjusted as needed.

In 2005, the Texas Historical Commission published a special World War II edition of *The Medallion* in honor of the 60th anniversary. In it, commissioners and staff laid out plans for the multi-year Texas in World War II initiative. Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors and the work of commissioners, staff, and countless volunteers at the local level, the effort was a success and is still ongoing.

The initiative included special commemorative ceremonies at the Capitol, September 2, 2005, the production of the *Texas in World War II* heritage travel brochure, a statewide survey of WWII-related sites, a special series of historical markers across the state, an oral history training program, and an expansion of the amount of WWII content the agency provides online. Beyond the 2005 ceremonies and release of the travel brochure (which remains available at textstimetravel.com),

1945

The summer of 1945 was an extraordinarily historic time overseas and on the home front. Consider the following monumental events that occurred within a few short months.

- Germany surrendered to Allied forces on May 8, and Allied forces wrapped up costly victories at the Battle of Okinawa and the Borneo Campaign (by June 21 and July 21, respectively).
- The first nuclear weapon testing occurred in neighboring New Mexico and was felt in El Paso; and the implementation of strategies to force the Empire of Japan's surrender was underway by July 16.
- The use of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, and the invasion of Japanese-held Manchuria by the Soviet Union and atomic bombing of Nagasaki, both on August 9, led to Japan's surrender on August 14, formalized on September 2.



the THC's efforts extended for several years and continue to influence agency programs.

The most extensive of these efforts was the statewide WWII sites survey. The need for facilities to train military personnel and house prisoners of war and internees led to the expansion or construction of 65 Army airfields, 35 Army posts, nine naval installations, more than 70 prisoner of war camps, and five internment camps. Meanwhile, industrial facilities needed to produce the materials necessary for the war effort were also greatly expanded, quadrupling output between 1939 and 1944.

As a result, the statewide survey, made possible through the work of numerous County Historical Commissions (CHCs), identified and documented more than 1,700 military and home-front sites across the state. This effort provided



greater documentation of these sites' importance; in some cases, like with the Enemy Alien Internment Camps, they also led to greater community awareness through increased interpretive materials.

The Vignettes of Wartime Texas program, which provided official Texas historical markers for 15 WWII-related sites, was successful enough to secure markers for 21 sites across the state. These markers shared stories of the war and life on the home front that had not been fully explored.

Another aspect of the THC's World War II initiative was the national award-winning oral history training provided by staff through the project "Here and There: Recollections of Texas in World War II." By working with other state-level organizations, CHCs, and other local groups, staff conducted 55 workshops across the state.



HONORING A TEXAS HERO

The U.S. Navy took a major step toward ensuring the lasting legacy of Pearl Harbor hero and Waco native Doris Miller. Earlier this year, it named the next Gerald R. Ford Class aircraft carrier in honor of Miller.

Though it's the second ship named in his honor, the new USS Doris Miller (CVN-81) is the first aircraft carrier named in honor of an African American and the first in honor of an enlisted sailor. It is currently scheduled to begin construction in 2023, be commissioned in 2030, and serve the nation for decades.

Sharing the experiences of those who served and lived in Texas during WWII is also an enduring effort for many museums across the state. Ensuring that the dedication of America's "Greatest Generation" is remembered is the task of current and future generations.

To learn more about the THC's World War II program, visit thc.texas.gov/ww2.

FAR LEFT: Hell's Angels of the Flying Tigers. Courtesy Flying Tigers Association. LEFT, ABOVE: A Spitfire and Hurricane fly over HMS St Albans as part of the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. Courtesy Chris Ison. RIGHT, ABOVE: Illustration of Miller defending the fleet at Pearl Harbor (Charles Alston, Office of War Information and Public Relations). Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration.

“above and beyond the call of duty”



DORIE MILLER
Received the Navy Cross
at Pearl Harbor, May 27, 1942

Courtesy Library of Congress.



Col. Oveta Culp Hobby (right) talks with Auxiliary Margaret Peterson and Capt. Elizabeth Gilbert at Mitchel Field.

Courtesy Library of Congress.



Dr. Hector P. Garcia places a wreath near Felix Longoria's grave in Arlington National Cemetery.

Courtesy Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers, Collection 5, Box 446. Special Collections and Archives, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



Audie Murphy at the world premiere of "To Hell and Back" at the Majestic Theatre in San Antonio, Texas.

Courtesy UNT Libraries

By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

FROM DORIS TO IKE

TEXANS PLAYED VITAL ROLES IN WWII

Texans have always contributed a surplus of soldiers and resources to the nation's military. But several of the state's participants in World War II went above and beyond the call of duty.

DORIS MILLER

Doris Miller, considered the first African American hero of World War II, was born in Willow Grove, Texas, in 1919. Miller was named by the midwife who assisted with his birth; she was certain before the birth that the baby would be a girl.

Miller played football and supplemented the family income by working as a cook in a small Waco restaurant during the Great Depression. Less than a month before his 20th birthday, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy at its Dallas recruiting station. Following bootcamp training, he was assigned to the USS West Virginia as a messman.

On December 7, 1941, Miller was collecting soiled laundry just before 8 a.m. when the first bombs blasted his ship at anchor in Pearl Harbor. Miller rushed to the main deck, where he assisted moving the mortally wounded captain. He then raced to an unattended deck gun and fired at the attacking planes until forced to abandon ship. It was Miller's first experience firing this kind of weapon because most Black sailors did not receive gunnery training.

Officials awarded the Navy Cross to Miller during a ceremony at Pearl Harbor in May 1942. Miller later reported to duty aboard the aircraft

carrier Liscome Bay as a mess attendant, first class. During the battle of the Gilbert Islands in November 1943, his ship was torpedoed and sunk in the Pacific Ocean, and Miller perished.

In addition to conferring upon him the Navy Cross, the Navy honored Miller by naming a dining hall, a barracks, and a destroyer escort for him. The U.S. Navy named an aircraft carrier, the USS Doris Miller, in his honor on January 20, 2020.

OVETA CULP HOBBY

Oveta Culp Hobby worked to better her community and her country throughout her lifetime. She is best known for serving as the director of the Women's Army Corps and as the first secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Hobby was born in 1905 in Killeen, Texas. In the 1930s, she worked at Houston's newspaper *The Post*, owned by her husband, former Governor of Texas William P. Hobby.

World War II brought changes to Hobby's life. From 1941 to 1942, she served as the head of the Women's Interest Section in the War Department Bureau of Public Relations.

In 1942, Congress passed a bill that created the Women's Auxiliary Army

Corps (WAAC), and Hobby became its first director. She obtained the rank of colonel; when the WAAC became integrated into the Army, she remained director throughout the war.

Hobby was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in January 1945 for her dedication and effective supervision. She was the first woman in the Army to receive this award, the military's highest non-combat award at the time.

Hobby was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1984, and the U.S. Post Office later honored her achievements with a commemorative stamp. Hobby died on August 16, 1995.



OVETA CULP HOBBY
Courtesy Library of Congress.



FELIX LONGORIA

Felix Z. Longoria, born in Three Rivers, Texas in 1920, was a Mexican American soldier who served in the U.S. Army as a private. He died during World War II and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Longoria was working in Corpus Christi as a truck driver in 1944; in November, he enlisted in the Army after feeling the call to service. In late April 1945, he shipped out from California to the 25th Infantry Division, then located in the Philippines. In June 1945, his platoon was ambushed and Longoria was among those killed.

In 1948, Longoria's remains were recovered from the Philippines. His body was shipped home for burial in the Three Rivers cemetery, where the Mexican section was separated. The director of the funeral home would not allow the cemetery's chapel to be used.

Longoria's widow and her sister discussed this refusal with Dr. Hector Garcia,

founder of the American G.I. Forum. Then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson responded to Garcia immediately with support and an offer to arrange for a burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

The funeral took place in February 1949. Sen. Johnson and a representative of the U.S. president were with the Longoria family. Now known as the Felix Longoria Affair, the events later provided Mexican Americans an example to unify and expand their struggle for civil rights.

AUDIE MURPHY

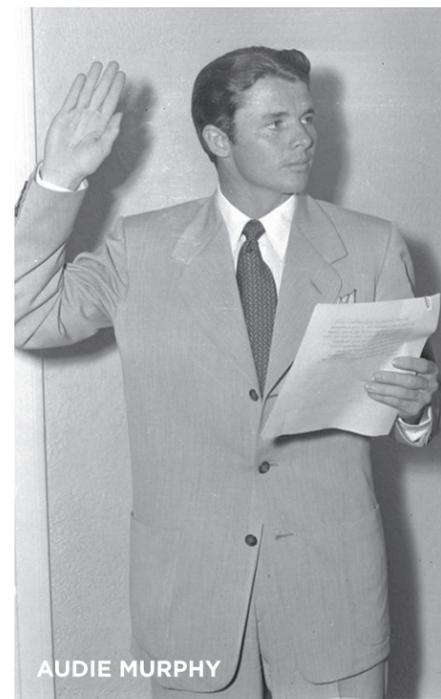
Audie Leon Murphy, war hero, Hollywood actor, and songwriter, was born near Kingston, Texas, in 1924. At the time of his death, Murphy was the most-decorated combat soldier of World War II.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army at Greenville, Texas, in June 1942, near his 18th birthday. During his World War II service, Murphy received 33 awards, citations, and decorations and won a battlefield promotion to second lieutenant. He received every medal that the U.S. gives for valor—two of them twice.

In January 1945, near Holtzwihr, France, Murphy was credited with killing or wounding nearly 50 Germans and stopping an attack by enemy tanks. He received the Medal of Honor for this act of bravery.

He subsequently pursued several careers: as a successful movie actor, a lyric writer for country and western songs, an author, and a poet. Murphy appeared in 45 movies and starred in 39 of them. His best-known films were "The Red Badge of Courage" (1951), "To Hell and Back" (1955), and "The Unforgiven" (1960).

Murphy was killed in an airplane crash on May 28, 1971 in Virginia. He was buried with full military honors near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. In 1996, the Texas Legislature declared his birthday as Audie Murphy Day. He was posthumously awarded Texas' supreme military honor, the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor, in 2013.



CHESTER NIMITZ

Chester William Nimitz, who guided Allied forces to victory in the Pacific in World War II, was born in Fredericksburg, Texas, on February 24, 1885. During his early years, his grandfather Charles H. Nimitz, a German immigrant, former seaman, and owner of the Nimitz Hotel, served as his father figure.

Nimitz graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1905. In four consecutive submarine commands for the Navy, he

became a leading "pigboat" authority and built a reservoir of experience that proved invaluable in both world wars.

Nimitz went to Pearl Harbor to build a submarine base and command the Submarine Division. In 1939, he became chief of the Bureau of Navigation, a position he still held when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. In the aftermath of the attack, Nimitz was named commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet.

Fleet Admiral Nimitz was later named commander in chief of Pacific Ocean Areas, in addition to his Pacific Fleet command. With authority over most of the Pacific theater, Nimitz coordinated the offensive that brought the Japanese to unconditional surrender.

He signed the peace treaty for the U.S. aboard the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. He was decorated by foreign governments and was awarded both the Army and Navy Distinguished Service medals.



In 1964, a local citizens' group established a museum in the old Nimitz Hotel, which evolved into the National Museum of the Pacific War. Nimitz served the United Nations as roving ambassador and was a regent of the University of California.

In January 1966, he suffered a stroke. Nimitz died on February 20, 1966, and was buried in California's Golden Gate National Cemetery.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

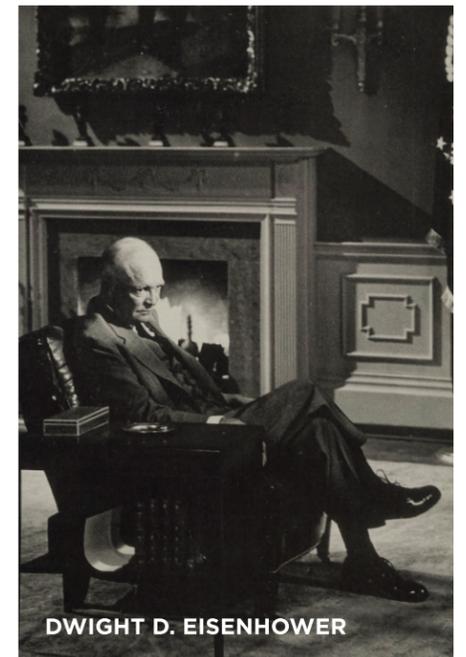
Dwight David Eisenhower, general of the Army and 34th president of the U.S., was born in Denison, Texas, in October 1890. His father was locally employed with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, and their modest home is now operated as the THC's Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site.

Eisenhower was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in July 1911. He graduated in 1915, and was soon assigned to the 19th Infantry at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Eisenhower's military career began during World War I, where he commanded a heavy tank brigade at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. On December 14, 1941, Eisenhower was transferred to the War Plans Division under Gen. George C. Marshall.

As supreme commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, he gave the order that sent British and American troops into Normandy on June 6, 1944 (D-Day). Eleven months later (V-E Day), he accepted the surrender of Nazi representatives.

In 1948, Eisenhower retired as Army chief of staff to become president of



Columbia University in New York. In 1951, he was recalled to military duty to serve as supreme commander, Allied Powers in Europe, under NATO. Eisenhower's presidential nomination in 1952 was achieved thanks to a Republican delegation from Texas. His domestic achievements included the construction of the Interstate Highway System and passage of the first civil-rights law since the Civil War. Eisenhower left office in 1961. He died on March 28, 1969, at age 78.

Visit the THC's historic sites online to learn more about Nimitz (pacificwarmuseum.org) and Eisenhower (visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com).

Bios adapted from The Handbook of Texas.

OPPOSITE, ABOVE: Felix Longoria. Courtesy Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers, Collection 5, Box 446. Special Collections and Archives, Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. OPPOSITE, MIDDLE: Audie Murphy. Courtesy Library of Congress. LEFT: Chester Nimitz. Courtesy National Museum of the Pacific War. ABOVE: Dwight D. Eisenhower. Courtesy Library of Congress.

NOT SO NOVEL

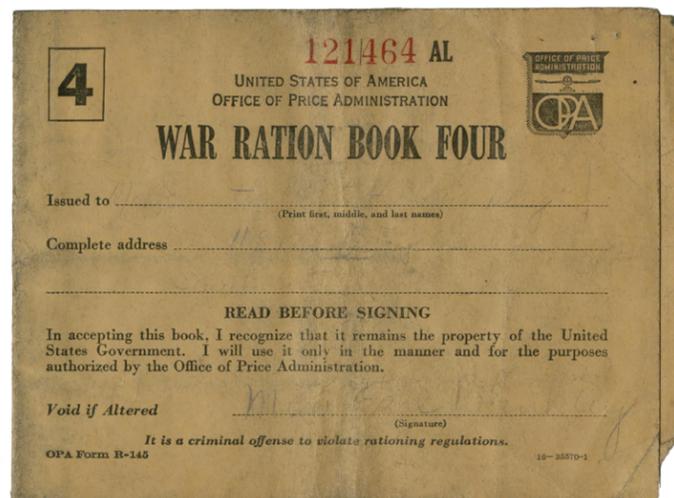
CURRENT COVID-19 CRUSADE SIMILAR TO WWII HOME-FRONT EFFORTS

By Stephen Cure
Coordinator, THC Military History Program

In the spring of 2020, Texans used their sewing machines, 3D printers, and other personal equipment to produce face masks and other forms of protective gear in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. It was eerily reminiscent of earlier times, when sewing machines and knitting needles were focused on defeating other enemies.

During both World War I and World War II, women across Texas supported Red Cross efforts through sewing, knitting, and quilting, in addition to maintaining the clothes of family members in the face of rationing. Individually and in organized groups, women produced a wide range of garments and materials, and often donated proceeds from items sold to support Red Cross efforts to aid service members, civilians, and war victims.

Rationing, another recent experience for some, was necessary on the home front during WWII to ensure that those in uniform and our allies devastated by war had adequate supplies. Items such as meat, sugar, coffee,



shoes, rubber, and auto parts required government-issued stamps for their purchase. Rationing of gasoline, a very unpopular action in Texas where much of it was produced, limited travel for many.

In efforts to reduce the effects of rationing and provide maximum resources for the war, many urban Texans grew their own food in victory gardens. In addition to enduring rationing, Texans also contributed to recycling efforts and purchased bonds to support the war effort.

Though rationing and other home-front efforts to support the war lasted during most of the conflict, the effects of the war at home left an enduring mark on the Texas economy. The significant growth in the petrochemical industry to meet war demands continues to provide a source for prosperity.

Perhaps of more importance was the growth in other sectors of the economy, especially manufacturing. The advancement of aircraft, shipbuilding, timber, paper, steel, and other industries provided Texas the economic infrastructure to build a vibrant and diversified economy. The income generated from industry as well as the construction of 175 military facilities, 1.5 million service members training in Texas, and high farm prices helped push the preceding Great Depression to memory and erased the state's \$42 million debt (the modern equivalent of \$737.5 million).

“With the additional income, Texas was also able to improve the state highway system, invest in public education, and begin an expansion program among higher education facilities,” says Charles Sadnick, director of the THC's History Programs Division. “In fact, the educational investment was key to allowing Texas' returning veterans to use their G.I. Bill

benefits to create the best-educated populace our state had ever experienced.”

Also of lasting consequence to Texas was the role the war played in population distribution. Though the growth of the petroleum industry—following Spindletop in 1901, World War I, and the Great Depression—had all contributed to the movement of Texans from the farm to the city, it was WWII that made Texas a solidly majority urban state. As the sixth most populous state in the country in 1900, only 17.1 percent of Texans lived in urban areas, well below the national average of 39.6 percent.

By 1940, the percentage of urban Texans had reached 45.4 percent. In 1950, 59.8 percent of Texans lived in urban areas, more than doubling the average growth rate of the previous four decades. It was WWII and its effects on the Texas economy that made Texas a majority urban state, a trend that continued and saw Texas have an 88.1 percent urban population by 2010.

Additionally, the war set in motion forces for change that altered how the people of Texas and the nation would live and interact with one another. Women who saw military service and experienced economic power as wage earners during the war remained in the workforce in large numbers and began to challenge the male-dominated norms of the time.

Likewise, Hispanic and African American service members who fought and were recognized for their gallantry on foreign battlefields could no longer accept the Jim Crow segregation policies of Texas and the South and began to demand equality. The fight would be ongoing, but over the coming decades, great strides were made in gender and racial equality due to the persistent efforts of those inspired by their wartime experiences.

Lastly, the growth of wartime military facilities had a lasting impact on Texas communities and the landscape. While many facilities continued to serve in a military capacity due to the rapid onset of the Cold War, most were closed and turned over to civil authorities or returned to original landowners. Many of the buildings and other structures were sold, moved, and recycled for other purposes such as schools, churches, and other uses. Many of the airfields were converted to civilian airports, thus benefiting local communities.

Over time, the number of military facilities would continue to shrink as defense needs changed and more were converted to civilian use. Two of the most notable examples were

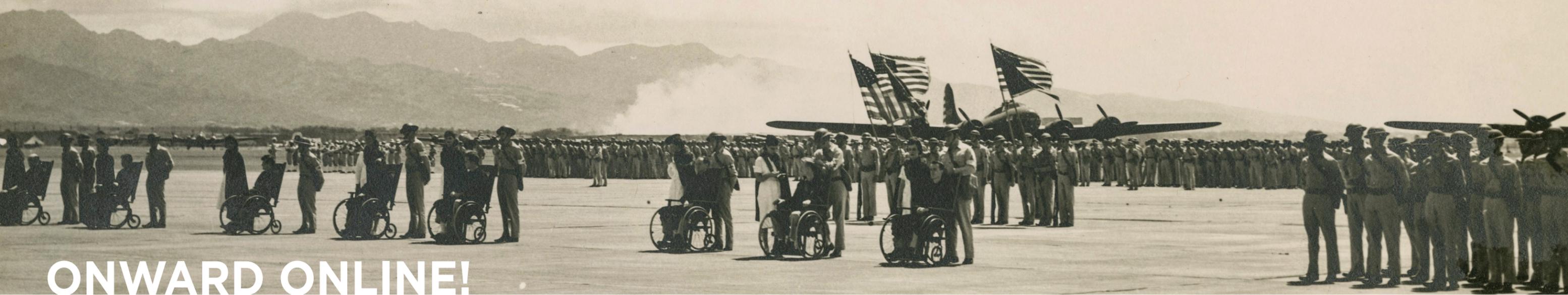
Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, formerly Del Valle Army Air Base, and the massive Port San Antonio commercial/industrial site, formerly Kelly Field (held by the military from 1917–2001).

“Although the challenges we face with the coronavirus aren't comparable with our efforts in World War II, there are some parallels worth noting,” Sadnick says. “In hindsight, we can see all the advancements made in Texas after the war. It remains to be seen how the historic events associated with our current crisis will ultimately shape Texas' future.”

For more information about World War II travel-related sites, visit the THC's Texas Time Travel page: texastimetravel.com/ww2.



FAR LEFT BOTTOM: “Garden in 1945 for Victory” poster by Grover Strong. Courtesy UNT Libraries. FAR LEFT ABOVE: Ration book used during World War II. Courtesy UNT Libraries. ABOVE: World War II poster. Courtesy U.S. National Archives.



ONWARD ONLINE!

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF TEXAS' WWII RESOURCES FROM YOUR HOME

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

As of this writing, many Texas travel destinations are closed or operating at reduced capacity due to the coronavirus pandemic. Regardless of whether popular WWII-themed destinations are open, Texans can explore these sites virtually by scrolling through photo galleries, watching historic video clips, and perusing archived letters and documents related to the war.

One of the best ways to experience Texas' contributions to WWII online is via the **National Museum of the Pacific War** (NMPW, pacificwarmuseum.org), which launched several programs in late April to engage with people at home. The museum, a Texas Historical Commission (THC) property, has been posting weekly digital content, including web-based programs and new videos.

"We miss our guests, and want to provide them with the education and opportunities to explore our museum that they deserve," said NMPW Director Rorie Cartier. "This new digital programming allows us to not only educate people about important events of World War II in the Pacific, but also to show off our exhibits and artifacts that represent the personal stories behind the major events."

The museum has devoted considerable efforts to providing students a virtual opportunity to explore World War II history. The NMPW launched "Nimitz Minitz," short videos geared for elementary- and middle-school students, and "Highlights and Insights of the Pacific War," which features video episodes for adults and older children. Both series are available on the NMPW's YouTube channel (youtube.com/pacificwarmuseum).

The museum also offers an impressive collection of digital archives, including Chester Nimitz's personal letters and other documents about his life (digitalarchive.pacificwarmuseum.org/digital).

THC ON THE HOME FRONT

The THC has extensive resources dedicated to Texas' role in World War II (thc.texas.gov/ww2), including a travel guide, a special issue of *The Medallion* honoring the war's 60th anniversary, Texas internment camp brochures, and lesson plans.

The agency also offers a mobile tour, "World War II on the Texas Home Front," which explores the state's wartime legacy and lasting impact. The tour features slideshows, videos, and an interactive map with more than 50 sites that reveal the immense impact of the war on Texas. The free tour is available at textastimetravel.com.

The following sites featured in the tour offer online galleries and future travel ideas for people wishing to experience the state's compelling range of contributions to the 20th century's greatest conflict.

Silent Wings Museum

(silentwingsmuseum.com) The Lubbock museum honors the war's pilots who flew engineless glider missions in perilous conditions behind enemy lines. Located at the former South Plains Army Airfield site, the museum's centerpiece exhibit features a fully-restored CG-4A glider. The museum also has photographs, artifacts, airborne equipment, and the British Horsa Glider restoration project, a living exhibit.

No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum

(bftsmuseum.org) Thousands of British pilots attended civilian training schools in the U.S. during the war. The No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum in Terrell, east of Dallas, was the first and largest of its kind, training more than 2,000 Royal Air Force and U.S. Army Air Forces pilots between 1941 and 1945.

Crystal City Family Internment Camp

(thc.texas.gov/crystalcity) The Crystal City Family Internment Camp was the only confinement camp established specifically to reunite and house families through the federal Alien Enemy Control Unit Program, which detained Japanese, German, and Italian individuals in the U.S. and Latin America deemed potentially dangerous. The camp was designed like a small community with housing and schools, and local residents worked at the site in civilian positions. The camp closed in February 1948. Not much is left today, but a THC historical marker, a private monument, and eight interpretive panels make up an interpretive trail.

Iwo Jima Monument

(mma-tx.org/about-us/iwo-jima-monument) The original full-scale working model of the renowned Iwo Jima Monument can be viewed at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen. The monument was inspired by a flag raising at Mount Suribachi by several Marines, including Weslaco native Cpl. Harlon H. Block, and a Navy corpsman, raising an American flag atop Mount Suribachi in the Pacific. Block's grave is located behind the memorial, and a museum adjacent to the monument showcases World War II memorabilia, a film, and exhibits.

A war-related topic often overlooked due to its difficult subject matter is the Holocaust. The THC has administrative oversight of the **Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission** (thgc.texas.gov), which educates Texans about the Holocaust and modern genocides through workshops, grants, and student contests. Places in Texas telling the stories of the Holocaust include the **Holocaust Museum Houston** (hmh.org), **Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum** (dhhrm.org), **Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio** (hmmsa.org), and the **El Paso Holocaust Museum** (elpasoholocaustmuseum.org), among others.

MUSEUM SAMPLER

Many Texas museums feature World War II exhibits, artifacts, and special collections. The following represent a mere sampling, each with commendable online galleries and resources related to the war.

Austin's Bullock Texas State History Museum

(thestoryoftexas.com) contains World War II-era artifacts and photos, including a compelling online exhibit dedicated to the U.S. servicewomen known as WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots). Also in Austin, the **Texas Military Forces Museum** (texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org) features links to exhibits with World War II photos and a blog with stories about the war.

In Houston, the Lone Star Flight Museum

(lonestarfliight.org) features several high-quality galleries with impressive photos of World War II aircraft, historic images of the war, and educational resources. The city's **1940 Air Terminal Museum** (1940airterminal.org) also hosts a video tour with period-appropriate music and photos of vintage aircraft.

Also worth noting for their commendable online photo galleries of World War II vehicles and armament are the **1st Cavalry Division Museum** at Ft. Hood (history.army.mil), the **Museum of the American GI** (americangimuseum.org) near College Station, and the **American Freedom Museum** (americanfreedommuseum.org) in Bullard.

For more information about World War II travel-related sites, visit the THC's Texas Time Travel page: textastimetravel.com/ww2.

ABOVE: U.S. Army Nurse Corps nurses and wounded service members at Hickam Field, Hawaii, December 1941. Courtesy National Museum of Pacific War.



AFRICAN AMERICANS

IN WORLD WAR II

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

During World War II, more than 2.5 million African American men registered for the draft. Of these, 1.2 million served in the military during the war. During their time in the military, they experienced discrimination, served in segregated units, and had segregated facilities. Despite this, they met the challenge and persevered.

For more information about *African Americans in World War II*, visit thc.texas.gov/ww2AfricanAmericans.

ABOVE: Black soldiers draw rations at the camp cook house at their station in Northern Ireland, 1942. RIGHT: A company of men has set up its office between the columns (Doric) of an ancient Greek temple of Neptune, built about 700 B.C., 1943. BELOW LEFT: Seeking to rescue a Marine who was drowning in the surf at Iwo Jima, this sextet of Black soldiers narrowly missed death themselves when their amphibious truck was swamped by heavy seas, 1945. BELOW RIGHT: Black members of the 477th Antiaircraft Artillery, Air Warning Battalion, study maps in the operations section at Oro Bay, New Guinea, 1944.

All photos courtesy National Archives and Records Administration.



NEWS BRIEFS

GOODNIGHT RANCH JOINS THC AS NEWEST HISTORIC SITE

The Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site joined the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) roster of 32 state historic sites June 1, 2020.

The property includes the J. Evetts Haley Visitor and Education Center that offers exhibits about the Armstrong County Museum, Charles Goodnight and his family, and the history of the cattle industry in the Texas Panhandle. A Quanah Parker Trail giant arrow marker commemorates the friendship between Goodnight and the legendary war leader Quanah Parker.



Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site.

“The state of Texas is grateful for this gift from the Armstrong County Museum,” says THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. “The story of Texas is not complete without the stories of the Texas Panhandle, and the economic and cultural impact the region has made on the world.”

Charles Goodnight and his business partner John Adair established the first cattle ranch in the Texas Panhandle in 1887 in the Palo Duro Canyon area. Goodnight's Victorian-style home is newly restored on its original site. It features a 268-square-foot second-floor sleeping porch with spectacular views of the countryside and the nearby bison that are descendants of the herd raised by Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight.

For more information, go to visitgoodnightranch.com.

NINE HISTORIC TEXAS COURTHOUSES RECEIVE OVER \$20 MILLION IN RESTORATION GRANTS

The THC announced grant recipients for Round XI of the nationally recognized Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) during its recent quarterly meeting in Austin. The THC awarded matching grants totaling \$20,038,121 to nine counties to aid in preservation of their historic courthouses, including three grants for full restorations in Callahan, Mason, and Taylor counties.



The Mason County Courthouse is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Courtesy Geoffrey Long.

Kimble, Washington, Wise, and Willacy counties received planning grants to be applied toward construction documents for a future THCPP application for full courthouse restorations. Duval and Lee counties received emergency grants to address critical issues, including the replacement of an original electrical system and foundation repairs.

“Preserving our Texas courthouses has always been a priority for the THC,” said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. “Our courthouse grants help counties maintain essential state services and offer centerpieces of history and culture for visitors to enjoy.”

The THCPP Round XI grants were made possible through a \$25 million appropriation by the 86th Texas Legislature.

For more information about the THCPP, visit thc.texas.gov/thcpp or contact Program Coordinator Susan Tietz at 512-463-5860.

EXPLORE TEXAS HISTORY FROM HOME

The THC is continuing to provide free online resources about Texas history, preservation, and heritage tourism as an alternative to visiting a museum or cultural attraction. Visit thc.texas.gov/historyathome to learn about the extensive resources available on the agency's website.

These include the Learning Resources homepage with activities for students, including coloring pages, word searches, and activity sheets. Texas Time Travel mobile tours and Texas travel guides feature immersive audio tours, short documentary videos, maps, and visitor information to plan a future trip. The Real Places, Real Stories Blog offers stories ranging from the history of Galveston's ship *Elissa*, to a tour of historic downtown Brownsville, to underwater boat wrecks off the South Texas coast.



The THC website features learning resources, a WWII mobile tour, and the Real Places, Real Stories blog.

If exploring THC online content inspires you to plan future travels throughout Texas, please visit texasimetravel.com/planfuturetravel.

WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

KNOW YOUR TEXAS HISTORY? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to medallion@thc.texas.gov. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

NEED A CLUE? This church is one of the first Protestant congregations in the southern portion of the Texas Tropical Trail Region.



ANSWER TO THE PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The photo at left is of Maverick Fine Western Wear in the Fort Worth Stockyards, a National Register Historic District. The building, located at the corner of North Main and Exchange streets, dates to 1905 and has reportedly always housed a bar (it still does). Many readers correctly identified the site, but congratulations and prizes go to the first three to respond: Sherrie Archer of Canton,

Brittany Ellwood of Cypress, and Anne Leather of Dallas.
Thanks to all who participated!

