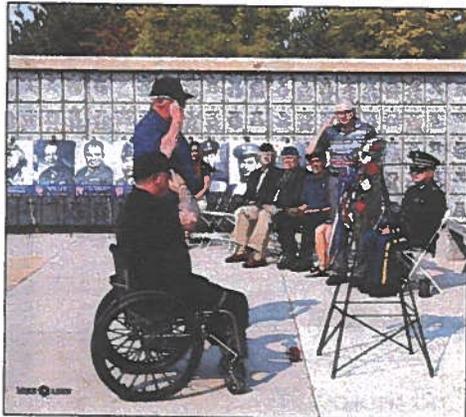


“Keep the Spirit of 45 Alive”

Sunday August 12th at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, a ceremony commemorating the end of World War II took place. Clifford Venne, a retired school teacher and WW II veteran



Master of Ceremonies
Phil Hawkins



Purple Heart Recipients Bill Hamilton and James Donaldson presenting the Wreath



Dignitaries and speakers

spoke extensively about life during the war as a soldier. He spoke about growing up during the Great Depression, joining the military, and the difficulties the soldiers faced. Most notably was his description of what it was like not knowing if the war had ended after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, as he and his comrades were stationed in a remote area. We take for granted the real time information available to us today, however as Mr. Venne relayed, they had no idea until days later that WWII had ended. Behind the podium, several large pictures of WW II vets lined the wall; vets from around Idaho,

including Bull Duram (US Navy) and Gregory “Pappy” Boyington (US Marine Corps). A proclamation from Gov. CL “Butch” Otter was read by James Earp, a Veteran and Director of the Veterans Cemetery. The proceedings

ended with the playing of Taps and a 21 Gun Salute by the United States Marine Corps.

“Keep the Spirit of 45 Alive” is a nonprofit campaign to establish an annual day to honor and preserve the legacy of WW II veterans. In 2010, Congress voted unanimous support for observing the second Sunday in August—coinciding with the day President Harry S. Truman announced World War II was over—as a National Spirit of ‘45 Day. More information can be found at: spiritof45.org.

Also, as part of the event, the Wall of Honor was spoken about. An excerpt from spiritof45.org:

“To help build public interest and involvement in the events and activities various organizations are planning to commemorate the 75th anniversaries of the major events of WWII, the members of the Spirit of ‘45 coalition are inviting the public to help create a “Wall of Honor” made up of the photos of the American men and women who served in uniform during the war. The goal of this ambitious project is to find the individual photos of the hundreds of thousands whose names that appear on head stones, memorials, and in public records throughout America by creating a giant Wall of Honor that will be displayed on the National Mall on the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII in August – September 2020, after which it will be taken on a 50-state tour (pending the necessary funding), and displayed each year in the nation’s capital on



United States Marine Corps 21 Gun Salute

Spirit of ‘45 Day. One of the highest priorities of the WWII 75th Anniversary Wall of Honor project is to collect the photos of the more than 400,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice who are represented by the wall of Gold Stars at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. These include the 93,221 who are buried – and the 55,863 who were MIA whose names are etched in memorials - in the WWII cemeteries in Europe, North Africa, the Philippines and the U.S. that are administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission which is creating WWII curriculum with the help of National History Day which has a special program that honors those who fell at Omaha Beach during the invasion of Normandy. To have your photo included in the 75th Anniversary Wall of Honor, email it as a high resolution JPEG attachment (300 DPI or better), with the name, branch of service, theater (Europe, Pacific, China Burma India), home town (please include zip code) to: Info@Spiritof45.org.

Donations of \$45 or more to help support the project are



WW II Veteran Clifford Venne



James Earp— Idaho State Veterans Cemetery Director

warmly welcomed and will be acknowledged in the Community Partner Roll Call that will be published each year in August on Spirit of ‘45 Day.”

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” ~President Harry S. Truman

~Article by Mike Olsen
Photos courtesy Mike Olsen
Photography