

[National leaders conference of 'Keep the spirit of '45 alive'](#)
(www.spiriteof45.org, [Keep the Spirit of '45 ALIVE! - Non-Profit Organization - New York, NY | Facebook](#)), in February 17-19, 2012 in San Diego

Nancy Lo attended this two and half day conference. The conference was held at San Diego Veterans Museum, and Hall of Champions, in Balboa Park for the first two days respectively. The third day was an outdoor ceremony at the Tuna Harbor Park next to the USS MIDWAY. On Friday evening, February 17th, a reception was held with San Diego Mayor Sanders and members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Montford Pointe Mari, prior to a private screening of "Redtails" at Horton Plaza that many high school students attended. On Saturday evening, Feb 18th was the Spirit of '45 Awards and Celebration Dinner at the San Diego Air and Space Museum.

On February 18th, a beautiful and touching outdoor ceremony was held from 11-12:00 in honor of the 400,000 who perished in WWII and to remember the anniversary of the first day of the battle of Iwo Jima with music, wreath laying, special speakers, TAPS and et al. Ms. Debbie Chang of Los Angeles impassioned reminder of how American came to the aid of the Chinese people during WWII. Her father was a China Air Force pilot of the Hump during WWII. 中華民國空軍上校、前「駝峰航線」(The Hump) 飛行員寇志忠的女兒寇盪平. Nancy Lo, presenting APHAFIC, presented a wreath in memory of all victims during the WWII in Asia, in particular for those suffered during Nanking massacre, unit 731, and comfort women. At the ceremony, Nancy Lo mentioned we should not forget those atrocities so that they will not happen again. The meeting ended with 50 white doves released into the sky

The conference was led by Warren Hegg, National Supervisor, "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive! with the local organizer Linda Laurie, Dan Demarco, and Robert Corpus

According to Warren Hegg, one of the missions of the organization is to engage the youth to WWII history and veterans. The first conference was in 2011. There will be four events each year: 1. Nation conference of leaders in February, San Diego; 2. Memorial Day; 3. Nation spirit of 45 day on the second Sunday of August and 4. Veteran day in November at NYCT.

In San Diego, a holiday celebration is to be arranged in August, 2012. The Midway museum supports and campaigns to keep the Kiss stature for V-J day.

The conference attendees represented different organizations concerning WWII veterans from all over the US, e.g. honor Flight

(<http://www.honorflight.org/>), National History Day (<http://www.nhd.org>), veteran and military museums and VITAS Innovative Hospice. Among the activities reported were toastmaster speech contest in Florida; two-day event in San Jose, on August 13-14, 2012 including Victory parade; WWII re-enactors; entertainment and book exhibit. Stars and stripes Honor flight (<http://starsandstripeshonorflight.org/>) started in 2004 annually took to D.C. veterans of age ranging from 82-120 year old. In 2011, around 800 veterans flew to DC with their guardians. If veterans are too weak, honor flight experience would be brought to them.

Two talks were worth mentioning. One was by Ms. Nell Calloway, director, Chennault Aviation and military museum, Monroe, LA and the other one was given by Dr. Cathy Gorn, the executive director of Nation history Day (NHD) (<http://www.nhd.org>). Both emphasized the importance of engaging young people with veterans and their history. Nell felt that current veterans need to be honored. Kids do not know vet who fought for freedom. Kids need story of veterans. All survivors need to come back to normal life. It is important to get story out of veterans.-Cathy Corn introduced the NHD, to engage students of 6-12 graders to the past. NHD sets a theme each year by which students chose a topic to write their essay or engage other activities like visiting museum to obtain information about the theme(<http://www.nhd.org/annualtheme.htm>). The Albert H. Small Student/Teacher Institute took teachers and students to Normandy in 2011. The tour will be **June 16-28, 2012** (<http://www.nhd.org/normandyinstitute.htm>).

We also heard talks from a panel of three veterans about their experience during WWII. Two are Mexican Americans: Adolfo V. Celaya (Al) (see the book 'HARPO', War survivor, Basketball wizard. How one courageous young Mexican American faces impossible odds, twice) and Henry Cervantes, LT col, (see the book 'PIPOTO; migration worker to jet pilot'). The other veteran, Albert Smith, is a Navaho American Indian,

A documentary film of 15 minutes of Pearl Harbor experience on Dec 7, Sunday, 1941 showed that Japanese airplanes bombed 8 times. President Roosevelt delivered his speech. 2300 military persons died and 1100 wounded. The whole nation mobilized to fight again. WWII women did steel work. The film ended with June 6 D-day, Normandy in Europe and V-J day in 1945.

Tips for PR

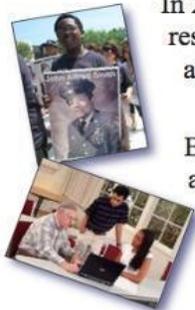
1. Facebook, website, twitter
2. Go to reporter with your message. Editorial board. Young people must learn the lesson from old generations. Tell the story positively. So in your press release, action first, name second.

3. Event, night event is not good. Need to be from 10 am-noon. Picture of a few people.
4. Media advisors. Good short sentence. One sentence. Second paragraph, 2 or 3 sentences.
5. Photo shots.
6. Calendar list. Make it so that newspaper can copy and paste.
- 7.
8. For more information about "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!", please contact Warren Hegg (408.857.5252), National Supervisor, "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!" Follow us on Facebook!

HELP KEEP THE SPIRIT OF '45 ALIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

In 2010, Congress unanimously passed a resolution supporting the observance of a national "Spirit of '45 Day" on the second Sunday of every August.

But only with YOUR support can we assure that the legacy of our Greatest Generation will continue to inspire America.



陳尚毅, husband of Debbie Chang, Nancy Lo, Nell Calloway, and Debbie Chang,前「駝峰航線」飛行員寇志忠的女兒寇盪平 at the outdoor ceremony on February 19th, Tuna Harbor Park, San Diego



Veteran Skip Adams, Battle of Iwo Jima (holding his picture as a young soldier) , Warren Hegg and Nancy Lo at the San Diego Veterans' museum.