

FREEDOM FORCE

News Magazine of the Museum of American Armor

Summer 2025



museumofamericanarmor.com

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A portrait of an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He is standing in front of a military vehicle, with a red pocket square visible in his jacket. The vehicle has a name tag that reads "WILLIE".

Reflections on the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II

of a vibrant middle class, the assertion of civil rights, the emergence of technology in our daily lives, and our nation's embrace of exceptionalism as defined by President Ronald Reagan.

In the years that followed, America became the nation that stood against Communism, sent men to the Moon, and led the way in innovation on every front. It is a legacy that cannot be overstated. Nor can the debt we owe the young men and women who defeated the evil of Nazism 80 ago that even today remains unimaginable.

The Museum of American Armor will continue to honor the "Greatest Generation's" gift of freedom today, tomorrow, and far into the future. Because it matters.



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(EXTRACT)

7 MAY

Freedom Force 2025 will have gone to press by the time the nation observes the end of World War II with the surrender of Japan to Allied forces, but earlier in the year, the Armor Museum was at the center of ceremonies that marked the surrender of Nazi Germany 80 years ago on May 8, 1945.

Beside the historic armor deployed during that conflict to defeat the Third Reich, a handful of surviving WW II veterans attended a program of gratitude and remembrance. Those attending included Harry Arlin of Roslyn

Observing the 80th Anniversary of VE Day

who was a British tank driver fighting from Normandy to Belgium; D-Day veteran William DeGroat, who came ashore on Omaha Beach; and Battle of The Bulge veteran Abe Meltzer of Bellmore.

Meltzer would tell Newsday, "I'm glad I served, spent my time in Europe ...I came home without a scratch, so I got nothing to complain about."

DeGroat would observe, "I'm just glad it's over."





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Liberating the death camps

It was eighty years ago that the world was confronted with the depravity of the Nazi regime as Allied forces came upon the death camps of the Third Reich.

To mark the liberation of those murder factories, The Museum of American Armor and the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center held joint ceremonies that included survivors of the Holocaust, students from North Shore Hebrew Academy, and Rabbis Joel Levenson and Anchel Perl.

Standing beside armored vehicles similar to those that knocked down the gates to the concentration camps, Fred Zeiberger, a Holocaust survivor, recounted his experience to a hushed audience.

Armor Museum Trustee David Burman, a principal and president of development at B2K Development, stated, "The Holocaust remains a permanent reminder to the world how prejudice, hatred and intolerance can metastasize into genocide. We must stand resolute against the return of antisemitism and recognize it for the evil it is."

Fellow Armor Trustee Hon. Dan Serota told the audience, "Those who risked their lives to save others remind us of our capacity for moral action even in the darkest of circumstances."





ShopRite's Jon Greenfield named as Armor Museum Trustee

"An opportunity to give back"

Mr. Jon Greenfield, co-president of Greenfield's ShopRite Supermarkets, has been named a member of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of American Armor.

"Jon's arrival on the Board will allow the Museum of American Armor to continue its strategic growth as an education destination that not only brings visitors close to the heroes in their own families, but provides the next generation with an appreciation of the valor and sacrifice required to protect our nation," stated Lawrence Kadish, president and founder of the Armor Museum.

"For years I have been proud to support the various programs offered by the Armor Museum, but my decision to join the Board allows me to play a more substantive role at a time when the lessons of World War II are in danger of fading," observed Mr. Greenfield.

A 40-year resident of the town of Oyster Bay, Mr. Greenfield is a third-generation supermarket entrepreneur and innovator who, with his son, Seth, owns and operates six ShopRite supermarkets across Long Island as part of the Wakefern cooperative. Greenfield's ShopRite supports ShopRite Partners in Caring, ShopRite's signature hunger-

fighting initiative, and local organizations and food banks such as Island Harvest with monetary and food donations.

The Armor Museum's Senior Trustee Michael Sapriconne observed, "Jon's sustained support of the Museum of American Armor over the years reveals he is no stranger to the museum's mission and its commitment to keeping the stories of our nation's military heritage relevant and immediate. He is well aware that many who visit his stores have worn the uniform. For Jon, this is clearly an opportunity to give back."

Roadside Assistance Armor Style

By Kevin Carroll, Museum of American Armor Director of Community Affairs

American experiences during WWII revealed the importance of the Armored Recovery Vehicles (ARV). The ability to retrieve and repair damaged tanks, sometimes under enemy fire, was vital to the war effort.

When post-War tanks became far heavier, the Army called for a more powerful ARV to service them. Designated the M74, its design was again based on the latest model Sherman, but with towing and lifting capacities substantially increased. The stowable A-frame crane was now erected hydraulically with a lifting capacity of 25,000 pounds. The separate towing and recovery winch had a

capacity of 90,000 pounds and extended through the glacis. A distinguishing feature of the M74 was a front mounted spade that doubled as a stabilizer and bulldozer blade. Disabled vehicles could also be towed from the rear using a towbar assembly.

The crew of four had both a .30 caliber and .50 caliber machine gun for self-defense. The M74 served the US Army and numerous NATO allies from 1953 through the mid-1970s.

A talented team of Armor Museum volunteers including Andrew Strain, Anthony Galvin, and Rob Finnerty has made our M74 not only drivable but increasingly functional, with the crane now extendable. "Moose" is a proud new member of the Museum inventory with art work created by Andrew Obergh.



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Allies in Education

Before an audience of Long Island history teachers gathered at the Armor Museum, the World War II leaders of the free world, "President Franklin D. Roosevelt" and "British Prime Minister

Winston Churchill" discussed the need for expanded class time to allow students to better appreciate history, the continuing impact of World War II, and those who left a legacy of freedom.

Sponsored by the Long Island Council for the Social Studies (LICSS), FDR interpreter Gary Stamm and Churchill interpreter Luke Boyd reflected on their encounters with a public that is often unaware of the major forces unleashed by

the war and the personalities that directed them.

LICSS President Gloria Sesso affirmed, "It is important that history be seen (by students) in its sources. This may be an added way for students to draw conclusions and fulfill critical thinking."

The symposium was part of an ongoing educational alliance between the museum and LICSS funded by the Armor Museum's senior trustee, Michael Sapaicone. "If we don't keep this subject matter in our classrooms we lose a vital connection to who we are and how we came to be over the past 80 years," he reminded.

Armor Trustee Michael Sapaicone has funded the museum's unique educational outreach efforts.



Interpreters Gary Stamm and Luke Boyd are introduced to educators by the Armor Museum's trustee, Colonel Jason Halloren (Ret.)

WW II Encampment joins forces with Military Timeline

From about-to-be moms to proud American citizens born in India, this year's World War II Encampment Weekend and Military Timeline attracted a diverse and enthusiastic crowd who walked through history on the grounds of Old Bethpage Village Restoration.

Undertaken through the shared efforts of the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums, The Museum of American Armor, and the Long Island Living History Association, the two simultaneous programs created a parallel experience for



the visitor. Families could witness a simulated conflict between World War II enemy tanks on one field while a medieval knight displayed his ancient weapons on another field and yet on another field, Civil War soldiers shouldered their rifles.

Matt Rodrigues and his wife, Marcia, were among the families from Local 138 of the International Union of Operating Engineers who were able to participate in a private "sponsors" visit. Within days (or perhaps hours) of becoming a father, Matt confided, "It was a great day and an incredible experience."

Also touring was Karamjit Dhaliwal of the firm Baba Realty, his son Manpreet, and his company colleague Ewelina Puczkiewicz. Born in India and now a naturalized American citizen, Karamjit stated, "Over two million Indians volunteered to serve in the British Army during World War II, and this museum now has a commitment to tell that story."

History truly comes alive during this annual program, and 2025 underscored once again the importance of these efforts in reminding visitors what we owe those who served to ensure our freedoms.



Business leader Eric Blumencranz joins the Armor Museum team

Eric Blumencranz has been named an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees at the Museum of American Armor.

"With Eric's appointment, our Armor Museum's efforts continue to grow from strength to strength, reflecting our shared commitment to our mission of educating a new generation of Americans about the sacrifice of those who came before them," stated Lawrence Kadish, museum president and founder.

"I am honored to be part of a museum that has become a regional, national, and international destination for visitors who find an immersive experience of a conflict that continues to define our world," stated Blumencranz. "We have a responsibility to tell the story of an era when freedom hung in the balance, saved by

young adults who would become our parents and grandparents."

An attorney, Mr. Blumencranz is a managing director at NFP, an Aon company, a global business management firm with a strong Long Island presence. His areas of expertise include insurance, benefits, and wealth management. He is a past recipient of the "Person of the Year" Award by the Nassau County Law Enforcement Program, reflecting his sustained support of our local police departments. He is a graduate of the George Washington University School of Business and received his J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.



An American flag is draped across the top of the image, with the stars and stripes clearly visible. The background of the entire advertisement is a dark, textured surface.

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With that historic reality, The Museum of American Armor has welcomed Craig Allen as its official meteorologist, bringing his extensive and award-winning professional weather expertise to enhance

the museum's educational programming and special events.

Allen, a respected meteorologist with four decades of experience in forecasting and meteorological education, will work with the museum to develop weather-related historical content that highlights how meteorological conditions have influenced military operations throughout American history.

Weather insight on military history

In his new role, Allen will consult on special exhibits about historic battles where weather was a determining factor, provide meteorological context for the museum's popular battle reenactments, and develop educational materials for student visitors about the relationship between weather science and military history.

"I'm honored to join the Museum of American Armor team," said Allen.

"Weather forecasting has evolved alongside military technology, and I look forward to helping tell the fascinating story of how meteorological science has influenced American military operations from the Revolutionary War to modern conflicts."

Mr. Allen is an award-winning meteorologist whose weather reports were heard on WCBS Newsradio 880 for over 40 years until it went off the air. He has continued to provide the CBS News Radio Network with briefings and in-depth coverage of major weather events and he has also returned to CBS News-New York as an occasional First Alert forecaster for CBS2. He is also providing Bloomberg Radio with in-depth reports during severe weather events.



BOCES presents Education Partner Award to Armor

The Museum of American Armor was lauded as one of the most devoted supporters of public education on Long Island. The museum is among 14 honorees who received a Nassau BOCES Education Partner award, bestowed annually on those individuals and organizations that have had a profound effect on education in Nassau County.

A strategic education partner with school districts since 1967, Nassau BOCES created the awards program to recognize those who share its mission of ensuring a successful, challenging, caring, and safe environment that enables students of all ages and abilities to achieve their maximum potential. These outstanding individuals and organizations have made strides in accomplishing key educational goals embraced by Nassau BOCES to ensure student success.

"The Museum of American Armor's programs are so accurate and immersive that they are a part of the social studies curriculum for a number of Long Island school districts," said Nassau BOCES Board Member Robert "B.A." Schoen at the awards gala. "Visitors are transported into one of the most pivotal periods in American history. The museum provides an experience that is at once so powerful and informative that it has been referred to as one of the most compelling educational tools our region has at its disposal."



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Capturing the birth of the modern tank

The Museum of American Armor has unveiled an operational replica of an F17 World War I tank that profoundly changed the battlefield. This new acquisition allows the museum to present the full historic arc of the development, role, and tactics of tanks throughout their combat history.

While the British fielded the first tanks during “The Great War,” they were slow, cumbersome armored boxes that were often more dangerous to their crews than the enemy. It would be the French-designed Renault F17 that would prove to be the model for virtually every tank design in the generations to follow.

“They were far smaller and much more maneuverable than the British design with a gun mounted on a movable turret

that provided its crew isolation from the noxious fumes of its engine,” stated Kevin Carroll, the Armor Museum’s Director of Community Affairs. “It was the type of tank that a young George Patton studied during his deployment during World War I, an experience that would shape his battlefield strategy some 25 years later.”

The replica was created by noted California fabricator and military historian Kameron Swinney, who began building it two years ago after documenting an original F17 on display at The Museum of The American G.I. in Texas.

Exhaustively researched

“Literally every dimension and rivet were captured to create a vehicle that would provide an accurate blueprint for a working replica of this pioneering tank. By placing a contemporary powerplant and drive train into this replica we also ensured that it could reliably move under its own power, allowing it to become a military time machine for visitors,” Swinney explained.

Colonel Jason Halloren (Ret.), former Deputy Commandant of West Point and

a trustee of the Museum of American Armor, observed, “History has failed to fully appreciate the enormous impact this small two-man tank had on armored warfare. The French recognized that the concept of a tank could break the deadly World War I stalemate of trench warfare but the original British design was a dead end. They came up with something so simple it was brilliant. And timeless.”

An appropriate home

Mr. Swinney observed, “There were any number of places where this replica could have ultimately gone, but its acquisition by the Museum of American Armor means it will be seen in a region of our nation that has one of the largest veterans populations and where some 2.8 million people are in a 30-mile radius of the museum. As a result, my vision for this replica’s contribution to telling a story of America’s role in World War I is being fulfilled

The Museum of American Armor’s replica F17 makes its appearance before the public, mirroring the arrival of a genuine F17 in France 1918.



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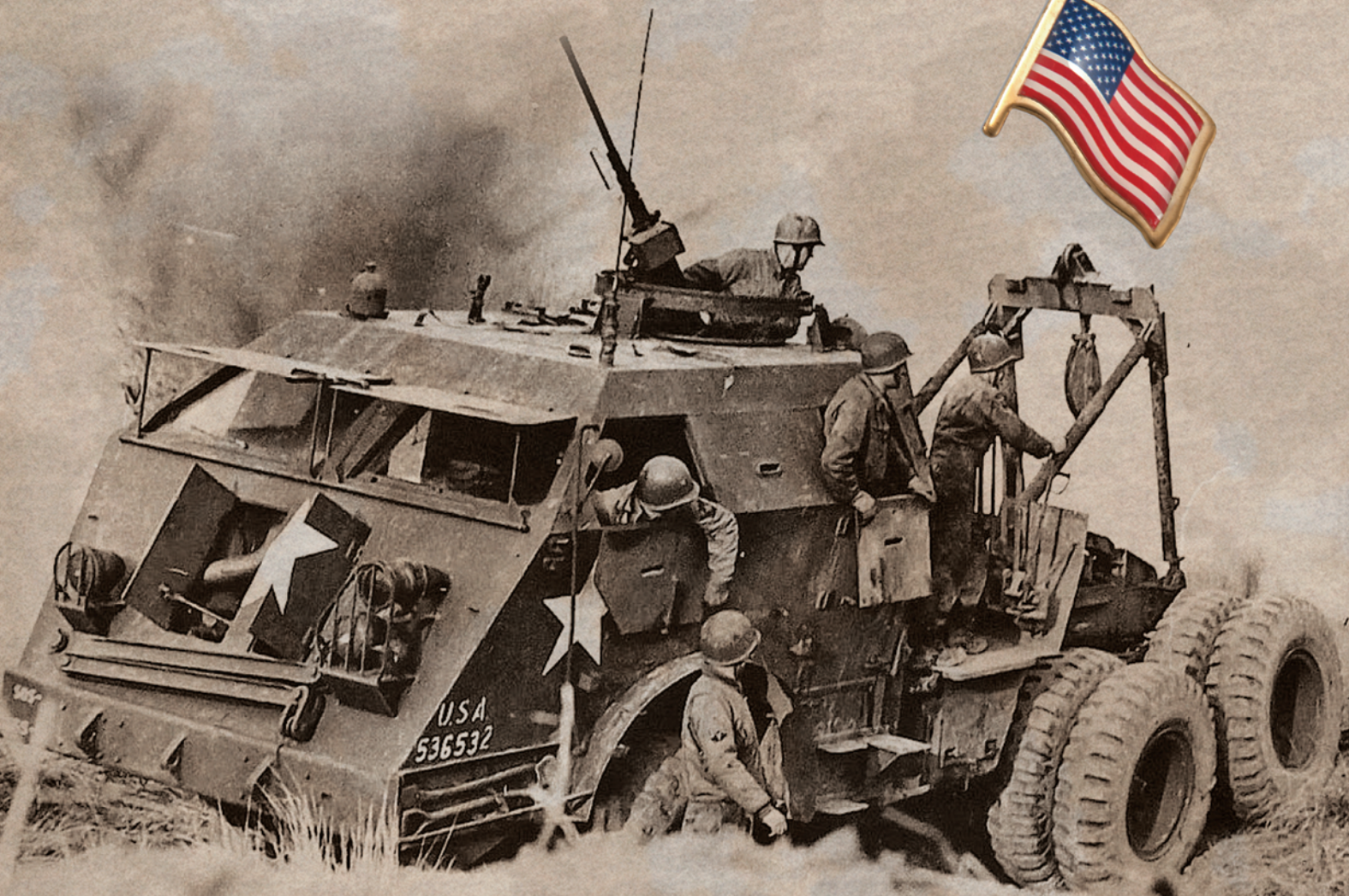


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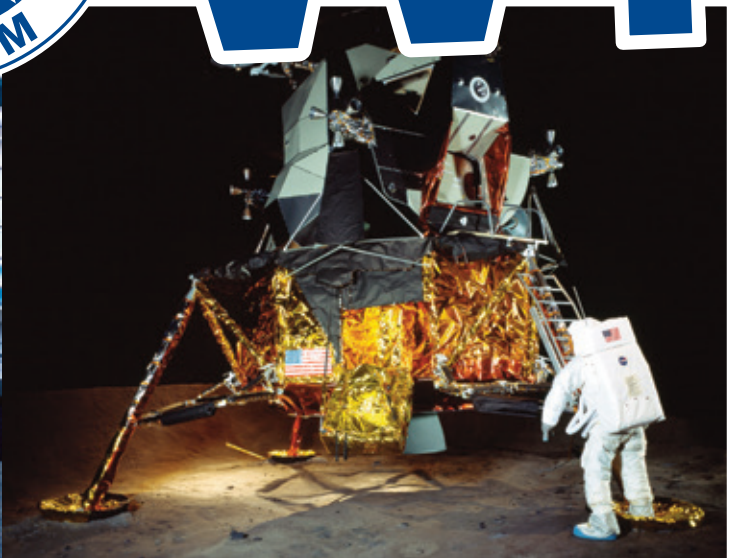
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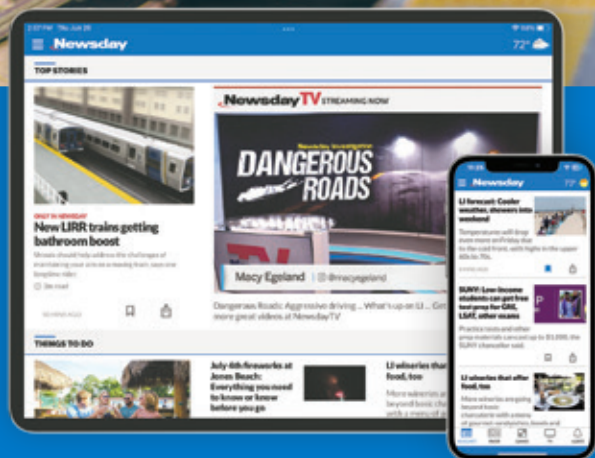
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