



**A SALUTE
TO OUR WWII
GENERATION**
LET US NOT FORGET





Mark Salloum and Keith Famie
Filmmakers
Bending River Films
28345 Beck Road
Suite 404
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mark and Keith,

Thank you for the update on your proposed project, ***A Salute to Our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget***, focusing on the World War II Generation. The topic of Detroiters and their role in defending democracy has great potential to resonate with our viewers, not only as an engaging piece of storytelling but as a deeply relevant reflection of the city's identity and evolution.

The idea of exploring the stories of how the city's residents navigated the challenges of wartime, both on the home front and in the factories, is compelling. Detroit's role as the "Arsenal of Democracy" during WWII shaped the lives of many, and your focus on the resilience, sacrifice, and determination of its people would offer a unique and important perspective on that era.

I'm excited to see how you plan to bring these narratives to life on screen. As you know, we are always interested in supporting independent filmmakers and always on the lookout for compelling projects to broadcast to our audience. We would be delighted to explore the possibility of including this film in our programming lineup during November or December of 2025.

Thank you for considering Detroit PBS as a potential home for your work. We look forward to hearing more about your project and to the possibility of working together to share this important story with our viewers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred".

Fred Nahhat
Senior VP, Production
Detroit PBS



Bending River Films

Dear Community Leader,

We are excited to reach out with an opportunity to be featured as a supporter of what might be the last Detroit PBS feature documentary produced in Michigan about our World War II Generation. This project, titled ***A Salute to Our WWII Generation - Let Us Not Forget***, is currently in production and slated to air on PBS in late 2025.

Under the creative vision of producer/director Mark Salloum, we have captured 25 personal interviews with veterans who served in the military during WWII. In collaboration with director/producer Keith Famie, these talented filmmakers are on track to complete this inspirational story in time for the holiday season. With backing from Detroit PBS and a unique educational approach that involves today's younger generation, we anticipate this film will be a significant part of our community's cultural heritage. The documentary is set to be celebrated at a community event at the Penn Theatre in Plymouth.

We invite you to review the donation opportunities available to see how your organization can be recognized as one of the community leaders who helped bring this important story to life. Your support will not only honor the legacy of our WWII veterans, but also ensure that their inspiring stories continue to educate and inspire future generations.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to contribute to a project that celebrates history, community, and education.

Warm Regards,

Mark Salloum
Filmmaker
Bending River Films
mark@bendingriverfilms.com

Keith Famie
Filmmaker
Bending River Films
famie@famie.com



A SALUTE TO OUR WWII GENERATION

LET US NOT FORGET



After the attack on Pearl Harbor, America officially declared war on Japan. Soon after, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S,

putting us in the midst of a global war. To win, many troops were needed. Men of all ages answered the call and quickly enlisted. For those not old enough, many lied about their age to join their fellow Americans at war. Women were also committed to the Arsenal of Democracy, building bombers in factories and providing triage in the fields. On the racial front, fearless black men became the unsung heroes as Tuskegee Airmen and the Montford Point Marines. Regardless of their journey, one thing remained constant. Each young man was eager to fight for the freedom and protection of our country. Sadly, less than 50,000 WWII

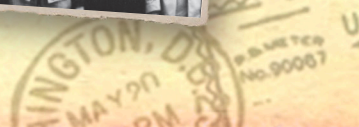
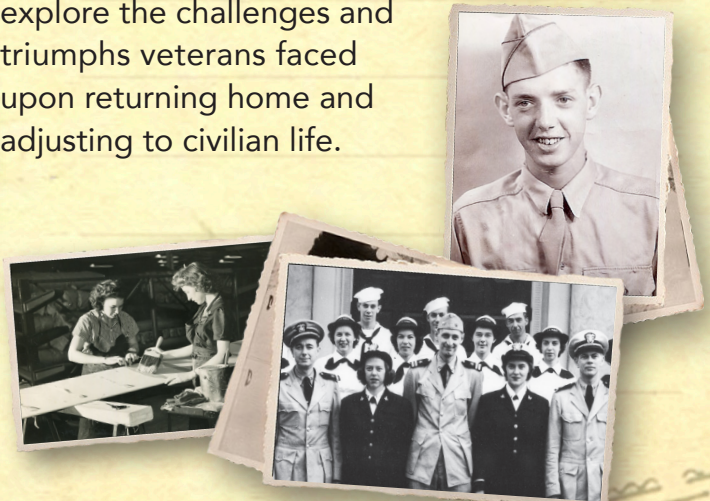
veterans remain alive, while losing hundreds each day. And with each loss, another part of living history is gone forever. Fortunately, the stories of 25 veterans and their family members live on.


Filmmakers **Mark Salloum** and **Keith Farnie** of **Bending River Films** are set to release a powerful new Detroit PBS film that pays tribute to the brave men and women who served our country during World War II. **A Salute To Our WW II Generation: Let Us Not Forget**



takes the audience on a journey starting from the youthful days of these veterans, whether they grew up on city streets or country farms. It follows their transition to the battlefields and communication rooms where they played crucial roles in the

war effort. The narrative will explore the challenges and triumphs veterans faced upon returning home and adjusting to civilian life.





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Through the eyes of our veterans and their children, the film portrays the profound impact of the war on their lives. It captures their stories of bravery, resilience, and sacrifice,

offering a deeply personal glimpse into the experiences of those who served.

Beyond storytelling, the film is crafted with a strong educational component aimed at informing and inspiring future generations. Young audiences will gain valuable insights into the history and significance of World War II, understanding the sacrifices made by those who fought for freedom.



As viewers embark on this epic journey, they can expect to be inspired, informed, and emotionally touched. **A Salute To Our WW II Generation: Let Us Not Forget** stands as a unique tribute to our World

War II heroes, ensuring their legacy continues to resonate with audiences today and in the future.



**Bending
River Films**

DETROIT: THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
COUNTDOWN TO D-DAY



The influence of Detroit's manufacturing community during World War II is legendary. Detroit earned the nickname "The Arsenal of Democracy" due to its critical role in wartime production. The city's industrial prowess played a pivotal role in the success of the Allied forces, with historians often asserting that there would have been no D-Day without the contributions of Detroit's manufacturers.

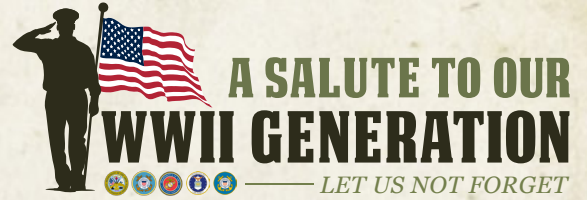


The war effort also saw the rise of "Rosie the Riveter," a cultural icon representing the women who stepped up to fill the gaps in the workforce occupied by men, proving indispensable to the production of war machinery and equipment. This movement not only contributed to the war but also laid the groundwork for future changes in gender roles within the workplace.





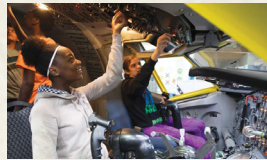
INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS: A TRIBUTE TO WWII VETERANS



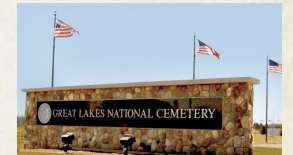
A Salute to Our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget

is a documentary film which seeks to honor the brave men and women who served during World War II, while also educating and inspiring future generations. As part of this tribute, a group of history students will embark on an educational journey to learn about the experiences and sacrifices of these veterans, bringing history to life in a way that textbooks alone cannot achieve.

The educational project will be overseen by a local public school district's history teacher who will teach and inspire students as they create an honorary tribute of a WWII veteran (living or deceased). To broaden their perspective, we'd like to invite (and film) students on a field trip to one of the many historical locations, such as:



- **Michigan Flight Museum at Willow Run Airport in Belleville:** We are working on a opportunity to take the students on a field trip to learn about WWII aviation history.
- **The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial in Royal Oak:** This visit will provide insight into the enduring legacy of the war and the memorials dedicated to those who served.
- **Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly:** We are working on a opportunity for the students to tour the cemetery so they understand the significance of military burial honors.
- **Michigan Heroes Museum in Frankenmuth:** This museum provides a shrine to the ordinary lives caught up in the extraordinary experience of war.



The journey will culminate in a powerful experience as students participate in one of Michigan's Memorial Day Parades. Each student will carry an 11"x17" foam core image of the veteran they studied, honoring their legacy and sharing their stories with the community.

Producers Mark Salloum and Keith Famie aim to create a lasting tribute that will be integrated into Michigan's educational system. By documenting the students' reflections and insights throughout the film, this project will not only educate but also inspire future generations to appreciate the freedoms they enjoy today.





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CHARITY PREMIERE

HOLIDAY SEASON 2025

A historic celebration is being planned for the debut of a new Detroit PBS documentary film, ***A Salute To Our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget***.

Filmmakers Mark Salloum and Keith Famie of Bending River Films will bring together media, community leaders, and veterans as well as featured families to celebrate the lives of those who were defined as our country's "Greatest Generation."

Expect to be inspired and emotionally touched as we listen from WWII veterans about what it was like as young Americans to be a part of World War II.

The event will be in support of local veteran-related charitable organizations.



Bending River Films



LETTERS OF SUPPORT

THE MICHIGAN
WWII LEGACY
Memorial™

HONORING SACRIFICE. CELEBRATING FREEDOM. EDUCATING GENERATIONS.



Mark Salloum and Keith Famie
Filmmakers
Bending River Films
28345 Beck Road
Suite 404
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mark and Keith,

On behalf of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial, I am pleased to extend our endorsement of your project, **A Salute to Our Greatest Generation, Let Us Not Forget**. This film supports our mission of *honoring sacrifice, celebrating freedom, and educating generations*, both current and future generations. I have had the privilege of conversing with several WWII veterans and Rosie the Riveters as we have developed the memorial, emphasizing the importance of preserving their legacy.

We consider The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial an outdoor classroom that vividly recounts the stories of Michigan's greatest generation through its statues, inscribed paver bricks, and other elements. We invite students, families, and various groups to visit the memorial and immerse themselves in this historical narrative. To date, there are 1500 inscribed paver bricks at the memorial, donated by families to honor their loved ones and share their stories. As I read many of these bricks while placing them in 2023, I recognized the significance of the narratives they hold. Your film will help us convey these stories through a different medium, ultimately aiming to educate about the commitment and sacrifices made during WWII. Additionally, we explore how this generation continues to impact our lives today, not only through their wartime contributions but also through their enduring influence on society.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Maten". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

John Maten
President
The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in March, 2007 and is registered with the IRS under the name Honor Flight Michigan Legacy, Inc. Our tax ID number is: 41-2232306.



Mark Salloum and Keith Famie
Filmmakers
Bending River Films
28345 Beck Road Suite 404
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mark and Keith,

The Michigan Heroes Museum is proud to host the 8th graders from Plymouth, Michigan, and aid in telling the stories of Michigan Heroes for, *A Salute to Our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget*. We are looking forward to showcasing the exceptional, touching, and often heartbreaking stories of our World War II veterans from Michigan. The Michigan Heroes Museum is celebrating 50 years in 2025, and this is a great opportunity to celebrate our stories.

MHM was created through the vision of one man, Stan Bozich, in 1975. A lifelong student of military history, Stan realized we needed a museum that would encompass the stories of the veterans from Michigan. Armed with his dream, he began collecting artifacts and stories from veterans all around our great state. Fifty years later, the Michigan Heroes Museum is the repository of over 900 stories and displays including veterans of our foreign wars and astronauts all from Michigan. These men and women were ordinary people that were put into extraordinary circumstances and became the heroes of our state and country.

At MHM we are committed to educating the public through our displays and programming. Our mission to Honor, Respect, and Remember Michigan citizens' personal contributions to our nation's military and space programs, guides our actions. We feel this opportunity aligns perfectly with our mission. Again, we take great pride in being selected to aid in your endeavors and look forward to helping bring your project to fruition.

Sincerely,

John Ryder
Executive Director
MHM

John Auger
Curator/Educational Programming
MHM





**Bending
River
Films**

Mark Salloum Director/Producer

Producer/Director Mark Salloum has been producing short films and video content for nearly three decades. In 1997, he formed Highway Media to fulfill his passion and has since become one of the most awarded studios in Metro Detroit, traveling to 15 states and five countries for their clients. In 2019, Mark released his first feature length documentary, ***Plymouth, Michigan – A Rich History***, which sold out 11 consecutive shows at the Penn Theatre.



By fate or chance, Mark and Keith met in 2024, to discuss their love for filmmaking and decided to collaborate their energy together. Their new studio, Bending River Films, will be the vehicle to produce documentary films which inspire, inform, and initiate their audiences like never before.



Keith Famie Director/Producer/Author

Director/Producer Keith Famie was, for many years, known as a celebrity chef and a Metro Detroit restaurateur. Famie was also a finalist on the 2001 reality television series, "Survivor, the Australian Outback." Keith hosted his own Food Network series, "Keith Famie's Adventures," traveling the world documenting different cooking styles.

In 2004, Famie embarked on a new journey - documentary filmmaking. "I didn't want to be the 'Adventure Chef' guy anymore. I wanted to help people tell their stories."

Since that life-changing decision, Famie & his company, Visionalist Entertainment Productions, has been awarded twenty-three Michigan Emmys and been nominated several other times for his rich, human-interest storytelling, from a day in the life of children with Down syndrome to stories about Alzheimer's, cancer, healthy aging as well as Detroit's rich history told through documentaries such as ***Detroit: The City of Churches***, ***Detroit: The City of Chefs*** and ***Detroit: The City of Hot Rods & Muscle Cars***.