

National Museum of the Pacific War
Admiral Nimitz Foundation
Fredericksburg, Texas

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's Month-Long Birthday Celebration to be Held at The
National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas**

Fredericksburg, Texas (February 2, 2009) - The National Museum of the Pacific War will commemorate the 124th birthday of Fredericksburg's historical hometown WW-II hero, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, with special film presentations throughout each weekend in February, 2009. *Five-Star Heroes: The Admiral Nimitz Story*, a Lou Reda Production, and *The Nimitz Story, Texas to Tokyo Bay*, a short film narrated by Walter Cronkite, will be shown periodically throughout the day each Saturday and Sunday in February. Admission to the films is free with the purchase of a museum ticket.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, the 124th anniversary of Admiral Nimitz's birthday, the Museum will celebrate by offering free admission to anyone who shares his birth date and birthday cake to all visitors while it lasts. The Fredericksburg Middle School Choir, under the direction of Ted Conerly, will perform at 1:00 p.m. in the Admiral Nimitz Museum Ballroom. They will conclude their musical presentation by singing "Happy Birthday Admiral Nimitz" which will be followed by the cutting of the birthday cake.

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who at the height of the Pacific war commanded over two million men and women, 5,000 ships and 20,000 planes, was of humble and landlocked beginnings. Born February 24, 1885 to an already widowed mother, he was raised in the small German community of Fredericksburg, Texas. Until he was six his mother and he lived and worked at Grandfather Nimitz's steamboat-shaped hotel, a famous frontier hostelry.

After Pearl Harbor was attacked and war began, President Roosevelt picked Nimitz from 28 flag officers senior to him to relieve Admiral Kimmel at Pearl Harbor. As Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, Admiral Nimitz proved to be the right man at the right time. He restored morale by building an aggressive combat team led by men like Halsey and Spruance. He brilliantly and instinctively chose the correct moves in the gamble of the Battle of Midway, to this day the greatest victory of the United States Navy.

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On December 19, 1944 Chester W. Nimitz was promoted to the grade of fleet admiral, newly established by the Congress about a year earlier. Only four five-star admirals were to be chosen during World War II: Leahy, King, Nimitz and Halsey.

On September 2, 1945, on board the battleship MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay, Fleet Admiral Nimitz signed the surrender document on behalf of the United States. Later in November he relinquished his command at Pearl Harbor as he had accepted it, aboard a submarine. Three weeks later he was sworn in as Chief of Naval Operations. It then became his job to demobilize all but a fraction of the most powerful Navy in history - one he had helped build and lead. A defining characteristic of Admiral Nimitz's life was his devotion to the Navy. After the war, he was to remark, "Being a part of the Navy is honorable and soul-satisfying work."

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz died at his home on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay on February 20, 1966. He would have been 81 years old on the day of his funeral at Golden Gate National Cemetery at San Bruno. He was the last surviving five-star admiral.

The National Museum of the Pacific War and the entrance to the Ballroom is located at 340 East Main Street in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Please contact Dolores Young, 830-456-6997 to make coverage and/or interview arrangements. Ms. Young's e-mail address is young@nimitz-museum.org. The Museum's website is www.Nimitz-Museum.org.

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“We inspire our youth by honoring our heroes.” - The National Museum of the Pacific War, a Texas Historical Commission property operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, is located in Fredericksburg, Texas, and is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater of World War II. Located on a six-acre site, the facility includes the George H.W. Bush Gallery, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Plaza of the Presidents, the Memorial Courtyard, Japanese Garden of Peace, Pacific Combat Zone and the Center for Pacific War Studies.

Originally named the Admiral Nimitz Museum and housed solely in the historic Nimitz Hotel, the Museum has grown into a dynamic, first-class experience that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and from all backgrounds, a great family educational experience. In addition to nearly 34,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space, the Museum boasts an impressive display of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other large artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns. An additional 40,000 square-foot expansion is planned to be completed in December, 2009.

Visit us at WWW.Nimitz-Museum.org