



Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future

For Immediate Release

May 31, 2011

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www.history.idaho.gov/museum.html

Our Lives, Our Stories: America's Greatest Generation Opens Idaho State Historical Museum on June 16, 2011

Boise, ID – Who speaks for the experiences of a generation and their impact on the world around them? What experiences help to create a sense of shared identity?

Our Lives, Our Stories: America's Greatest Generation, a new exhibition opening at the Idaho State Historical Museum on June 16, explores the lives of the World War II generation—as told in their own words. Born in the 1910s and 1920s, these people were decisively shaped by the Great Depression and World War II, became the parents of the “baby boom” generation and shaped the economic prosperity of the postwar era. Their legacy shapes our lives even into the 21st Century. The exhibit draws on memories and oral histories gathered by the Minnesota Historical Society to help us understand the people who make up the greatest generation. In the process, their diversity of memories reveals them as a varied group of individuals who together shaped the world we live in today. Become acquainted with this generation as you walk through scenes of a 1940s kitchen, an army recruiting station, an old soda fountain and more. Items from the collections of the Idaho Historical Museum and the Idaho State Archives will be added to give an Idaho touch to the exhibit.

The exhibition will be unveiled to the public at a special grand-opening event, *Cocktails and Couture*, at 7:00 p.m. on June 16, 2011. According to Jody Ochoa, Museum Director, “Our opening event celebrates the fashions and history of America’s Greatest Generation. By showcasing clothing, history and music of the 1930s through

the 1950s, it increases our understanding about how this generation lived and as a result, impacts our lives today.” Programs related to the exhibit will continue through August 11, 2011. On June 23, author and photographer Thomas Sanders will speak on “The Last Good War: The Faces and Voices of World War II.” July programs include Hands on History for kids, swing dance instruction on First Thursdays and a workshop on finding, preserving and sharing family legacies.

Our Lives, Our Stories: America’s Greatest Generation has been made possible by NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit was originally developed by the Minnesota Historical Society in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This exhibit was adapted and is toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance through NEH on the Road. NEH on the Road offers an exciting opportunity for communities of all sizes to experience some of the best exhibitions funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Mid-America Arts Alliance was founded in 1972 and is the oldest regional nonprofit arts organization in the United States. For more information, visit www.maaa.org or www.nehontheroad.org.

For more information about the opening event or the exhibit, contact the Idaho State Historical Museum at 334-2120.

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The Idaho State Historical Society is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources comprised of the Idaho State Historical Museum, State Archives, State Historic Preservation Office, and Historic Sites Program. We seek to inspire, enrich and engage all Idahoans by leading the state in preserving, sharing, and using history and cultural resources relevant to today to inform and influence the future. Learn more about ISHS at www.history.idaho.gov/museum.html.