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Training Center CPO Mess Helps Restore Local Museum

By Lt. Andrew C. Legayada, Training Support Center San Diego Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO—Chief petty officers (CPO) and CPO selectees from Training Support Center (TSC) San Diego volunteer time at an area museum Aug. 13 helping staff prepare for the museum's annual World War II veteran commemoration.

The Sailors worked on restoration projects including cleaning various statues preparing the Veteran's Museum for the annual Spirit of '45 commemoration Aug. 14.

"Our time to clean, preserve, and make preparations for an event honoring those who sacrificed so much for us is the least we can do for those who deserve so much gratitude," said Chief Machinist Mate (select) Geobany Castillo-Rosales. "To be out there helping improve a part of the local community of San Diego is a small way to show our gratitude for all the support the city of San Diego gives the military community."

Castillo-Rosales explained that the WWII veterans are the epitome of sacrifice and ensured a better world for future generations. He also said that the commemoration inspires a sense of heritage and pride in each of the volunteers.

"It's a great way to give back to the community and meet people that you have never met," said Chief Aviation Electronics Technician Froilan Laguardia. "We are grooming the next generation of khaki leadership to be fine leaders and better citizens."

"Our CPOs and CPO selectees active involvement in the local community builds a sense of pride and camaraderie that is crucial to our Navy's ability to be effective warfighters," said Capt. John D. Wilshusen, TSC San Diego commanding officer. "Serving to improve the local community is essential for both personal and professional growth."

The Spirit of '45 commemoration is a nationwide effort enacted by Congress in 2010 to honor the men and women who served during World War II.

The Veteran's Museum at Balboa Park honors the men and women who served their country in the U.S. Armed Forces and wartime Merchant Marine by documenting their contributions and experiences and preserving their legacy for future generations through their individual stories.

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