



THE BEDFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## ***We Can Do It! WWII* Traveling Exhibition to Open at the Bedford County Historical Society**

***-The 500-square-foot exhibit will visit 18 organizations across Western Pa. during the next three years-***

Bedford, PA: October 24, 2019 – As the nation commemorates the 75th anniversary of the beginning of World War II, the Bedford County Historical Society will host a new traveling exhibition, ***We Can Do It! WWII***, sponsored by **Erie Insurance, The Eberly Foundation,** and the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).**

The 500-square foot exhibit, created by the Senator John Heinz History Center for its Affiliate Program members, will be on display November 26, 2019 – January 28, 2020.

The ***We Can Do It! WWII*** traveling exhibit explores Western Pennsylvania's incredible impact on the home, industrial, and battle fronts during World War II.

Visitors to the exhibit will learn about the development of the jeep, a uniquely American invention produced by the American Bantam Car Company in Butler, Pa., and hear the stories behind Rosie the Riveter and the local Tuskegee Airmen whose contributions helped to turn the tide of the war.

The exhibit will showcase four lifelike museum figures of local WWII heroes:

- General George C. Marshall
- Tuskegee Airman Lt. Carl J. Woods
- Iwo Jima hero Sgt. Michael Strank
- The Westinghouse Company-inspired Rosie the Riveter

As part of the exhibit, the Bedford County Historical Society will also display several artifacts from its collection, including the following displays:

- Hometown Heroes
- Spoils of War
- On the Homefront

The ***We Can Do It! WWII*** traveling exhibition will visit a total of 18 cultural institutions throughout Western Pa. over the next three years. The exhibit is provided free of charge to members of the History Center Affiliates Program, a collection of more than 125 historical organizations throughout the region.

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To learn more about ***We Can Do It! WWII*** traveling exhibition at the Bedford County Historical Society, please visit [www.bedfordpahistory.com](http://www.bedfordpahistory.com)

For information, photos, videos, and to learn more about the Heinz History Center Affiliates Program, please visit [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).

**The Senator John Heinz History Center**, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region's remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).



The ***We Can Do It! WWII*** traveling exhibition is sponsored by:



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The History Center's *We Can Do It! WWII* traveling exhibit explores Western Pennsylvania's incredible impact on the home, industrial, and battle fronts during World War II.



The *We Can Do It! WWII* traveling exhibit features four lifelike museum figures, including Sgt. Michael Strank, a Conemaugh, Pa. (near Johnstown) resident who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima and became part of Joe Rosenthal's iconic Associated Press photograph.