



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

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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", written in a cursive, flowing style.

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.

To learn more about the documentary and to view the trailer, go to:  
[www.ww2heroes.com](http://www.ww2heroes.com).


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](mailto:mark@bendingriverfilms.com)

Keith Famie  
Filmmaker  
Bending River Films  
[famie@famie.com](mailto: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 Famie** 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.







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.

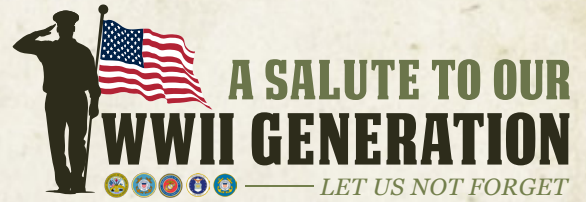


**Bending  
River  
Films**





# INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS: A TRIBUTE TO WWII VETERANS



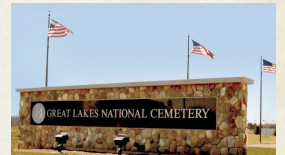
## **A Salute to Our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget**

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 history teacher from the Plymouth Canton Community School district 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:** The students will visit the museum 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:** The students will be featured touring 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 the annual Plymouth Memorial Day Parade. 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.







# A SALUTE TO OUR WWII GENERATION

— LET US NOT FORGET



## 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***.

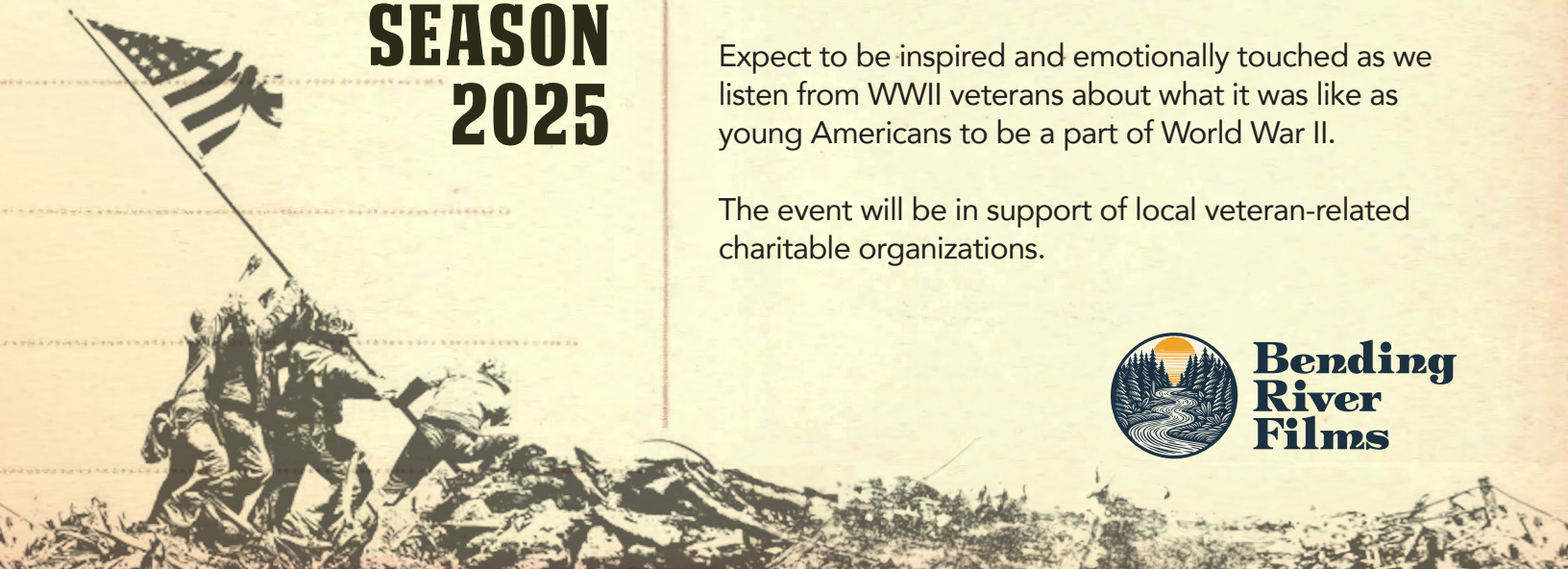
Filmmakers Mark Salloum and Keith Famie of Bending River Films will bring together media, community leaders, and veterans as well as featured families to celebrate the lives of those who were defined as our country's "Greatest Generation."

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, reading "John L. Maten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

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.*





**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Great Lakes National Cemetery**  
**4200 Belford Road**  
**Holly, MI 48442**

April 21, 2024

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

Dear Mark and Keith,

On behalf of Great Lakes National Cemetery, I am honored to offer my support for your documentary film, *A Salute to our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget*. This project pays tribute to the extraordinary men and women of World War II whose courage, sacrifice, and resilience helped shape the freedoms we enjoy today.

At Great Lakes National Cemetery, we are entrusted with the solemn duty of caring for the final resting places of over 12,400 WWII Veterans and their families. They were heroes who stood in defense of liberty during one of the most pivotal moments in our Nation's history. In this national shrine each gravesite tells a story of their sacrifice, service and commitment to something greater than themselves.

By chronicling the journey of these 25 WWII Veterans and bringing their experiences to life through personal interviews and historical reflection, your documentary serves as both an educational resource and a living memorial. I hope that this film will inspire reflection, elicit gratitude, and a deeper understanding of the remarkable lives lived by our Veterans.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment in honoring Michigan's heroes. We are proud to stand with you in preserving their stories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Logan Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

Andre Logan Sr.  
Director  
Great Lakes National Cemetery



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 8<sup>th</sup> 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





47884 D Street  
Belleville, MI 48111  
734-483-4030  
MIFLIGHTMUSEUM.ORG  
FEIN 38-2387453

April 10, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Michigan Flight Museum, I am honored to offer our support for the upcoming PBS documentary *A Salute to Our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget*, produced by Keith Famie and Bending River Films. This project aligns with our mission to educate, inspire, and preserve the stories of those who served—especially those of the Greatest Generation.

At the Michigan Flight Museum, we are privileged to steward and share the legacy of American military aviation through immersive exhibits, flying aircraft, and public programming that brings history to life. For years, our B-25 Mitchell "Rosie's Reply" flies as a living tribute to the airmen of World War II, offering thousands of people the chance to connect—through sight, sound, and sensation—with the courage and sacrifice of those who served. We continue this work today through educational initiatives and restoration efforts that honor the service of veterans across all eras.

Documentary storytelling is a vital companion to our museum work. Films like *Let Us Not Forget* offer a powerful platform for capturing the voices, faces, and lived experiences of our WWII heroes—before it is too late. We are especially heartened to see this film involve students and focus on intergenerational learning, a core value of our own museum programming.

We commend Bending River Films for their dedication to honoring veterans through authentic, respectful storytelling. We believe this project will serve as a lasting tribute to those who gave so much and as an educational resource for generations to come.

Please accept this letter as our strong endorsement of *A Salute to Our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget*. We are grateful to be part of a community working together to remember, reflect, and educate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin T. Walsh".

Kevin T. Walsh  
President/CEO  
Michigan Flight Museum & Air Adventures  
[Kevin.Walsh@MIFlightMuseum.org](mailto:Kevin.Walsh@MIFlightMuseum.org)





**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**DETROIT CHAPTER 9**  
500 Temple – Detroit – Michigan 48201  
313-832-6500



Mark Salloum and Keith Famie  
Filmmakers  
Bending River Films  
7990 N. Lilley Rd.  
Canton, MI 48187

Dear Mark Salloum and Keith Famie:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Detroit Chapter 9 is proud to support the production of **A Salute to Our WWII Generation: Let Us Not Forget**. As military veterans we understand and share the importance of what it means to serve and protect our great nation. We have been a part of many of Keith Famie's PBS documentaries which focus on what it means to dedicate a major part of one's life to service in the United States military.

Many of us have fathers, mothers, and/or relatives who served during WWII. We have the greatest respect for them and truly recognize them as the "Greatest Generation." Their sacrifices have made it possible for this country to become the powerful nation we are. One of our mottos is, "**Freedom has a flavor the protected will never know.**" However, films such as this bring to light what it takes to preserve that freedom for generations to come.

It is commonly taken for granted that our country is a free nation, however we all must remember that **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**. We wish to thank Bending River Films for preserving their memories and honoring our military and its veterans.

Sincerely,

Paul Palazzolo  
President



**Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society**  
16600 Stephens Rd.  
Eastpointe, MI  
48021-0137  
[www.mimths.org](http://www.mimths.org)



*PRESERVING MICHIGAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY*

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

Mark & Keith,

The Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society is proud to support *A Salute to Our WWII Generation*. Our museum is dedicated to preserving the story of Michigan's contribution to the defense of our nation, WWI through the present, and the WWII story is a huge part of that legacy.

History is always in danger of being forgotten, or even worse, corrupted. Hearing the words of the actual people that bore witness to actual events helps preserve the record for the future.

The role of Michigan's people, on the production front, war front, and home front must be preserved for future generations to study and learn from. Films like this help keep the memory alive.

Chris Causley  
Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society

The Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the stories of Michigan citizens who served and sacrificed, here and abroad, from WWI to the present. Our 11,000 square foot Museum exhibits the actual equipment, weapons, uniforms and other artifacts that bear witness to the high cost of freedom.

Michigan Charitable Solicitation License # 42654



22ND DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**MATT KOLESZAR**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-0854  
FAX: (517) 373-5911  
MattKoleszar@house.mi.gov

To whom it may concern,

I write to express my strong support for Bending River Films' newest Detroit PBS film, *A Salute to Our WWII Generation- Let Us Not Forget*. This documentary film provides the residents of Wayne County, more specifically Plymouth, Northville, and Livonia, with the history of the Second World War and its' impact on those within our community.

As the Representative of the 22<sup>nd</sup> House district, I have seen how Bending River Films and Detroit PBS have come together to create a documentary that follows 25 veterans from pre-war to current day. These men and women are a fundamental part in educating our future generations on the experience of war and how it impacts people's lives, even almost 84 years after the United States entered World War II.

As a tribute to the heroes of World War II, this film honors the sacrifices, bravery, and journeys of the men and women who were a crucial part to the right to freedom that we have today. Executive Producers, Mark Salloum and Keith Faime, have created a project to help ensure that younger generations never forget the history and significance of the Second World War. It is within this film that Salloum and Faime have further embedded these heroes' importance within our communities, and it is why I support their effort to inspire and inform generations about this monumental moment in U.S. history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Koleszar".

Matt Koleszar  
State Representative  
District 22



## ***2025 Plymouth Memorial Day Parade Planning Committee***

April 9, 2025

Mr. Mark Salloum and Mr. Keith Famie  
Bending River Films  
7990 N. Lilley Road  
Canton, MI 48187

Dear Mark and Keith –

The initial meeting of the planning committee for this year's Memorial Day parade in Plymouth was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. We discussed your suggestion to have the local students who are involved in your documentary titled "A Salute To Our WWII Generation – Let Us Not Forget" march in the parade carrying a photograph of the WWII veteran they research. It was also understood that your company would be video recording these students during the parade. The committee had no problem allowing these students to participate in the parade.

Plymouth's Memorial Day parade is meant to remember and honor the veterans who have died in active military service throughout this nation's history. Many have called those who served in WWII as the "greatest generation" because their service helped ensure an Allied victory for this devastating war. Your documentary, "A Salute To Our WWII Generation – Let Us Not Forget," helps to memorialize the personal stories of select WWII veterans. Having your students get involved in this documentary helps ensure that these veterans' sacrifices are not forgotten.

Individuals regularly provide privately-owned military vehicles for the parade. Although the type and quantity varies from year to year, the parade attendees all seem to enjoy seeing military-style vehicles in the parade procession. Since your documentary is focused on WWII, if you are aware of anyone who could provide a WWII-era military vehicle for the parade, as well as any reenactors, it would be greatly appreciated. The parade route is just under one half mile, and it terminates at Plymouth's Veterans Memorial Park, at which time we conduct a short ceremony. If desired, we can attempt to arrange with the City of Plymouth to have these military vehicles parked near Veterans Park at the conclusion of the parade so they can be on display. Unfortunately, our planning committee does not have an operations budget, so the vehicles' owners would have to incur the cost of their operation, as well as insurance for their vehicles.

Sincerely—



Marty Kerstens, Chairman  
2025 Memorial Day Parade Planning Committee



**PLYMOUTH-CANTON**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
GLOBALLY FOCUSED. LOCALLY CONNECTED.

Department of Communications & Marketing

Frank Ruggirello, Jr.  
Executive Director of Communications & Marketing  
Frank.Ruggirello@pccsk12.com  
454 South Harvey Plymouth, MI 48170  
Phone: 734-416-4833  
www.pccsk12.com

April 14, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my great pleasure to submit this letter of support for Producers Mark Salloum and Keith Famie of Bending River Films, as they create their wonderful documentary, A Salute to Our Greatest Generation: Let Us Not Forget. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools recognize the immense educational component to this film, and are excited to have students participate. These high schoolers will be involved in a research project which pays tribute to WWII veterans, culminating their time by marching in the Plymouth Memorial Day Parade with an image of their honored veteran.

On a personal note, I have known Mark Salloum for many years and have been fortunate to collaborate with him on several successful projects for P-CCS. Mark is a perfectionist, and his work reflects his meticulous attention to detail. This documentary will certainly reflect the same high quality and creativity which we've witnessed over the years.

At PCCS, we are committed to educating students to learn, prepare and thrive in the world. Our district is proud to participate in this film, as it will provide an opportunity for our youth to learn about our greatest generation for years to come. We are excited about this documentary and thank Bending River Films for honoring our WWII veterans.

Sincerely,

Frank Ruggirello, Jr.  
Executive Director of Communications and Marketing  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

LEARN. PREPARE. THRIVE.



# A SALUTE TO OUR WWII GENERATION

— LET US NOT FORGET

*Filming has begun at Canton High School*

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**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.

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## **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***.