



## VJ-Day Ceremony Taking Place Sept. 2

The eighth annual Victory over Japan ceremony presented by Fort Miles Historical Association begins at 9 a.m. Sept. 2, outside Fort Miles Museum.

Held in the shadow of the USS Missouri gun display, which also backdropped the official end to World War II, the event will honor the 774 Delaware members of the armed forces and merchant marine who died in the conflict. Volunteers will read the names of 50 Delawareans who died in the war, with a ship's bell tolling after each name.

It will also honor the service of John A. Reichert of Rehoboth Beach, a Navy aviation machinist's mate and flight engineer who served from July 1943 to May 1946. Reichert and his family will celebrate his 100th birthday Oct. 28.

The Museum will be open after the ceremony from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Admission is free; guided tours are \$6 a person, free for active-duty military and veterans.



[Learn More](#)

## Aboard and Above the USS Missouri

Nearly four years after Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor, a Japanese delegation met alongside an Allied delegation on the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. On the battleship that day was a 16-inch gun barrel, now on display at Fort Miles outside the Museum, the center gun in the lower forward turret.

After reading a statement, Gen Douglas MacArthur directed Japanese government representatives to sign the instruments of surrender, finally and formally ending World War II. As the ceremony ended, hundreds of Navy F4Us and F6Fs aircraft flew overhead in formation, followed by Army Air Forces B-29 bombers.



Navy aircraft fly over the USS Missouri, left foreground, after the signing of the surrender documents.

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## Help Shape Fort Miles' Future

We have big plans to start improving the visitor experience at Fort Miles Museum: Enlarging the entrance and lobby, installing exhibits, building accessible bathrooms and creating a visitors' center. That can't happen without support from you. Your gift can make this development plan a reality. Learn more and donate today.





**Donate Today**

[Share Your Gift](#)

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## Museum Hours Changing

Beginning Sept. 1, the Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. Through Sept. 29, it will be open from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sundays. It will be closed Oct. 23 to 29 for an event. From Nov. 3 to Dec. 31, the Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Fall programming also begins Sept. 1. [Check out the schedule here!](#)

[Plan Your Visit Today](#)

## Dive into the Past with Delaware WWII Resources

The Delaware Public Archives is more than just a repository of government records – it's a portal to historical research through videos, organization reports, articles and more. Delaware's World War II holdings include civil defense posters, home front photographs, National Guard records, artillery journals and news clippings – helpful in local or regional research projects. Discover what the archives offers.

[Access to History](#)



Learn more: [fortmilesmuseum.org](http://fortmilesmuseum.org)

Fort Miles is located in Cape Henlopen State Park.  
15099 Cape Henlopen Dr. | Lewes, DE 19958

Schedule a tour: [destateparks.com/programs](http://destateparks.com/programs)  
(Click on Fort Miles Historical Area under Choose Park.  
Scroll down to see upcoming tours and events.)