

# *The Renaissance*

2009-10: volume 10



**Sentimental Journey**  
**November 7, 2009, 7:00 PM**  
**November 8, 2009, 3:00 PM**

## **Back by popular demand!**

***Sentimental Journey: Voices of World War II*** is a musical tribute to the heroes of World War II - the ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things - whether on the front lines or the home front. Over 100 veterans, their wives and children were interviewed for this project, and their collected stories, both harrowing and hilarious, are woven into the tapestry of this one-of-a-kind musical revue that features 32 of the best-loved songs of the 1940s.

## **Written & Directed by Artistic Director, Michael Thomas**

Michael Thomas, Artistic Director of the Renaissance Theatre, returns to the Mansfield area, where he got his start over 30 years ago. He divides



his time between his projects at the Renaissance and his work as a screenwriter, television writer, playwright, actor and musical director in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and London. With over 35 major motion pictures to his credit, as well as countless television shows including the Emmy-winning *30 Rock*, Michael is also director of the Renaissance Young Playwright's Unit, writer/director of *Sentimental Journey: Voices of World War II*, the upcoming *Remember Me Always: High School Yearbook 1977*, *Freedom Road: The Underground Railroad Project* and *The Unforgettable Marvelenes*.

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## Veteran's Day

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed an Armistice Day for November 12, 1919. The United States Congress passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, requesting the President issue another proclamation to observe November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. An Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday; "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

In 1953, an Emporia, Kansas shoe store owner named Al King had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans. With the help of then-U.S. Rep. Ed Rees, also from Emporia, a bill for the holiday was pushed through Congress.

President Dwight Eisenhower signed it into law on May 26, 1954.

Congress amended this act on November 8, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with Veterans, and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

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## Story of an American Hero: Congressional Medal of Honor CARLTON W. BARRETT

**Rank and organization:** Private, U.S. Army, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division.

**Place and date:** Near St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France, 6 June 1944.

**Entered service at:** Albany, New York.

**Born:** Fulton, New York.      **G.O. No.:** 78, 2 October 1944.

On the morning of D-Day Pvt. Barrett, landing in the face of extremely heavy enemy fire, was forced to wade ashore through neck-deep water. Disregarding the personal danger, he returned to the surf again and again to assist his floundering comrades and save them from drowning.

Refusing to remain pinned down by the intense barrage of small-arms and mortar fire poured at the landing points, Pvt. Barrett, working with fierce determination, saved many lives by carrying casualties to an evacuation boat lying offshore.

In addition to his assigned mission as guide, he carried dispatches the length of the fire-swept beach; he assisted the wounded; he calmed the shocked; he arose as a leader in the stress of the occasion. His coolness and his dauntless daring courage while constantly risking his life during a period of many hours had an inestimable effect on his comrades and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.