

# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

PacificWarMuseum.org | Fredericksburg, Texas



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**Contact:**

Ruth Ann Hattori, Marketing Director  
National Museum of the Pacific War  
[rahattori@nimitzfoundation.org](mailto:rahattori@nimitzfoundation.org)  
830-997-8600 Ext. 205

## National Museum of the Pacific War Honored by Connect2Texas

### Education Team Wins Award for Outstanding New Program

**(Fredericksburg, Texas)** The Education Department at the National Museum of the Pacific War ([NMPW](#)) was just named Connect2Texas' Outstanding New Program for Distance Learning in our region. Connect2Texas is a network of Texas-based educational content providers including museums, authors and cultural, historical and scientific organizations. These providers utilize interactive videoconferencing to deliver live programs and professional development to school children and educators across the globe. These programs bring scientists, experts and authors directly to students who may be located in classrooms together or tuning in from their own homes.

"NMPW dove into distance learning last school year and have done an amazing job bringing their museum collections and resources to students virtually. Their dedication to educating children about WWII is inspirational and will impact how they understand the significance and sacrifices that occurred. ESC Region 11 is proud to partner with NMPW through our [Connect2Texas.net](#) service and present them this much deserved distance learning award," said Lori Hamm-Neckar of the Connect2Texas Service Center.

NMPW's Education Department has access to all of the Museum's resources and works to make them available – virtually – to students through distance learning. Education Director David Shields commented, "In some respects, students have greater access to our collection through distance learning because they can see things and ask questions about artifacts that are rarely displayed to the public."

While most of the distance learning programs are presented to school children in Texas, NMPW had the opportunity to present programs to students as far away as Ghana this year. The NMPW Distance Learning Program has created curriculum based lesson plans that align with Texas TEKS and the National Standards. These programs are free to educators and students via [Connect2Texas](#) (<https://www.connect2texas.net/pages/home/directory/>) where they can create a free account and find the program they want for their classroom.

“We currently have 6 lesson plans, 3 of which are targeted to 5th, 7th and 11th grades,” said Shields. “Our team of educators create these programs supported by a variety of learning aids including lesson plans and power points that showcase the Museum’s 6-acre campus. On some occasions, we might be driving tanks on our battlefield or standing on a PT boat sharing the story of John F Kennedy. At other times, quieter perhaps, we are in one of the Museum galleries sharing insights or stories about an artifact. It’s always a fun and informative place!”

In addition to the Connect2Texas distance learning programs, the Museum provides a variety of digital content that are suitable for students and the general public alike. Since April, the Education Development has led the Museum’s efforts to create over 70 different digital and virtual programs that have reached thousands of people world-wide. The titles and links to these programs can be found on the Museum’s [website](#) by clicking on Discover/[Distance Learning](#) and Discover/[Blog & Live Streams](#) , as well as on their [YouTube channel](#).

Image: Three members of the NMPW Education Department, (left) Bryan Degner, Education Outreach Coordinator, (center, holding the award) Dr. David Shields, Education Director and (right) Al Spangler, Education Associate.

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#### **About the National Museum of the Pacific War**

The National Museum of the Pacific War (NMPW), founded in 1967, is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific and Asiatic Theaters in World War II. The Museum annually welcomes more than 100,000 visitors, including at least 15,000 students from across the state. The museum sits on six acres in downtown Fredericksburg, Texas featuring three galleries with more than 55,000 square feet of exhibit space, 40 media installations, approximately 900 artifacts, 15 macro-artifacts, and hundreds of photographs. The Museum is a Texas Historical Commission Property, managed and supported by The Admiral Nimitz Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. For more information, visit <http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org>. Follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).