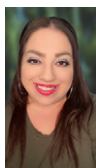


Located off North Beach in Corpus Christi, the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay is housed in an Essex-class aircraft carrier built for the U.S. Navy during World War II.



Corpus Christi recognized as American World War II Heritage City



from the desk of
Jacqueline Gonzalez,
Staff Writer,
Visit Corpus Christi

Every aspect of American life was changed after World War II. Families relocated to industrial centers out of a sense of patriotic duty, and these centers quickly became known as "boom towns," due to their rapid growth from the large migration of people. Here, these families sought good-paying war jobs, which led to intermingling and overcoming their differences to meet war demands, which drastically changed the cultural landscape of the United States.

To recognize the historic significance of the United States' involvement in World War II, the National Park Service awards American World War II Heritage City status to one

city in each state or territory as designated by the secretary of the interior. This honor is bestowed upon local towns, cities and counties and their citizens who stepped into the workforce to support America's war effort during World War II.

On Dec. 5, 2022, the National Park Service announced World War II

American Heritage City designation of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend area, recognizing contributions to World War II efforts and continuing preservation of military history.

The people of the Coastal Bend take great pride in landmarks such as the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay, as well as Naval Air

Station Corpus Christi for paying homage to the contributions of the men and women who made this region such a fundamental part of the war effort.

The *USS Lexington*, a World War II-vintage Essex-class aircraft carrier, is a valuable national treasure and a memorial worth preserving. The ship has been

formed into a museum and serves as a focal point for visitors to experience the pivotal role of aircraft carriers during the war. Since its arrival in Corpus Christi in 1992, the USS Lexington has been visited more than 8 million times and continues to instill pride and patriotism in its visitors through displays, ceremonies and educational programs that affirm





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In August 1942, an aviation cadet climbs into the cockpit at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Source: Howard R. Hollem, U.S. Office of War Information

the heroism and sacrifices of those who served in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NAS-CC) was considered the “University of the Air,” with six auxiliary stations around the Coastal Bend. During World War II, it was

the world’s largest such training facility, commissioning more than 35,000 pilots. Today, the Naval Air Station houses 10 historical markers commemorating World War II history and trains approximately 400 pilots a year. Its tenant, the Corpus Christi Army Depot, is the world’s largest

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rotary wing aircraft repair facility to ensure aviation readiness.

In addition to these two incredible landmarks, our community is filled with historical markers, parks, statues, archives, organizations and public ceremonies to continue memorializing the contributions of these brave men and women.

Unless there is a change in the law, which currently only allows one city per state to be a designated World War II Heritage City, the Coastal Bend will be the only Texas location on the American World War II Heritage City list. As a designated community, the City of Corpus Christi now uses the official American World War II Heritage City program logo for noncommercial use. 



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