

# Statues, The “Who” Story

THE MICHIGAN  
**WWII LEGACY**  
*Memorial*  
HONORING SACRIFICE. CELEBRATING FREEDOM.



# Core Memorial Design

- Statues represent **who** the memorial is about
  - Forces on land, at sea, in the air
  - Civilians on the home front
  - Depicted through Michigan themes and elements
- Pillars represent **what** was done
  - How Michigan supported the war
  - Service, Sacrifice, Industry, Labor, Commitment, Change
- A map of Michigan represents **where** activities occurred
  - Walkable and interactive
  - Military, commercial and government points of interest

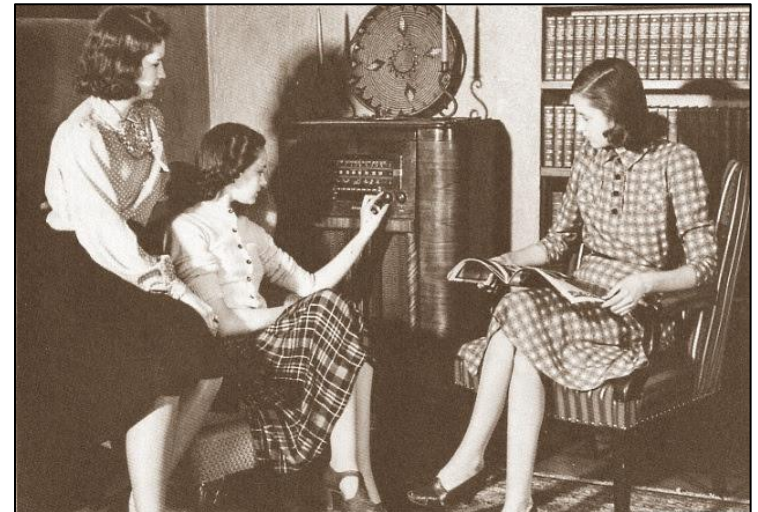
# “Mail Call”

## *The Back Story*

The concept of “Mail Call” is communications. It illustrates the personal connection between the home front and war front.

Letters from home motivated soldiers to end the war quickly and return as soon as possible. Letters from the war front reassured families that their loved ones were safe.

All the while, radio and newspapers, the mass media of the day, also included in this scene, provided the bigger picture of this conflict.

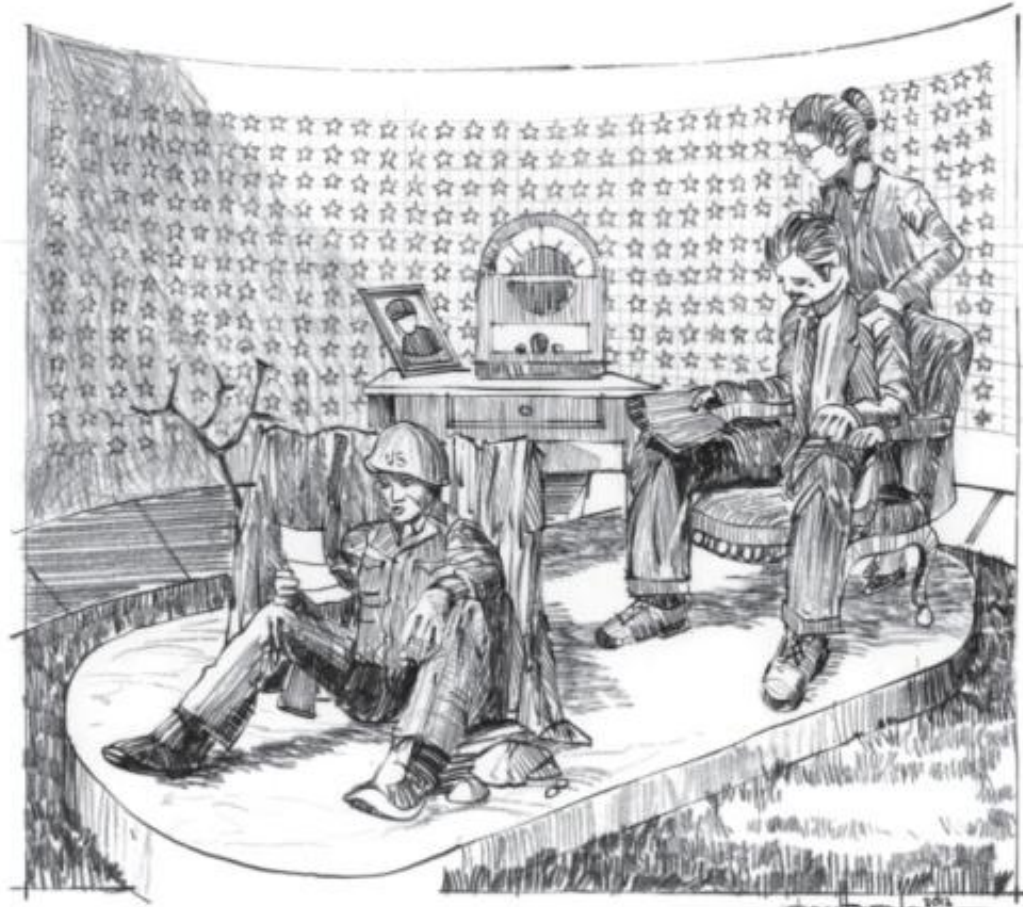


# “Mail Call”

## *The Vignette*

In this scene, the Army soldier is in his foxhole reading a letter from home, while his parents are in their living room.

The father is reading the newspaper while the mother holds a letter from her son. The radio sits on the table so they can listen to the next fireside chat given by FDR.



# “Keep ‘Em Flying”

## *The Back Story*

This scene represents the Michigan story of flight. It also exemplifies Michigan’s role as “The Arsenal of Democracy.”

War strategists identified bombers as the key to victory and Michigan responded. The state’s unparalleled engineering expertise, skilled labor force and industrial culture delivered bombers and other war materiel at a rate that simply overwhelmed Axis powers.

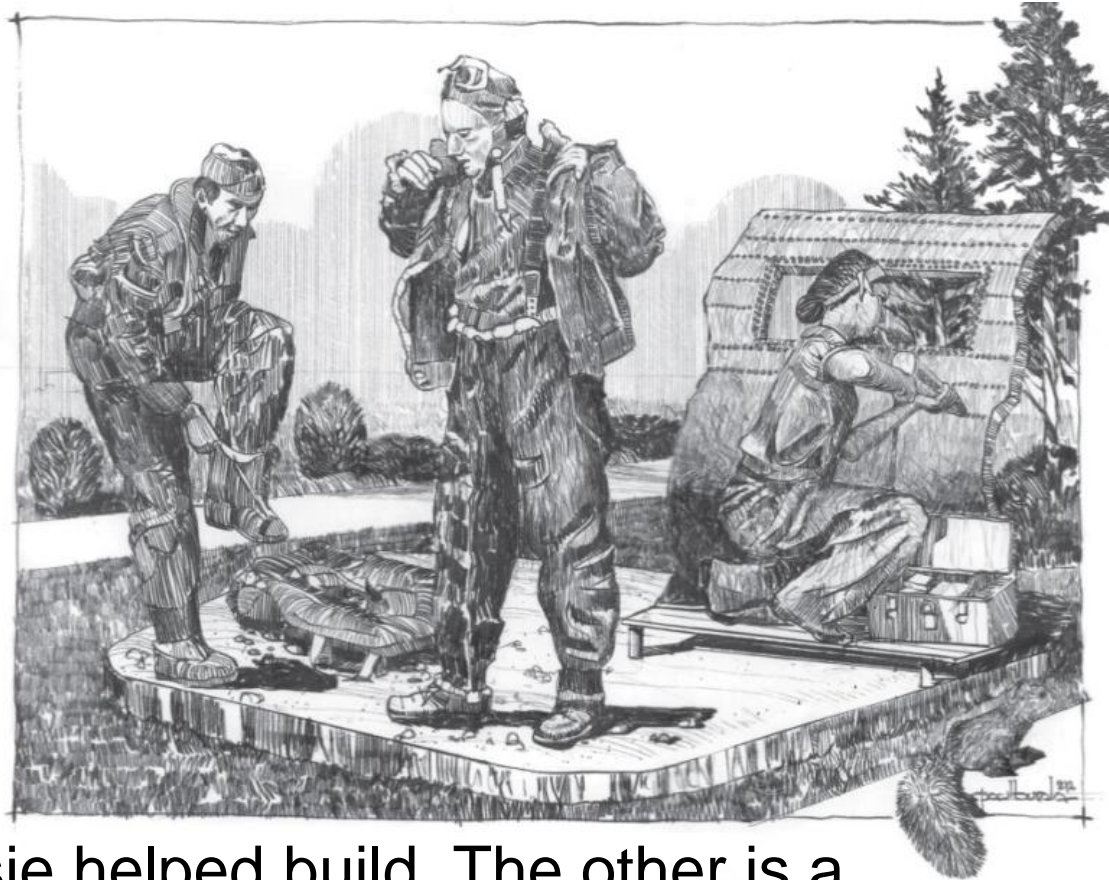
At the same time, air crews trained at Michigan air fields and even practiced carrier landings in Lake Michigan.



# “Keep ‘Em Flying”

## *The Vignette*

In this scene, “Rosie the Riveter” labors on a B-24 Bomber at the Ford Willow Run Assembly Plant. The plant churned out bombers at the absurd rate of one an hour, just as Ford engineers had promised. One airman prepares for a mission on a plane Rosie helped build. The other is a “Tuskegee Airman” fighter pilot who trained at Selfridge Army Air Field and will escort this bomber.



# “Two Bags Save One Life”

## *The Back Story*

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Life vests saved thousands of lives during WWII. Japanese control of the Dutch East Indies cut off U.S. access to Kapok fiber that had been used as filling. Milkweed provided a suitable substitute. Michigan had an abundance, just one example of the state's natural resources enlisted in support of the war.

Since milkweeds were ubiquitous, light and easily collected, children were drafted to harvest wild milkweed. Pods were processed at a plant in Petoskey, Michigan.

Another natural resource, Michigan's water ways linked shores both domestic and foreign.



# “Two Bags Save One Life”

## *The Vignette*

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In this scene, a young boy and girl each fill a bag with milkweed pods.

The seaman is wearing a life vest made with the fiber from these pods.

It took two bags of milkweed pods to make one life jacket, hence the motto that inspired this scene.

Shipments of raw materials such as iron ore from the upper peninsula along with finished goods from industrial centers required constant military patrols and watches that this seaman could be conducting.

