



**MISSIONS
ACCOMPLISHED**

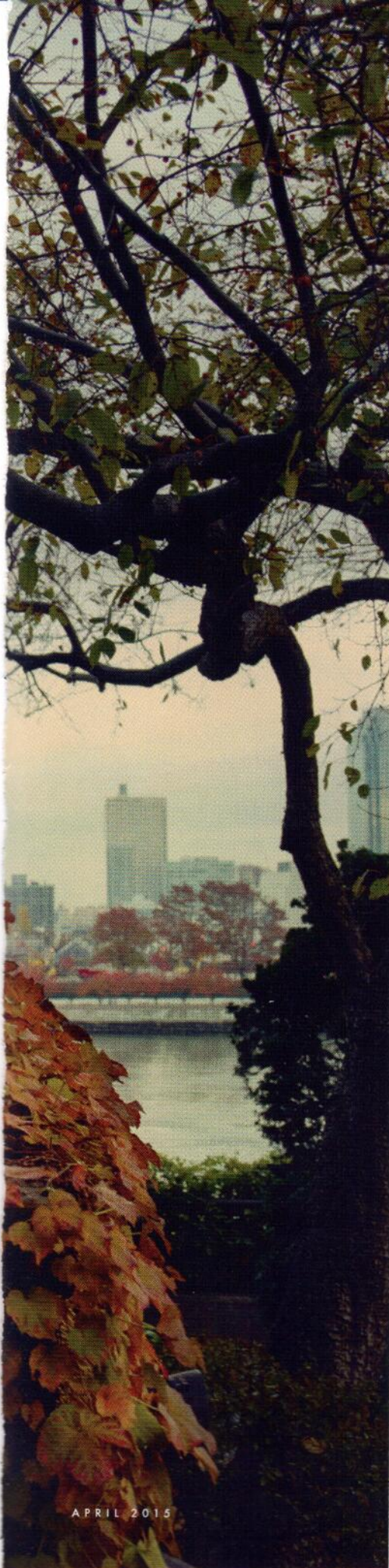
John Whitehead,
photographed
in New York City on
November 11, 2014,
three months
before his death.

John Whitehead

On D-day, John Whitehead helped lead the first wave of the Normandy invasion. He never stopped answering his country's call, until his death last month.

Tracing Whitehead's road from the navy to Wall Street to Washington, MICHAEL BLOOMBERG marks the success of his friend's last great mission: bringing Lower Manhattan back from the devastation of 9/11.

Photograph by ANNIE LEIBOVITZ



John Whitehead was one of the greats of the Greatest Generation. Whenever his country came calling, he answered without hesitation.

Before I knew John, I knew of him. When I first started working on Wall Street, in the 1960s, John was at Goldman Sachs, solidifying his status as one of the legends of finance. He hadn't come from money: his family suffered through the Great Depression, like so many others. He enlisted in the navy during World War II, and on the U.S.S. *Thomas Jefferson* he helped lead the first wave of the D-day invasion of Normandy. At the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, in the Pacific, John Whitehead was there.

John's sense of public duty never left him. He helped create a culture of philanthropy on Wall Street, supporting those in need and serving civic causes too many to name here. In the 1980s, after retiring as co-chairman from Goldman Sachs, he

served as deputy secretary of state under George Shultz. So much for retirement.

When I was first elected mayor of New York City, John once again answered the call of duty. It was barely two months after the attacks of 9/11, and we were a city in mourning. Many doubted whether Lower Manhattan would ever be able to rebound. Governor George Pataki asked John to lead the newly formed Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, which was charged with guiding the revitalization of the area, including the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site, one of the most complicated construction projects ever undertaken. John, of course, agreed. And he also agreed to become the first chairman of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

It was an honor to work with John on a mission—bringing Lower Manhattan back and building a beautiful and powerful memorial and museum—that was of critical importance to both our city and our nation. Today, the neighborhood is full of life, with new homes, schools, and businesses. One World Trade Center opened its doors to tenants—including this magazine—this winter, and the National September 11 Memorial & Museum (on whose board John served until his death, in February, at age 92) has already welcomed two million visitors from around the world.

John was a true patriot whose life was defined by his integrity and sense of service. Our country was lucky to have him—and I was very lucky to call him a friend. □