

# Frontlines

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GREAT LAKES NAVAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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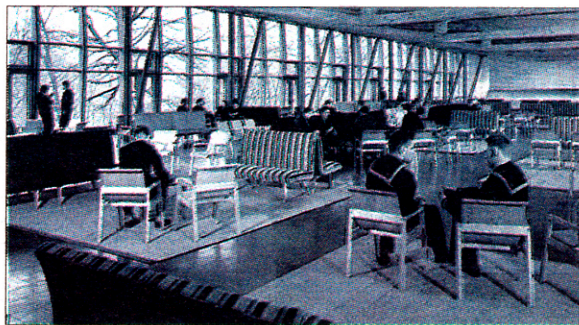
## Group seeks key grant for museum at Great Lakes

**A** group of Chicago-area preservationists is asking for help with building a museum they hope will have special significance for sailors whose Navy careers began at Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Ill. — but time is running out.

The Great Lakes Naval Museum Association, which wants to turn a World War II-era building at the Navy's boot camp into a museum about naval training, is competing with 25 other preservation groups in an online contest — the site with the most votes gets \$150,000 in grants, with the runners-up getting smaller amounts.

"We're encouraging people to vote every single day," said retired Lt. Cmdr. Scott Allen, vice president of the Naval Museum Association. Voting closes on Oct. 10.

Allen said winning the Preservation Trust grant will go a long way toward the association's near-term goal of raising \$1 million by January, a sum it needs to convince Navy officials that the effort is serious. If the museum group comes up with that money, Allen said



NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER

**Sailors meet with family members in 1942 in the Hostess House at Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Ill. If a preservationist group gets enough online votes, it could turn the structure into a naval training museum. Above is an artist's conception of what the museum would look like.**

the Navy will be more likely to turn over the building it wants — the Hostess House, a World War II-era design by architect Gordon Bunshaft, who was a major American exponent of the International and Modernist styles.

If the Navy agrees to let the building become a museum, Allen said the plans are for it to be finished by 2011, just in time for the 100th anniversary of the opening of Great Lakes.

With some 200,000 visitors every year — family members making the trek to see their new sailors graduate from basic training — Allen said there's a built-in clientele for a museum about naval training. But it's competing against several popular Chicago-area sites, including Frank Lloyd Wright's seminal Robie House, an architectural masterwork; an 1897 Beaux Arts ex-public library; and even a replica Viking warship that sailed from Norway to Chicago.

— Philip Ewing