



**NATIONAL
D-DAY
MEMORIAL**

BEDFORD, VA

Remembering Their Valor,
Fidelity, and Sacrifice



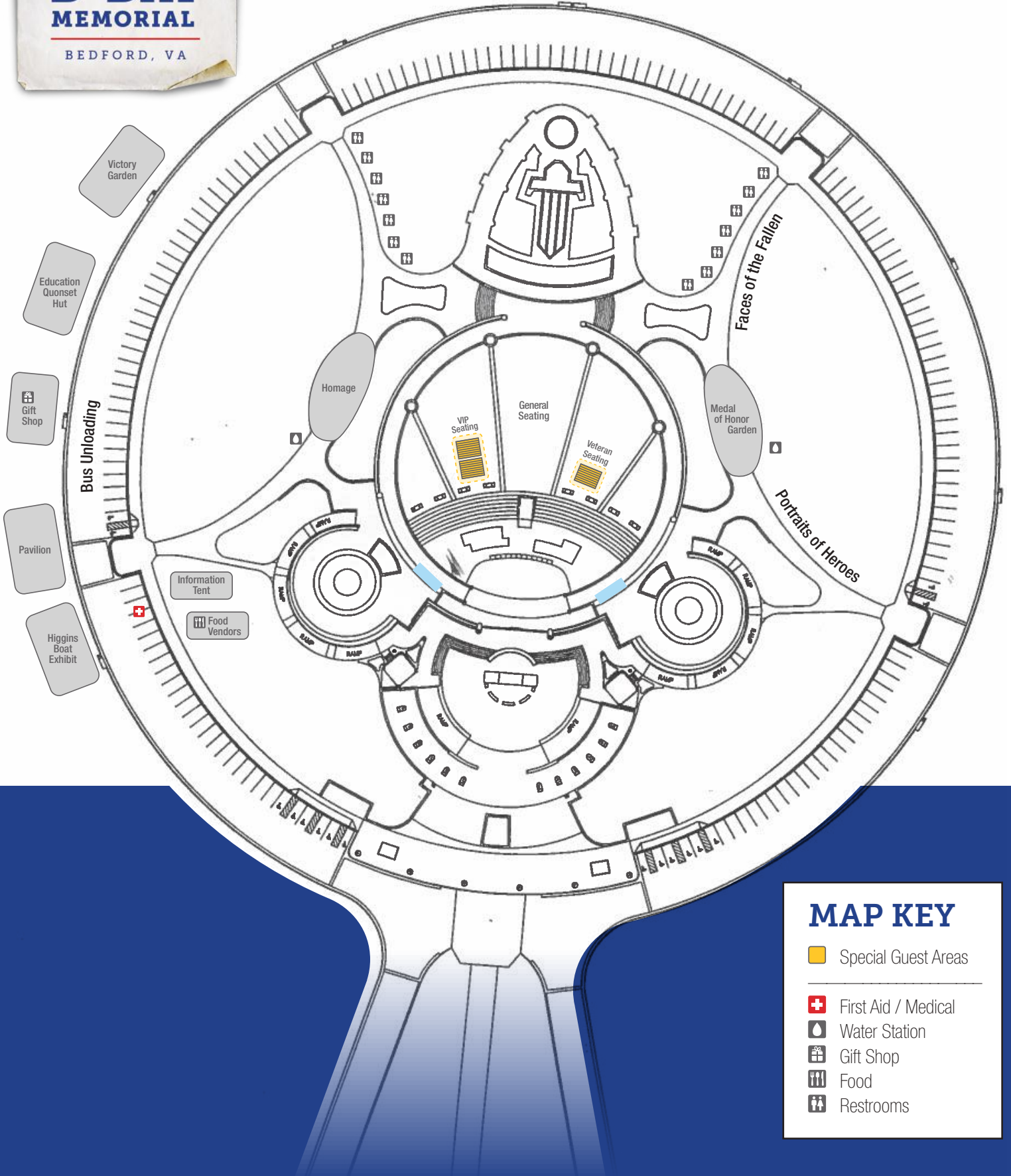
June 5-6, 2026









NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL

BEDFORD, VA

Event Map – June 5-6, 2026



MAP KEY

-  Special Guest Areas
-  First Aid / Medical
-  Water Station
-  Gift Shop
-  Food
-  Restrooms

Schedule of Events

June 5

10:00 AM

- Memorial Opens
(Regular admission fees apply.)

11:00 AM

- *The Mechanization of the US Army and Development of Tactical Vehicles* with Lee Holland and MG Scott West (Education Quonset Hut)

5:00 PM

- Memorial Closes

6:00 PM

- Gates Re-open

7:30 PM

- *When We Went In: The D-Day Experience in Light and Sound*
Join us as the Memorial shares the story of D-Day in a stunning display of light, imagery, and sound.

- Letters From Home will dazzle the audience with a 1940s-themed concert to open this epic multi-media experience.

Free show admission for WWII veterans plus one guest.

Purchase show tickets at store.dday.org.

Warning: This show contains flashing light and flickering video which may not be suitable for those with photosensitive epilepsy.

The Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz

Curated by the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa, California, USA, this traveling exhibition explores the legendary cartoonist's personal history and service in WWII, his role as the sole inspiration and artistic talent behind *Peanuts*, and his work to help establish the National D-Day Memorial as the Memorial's first capital campaign chairman.

Bower Center for the Arts

305 N. Bridge Street, Bedford, VA

June 5, 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

June 6, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Free Admission

June 6

9:30 AM

- Memorial Opens
- Gift Shop Opens

11:00 AM

- *Remembering Their Valor, Fidelity, and Sacrifice* Ceremony
Gift Shop closed during ceremony, reopens at noon.

12:00 PM

- Medal of Honor Plaque Dedication at Medal of Honor Garden
- Art Signing by Henry Kidd (Pavilion)

12:30 PM

- "You Shall Not be Forgotten" Tribute at *Homage*

12:30 PM

- Book Signings by Drew Dennis Dix and Mari K. Eder (Education Quonset Hut)

1:00 PM

- Performance by Enduring Freedom Honor Team (Pavilion)

Following the performance, the trailer for the movie PRESSURE will play throughout the day in the Bobbie G. Johnson Pavilion.

2:00 PM

- *The History and Development of the 1/4-Ton Truck—the Jeep* with Lee Holland (Pavilion)

5:00 PM

- Memorial Closes

6:00 PM

- Gates Re-open

7:30 PM

- *When We Went In: The D-Day Experience in Light and Sound*
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6:15 PM

Bedford Boys Tribute Center Ceremony & Courthouse Bell Ringing

This annual public remembrance of the "Bedford Boys" will take place on the west lawn of the Bedford County Courthouse (123 E. Main St., Bedford). April Cheek-Messier, National D-Day Memorial Foundation President & CEO, and Ken Parker, founder of the Bedford Boys Tribute Center, are set to deliver poignant addresses. Family members of "Bedford Boys" will lay an ivy wreath.

The ceremony will culminate with the ringing of the courthouse bell 20 times, once for each "Bedford Boy" killed on D-Day. The bell will begin tolling precisely at 6:44 PM (to represent June 6, 1944).

Free public event. Bring a lawn chair.



**SCAN TO
GET TICKETS**
or visit dday.org

Additional Activities

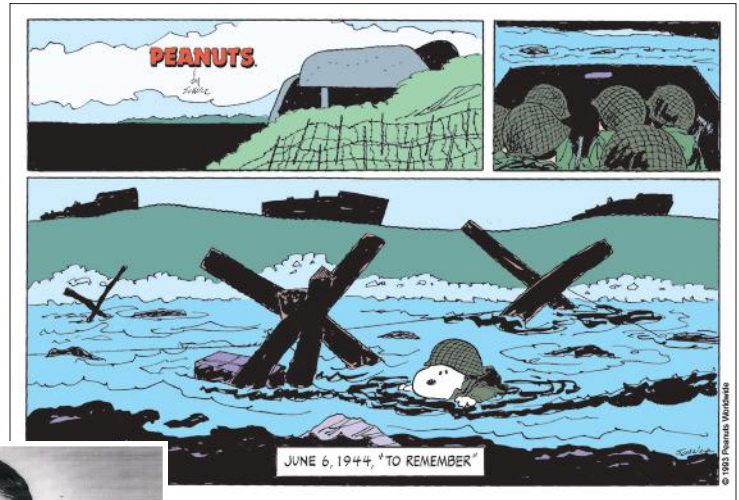
The Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz

Legendary cartoonist Charles M. Schulz's legacy is one of cultural influence through his beloved *Peanuts* comic strip and of humble service in World War II. His wartime experience left a lasting impression on him, so much so that he became the capital campaign chair of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation from 1998 until his passing in 2000.

The National D-Day Memorial is proud to bring *The Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz* to the Bower Center for the Arts in Bedford, Virginia. The traveling exhibition, curated by the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa, California, USA, explores Schulz's personal history and his role as the sole inspiration and artistic talent behind the most successful comic strip in history.

"I think any sensible person with a grasp of history would have to admit that D-Day was the most important day of our century. Without D-Day it's possible that Europe could have remained for another 25 or 50 years in darkness. I'm glad I wasn't there, and yet my admiration for the people who were knows no bounds."

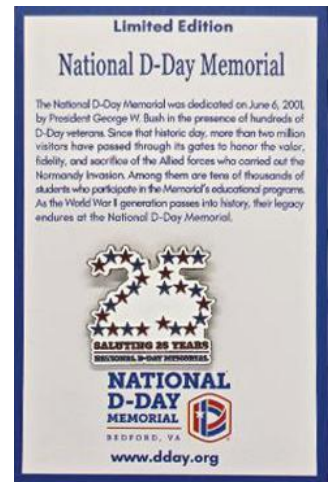
— Charles M. Schulz, 1999



Portrait of Charles M. Schulz in his Army uniform, c. 1945. © SFIPT, courtesy of the Charles M. Schulz Museum, Santa Rosa, CA

WE WANT YOU!

Visit the Bobbie and Peggy Johnson Quonset Hut Gift Shop located between the Fleda A. Ring Education Quonset Hut and the Bobbie G. Johnson Pavilion. Shop our 25th anniversary collection, as well as our selection of D-Day and World War II books, collectibles, toys, puzzles, posters, apparel and jewelry, along with military branch-specific pins, patches, and other items. Every purchase you make goes directly to the Memorial to support our educational mission. Purchase a 25th anniversary item today before they sell out!



Commemorative items include a T-shirt and lapel pin emblazoned with the 25th Anniversary logo.

Who We Are

About the Foundation

The National D-Day Memorial Foundation is a nonprofit educational foundation, operating under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and warranted by Congress to establish, in Bedford, Virginia, and maintain for the Nation, a memorial to the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of the Allied forces that took part in the landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, during World War II.

The Foundation receives no state or federal operating support and is grateful to those who make programming possible with their generosity. If you are pleased with the educational initiatives of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation, please help keep the story alive.



SCAN TO DONATE NOW
or visit dday.org



About the Memorial

With its stylized English garden, haunting beach tableau, and striking victory plaza, the Memorial stands as a powerful permanent tribute to the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of D-Day participants.

Visiting the Memorial is an educational as well as an emotional experience. As the largest amphibious landing in history, D-Day required unprecedented levels of men and material. More than 5,000 ships and 11,000 aircraft supported the landing of 150,000 Allied troops along a 50-mile stretch of beach in Nazi-held Normandy, France. Weather, combined with strong Nazi resistance, made the invasion's outcome anything but certain. Yet by day's end, the Allies had gained a foothold in occupied Europe. The human cost, however, was also staggering; more than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded on D-Day alone.

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD
Location-aware map in app



Someone Talked!

Hosted by Renowned WWII Historian and Author Dr. John C. McManus

Someone Talked! continues to enjoy international success, retaining its rank among the top 10 percent of podcasts globally out of more than 3 million podcasts tracked by LISTENNOTES.com. The podcast has listeners in more than two dozen countries and released its 100th episode in May.

Hear what all the talk is about. Find *Someone Talked!* wherever you get your podcasts. *Someone Talked!* is produced in partnership with Media Squatch and is supported by Framatome.

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or visit dday.org



NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL **NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL PODCAST**
With Host John C. McManus

25 Years and Growing

D-Day veteran John Robert “Bob” Slaughter was determined to create a place that would honor the scale and sacrifice of June 6, 1944. In 1989, that vision took shape with the creation of a small committee and a seventeen-member board. The early years were anything but certain, however. Limited resources and wavering momentum nearly brought the effort to an end.

As the 50th anniversary of D-Day approached in 1994, national attention sparked renewed energy for the project. That same year, the town of Bedford, Virginia—which had suffered the nation’s highest-known per capita loss on D-Day—stepped forward with the donation of land for the future memorial. The gesture was both symbolic and

deeply personal, embraced by a community who understood the cost of that historic day.

Momentum continued to build, culminating in 1996 when Congress officially recognized the site as the Nation’s memorial to D-Day. The designation came with a condition: no federal funding. Though the decision ensured that construction could move forward quickly, funds would have to be raised through the generosity of individuals to build and maintain the monument.

From the beginning, the Memorial has stood as a testament not only to those who served, but also to the family members, citizens, donors, and community whose determination brought it to life.

1989: Creation of Foundation Board

1994: Bob Slaughter walks Omaha Beach with President Bill Clinton on the 50th anniversary of D-Day



2000: Overlord Arch and plaza are unveiled

2001: President George W. Bush officially dedicates the National D-Day Memorial



2019: Memorial commemorates the 75th anniversary of D-Day with the Vice President Mike Pence and over 100 WWII veterans in attendance



1996: Congress designates the national memorial to D-Day in Bedford, Virginia

1997: National D-Day Memorial Groundbreaking

Charles Schulz will lead as capital campaign chair in 1998



2017: Memorial dedicates Virginia’s first Gold Star Families Memorial Monument



2024: Ridgway-Deming Walking Trail officially opens



1997–2000: Construction of the Memorial



2017–2019: Memorial constructs three Quonset huts



2025: “Higgins boat” shelter ribbon cutting

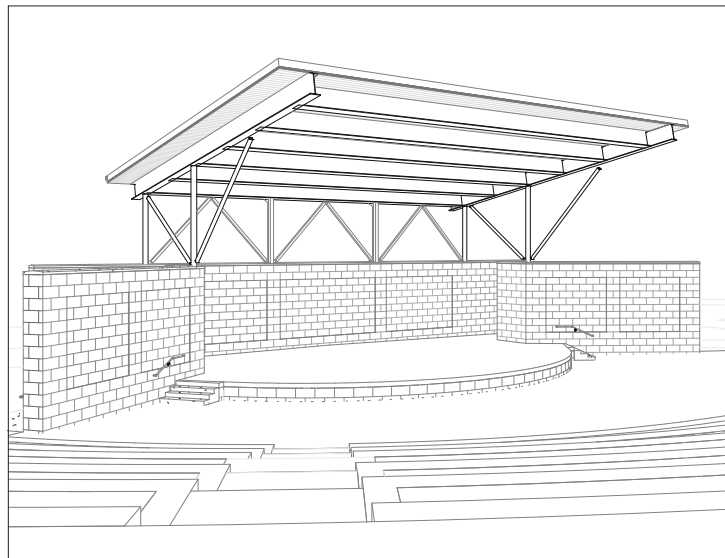


Future Expansion

Robins Performance Amphitheater

The future Robins Performance Amphitheater promises space for large veteran groups and military reunions, military commissions, commemorative ceremonies, concerts, and community events, as well as other functions to honor veterans—past, present, and future. It will introduce the Memorial and its history to new audiences and allow the monument to serve as a resource for our region. Named for the generosity of supporters E. Claiborne and Mary Ellen Robins, the facility includes a covered stage and terraced seating to accommodate over 1,700 guests.

The National D-Day Memorial is excited about these opportunities for growth. Currently, the primary platform for educational programming is the monument itself, but like the Allied forces on D-Day, we are ready to move inland, beyond the hedgerows, and toward final victory. With carefully planned growth and a road map for the future, our mission continues. This important addition will enable the Memorial to pass on the lessons and legacies of WWII for generations to come.



Rendering by Glavé & Holmes Architecture

John and Doris Fowler Family Motor Pool

In addition to the Robins Performance Amphitheater, the National D-Day Memorial Foundation continues fundraising for the John and Doris Fowler Family Motor Pool.

The future motor pool will include a library and conference room, temporary office space, and exhibit areas for the ever-growing artifact collection at the Memorial. Slated exhibits include a collection of Smithsonian-quality restored World War II vehicles and artifacts, generously donated by supporter Lee Holland. Holland's collection serves to highlight the underappreciated role of the mechanized Army during World War II.

The planned motor pool building will enhance the visitor's experience and add a much-needed dimension to educational programming. The facility will be modeled after the ubiquitous motor pool buildings of the 1940s, designed with easy accessibility, adequate room for exhibits and collections storage, and much-needed indoor program space—as well as a balcony overlooking our soon-to-be constructed amphitheater. Named after generous supporter Doris Fowler and her late husband, John, the John and Doris Fowler Family Motor Pool will bring history to life and ensure new generations can discover what another generation did to preserve freedom for the world.



Rendering by Glavé & Holmes Architecture

Please consider giving today to help us ensure their stories live on. Donate at dday.org or by calling 540-586-DDAY.



Memorial Wall Additions

Today, 82 years after they gave their lives in the cause of freedom, we recognize the sacrifice of fourteen men who fell on D-Day by adding their names to our Memorial Wall.

In the Memorial's early years, leaders searched for an accurate count of those killed on D-Day only to discover estimates varied widely, often confusing fatalities with casualties. Thus, the Memorial set out to do what had never been done: identify and remember, by name, every single Allied

soldier, sailor, airman, and coastguardsman who died on June 6, 1944, in the Normandy invasion.

Over more than two decades, our researchers have located and examined thousands of military and burial-related records, yielding more than 4,400 names of Allied service members killed in action on D-Day. Necrology Project research continues, with additional names added when evidence is sufficient to do so.

Today, with humility and profound gratitude, we honor the memories of:



Private First Class Calvin C. Cannon
Maryland, US Army
26th Infantry Regiment
1st Infantry Division
Plaque W-81

Private First Class Francis J. Kiley
Pennsylvania, US Army
9th Infantry Regiment
2nd Infantry Division
Plaque W-50



1st Lieutenant William R. Roycraft
Wisconsin, US Army Air Forces
49th Troop Carrier Squadron
313th Troop Carrier Group
Plaque W-80



Radioman 3rd Class Francis J. Collins
Pennsylvania, US Navy
6th Naval Beach Battalion
Plaque W-64



Private First Class William L. Ludlam
Alabama, US Army
42nd Field Artillery Battalion
4th Infantry Division
Plaque W-64



Private Roger V. Smith
Georgia, US Army
502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment
101st Airborne Division
Plaque W-96

Private James H. Dodd
Tennessee, US Army
15th Field Artillery Battalion
2nd Infantry Division
Plaque W-35



First Lieutenant Robert P. Mathias
Maryland, US Army
508th Parachute Infantry Regiment
82nd Airborne
Plaque W-108

Private Harry D. Stewart
New York, US Army
506th Parachute Infantry Regiment
101st Airborne Division
Plaque W-81



Seaman 1st Class Ernest Johnson
Illinois, US Coast Guard Reserve
LCI(L)-91
Plaque W-35



Pharmacist's Mate 1st Class John T. O'Donnell
New York, US Navy
6th Naval Beach Battalion
Plaque W-80



Technical Sergeant Martin R. Schumacher
Illinois, US Army Air Forces
49th Troop Carrier Squadron
313th Troop Carrier Group
Plaque W-80



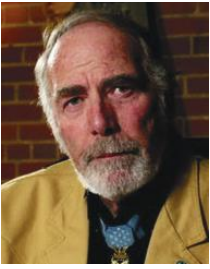
Sergeant Robert J. Kemeny
Ohio, US Army
112th Engineer Combat Battalion
Plaque W-21

Private John J. O'Neill
New Jersey, US Army
307th Airborne Engineer Battalion
82nd Airborne Division
Plaque W-82

With these additions and other updates, there are now 4,436 names on our Memorial Wall, of whom 2,519 are Americans. We honor them each.



Program Participants



Drew Dennis Dix

Dix served as company commander of A Co., 2/502, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. In addition to the 82nd, and the 101st, Dix was assigned to the 5th & 6th Special Forces Groups, aide to the CG of the JFK Special Warfare Center, and aide to the CG XVIII Airborne Corps. As a special forces sergeant,

during his first tour, Dix became the first enlisted man in the US Army Special Forces to receive the Medal of Honor.

He retired with the rank of major after serving twenty years in the US Army.

Dix co-founded the Center for American Values in Pueblo, Colorado, with the mission of educating future generations about the sacrifices and character that sustain American ideals. More information can be found at americanvaluescenter.org.

A book signing with Dix will be held following the ceremony in the Fleda A. Ring Education Quonset Hut.



Major General James W. Ring

29th Adjutant General of Virginia

Major General James W. Ring is the 29th adjutant general of Virginia, assuming command June 3, 2023. He is a native of Virginia and was commissioned a Distinguished Military Graduate from Virginia Military Institute in 1988.

Major General Ring's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Navy Unit Commendation, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Service Star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (with 2 Bronze Stars), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Silver Hour Glass Device and Mobilization Device with Numeral 2), NATO Medal, Maryland Commendation Medal, Master Aviator Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

Major General Ring has participated in multiple peacetime and combat deployments including Operation JOINT FORGE, Operation NEW HORIZONS, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, and Operation JUMP START along the US southwest border.



Mari K. Eder

Retired US Army Major General Mari K. Eder is a renowned speaker and author, and a thought leader on strategic communication and leadership. While in Germany, Eder served as Director of Public Affairs at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and as an adjunct professor and lecturer in

communications and public diplomacy at the NATO School and Sweden's International Training Command. She served in senior positions at the Pentagon, in the Department of Defense, and on the Army staff.

Eder is the author of the award-winning *The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line: Untold Stories of the Women Who Changed the Course of WWII* and *The Girls Who Fought Crime*. She has published in *TIME* magazine, *The Hill*, *USA Today*, and other publications. When not writing, lecturing, or traveling, she works with rescue groups and fosters rescue dogs.

A book signing with Eder will be held following the ceremony in the Fleda A. Ring Education Quonset Hut.



Timothy P. Williams

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia

Retired US Army Major General Timothy P. Williams served under three different governors as the adjutant general of Virginia for nine years and retired in 2023 after 38 years in the US Army. As the adjutant general,

he was agency head for the Virginia Department of Military Affairs, the state agency providing leadership and administrative support to the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard, and Virginia Defense Force.

Williams led the Virginia National Guard through an unprecedented operational tempo that included the organization's support to Virginia's COVID-19 response lasting more than 460 days. During Williams's last two years as adjutant general, more than 2,000 Virginia National Guard personnel mobilized on federal active duty in the United States and overseas, the third most in the last century.

Since his retirement in 2023, Williams has been the advisor to the chief of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) on Intergovernmental Affairs, where he supported the development of policies and a legislative agenda that was coordinated across the NGB joint staff, directors of the Army and Air National Guard, and the 54 adjutants general and their respective states, territories, and the District of Columbia.

Program Participants



Lieutenant Colonel Bendel S. "Gold" Rushing

Lt. Col. Rushing is the commander, 434th Flying Training Squadron, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. Lt. Col. Rushing is responsible for the training of US and allied nation officers in the Air Force Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Program. He is directly responsible for

flying operations that exceed 48,000 flying hours and 35,000 sorties annually in the T-6A Texan II. His responsibilities include command of 70 airmen as well as 250 students annually.

Lt. Col. Rushing received his commission through the University of Texas San Antonio ROTC program. He entered active duty in 2009 and has served as a combat search and rescue pilot in both the HC-130P and HC-130J aircraft. Prior to his current position, the colonel served as the director of operations, 85th Flying Training Squadron, Laughlin AFB, Texas. Lt. Col. Rushing has deployed in support of Operations INHERENT RESOLVE, ENDURING FREEDOM HORN OF AFRICA, and JUKEBOX LOTUS, as well as Joint Inter Agency Task Force South.



Colonel Antoine Fleuret

Colonel Fleuret attended the Military School of Saint Cyr and the War College in Paris. He served in the Office of the Army Chief of Staff in Paris as well as in the Army Public Affairs Center in Paris. He served in Kosovo in 1999, 2002, and 2005; in Djibouti in 2000, 2001, and 2003; the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in

2009; and as Joint Forces Engineer of BARKHANE Operation in 2020.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO has had a permanent presence in Virginia since 1952. Norfolk is home to two NATO Headquarters: HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (known as HQ ACT) and HQ Joint Force Command Norfolk (known as HQ JFCNF). We are grateful to the representatives who are with us today.

434th Flying Training Squadron



The 434th Fighter Squadron was activated 15 October 1943, initially equipped with the P-38 Lightning followed by the P-51 Mustang. The 434th Squadron was assigned to RAF Wattisham, England, April–May 1944 in support of Allied operations. During the D-Day invasion, the squadron escorted heavy bombers, provided air interdiction, counter-air, close air support, and patrol missions. The 434th continued to support operations throughout WWII, including the Battle of the Bulge.

Later, the 434th supported operations in F-4 Phantoms during the Vietnam Conflict.

Today, the 434th is a flying training squadron at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, training America's next generation of pilots.

Executing the flyover today are T-6 Texan II instructor pilots from the 434th Flying Training Squadron. They are inspired by the heritage of 434th Squadron dating back to the D-Day operation and are proud to honor and participate in the remembrance of D-Day.



Program Participants

Enduring Freedom Honor Team

Fredericksburg Christian School, Fredericksburg, VA



The Enduring Freedom Honor Team, directed by Gregory W. Reed, was founded in 2001 after the attacks on 9/11. Mr. Reed is in his thirty-third year of teaching and is the Director of Bands at Fredericksburg Christian School and Faith Baptist School, both in Fredericksburg, Virginia. His responsibilities include directing the FCS/FBS graded bands

and the Enduring Freedom Honor Team.

The Enduring Freedom Honor Team, the core ensemble of the FCS Band Program, is dedicated to recognizing our veterans by performances of World War II nostalgic and patriotic tunes. Composed of current students, ranging from 7th to 12th grades, and alumni, the band travels to events locally as well as abroad to say thank you to those who laid their lives down for a higher cause, those who served, and the ones who are still in the service. Every time they play, the group achieves the overarching mission of the Honor Team by bringing attention and honor to America's veterans.

The Enduring Freedom Honor Team has played at the Pentagon, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and veterans' hospitals. One of the team's more memorable events was traveling to the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day to witness the changing of the guard and wreath-laying ceremony.

Notably, in June 2024, the Honor Team traveled to France for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The focus of this trip was to honor the lives of those who sacrificed so much on that day of days with performances at Brittany American Cemetery, the American Airborne Museum, Camp Geronimo, Normandy American Cemetery, and the main stage at Sainte-Mère-Église.



Members of Enduring Freedom Honor Team

Christian Beze	Lucas Gebhardt
Hayden Boes	Jacoby Gross
Liam Boyer	Ryan Harrison
Sarah Cook	Chris Ogniek
Annika Daley	Greg Reed
Wendy Elkins	Hannah Sayre

The 29th Division Band

The Troutville, Virginia-based 29th Division Band consists of 40 enlisted soldiers and one chief warrant officer. Its mission is to support the Virginia National Guard with military and community performances around the Commonwealth and abroad. The 29th Division Band contains several smaller ensembles called Musical Performance Teams (MPTs), including Fife and Drum, also performing here today.

In October 1943, the band was inducted into federal service. Band members joined in the assault on Omaha Beach (D-Day), an action for which they received the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. In all, they saw action in four European campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. In 1946, the 29th Division Band was inactivated. Its Virginia segment became the 90th Army Band, "The Governor's Own." In 1986, the band was redesignated as the 29th Division Band.

The soldiers of the 29th Division Band perform an average of 45 missions per year, half of which are ceremonial. The band's foreign assignments include in Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Stabilization Force 10 in 2002, and the 60th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France in 2004. In 2014, the 29th Division Band sent nine members back to Normandy for the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day landing, while its ceremonial band performed here at the National D-Day Memorial.

Geoffrey Saur, Bagpiper



Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Geoffrey Saur first trained as a piper with the Newport News, Virginia Police Pipe Band. He moved to Roanoke, Virginia, to study with

champion piper and instructor Burt Mitchell and play in the band Warpipe. Among other performances, he has played in the Virginia International Military Tattoo in Norfolk, Virginia, and in The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle, Scotland. Saur is the founder, director, and pipe major of the Appalachian Piping Academy in Roanoke, Virginia.

Remembering Their Valor, Fidelity, and Sacrifice

A Commemorative Observance at the National D-Day Memorial Bedford, Virginia, Eleven o’Clock, Saturday, June 6, 2026

The Eighty-Second Anniversary of the Allied Landing in Normandy

*“I would say memories are best kept by those who love
the greatest and by those who lost the most.”*

~ John Marsh Jr. – 53rd anniversary, National D-Day Memorial

Overture and Choral Prelude 29th Division Band

434th Flyover: *The 434th flew its first combat mission in the early hours of D-Day. Over the next nine months, the squadron flew bomber escort missions, attacked airfields, and supported the ground forces involved in the Battle of the Bulge. The squadron was also operational in 1969 and deployed to Southeast Asia in 1972 where they flew combat missions over North and South Vietnam.*

Drum Roll and “Attention”* 29th Division Band

Invocation* John Long
Director of Education, National D-Day Memorial Foundation

Drum and Fife..... 29th Division Drum and Fife

Presentation of the Colors* Army JROTC
Bedford County Public Schools, Bedford, Virginia

“The Star-Spangled Banner”* 29th Division Band

The Star-Spangled Banner

O say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

*Assembly Stand

Remembering Their Valor, Fidelity, and Sacrifice (continued)

Welcome	Major General Mari K. Eder, US Army (Ret.) Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, National D-Day Memorial Foundation
Remembering Those Who Made the Sacrifice	Major Drew Dennis Dix, US Army (Ret.) Medal of Honor Recipient, Colorado
“Shenandoah”	29th Division Band
D-Day’s Fallen: Dedicatory Preface	April Cheek-Messier President & CEO, National D-Day Memorial Foundation
Honoring Ernest Johnson	Mark Sartain Secretary, Board of Directors, National D-Day Memorial Foundation
Honoring William R. Roycraft and Martin R. Schumacher	Lieutenant Colonel Bendel S. Rushing USAF Commander, 434th Flying Training Squadron, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas
Honoring Francis Kiley and James Dodd	C.G. Stanley Mayor, Town of Bedford, US Air Force Veteran
Additions to the Memorial Wall	John Long
Laying of Wreaths	D-Day Units
“The Road to the Isles/Highland Laddie”	Geoffrey Saur

There were numerous acts of heroism on D-Day, including an incident on Sword Beach with a group of British commandos headed by Lord Lovat. British high command had restricted the use of bagpipes to rear areas by the time of the Second World War. Lovat ignored these orders and ordered William “Bill” Millin, then aged 21, to play. When Private Millin demurred, citing the regulations, he recalled later, Lord Lovat replied, “Ah, but that’s the English War Office. You and I are both Scottish, and that doesn’t apply.” Millin played “Hielan’ Laddie” and “The Road to the Isles” as his comrades fell around him on Sword Beach. According to accounts, he marched up and down the beach, standing erect with his pipes, while those around him were taking cover. Bill Millin died on August 17, 2010, at the age of 88.

“Amazing Grace”	Geoffrey Saur
“Taps”*	29th Division Band
Paying Tribute to the USS <i>Osprey</i>	April Cheek-Messier
Medal of Honor Recipients of D-Day	Major General Timothy P. Williams Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia
Recognition of World War II Veterans	Major General James W. Ring Adjutant General of Virginia
“Band of Brothers”	29th Division Band
Benediction and Dedicatory Prayer	John Long
Postlude	29th Division Band

Laying of Wreaths

United States of America
US Navy
US Coast Guard
US Marine Corps
British Glider Pilot Regiments
29th Infantry Division
8th US Air Force Association
2nd Ranger Battalion

5th Ranger Battalion
1st Infantry Division
4th Infantry Division
82nd Airborne Division
101st Airborne Division
238th Engineer Combat Battalion
320th Barrage Balloon Battalion
Naval Beach Battalions

Embassy of France
POW/MIA
Gold Star Families
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Medal of Honor
666th Ordnance Ammunition Co.
In Memory of Vance Clelan

Wreath layers include the following, as well as representatives from various associations:

Major General James W. Ring, Adjutant General of Virginia; Major General Timothy P. Williams; Drew Dennis Dix; Melvin Hinton; Tracy Turner and Bill Fizer, 8th Air Force Association; Buck Krantz, Military Order of the Purple Heart; Mark Sartain, National D-Day Memorial Foundation; Mari K. Eder, National D-Day Memorial Foundation; Gordon Eubank; Colonel Antoine Fleuret, Major Nicolas Lottenberg, and the French military staff of NATO

ACT Command Transformation; 29th Infantry Division Association; Roger Jones and Tammy Anderson, 29th Infantry Division Ladies Auxiliary; Eric P. Montgomery; C/TSgt William Bender, Civil Air Patrol; Matt Forbes, Framatome; Brandon Eades, Walmart; Dominion Energy; Enduring Freedom Honor Team; Bedford County Army JROTC

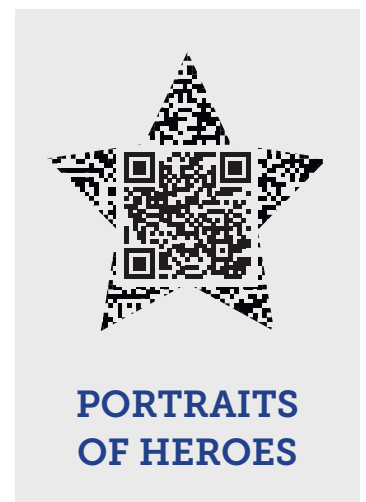
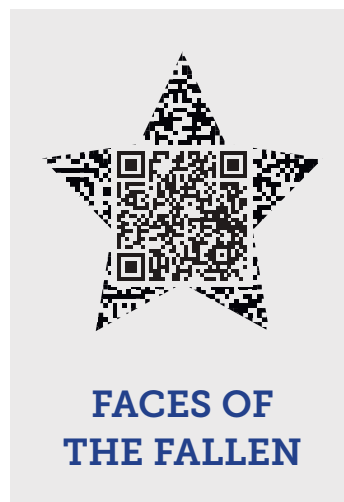
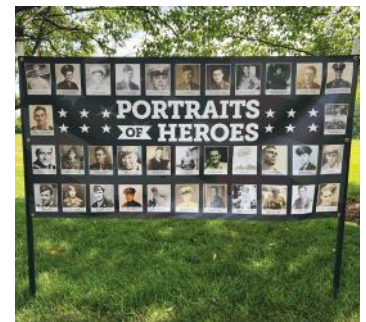
Faces of the Fallen and Portraits of Heroes Photo Exhibits

Few items evoke more emotion than old images of loved ones. Photos of those serving during the war became a tangible way of remembering the good, of holding on to what was, and tragically for some — to what might never be.

Since 2024, the National D-Day Memorial Foundation has been collecting photographs of the D-Day fallen as well as those who served during the Normandy Campaign (between June 6 and August 31, 1944). During this time, our team collected hundreds of images to create two exhibits: Faces of the Fallen and Portraits of Heroes. This project is ongoing as we continue to collect images for each of these initiatives.

Memorial guests are invited to walk through the outdoor experience, located on the Memorial's east lawn (see map), during the anniversary commemoration. Biographical information regarding an individual's wartime service, if known, is included in our online database. To learn the story of a hero featured in the photo exhibit, visit dday.org or scan the QR codes to enter a name in the searchable database.

Submit a photo to Portraits of Heroes at dday.org.



Persons interested in underwriting the preparation of a narrative plaque are invited to contact the National D-Day Memorial Foundation at 540-586-DDAY.

Honoring the Fallen

“You Shall Not be Forgotten” Tribute at *Homage*

Please join us at 12:30 PM for the annual tribute at the sculpture *Homage*.

Colonel Antoine Fleuret, French National Representative, Allied Command Transformation, NATO, Norfolk, Virginia, members of the Bedford International Alliance, and representatives from the Bedford Boys Tribute Center will join us for this touching wreath laying and ceremony.



Ash Rothlein pictured at the National D-Day Memorial.

Ash Rothlein (1924–2022)

Rothlein served with the 187th Advanced Army Ordinance Depot Company. The 187th was awarded battle credits for Normandy, Northern France, and Germany from SHAEF. Rothlein was responsible for spearheading the effort to install *Homage* at the Memorial, where it was dedicated during the 70th anniversary of D-Day in 2014. Rothlein’s own French Legion of Honor medal hangs from the sculpture, today and each June 6, to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in Normandy.

The Ash and Liz Rothlein “Spirit of D-Day” Scholarship Fund

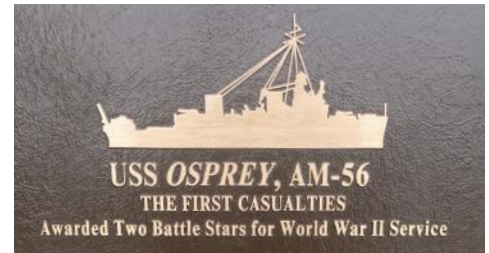
Due to the generosity of Ash Rothlein (1924–2022) and his wife, Liz (1936–2017), of Warne, North Carolina, the National D-Day Memorial Foundation is pleased to offer annual scholarships to deserving students and cadets. Through the Rothleins’ vision for the future, students will have the opportunity to pursue their career goals while reflecting on the true spirit of a generation that worked together to save the world.

Congratulations to this year’s students who were able to travel to Normandy for a week in May as part of the Virginia Tech Global Scholars Program. The Foundation funds two cadets annually.

The Memorial would also like to congratulate the following JROTC cadets for receiving the Ash and Liz Rothlein “Spirit of D-Day” Scholarship:

McKenzie I. Crow is a fourth year cadet from Staunton River High School. Cadet Crow will be attending George Mason University this fall.

Joseph V. Payne, a fourth year cadet, is a homeschooled student from the Liberty High School zone. Cadet Payne will be matriculating at the Virginia Military Institute this August.



USS Osprey Plaque

The National D-Day Memorial Foundation gratefully acknowledges Boyd Campbell and Margaret Kuhn for the generous contribution to the underwriting of this latest addition to the Memorial. Please visit the Navy section of the monument to see the newly installed USS *Osprey* plaque.



Medal of Honor Plaque

At the conclusion of today’s ceremony, please join us at the Medal of Honor Garden (across from the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument) for the unveiling of the Medal of Honor plaque by Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam veteran Drew Dennis Dix.

Additional Activities

Henry E. Kidd

Born in 1950 in Petersburg, Virginia, Henry Kidd is a lifelong resident of Colonial Heights, Virginia. Kidd is a graduate of Virginia State University and served six years in the US Army Reserve as a sergeant.

Kidd is a nationally recognized historical artist. His artwork hangs in a number of institutions and museums across the country. He has received many awards including recognition from the Virginia General Assembly and a National Citizenship Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

His artwork representing the D-Day invasion is for sale today in the gift shop, with half the proceeds benefitting the National D-Day Memorial.

Kidd will be available to sign his artwork for a limited time in the Bobbie G. Johnson Pavilion.



James Lee Holland

On display during our 25th Anniversary events is a 1942 Dodge WC-56 Command Car. Heavier than the standard jeep, these versatile vehicles were developed primarily to give



transportation to officers in combat zones. It is displayed courtesy of James Lee and Kim Holland of Chester, Virginia.

Lee Holland grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, and joined the US Army in 1975. Holland served 28 years in the military before retiring as a reserve lieutenant colonel. Holland is known as an expert on the mechanized Army of WWII and

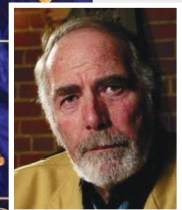
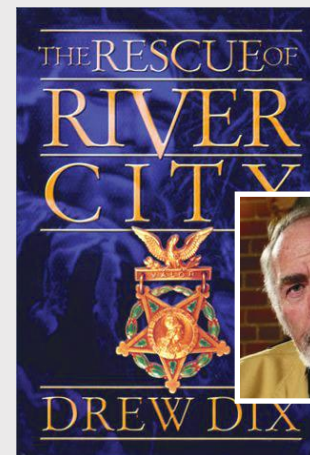
has an impressive collection he plans to donate to the National D-Day Memorial upon the completion of the Memorial's motor pool. Holland recently designed, built, and donated the Quartermaster exhibit located in the Bobbie G. Johnson Pavilion.

Make a lasting impression by placing a commemorative brick, an annual poppy and luminaria, a cherry tree, or bench on the Memorial grounds in the name of a loved one.

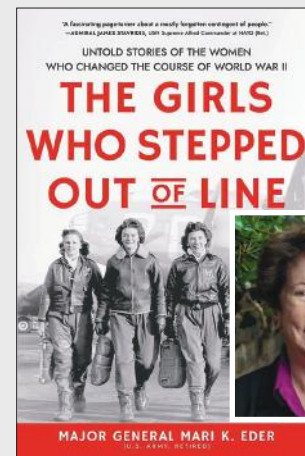


Book Signing

Following the ceremony on June 6, a book signing will be held in the Fleda A. Ring Education Quonset Hut beginning at 12:30 PM.



The Rescue of River City
by Drew Dix



The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line: Untold Stories of the Women Who Changed the Course of World War II
by Mari K. Eder

Books will be sold in the gift shop while supplies last. The authors will be available for a limited time.

When We Went In



As night falls on June 5 and 6, the Memorial will be transformed into a stunning multi-media sensory experience.



June 5 and 6 (Begins at 7:30 PM)

Letters From Home

- "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy"
- "Sentimental Journey"
- "Armed Forces Medley"
- "Anthem"
- "L.O.V.E"
- "Puttin' On The Ritz"
- "Minnie The Moocher"
- "Live Until I Die"
- "King of the Road"
- "America The Beautiful"
- "Six Jerks In A Jeep"
- "Bad Moon Rising"
- "Bring Him Home"
- "What a Wonderful World"

Intermission

*When We Went In: The D-Day Experience
in Light and Sound*

Letters From Home

The mission of Letters From Home is to honor veterans, celebrate people, and unite the Nation through music.

Letters From Home infuses the classic style of the USO with a witty, modern edge featuring high-energy singing and tap dancing performances by founder Erinn Dearth and self-proclaimed "tall guy" Dan Beckmann. Funny and heartfelt, harmonic and uplifting, Letters From Home will leave you feeling great about being human.

They have performed 1,000+ shows across the world (including singing at the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, entertaining Battle of the Bulge veterans in Belgium, and completing their full 50-States Tour in 2023).



Erinn Dearth is the creator, founder, and choreographer of Letters From Home. As an actress and producer, Dearth has worked on 250+ theatrical productions up and down the East Coast and has toured with Cirque Productions.

Dan Beckmann is an actor, singer, director, writer, and photographer from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He holds a BFA in acting from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and is a member of Actors' Equity Association. Beckmann has made it his career to collaborate with Tony-nominated directors and Broadway legends on regional and off-Broadway productions, concerts, national tours, cruise ships, and international venues across the globe.

June 5 – June 6

Virginia Tech Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT)

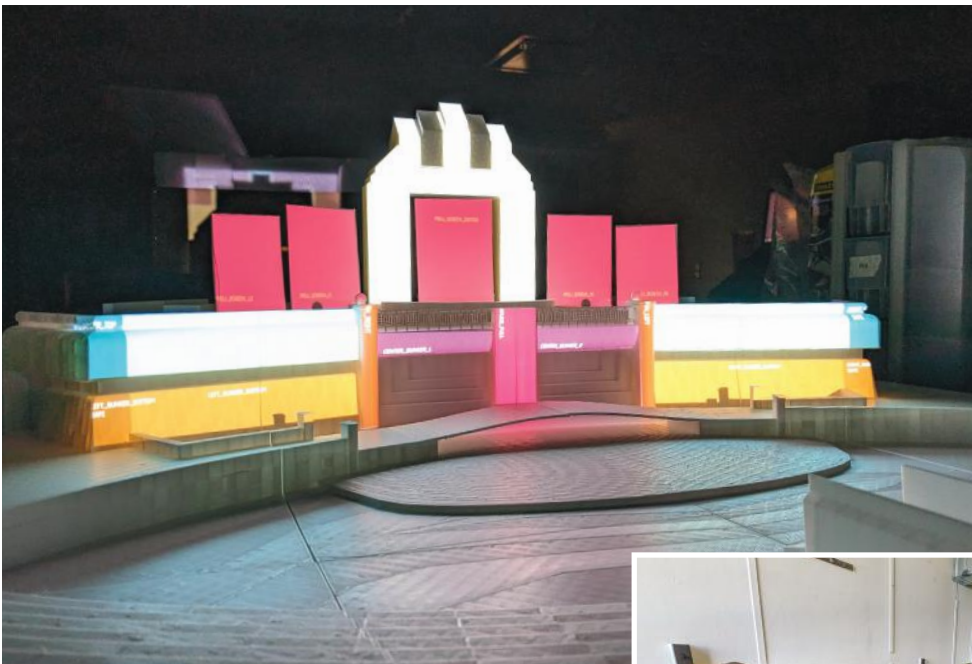
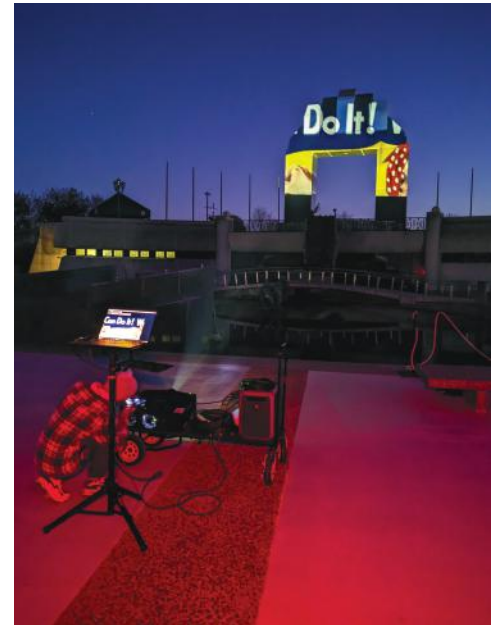
After exceeding attendance estimates with its debut, *When We Went In: The D-Day Experience in Light and Sound* returns with a newly produced prelude in honor of America's 250th anniversary!

Created for the National D-Day Memorial by the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology at Virginia Tech – *When We Went In* is an immersive masterpiece that transforms the Memorial's grounds into a stunning, multi-media sensory experience. Using the Memorial itself as the dramatic backdrop for the narrative, this outdoor show retells the story of the Normandy invasion through authentic, firsthand accounts of the men and women who lived through June 6, 1944. From the roar of aircraft and gunfire delivered in surround sound to moments of solemn silence, viewers will feel as if they are in the throes of the historical moment and the triumph of eventual victory.

The home for transdisciplinary, arts-integrated research at Virginia Tech, ICAT brings together and supports teams of faculty and students from across academic disciplines to address grand challenges and creative opportunities, ranging from large societal problems to industry-specific issues to the frontiers of artistic expression.

The National D-Day Memorial Foundation would like to thank the members of the ICAT team for working with us to make this production possible.

VA 250



Project Leads

David Franusich
Tanner Upthegrove

Art Direction & Motion Design

Ethan Candelario

Music Composition & Sound Design

Carter Roberts

Model Fabrication &

Projection Testing

Harshal Pilonia

Production Coordinator

Gustavo Araoz



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
or visit icat.vt.edu



A Veteran's Remembrance

The special presentation *When We Went In: The D-Day Experience in Light and Sound* is built upon a poem by longtime National



D-Day Memorial supporter Peter Thomas. A veteran who landed on Omaha Beach as a replacement soldier for the First Division after D-Day, Thomas was

moved by what he saw and the courage of the men who had been in the first waves. Years later he wrote, "Looking at the geography, at the residue of the June 6th landing, I was overwhelmed with awe and gratitude." Ten years after D-Day, he authored a poignant poem titled "Omaha Beach," which inspired the Memorial's making of the multi-media program to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day in 2024.

Thomas went on to a stellar career as an announcer and voice-over actor, most notably narrating the television show *Forensic Files* for seventeen seasons as well as numerous commercials. His rich baritone became one of the most recognized voices in America. An avid supporter of veterans' causes,

Thomas appeared many times at the National D-Day Memorial; his moving recital of "Omaha Beach" in 2006, set to



symphonic music, is still remembered by those who attended. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Memorial and its mission to educate others on the significance of D-Day and why it matters today. Peter Thomas died in 2016 at the age of 91.

Upcoming Events

WWII in Miniature Display

Saturday, June 20 - 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Visit this one-of-a-kind display featuring miniature World War II model planes, tanks, ships, jeeps, historic figures, and more. Sponsored by the Roanoke Valley International Plastic Modelers Society. Regular admission fees apply. Tours of the Memorial will be available throughout the day.

WWII Day Camp - "I Like Ike"

Monday-Friday, June 22–26 - 8:30 AM–1:00 PM, Daily

Advance Registration Required

Rising 3rd–6th graders will learn about the life and leadership of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower through fun, hands-on experiences throughout the week. Snacks and a goody bag included!

Visit dday.org to register.

D-Day, Omaha Beach Traveling Exhibit

Opens Thursday, August 13

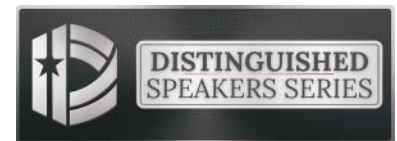
Created in 2024 by Tradition Studios, the *D-Day, Omaha Beach Traveling Exhibit* is designed to reach all ages with a visually stunning remembrance of D-Day and those who heroically served.

Distinguished Speakers Series

Thursday, August 13

Advance Registration Required

Keith Rocco, Exhibit and Art Director of the *D-Day, Omaha Beach Traveling Exhibit*, will be joined by historians Dr. John C. McManus and Kevin Hymel for a panel discussion for the opening of the exhibit at the National D-Day Memorial.



PRESSURE

In Theaters Now

In the tense 72 hours before D-Day, and with the fate of the free world hanging in the balance, *PRESSURE* follows General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Group Captain James Stagg as they face an impossible choice—launch the largest and most dangerous seaborne invasion in history or risk losing the war altogether.

Starring Andrew Scott, Brendan Fraser, Kerry Condon, Chris Messina, and Damian Lewis, the film released in US theaters May 29.

Catch the *PRESSURE* trailer playing in the Bobbie G. Johnson Pavilion following today's ceremony.



Acknowledgments

In addition to the sponsors listed in our program, the National D-Day Memorial Foundation is grateful to the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who assisted in making this program possible.

E. Claiborne and Mary Ellen Robins
Major Drew Dennis Dix, US Army (Ret.)
Melvin and Jennifer Hinton
Lee and Kim Holland
Major General Scott G. West, US Army (Ret.)
Henry Kidd
434th Flying Training Squadron
Lieutenant Colonel Bendel Rushing, USAF
Captain Pierce Pluemer, USAF
29th Division Band
John Reynolds
Greg Reed, Enduring Freedom Honor Team
Geoffrey Saur
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US Army (Ret.)
Major General James R. Ring, US Army (Ret.)
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Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Payne,
US Army (Ret.)
First Sergeant Lennie Hutton, US Army (Ret.)
Bedford County Public Schools JROTC cadets
29th Infantry Division Association
29th Infantry Division Ladies Auxiliary
Colonel Antoine Fleuret
Major Nicolas Lottenberg
Lieutenant-Commander Nicolas Mangematin
(French Navy)

Commander Julien Dechanet (French Navy)
French military staff of NATO ACT
Command Transformation
Woodmen Life
8th US Air Force Association
Bedford International Alliance
Bedford Boys Tribute Center
Little Otter Flower Farm
Love is in the Air Catering
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Smita Lokeshwaren, Virginia Military Institute
Bethany Martin, Liberty University
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The National D-Day Memorial Foundation gratefully acknowledges the Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association (BAMGA) for its year-round support of our Victory Garden. Used as a teaching tool for local elementary schools, the Victory Garden teaches students about cultivation, plant life cycles, the environment, and WWII history. Visit BAMGA's display and activity table to learn more.

82nd Anniversary of D-Day

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