



## THE NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL

P.O. Box 77  
Bedford, Virginia 24523  
800-351-DDAY  
dday@dday.org  
★ www.dday.org ★



## Breaking New Ground

Spirits ran high on November 2 as an enthusiastic crowd and media watched donors, board members, and staff don hard hats and officially break ground on a new building project at the Memorial. "I haven't worn a hard hat here since 2001," stated April Cheek-Messier, president of the Foundation. "This is an exciting step forward for us and one that will greatly enhance not only educational elements, but the overall visitor experience."

Earlier in the year, due to the generosity of donors, the Memorial was offered an opportunity to remove the mobile unit that currently holds the gift store and on-site offices and replace it with a more permanent structure. A period style Quonset hut was chosen as the most suitable building. Quonset huts were the iconic pre-fabricated buildings of WWII, seen on military bases across the nation and in both theaters of war. Developed for the U.S. Navy in the spring of 1941 on the Quonset Peninsula of Rhode Island, they were more versatile versions of the WWI-era English Nissen huts. With the U.S. entering WWII by the end of 1941, the need for such easily-built structures became abundantly obvious, and some 160,000 were manufactured over the next few years.

Recognizing the ease of construction and the adaptability of the structures, the U.S. military quickly put the tubular structures to use in a variety of roles. Q-huts are most associated with military barracks, but with the highly adaptable interior space they also served as warehouses, field hospitals, mess halls, offices, latrines, and for any other purpose that would fit under the curved roof. They were neither pretty nor particularly comfortable, but millions of American servicemen and women grew to admire them.



*\*L to R: Gen. Rick Devereaux, Chairman of the NDMF; Bobbie Johnson, WWII Veteran; April Cheek-Messier, President of NDMF; Peter Ring, D-Day Supporter*

*continued on page 2*

“We want every facet of the Memorial to be a teaching tool. Our Quonset hut will do that by paying tribute to this important piece of WWII history, and to the men and women who utilized them to win the war,” stated Cheek-Messier. She added, “We are particularly grateful to our donors who made this possible.” Bobbie G. Johnson, a WWII veteran who served in the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1943-1949, donated the majority of funds for the project. As a long-time volunteer at the Memorial, it has been his vision to see the mobile unit replaced with a Q-hut that would allow for more space and be more permanent. “You cannot remain stagnant,” said Johnson. “You have to continue to grow.” His generous donation is allowing the Memorial to do just that. Other contributors include longtime friends of the Foundation, Peter and Fleda Ring who also felt it was time for a new addition at the memorial.

The Q-hut will house on-site offices, the Memorial’s gift shop, public restrooms, and a display of a WWII vehicle. It is slated to be finished in the spring with an official dedication taking place on June 6, the 73rd anniversary of the Normandy Invasion.

## Overlord Society

If you find the National D-Day Memorial meaningful and the story it tells important, please consider becoming a member of the Overlord Society. The Overlord Society serves as the membership program for the Memorial and by joining, you can show your support for the Memorial’s mission of recognizing the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of the Allied forces who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.



There are many levels for you to choose from that include benefits such as: admission and tours, a discount at the Memorial store, exclusive member items, and discounted special event tickets depending on your chosen level.

We are grateful for all of our members, and we hope you will consider joining the Overlord Society. You can make a significant impact on the research, educational initiatives and other work being accomplished at the National D-Day Memorial. Please visit [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org) for more information or call (800) 351-DDAY.

## Travel Back In Time



D-Day history comes to life on April 22 with our “Prelude to Invasion: A Living History Event!” From 10AM to 3PM on that Saturday, costumed interpreters stationed around the Memorial grounds will tell tales of the War—workers on the Home Front at local factories; members of Eisenhower’s staff who helped plan the invasion; French residents overjoyed at their liberation; and, of course, the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who stormed Hitler’s Fortress Europe on June 6, 1944. WWII-era encampments will be scattered across the grounds and WWII veterans will be on hand to share their personal experiences. Regular admission fees apply. Contact the Memorial’s Education Department at (540) 586-3329 or [education@dday.org](mailto:education@dday.org) for more information.



## 2017 Memorial Day & D-Day

We exist to honor the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of America's veterans, and we consider it our great privilege to do so. We know you join us in recognizing the vital role our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and coastguardsmen have played in keeping our nation free. So once again we will take some special days in late spring to honor, remember, and say thanks—welcoming two nationally-renowned WWII veterans as keynote speakers.



First, on Friday, May 26th, we will host our popular “Stars and Stripes Forever” patriotic concert. The Jefferson Choral Society will give a stirring performance guaranteed to bring guests to their feet. During the performance, we will celebrate the freedoms for which so many have fought and died to protect.

On Monday, May 29th, we will commemorate Memorial Day with a special ceremony featuring keynote speaker Hershel “Woody” Williams, the last living recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for action taken during the battle of Iwo Jima. Through the generosity of a number of donors, and with Woody's help, we will dedicate a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument on our site; a heartfelt tribute recognizing the families who have sacrificed a son or daughter in the line of duty. Woody has made it his mission to place one of these in every state of the Union, and we are particularly proud to place one at the National D-Day Memorial.

In addition, on Memorial Day we will dedicate the next series of newly installed veteran's bricks, and enjoy the rousing patriotic music of Brass Five.

On June 6th plan to join us as we commemorate the 73rd Anniversary of D-Day. We'll gather together to reflect on the significance of that crucial event in history and thank those who made victory possible. Our special guest speaker will be Jerry Yellin, who flew the final combat mission of WWII. CPT Yellin and his unit were flying a mission over Japan and had not received word of the surrender. During this final mission, he witnessed his wingman and friend, 2LT Philip Schlamborg become the last fatality of the war. It was an event that would transform Yellin's life. Yellin will share lessons learned over the years and the importance of unity and acceptance.



*\*Memorial President April Cheek-Messier with WWII Veteran Jerry Yellin at an event in California.*

Music by the 29th Division Band, heartfelt tributes to our veterans, and our annual gathering at Homage to renew our promise never to forget—all will be a part of this memorable event. We are asking all WWII Veterans who will be in attendance to let us know in advance so we can reserve seating.

The day is coming, sooner than any of us want, when we will gather on Memorial Day and June 6th with only the memories of the Greatest Generation. Join us this May and June to give honor where it's due while these great men and women are still with us to receive our thanks!

## Collection of Artifacts

Our collection of artifacts, documents, and photos continues to grow, anticipating the day our future Education Center gives us space for exhibits and study. Although it's primarily in storage at the moment, we are proud to have one of the best archives of WWII materials on the East Coast. Here are a few of the more interesting items recently donated:

- A significant collection of medic's items from World War II, donated by longtime supporter Hugh Scrogam. We debuted this impressive set of artifacts for a well-received display in Lynchburg in order to mark the opening of the movie *Hacksaw Ridge*.
- An original shipboard bunk set from a WWII troop transport.
- A bottle of 1944 Calvados brandy from Normandy. It was presented to a D-Day paratrooper as a thank-you from a French community on the 50th Anniversary of the invasion.
- An impressive collection of model ships, planes, and tin soldiers from the 1930s. They were the toys of the donor during WWII.
- A striking framed print of "D-Day Invaders," showing the invasion beaches from the air.
- A collection of artifacts, including a decorated seabag and typewritten diary, of Coastguardsman Jack Rowe, who died on D-Day.
- A rare collection of ten original WWII propaganda posters, also donated by Mr. Scrogam.



*\*Dressing, US Army*



*\*WWII Propaganda Poster*

- A WWII paratrooper's overcoat, complete with a rare 82nd Airborne patch on the shoulder.
- The wartime mementoes of D-Day glider pilot Clem Miller, including his glider wings.
- And quite a bit more!

What might you have that will help us tell the story of D-Day? While obviously we can't accept everything that's offered, we welcome the opportunity to talk to you about artifacts related to D-Day. Give us a call at (540) 586-3329 or email us at [education@dday.org](mailto:education@dday.org) to learn more!

## Mark Your Calendar for the 2017 Golf Classic

The Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia will host the third annual National D-Day Memorial Golf Classic on September 25, 2017. The event will once again be held at the Cascades Course, one of the finest mountain courses in the country, in a captain's choice format.

A 10AM shotgun start will unveil challenging links set against the backdrop of Virginia's breathtaking Allegheny Mountains. The course is ranked among "America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses" by Golf Digest and frequently tops the list of best Southern Courses including Golfweek's #1 course in Virginia in 2015.

The Omni Homestead is offering special overnight rates of \$145 for September 23, 24, and 25. Reservations must be made by August 18th.



Participation is limited and sponsorships are available. For more information, please call the National D-Day Memorial office at (540) 586-3329, email [events@dday.org](mailto:events@dday.org), or visit [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org). All proceeds from the Golf Classic will benefit programs of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation.

## D-Day in Digital

In 2016, the Memorial became accessible to untold numbers of people—most of whom may never step foot in Bedford! Our new digital education initiatives now allow people from across the nation and the globe to benefit from our programming through their computer, tablet or smart phone. Thanks to partnerships with FieldTripZoom and Google, our first-rate programs, exhibits, and even tours are available worldwide.



Through a grant from the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation and earlier support from the Gwathmey Foundation, the Memorial updated its virtual studio this past fall to allow for more exciting and interactive programming. Improved lighting was installed, a new camera was purchased, and enhanced amenities such as a document/artifact camera and vividly-colored wall maps were installed.

The first program held in the updated studio was a part of a livestreaming initiative with FieldTripZoom, a service which provides schools and homeschool families educational content from dozens of American museums. The National D-Day Memorial's program, in honor of Native American Month, revealed the fascinating history of the Comanche Code Talkers—the men who transmitted the secret messages from Utah Beach on June 6, 1944 in their native language (an unbreakable code as far as the Germans could tell). Soon after, we offered a second virtual program to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. The experience included an interview with a local Pearl Harbor survivor and showed off items from our collection. During these programs, hundreds of students from eleven states experienced the Memorial's educational programming from the comfort of their home or classroom.

*continued on page 6*

In other tech news, on Veteran's Day the Memorial launched a digital exhibit on combat medics in World War II and offered, for the first time, a virtual tour of the Memorial complete with photographs of fallen D-Day heroes and artifacts from our collection. In partnership with Google's Cultural Institute and Google Expeditions programs, this online presence opened to rave reviews. In one month, the medic exhibit had over 800 visits from people on four continents! Meanwhile, the virtual tour of the Memorial, although primarily designed for classrooms, is accessible by anyone with a tablet and smartphone, and is compatible with Virtual Reality headsets like Google Cardboard. Look them both up on the Google Arts and Culture site!

The days of sitting in Bedford and waiting for the world to come to us is over. Through your support, and some digital wizardry, we are going to the world!

## Armed Forces Day 5K

Online registration is now open for this year's Armed Forces Day 5K! Early bird pricing ends March 31 and the T-Shirt guarantee deadline is May 1. Prizes will be awarded for the top finishers overall for the 5K Run, teams and team spirit, and top fundraiser. All Youth Fun Run participants and the top three finishers in each age category will receive a medal. Don't want to run or walk? Sign up to be a "Fortitude Runner" to show your support for our Armed Forces and the National D-Day Memorial and receive a T-Shirt.

For more information visit [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org), contact (540) 586-3329, or email [education@dday.org](mailto:education@dday.org).

## 2017 Lunchtime Lecture Series

Join the National D-Day Memorial for our remaining series of Lunchtime Lectures in 2017! All talks are free and open to the public and will be held at the Bedford Welcome Center. Guests are welcome to bring a lunch to enjoy during the talk. As we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of WWII, come learn more about that epic conflict that defined our modern world!

- March 23, 2017, 12 Noon: "Road to Resistance"— In commemoration of Women's History Month, NDDMF President April Cheek-Messier will share inspiring stories of the role of women in occupied France in achieving victory in Europe.
- March 29, 2017, 12:30 PM: We are pleased to offer, in cooperation with the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission, a bonus program! Brigadier General Lapthe Flora of the Va. National Guard, will speak on "Diversity as Force Multiplier in the First World War," one of a series of lectures offered across the Commonwealth to mark the centennial of the U.S. entry into World War I. Free and open to the public.
- April 20, 2017, 12 Noon: "Last Stand on Bataan"—Chris Kolakowski, director of the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk and respected author of military histories, will speak on the 75th Anniversary of the surrender of the Philippines and the Bataan Death March.

P.O. Box 77 • Bedford, Virginia 24523  
(800) 351-DDAY • [dday@dday.org](mailto:dday@dday.org) • [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org)

