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THE NATIONAL  
D-DAY MEMORIAL  
FOUNDATION

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## THE BUSES ARE COMING!

### Increased Field Trip Visitation for Spring 2017

If you drop by the National D-Day Memorial on any given school day this spring, chances are you'll see some things that will warm your heart: school buses off-loading, students gathered in rapt attention around one of our evocative sculptures, and teachers looking satisfied and appreciative. Because of your generosity, we are on track to break a decade long record for field trip visitation!

This spring, more than 3,000 students will visit the Memorial through field trip programming—over a thousand more than last year. Because of your support, we are able to share the stories of the Greatest Generation with these students to keep the legacy of World War II alive, all while helping teachers fulfill required curriculum standards for history. Because of your support, teachers return year after year, providing their students an excellent experience and teaching them the compelling stories of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of D-Day.

School groups naturally tour the picturesque and moving Memorial grounds. But they also receive an excellent program inside our unique Education Tent. Inside the climate-controlled tent, students participate in a program titled "Valor, Fidelity, Sacrifice" which gives them the personal perspective of the invasion as they handle authentic artifacts from the war and learn to think critically about the importance of D-Day. By the time they finish, they've gained a greater appreciation for all of our military, past and present, and a greater awareness of the cost of the freedoms they enjoy.



(top) Buses parked at the National D-Day Memorial for field trip programming

(bottom) Volunteer, Bill Blevins, giving a tour to a group of students

## Upcoming Summer Education Events

As we look ahead to summer, the National D-Day Memorial is pleased to provide several excellent educational events this summer: World War II in Miniature, World War II Day Camp, and a 1940's Homefront Festival. With lots of exciting and new features, you and your family will not want to miss out on these events!



# Memorial Day



**“Never forget.”** Those words call to us across the years, reminding us of a sacred obligation to those who have gone before. We who live in a free nation, who daily enjoy the fruits of their sacrifice, must always remember; we must continually pay tribute to the ones in the past who have made our present possible. This Memorial Day we will take the opportunity to commemorate, to say thank you, to remind ourselves – freedom is not free.

Leading up to our Memorial Day commemoration, join us on Friday, May 26th, at 7 p.m. as we, once again, host our popular “Stars and Stripes Forever” patriotic concert. The Jefferson Choral Society and the Let’s Dance Band will give a stirring performance

under the stars, to celebrate the freedoms we have and to honor the ones who secured them. Tickets for this concert are available in advance for \$8 for adults and \$5 for students under 18; on the day of the concert tickets will be \$10 and \$7 respectively. As the concert is rain or shine, no refunds will be made in the event of inclement weather.

Then at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 29th, we will gather at the National D-Day Memorial to remember and say thanks. With patriotic music by Brass Five, our Memorial Day ceremony will inspire all those in attendance as our speaker Hershel “Woody” Williams, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from the battle of Iwo Jima, gives the keynote address. Not only will Mr. Williams challenge us to pay a heartfelt tribute, he will also take the opportunity to dedicate Virginia’s first-ever Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. This lovely new addition to our site was made possible through the generosity of a number of donors, and is a reminder of the sacrifice of the families left behind when a son or daughter is lost in the line of duty. Woody, more than most

people, understands their pain, and he personally chose our Memorial grounds as an appropriate site to place such a tribute. Gold Star families will be in attendance and the Gold Star Families Monument will be unveiled.

In addition, Memorial Day will see the dedication of our newest veteran’s bricks, and give you the opportunity to personally say thanks to many of our nation’s finest. Guests should bring their own chair, though seats will be available for veterans.

Our gratitude is the least we can offer our American heroes—join us for a Memorial Day you won’t soon forget!

A special thanks to Bank of the James, Centra Bedford Memorial Hospital, Elizabeth Arden, English Meadows, Generation Solutions, the Bedford Ruritan Club and Westminster Canterbury of Lynchburg for their generous support to make these events possible.

## D-DAY

**It was almost 73 years ago.** Brave men, hearts pounding, nerves stretched, received the admonition of their commanding officer: *“We will accept nothing less than FULL victory.”* They took those words to heart. From the roiling Channel or from the skies above each man prepared to do his part to secure that full victory, even if it meant his own life was forfeit. For 4,413 of them, it was their last heroic day. But they fulfilled their mission, and our world today is indescribably better for it.

It was a service rendered to each one of us, before most of us were even born. And it is a service we are duty-bound to remember. And to honor.

As we do every year, the National D-Day Memorial will mark the anniversary of Operation *Overlord* at 11 a.m. on June 6th, with a heartfelt tribute to the valor, fidelity and sacrifice of those who served on D-Day. ▶▶





This year's commemoration will be a special one, featuring a keynote address titled "Purity of Purpose" by Jerry Yellin, one of the nation's best known WWII veterans. Yellin, a captain in the U.S. Army Air Forces, (as it was known at the time), is best known for flying the final combat mission of the war on August 14, 1945. On that sortie, his wingman, Phillip Schlamborg, became the final American to die in battle during WWII. For years afterwards, Mr. Yellin struggled to come to terms with his combat experiences, but finally was able to make his own peace, and became a nationally-known advocate for the cause of the American veteran. It is an inspiring story he has to tell.

Other features of the commemoration will be equally stirring. As has become tradition, D-Day Veteran Ash Rothlein will preside over a remembrance at our poignant sculpture "Homage," to remind us of the heroes who did not come home to receive our thanks.

Also on hand to offer their gratitude will be representatives of the nation of France, a people always ready to honor those who liberated them after four years of brutal Nazi occupation. France has never forgotten, and representatives of the French government and of the NATO contingent of France will at the Memorial to pay tribute.

Another feature of the day will be the dedication of our new visitor's center and gift shop on site, housed in the iconic structure of WWII: a Quonset Hut.

Quonset Huts were utilized in both theaters and on the home front during the war—as barracks, hospitals, storage depots, latrines, garages, or any other function that would fit under a curved roof. The Memorial's new Quonset Hut will be named in honor of Bobbie Johnson, a longtime supporter and volunteer who served as an aviator in the war.

The commemoration of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of D-Day will also feature music by the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Band, recognition of WWII vets, a Reunion Tent, wreath-layings, and a flyover by an authentic P-51.

The D-Day ceremony will commence at 11 a.m. on June 6th. The event is free and open to the public, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Preferential parking is offered to older or disabled veterans. D-Day or WWII veterans who wish to attend should contact our administrative office so we can provide special seating.

A special thanks to AREVA, Bank of the James, Centra Bedford Memorial Hospital, Bedford Area Welcome Center and Department of Tourism, English Meadows, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Freedom Aviation, and Financial Designs for their generous support of this event.

For more information, call the National D-Day Memorial at (540) 529-3329 or email [dday@dday.org](mailto:dday@dday.org).

## World War II in Miniature

On Saturday, June 10th, the Memorial will present "World War II in Miniature," a one-of-a-kind display featuring miniature World War II model planes, tanks, ships, jeeps, historic figures, and more. For our younger visitors, there will be a Lego brick building contest to create miniature WWII vehicles. Registration is required for the contest, however there will be a free-play area for all to enjoy. This event is sponsored by the Roanoke Valley International Plastic Modelers Society. Regular admission fees apply, and tours of the Memorial will be available throughout the day.



Bedford Elks Lodge #2844 will also host a Flag Day ceremony at the Memorial that morning at 11 a.m. The ceremony will detail the history of our flag as well as its symbolism.

## Veteran Brick Campaign

Orders are currently being taken for veterans' bricks to be part of the 2017 Veterans Day dedication. The inscribed bricks are a permanent tribute to the men and women who have served. These lasting tributes are not limited to service in World War II and can encompass any service period. Placed prominently on the Memorial grounds, they will be viewed by thousands of visitors each year. The placement of each brick is not only an investment in the legacy of a loved one but also an investment in the future of the Memorial. Proceeds from the brick campaign will assist the Foundation in maintaining the Memorial for many years to come. At a cost of \$250 each, the bricks are an affordable way to give permanent veteran recognition at the National D-Day Memorial.



# Volunteer Spotlight

Jennifer Winter

The National D-Day Memorial is blessed with many wonderful volunteers, and we immeasurably appreciate them all. Our superb volunteers are a vital part of the visitor experience—not a week goes by that we don't receive post-visit accolades from guests, raving about the person at the guard house or the excellent tour guide they met. Our volunteers really are the face—and the backbone—of the National D-Day Memorial.

One such volunteer is Jennifer Winter. A native of Albuquerque, NM, Jennifer moved to Virginia in 1981 and to Bedford in 2005. She had one of the more interesting careers of our volunteers: she's a retired stained-glass window artist. Jennifer painstakingly and lovingly painted the figures on countless windows, using thousand-year-old techniques that have been unchanged since the European cathedral builders.



How Jennifer came to volunteer at the National D-Day Memorial is an unusual story. While in the process of moving from Lynchburg to Bedford, Jennifer got a speeding ticket. Not wanting a blemish on her driving record, she asked the judge for leniency; he offered her the chance to perform community service in lieu of the fine and points on her record. A lover of history, she decided to try the National D-Day Memorial.

When she showed up to do her community service (on a blistering day with no hat or sunscreen, she recalls), Jennifer “had no idea it would add to my life so much.” When her required hours were complete, then-volunteer coordinator Hazel Burnett suggested she start volunteering regularly. She had been so impressed by the Memorial and the staff and volunteers that she readily agreed, and she's never left.

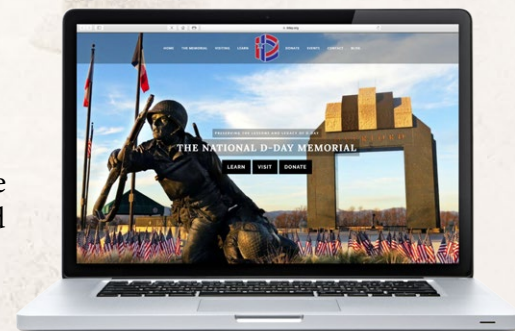
Jennifer's favorite part of volunteering as a tour guide at the Memorial has been meeting “wonderful people from all over the world, particularly meeting WWII veterans.” She relishes the opportunity “to talk with someone who fought in the war and learn what it was like to be there. But the saddest part of the job is that many of the vets I knew when first volunteering have now gone on.”

Jennifer is quick to wax poetic about her years as a volunteer. “This has been for me the most rewarding thing I've ever done in my life,” she noted. “There have been days when I've come away from the Memorial filled with satisfaction... maybe I helped teach some school kids or helped a daughter discover what her father did on D-Day. [Volunteering] enhances your life more than you would believe.”

We love Jennifer and all of our faithful volunteers... but there's one problem. We need more of them. Can you help? No speeding ticket required!

## New and Improved

If you have found yourself on our website in the last several weeks you may have noticed some changes. As the Memorial continues to catapult itself into the digital age with our virtual classrooms and partnership with Google Arts and Culture (to name a few!) we decided it was time for a change. Thanks to the feedback of our donors and visitors we are proud to present to you, our new and improved website. Through our new website, we hope to provide donors like you, with a more enjoyable experience.





# Artifact Highlight

George “Jimmy” Green Circle



The National D-Day Memorial has a collection of over 10,000 artifacts, documents, and photos tucked away in our archive, waiting for the day when our future Education Center will give us the opportunity to display them. In the meantime, we like to show off the occasional item, especially if it comes with a compelling story. This relic, a silent witness to D-Day, certainly qualifies.

This tattered piece of cloth is the British naval ensign from LCA 910, a landing craft that was one of the first, and arguably THE

first, to arrive at Omaha Beach on D-Day. It was donated in May 2000 by George “Jimmy” Green, a British naval lieutenant in command of that LCA (and in fact commanding a flotilla of six craft). His passengers on that fateful day: Captain Taylor Fellers of Bedford and some of the men of Company A, 116th Regiment, 29th Division—the famed Bedford Boys.

Green delivered his men exactly where they were supposed to be at the time they were supposed to land—an unparalleled achievement in the chaos of Omaha Beach that day. But perhaps because virtually no one else in their sector landed on time or in the right place, every member of Fellers’ boat crew died on that beach. This naval ensign was there as the men of Co. A performed their last duty.

In later years Jimmy Green would be a faithful supporter of the National D-Day Memorial. The naval plaza at the Memorial is named in honor of this brave British seaman, who never failed to pay tribute to the valor, fidelity and sacrifice of those who took part in the largest amphibious assault in history. The cherished ensign he donated will one day be on public display to visitors, a tribute to Green and to the men he ferried to Omaha Beach that day.



## Taking Artifacts to the Classroom

### with Traveling Trunks

2017 is shaping up to be a record year for field trips at the National D-Day Memorial. But the truth is, not every class that would like to learn about D-Day can make the trip to Bedford. Simple geography plays a part, and with fiscal constraints these days, many schools within driving distance have had to limit field trip budgets.

We don’t want any student to miss the opportunity to learn about the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of D-Day. To ensure that our story is still conveyed to students who can’t visit, the National D-Day Memorial developed (through the support of the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust) an outreach initiative called the Traveling Trunk.

These trunks, designed to look like WWII-era foot lockers, can ship easily to schools anywhere in the nation. Each trunk is stocked with artifacts that are specifically selected to complement a teacher’s WWII curriculum, such as sand from Omaha Beach, a paratrooper’s “cricket,” and home-front items like nylon stockings which would have been collected by schoolkids for the war effort. Included with each trunk is a Teacher’s Guide, which describes each artifact and has activities to help incorporate them into lessons.

Because of your continued support, the Traveling Trunk program will provide over 1,700 students the opportunity to interactively learn about WWII and D-Day for the 2016-2017 school year; 1,700 eager learners who can’t come to our site. Thank you!



*A closer look at artifacts from the Traveling Trunk as seen by students from Fauquier County Schools, Virginia in February 2017.*



# 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 return to the Cascades Course, one of the finest mountain courses in the country, in a captain's choice format.

A 10 a.m. shotgun start will unveil challenging links set against the backdrop of Virginia's breathtaking Allegheny Mountains. Early bird registration is now open through July 15th. Registration includes greens fees, cart, use of driving range, morning coffee/pastries/boxed lunch, and an awards reception.

Joining us again this year will be legendary Virginia Tech Football Coach, Frank Beamer. Participating for the first time will be former #1 world LPGA ranked golfer and Lynchburg native Donna Andrews.

Each golfer can play a practice round on Sunday, September 24th on either the Old Course with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. or the Cascades Course with assigned tee times from Noon-1:30 p.m. Practice rounds are \$100 per golfer.

Get a few pointers prior to golfing in the National D-Day Memorial Golf Classic from Donna Andrews and the Omni Homestead's golf professionals. They'll present a complimentary Sunday afternoon golf clinic. It starts at 4 p.m. at the Old Course driving range.

Mingle with our special guests and fellow golfers

while sampling delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails from the cash bar in the Grand Ballroom Foyer during a Sunday evening reception from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Exclusive opportunities are available to play with Frank Beamer or Donna Andrews.

For information contact Brandon Gregory, Director of Development, at (540)586-3329 or bgregory@dday.org.

To secure your preferred practice round selection contact Angela Lynch, Associate Director of Marketing, at (540)586-3329 or alynch@dday.org.

The Omni Homestead is offering overnight accommodations at a special room rate of \$145 per night, September 23rd, 24th, & 25th. This rate is only available through Friday, August 18th or until the room block fills, whichever comes first.

Participation is limited and sponsorships are available. For more information, please call the National D-Day Memorial administration 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. We look forward to seeing you September 24th-25th in Hot Springs!



## Connecting the Past to the Present

### Through Technology

Learning used to be confined to the four walls of a classroom, the occasional field trip, and the pages of textbooks. Today, however, technology has opened up the world to students and teachers, allowing them to visit places and talk to people unimaginable only a few years ago.

The National D-Day Memorial continues to embrace virtual programming, utilizing technology in our Distance Learning Studio to ensure that students anywhere can learn about the impact of the Greatest Generation through creative and engaging lessons. For the 2016-2017 school year, hundreds of students from dozens of states across the nation have been engaged. Through programs on such topics as the Comanche Code Talkers on D-Day, Pearl Harbor, the role of minorities in WWII, and of course the Normandy Invasion, our Distance Learning initiative has made a difference nationwide.

Thanks to your generous support, the generous support of the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation, the Richard and Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust, the Virginia Fraternal Alliance, and our partnership with FieldTripZoom, virtual programs have increased the reach of the National D-Day Memorial. They also provide teachers an affordable and much appreciated way to supplement their World War II curriculum with an interactive and personal connection. Teachers, students, and more than a few home-school families have praised these online sessions. Thank you for making this possible!



*Our Virtual Studio prepared for Turning the Tide of WWII presentation.*



# Digging for Victory:

## Exploring the WWII Homefront

What was it like to be a kid in WWII? How did a family cope with rationing, shortages, and food restrictions? Every kid knows what a garden is; but what was a Victory Garden? The National D-Day Memorial can answer these questions for students in unique and memorable ways!

For more than a decade, the Memorial has offered educational programs based on our W. E. Stevens Family Victory Garden, reaching hundreds of area students with an experience that both enlightens and entertains. Once again this year, through our partnership with the Bedford County Cooperative Extension Office, 4H, and area Master Gardeners, students from local schools will visit the Memorial to learn about the fascinating history of—and reasons for—Victory Gardens. During the war, untold numbers of families in the US were encouraged to grow such gardens to compensate for

wartime rationing and limitations on many foods.

This May, because of your continued support, more than 150 third graders will have the opportunity to learn how the war impacted the dinner table. In interactive sessions, they'll get to try their hand at wartime grocery shopping as we replicate a Piggly Wiggly. Armed with their allotted ration points and a couple of dollars, they plan their menu and “shop” for the food they need to feed their family. The importance of Victory Gardens soon becomes clear: the more food you could grow, the less you had to buy. The young green thumbs will also plant a class bed of vegetables and flowers, first receiving a valuable science lesson on the role of healthy soil.



*Students from Bedford Elementary School learning about the importance of soil for gardening in March 2016*

After their two-hour visitation at the Memorial, these students carry with them more than just memories of planting carrots and a fun rationing game. They take away the lessons and legacy of a generation that sacrificed, improvised, and committed to do what was necessary to support the fight for freedom.

## Teaching Teachers

### Across the State this Summer

A century ago American doughboys were marching off to fight the “War to End All Wars.” Seventy-five years ago, their sons and daughters were fighting in yet another global conflict. We want students to learn about this crucial history: what exactly happened and what it all meant. In order to do that, we want to reach out to teachers to let them know how we can be a resource for them in their classroom.

This summer, The Virginia World War I and World War II Anniversary Commemoration Commission is joining with partners across Virginia, including the National D-Day Memorial, to host a series of Teacher Symposia across the state. Each of the eight one-day workshops (offered free to Virginia educators) will present teachers with historical overviews of both World Wars and give them a chance to explore the

countless resources Virginia offers for learning about WWI and WWII. Break-out sessions will focus on classroom resources for teaching WWI and WWII and how Virginia’s excellent museums and historic sites can partner with teachers.

The National D-Day Memorial understands the possibilities here: by teaching one teacher, we can make an impact on hundreds, even thousands, of students over that teacher’s career. That’s why John Long and Maggie Mitchell of the Memorial’s Education Department will travel with the symposium this summer, letting teachers know what we offer and how it can help them. In addition, the National D-Day Memorial will host one of the eight conferences at Bedford Elementary School on Tuesday, July 18th.



# Coming Soon: Our New Souvenir Book

Visitors to the National D-Day Memorial always leave impressed and moved; as they drive back down the hill, they have learned a lot and usually want to know more about D-Day and the Memorial. Soon they'll be able to take home a special limited edition souvenir book as a memento of their visit and as a tool for learning more.

"Valor, Fidelity, Sacrifice: The Nation's Monument to D-Day" will be a full color, glossy book of seventy-two pages. Our aim is to briefly tell the story of D-Day, alongside the story of the Memorial and how it came to be on the hill above Bedford. We believe visitors and supporters will find it a wonderful resource and cherished keepsake.

Designed by the firm Duncan-McCall of Florida, the book will feature stunning photos of our site, evocative images of the war, pictures of seldom-seen artifacts from our collection, and a wealth of information on D-Day and the National D-Day Memorial. We hope to have the book for sale in our new gift shop by June 6th. We can't wait for you to take a look!



## Homefront Festival

Experience life in wartime America during the National D-Day Memorial's "A 1940s Homefront Festival" (formerly known as Family Day). On Saturday, July 15th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., guests will have the opportunity to meet World War II veterans, view artifacts, and talk with living historians. "Profiles of Honor," Virginia's traveling exhibition honoring WWI and WWII veterans from the Commonwealth, will be onsite and the air will be filled with the melodious sounds of the 1940s as we enjoy the music of the Star City Starlettes. The Bedford Farmer's Market and several artisan vendors will be at the Memorial as well. Students 18 and under, as well as active duty and reserve military service members, will receive free admission. This event is rain or shine. Special thanks to event sponsor, WoodmenLife Virginia!



For more information about these and other events, visit [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

## World War II Day Camp

Have you ever wondered what Superman, Captain America, Batman, and Wonder Woman have to do with World War II? During this year's unique World War II Day Camp experience, students will learn about the role of superheroes in encouraging the war effort in the United States through interactive and engaging activities. This year, we are excited to offer for the first time a day just for rising 1st through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on Monday, June 19th. Our annual multi-day camp for rising 4<sup>th</sup> through 6th graders will be held June 21st to 23rd. Registration and pre-payment for these events is required. Don't miss out on this fun and engaging event!



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