

## About the Speaker



Captain (Retired) Jerry Yellin is a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Forces who served in WWII between 1941 and 1945. He enlisted two months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on his 18th birthday. After graduating from Luke Air Field as a fighter pilot in August of 1943, he spent the remainder of the war flying P-40s, P-47s, and P-51s in the Pacific Theater and Iwo Jima with the 78th Fighter Squadron.

Yellin participated in the first land based fighter mission over Japan on April 7, 1945, and has the unique distinction of having flown the final combat mission of World War II on August 14, 1945 – the day the war ended. On that mission, his wing-man (Phillip Schlamborg)

was the last man killed in a combat mission in WWII. After the war ended, Yellin struggled with severe undiagnosed PTSD. He always wondered why he survived, while so many of his comrades died during the war. He later married and had four sons. Yellin is the award-winning author of four books, including *Of War and Weddings*, *The Blackened Canteen*, *The Resilient Warrior*, and *The Letter*. He is traveling the world sharing his story and helping to bring healing and hope to a new generation of veterans who are battling post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

A book-signing will take place with Yellin at 1:00 p.m. today in the new Quonset hut. Books are available for purchase in the Quonset hut or in the Memorial's gift shop.

## Quonset Hut Dedication

Quonset huts were iconic pre-fabricated buildings of WWII, seen on military bases across the nation and in both theaters of war. The modernized Quonset hut being dedicated today at the National D-Day Memorial pays tribute to this important facet of WWII history, and to the men and women who utilized them to win the war. Once complete, it will house the Memorial's gift shop, public restrooms, a WWII vehicle, and site offices.

The National D-Day Memorial Foundation would like to extend a very special thank you to WWII veteran Bobbie Johnson for his generous gift in making the Quonset hut project possible. His friendship and love for the Memorial and its mission is a true testament to his selfless service and continued sacrifice. The Foundation is also grateful to Peter and Fleda Ring for their friendship and ongoing support. Without their contribution, the completion of this project would not have been possible. At a later date, a plaque recognizing both Bobbie Johnson and Peter and Fleda Ring will be installed in the Quonset hut area.

## Ugo Giannini Exhibit

When artist Ugo Giannini died in 1993, most people knew him as a fine modern artist. As a young art student from New Jersey, who served with the 29th Division Military Police, few people knew he had landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Fewer still knew he chronicled his experience that day, and throughout the war, in a series of realistic sketches, some clearly created just hours after the events they depicted. For that the world had to wait until after his death, when family and friends found dozens of works, with the war as their theme, stored away in his studio. To see some of the artwork today, we invite you to the Memorial's Quonset hut at 1:00 p.m. to view Giannini's sketches and to meet his widow, Maxine Giannini, who has also written a book about his life. She will be selling and signing books today with a portion of the proceeds going to the National D-Day Memorial.

# Testament to Freedom

A Commemoration of the  
Normandy Invasion, 6 June 1944  
National D-Day Memorial  
Tuesday, 6 June 2017



 **NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL**  
BEDFORD★VIRGINIA



The Seventy-Third Anniversary of the Allied Landing at Normandy  
A Commemorative Observance at the National D-Day Memorial  
Bedford, Virginia, Eleven o’Clock, Tuesday, 6 June 2017

Overture and Choral Prelude.....	29th Division Band
Drum Roll and <i>Attention</i> *.....	29th Division Band
Invocation.....	Major General Timothy P. Williams Adjutant General of Virginia
Drum and Fife.....	29th Division Drum and Fife
Presentation of the Colors*.....	Army JROTC Battalion, Dan River High School
<i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> *.....	29th Division Band
Welcome.....	Major General Richard “Rick” Devereaux, USAF (Ret.) Chairman, National D-Day Memorial Foundation
General Eisenhower’s D-Day Order.....	Greg Reed Commander, Enduring Freedom Honor Team - Fredericksburg, VA
Franklin D. Roosevelt’s D-Day Prayer.....	Ryan Scott Enduring Freedom Honor Team
<i>Shenandoah</i> .....	29th Division Band
Laying of Wreaths.....	D-Day Units

1st Infantry Division Association	5th Ranger Battalion
4th Infantry Division Association	2nd Ranger Battalion
8th US Air Force	Glider Pilot Regimental Association
29th Infantry Division Association	United States of America
The Ladies of Post 64	British Embassy
101st Airborne Division	Embassy of Belgium
238th Engineer Combat Battalion	Embassy of France
82nd Airborne Division	Embassy of Canada

Wreathlayers include the following as well as representatives from various associations:

BG Walter L. Mercer, MG Timothy P. Williams, U.S.A.  
Colonel Denys Colomb, French NATO delegation  
BG Johan Andries, Belgium  
LTC Stephen Caldwell, UK  
LTC Christopher Adams, Canada  
LTC Charles Reinhold, 29th Division

Taps\*.....29th Division Band

\*Assembly Stands

Remembrance.....	Major General Richard “Rick” Devereaux
P-51 Flyover.....	Andrew McKenna Arlington, VA
<i>Developed during WWII, the P-51 aircraft is best known for its role as a long range escort fighter in Europe, enabling the Allies to gain control of the skies. They signify the victorious result of the D-Day invasion. The P-51 flown today is similar to the type Jerry Yellin flew in WWII.</i>	
Purity of Purpose.....	Captain Jerry Yellin U.S. Army Air Forces, WWII Veteran
Musical Interlude and Memorial Collection.....	Army JROTC Chatham and Dan River
<i>Eternal Father</i> .....	29th Division Band
A Grateful Nation.....	Major General Vincent Cousin French Air Force, Defense Attache
Dedication of Quonset Hut.....	April Cheek-Messier President, National D-Day Memorial Foundation
Dedicatory Prayer.....	John Long Director of Education, National D-Day Memorial Foundation
Recognition of Normandy Veterans.....	April Cheek-Messier
<i>The Longest Day</i> , Paul Anka.....	29th Division Band
Benediction*.....	Colonel Mark “Mac” McKenzie, USAF (Ret.) Vice Chairman, National D-Day Memorial Foundation
Postlude.....	29th Division Band

\*Assembly Stands

Note: Please remain seated until after the playing of *Symbol of Honor* by the 29th Division Band. A procession will make its way across the plaza to the sculpture *Homage* for a wreathlaying and remarks by World War II veteran Ash Rothlein. Carrying the wreath for The American Society of the French Legion of Honor will be Major General Vincent Cousin, Colonel Denys Colomb, and Bernard Marie. Audience members are welcome to congregate at the statue for a brief presentation.

**In addition to our sponsors, speakers and wreathlayers mentioned in today’s program, the National D-Day Memorial is grateful to many others who assisted in making this program possible. They include:**

Andrew McKenna; 29th Division Band; Andrew Marks - Hilton Garden Inn, Lynchburg; AJROTC Chatham and Dan River; Bobbie Johnson; Chuck Atkins; Timberland Mulch; National D-Day Memorial Volunteers; Ash Rothlein; The American Society of the French Legion of Honor; Bernard Marie; Peter and Fleda Ring; Greg Reed; Hodges Pressure Cleaning; Virginia WWI and WWII Commemoration Commission; Dave Young and Phil McLanahan; Virginia Tourism Corporation.

Today’s event sponsors:

