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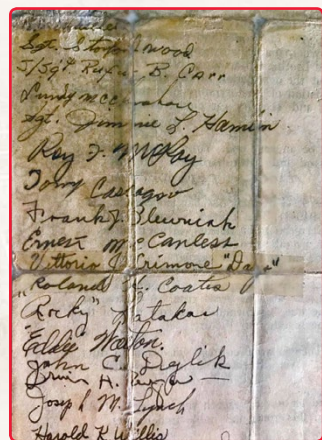
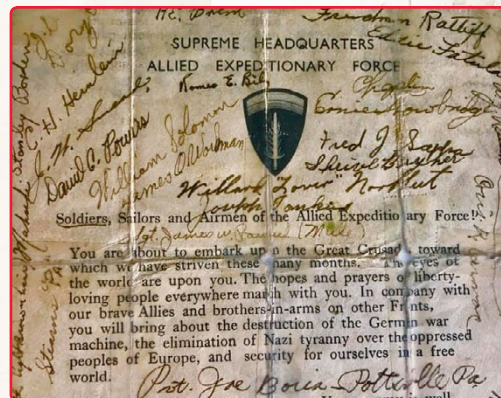
## ENDANGERED ARTIFACT

It survived the chaos of Omaha Beach, and most of a century afterwards. It shows the ravages of age, the fading and small tears and creases of seventy-five years. But it tells a powerful story, a story worth preserving.

Bob Slaughter's Order of the Day is currently at a conservator's studio in Richmond undergoing treatment to ensure that this vital story will still be told for generations to come.

On June 6, 1944, hours before embarking on the greatest invasion of WWII, American soldiers, sailors and airmen received a special printed message from their commander, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. The inspirational "pep talk" informed the men that they were "about to embark upon the great crusade" and enjoined them that "we will accept nothing less than full victory." Known as the Order of the Day, the D-Day message was one of the most important military documents in US history.

Few of the men that day, facing the biggest fight of their lives, thought to save their copies of the Order of the Day. But John Robert "Bob" Slaughter of Roanoke realized the historic nature of the document and of the battle they were about to fight. He circulated through his company and had seventy-five of his buddies sign their names to his copy; he then folded it into a plastic bag and tucked it into his wallet. Bob carried his Order of the Day through the rest of his time in service, and afterwards described it as his "most treasured souvenir of the war."



Of the 75 men who signed Bob's Order that night, eleven would be dead within hours. Eleven others died later in the campaign to liberate Europe. They were the men on the mind of Bob Slaughter as he labored for years to establish the National D-Day Memorial Foundation.

Named as one of the Top Ten Endangered Artifacts in Virginia last year by the Virginia Association of Museums, the Order of the Day received a conservation grant from VAM to fund preservation of the fragile document. An interested supporter has offered to fund the remaining costs to be sure that the men of Bob's company are never forgotten.

Over the coming weeks, conservators will remove over fifty inches of scotch tape, repair the torn creases where it was folded and unfolded over the decades, and restore the paper as much as possible to its original condition. Work is expected to be completed well in advance of the 75th anniversary of D-Day this year.

There are many ways the National D-Day Memorial Foundation strives to pass on the lessons and legacies of D-Day. Preserving these precious relics is one of the most important. Thank you for making it possible!



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# LUMINARY EVENT

A Record Breaking Success!



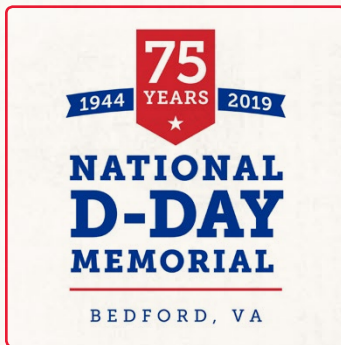
While inclement weather from snow and rain caused the event date to be moved to the evenings of December 16-17, many were still able to take in the Flames of Memory. A record breaking nearly 300 tributes were received this year thanks to generous donors remembering their loved ones!

Exactly 4,413 “Flames” were placed throughout the Memorial with each representing the number of Allied fatalities suffered on June 6, 1944. The stirring tribute brought out new crowds as well as those who have made the viewing an annual tradition. Mike Lewis has visited during the luminary event for many years and notes that it is one of his favorite traditions as “the

National D-Day Memorial’s annual display of luminaries commemorates our local veterans and offers visitors quiet beauty and a somber realization of the toll of the war.”

Luminaries can be purchased throughout the year in honor or in memory of a veteran from any period. The Foundation is particularly thankful for everyone who gave towards this meaningful and moving initiative. A very special thank you to the Moose Lodges of Virginia for their strong participation in the event!

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY



June 6, 2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, a milestone that is expected to represent the last large gathering of D-Day veterans around the globe. The youngest D-Day veterans are in their middle-90s; a few more years will find the last of them gone from us. To mark this milestone and take advantage of the opportunities for discussion and commemoration it presents, the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia will observe the 75th Anniversary with five days of ceremonies, displays, interviews, and much more.

“The Final Salute” combines the best of the Memorial with the best of the D-Day story: a gathering of veterans and the general public at the Nation’s monument to the invasion of Normandy for reflection and remembrance – the

story of ordinary people in extraordinary moments.

A thunderous aerial tribute featuring World War II era warbirds, including fighter planes and transport planes used to drop thousands of paratroopers into Normandy, kicks off the ceremony on June 6. The event lineup also includes a USO-inspired outdoor concert and canteen on Friday night, a Saturday victory-style parade, and field chapel service on Sunday.

For information on events and planning your anniversary week trip, please visit [www.dday.org/75](http://www.dday.org/75).

## JOIN THE OVERLORD SOCIETY TODAY!



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

The many levels available to choose from include benefits such as admission and tours, a discount at the Memorial store and exclusive member only items.

We are grateful for all of our members and hope that you will consider membership in 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. For more information, please visit [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org) or call 1-800-351-DDAY.



# LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

As a donor to the National D-Day Memorial, you are making it possible to preserve the lessons and legacy of D-Day. Each day students, veterans, family members, and visitors learn about the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of our D-Day and WWII veterans because of you. **You have made this a priority because of your giving.**

Your continued support through a legacy gift will ensure we never forget the incredible courage and sacrifice of those who served.

You can leave a legacy that will ensure their stories live on.

A charitable gift in your will is a great way to create a lasting legacy. There are a number of other legacy giving options, as well, that may be ideal for you. These include charitable gift annuities, trusts, life insurance gifts, and real estate, just to name a few. Please consider leaving your legacy – our future generations will benefit from your generosity today.

Our Director of Development, Brandon Gregory, would be happy to talk with you about your legacy giving options. Please feel free to give him a call at (540) 586-3329 or email [bgregory@dday.org](mailto:bgregory@dday.org). If you have already planned to leave a gift in your will, we'd love to hear about it!



## VETERANS DAY



The fourth verse of our National Anthem (yes, there are four verses!) speaks of those who “stand between their loved homes and the war’s desolation;” those who have assured that the US remains “blessed with victory and peace.” From the beginning of our nation, men and women have always been ready to take that stand, serving in the Armed Forces to protect the nation they love. On last November 12, despite some rain squalls and chilly weather, an appreciative crowd at the National D-Day Memorial honored these heroes in our annual Veteran’s Day commemoration.



Keynote speaker Brigadier General Lapthe Flora inspired the crowd of over 600 with a fitting and moving address, taking time also to note the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. Flora is Assistant Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard and serves on the Board of the National D-Day Memorial.

Speaking of his fellow servicemen and women, General Flora challenged us to keep them in our memories: “We the living, we the grateful, must ensure that their sacrifice was not in vain.” He paid special tribute to those who remained missing in action, and said a profound thank you to those Americans who fought in his native nation of Vietnam.

Meanwhile, in our Education Tent, representatives of the Department of Veteran’s Affairs were on hand with computers and informational guides. They were ready to assist any veteran with questions about the programs and benefits offered by the Veteran’s Administration, and to help them apply for assistance. Welcoming these representatives to our site was just one more way the National D-Day Memorial could say “thank you” those who wore our nation’s uniform.



With patriotic music, heartfelt songs from the students of Montvale Elementary School, the dedication of our latest Veterans Bricks, Junior ROTC cadets as color guard, and recognition of all veterans in attendance, the day was a tremendous community event and an ideal way to express gratitude to those who have served our nation.

Special thanks to the sponsors of our Veteran’s Day event: Fostek Corporation, Bedford Area Welcome Center, Glavé and Holmes Architecture, and Bank of the James.



# MEMORIAL BREAKS GROUND ON NEW Q-HUT

In May, visitors to the Memorial will see a new addition to the Memorial site. Ground has been broken on the latest addition which will provide much needed education space and a climate-controlled area for artifact displays. The “Fleda Hut,” named after benefactors Peter and Fleda Ring, will be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 27. The space marks the third and final installment of Quonset huts on site and replaces the current education tent in favor of a more permanent facility.

The tent, named the John Robert “Bob” Slaughter Youth Learning Center, has been a part of the Memorial since 2002. It will eventually move into the education center, a large facility slated for construction within the next few years. Once the education center is built, the tent will remain the primary learning center in the new building and will still bear Bob Slaughter’s name. This move will help preserve future tents (which tend to deteriorate outside after a year) while allowing for a creative space for students to learn.

In the meantime, however, the new education Q-hut will offer more space and enhancements with technological features for presentations as well as formal display cabinets to house some of the Memorial’s extensive artifact collection. When not in use for school programs, the Q-hut will be open for visitors to pass through.

“Education is the very foundation of what we do,” stated April Cheek-Messier, president of the Foundation. “It is incumbent upon us to pass on the amazing stories of service and sacrifice we have collected over the years and this new Quonset hut will make that possible.”

The Quonset hut will allow visitors to hear more stories, both Allied and American, while discovering the war’s impact around the world. The importance of D-Day’s scope is best described by an encounter Kathy Jaberg, visitor services assistant, experienced with a visitor recently at the Memorial. During the course of the day, she provided a tour to an eighty-seven-year old gentleman who had come to visit the site. On June 6, 1944, he was thirteen-years old living in the Netherlands, hiding in a basement with his family, and listening to an illegal radio. British news announced the invasion to liberate Europe had



*Board Chair Dr. Tom Nygaard, Peter Ring, and President April Cheek-Messier break ground on the “Fleda Hut.”*

begun and the Allies were storming the beaches of Normandy, France. He noted, in a rather matter of fact way, that if the Germans who occupied his town had found them with the radio, they all would have been executed.

He went on to talk of the extreme hunger everyone felt and that the people of his beloved Netherlands were starving. To this day, he can recall the desperate search for food. Many consumed tulip bulbs and sugar beets in order to survive.

As Kathy stood and listened to his story, she thought to herself how that young thirteen-year old boy only knew occupation, war, fear and hunger. Sensing her sadness, he took her hands and said, “No, no, no! I was not without hope starting June 6, 1944! For the first time in my young life I had a glimmer of hope and I knew you were coming! I held onto that hope and you liberated my country in May of 1945. Please tell your servicemen and countrymen...I WILL NEVER FORGET!” He peered around the Memorial as if to say thank you, especially to those who had given the last full measure of devotion.

What happened in June 1944 changed lives, but it also changed the world. The new “Fleda Hut” education space and the Bob Slaughter Youth Learning Center are just a few ways we will keep their memory alive as we ensure their stories are shared for generations to come.



# NANCE BOOK LAUNCH

The famed “Bedford Boys” have been the subject of a best-selling book, numerous articles, several documentary films, and even theater productions. But no memoir of any of the Bedford Boys has ever been published—until now. “Dawn on Omaha Beach: We Were There” by the late Elisha Ray Nance was released at a book launch party at the National D-Day Memorial on October 26.



It is well known that nineteen men from Bedford in Company A, 116th Regiment, 29th Division died on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, giving the small community the distinction of the highest per capita losses of any community in the US on D-Day. One man who survived the carnage to return home to Bedford was Lt. Ray Nance.

Like the other Bedford Boys who made it home, Nance was indelibly shaped by his experiences. Putting the war behind him as best he could, he married a former army nurse, got a job, raised a family, and continued service with the National Guard, retiring as a major. But through the years he never forgot the sacrifice he had witnessed on Omaha Beach and struggled with the need to pay tribute to his brothers from Co. A. When the National D-Day Memorial opened in 2001, Nance and his wife Alpha became devoted volunteers, eager to share the story of their hometown’s sacrifice with visitors from across the globe.

In his years of retirement (and by then the last surviving officer from Co. A), Nance penned an account of his experiences before, during and after WWII. He intended to publish his book, but passed away in 2009 before he could achieve his dream. Now, nearly a decade later, his three children—John Nance, Sue Cobb and Sarah Jones—have published his concise, factual memoir under the title “Dawn on Omaha Beach: We Were There.”

In addition to his insightful recollections of the war, “Dawn on Omaha Beach” includes important and never-before-published biographical sketches of some of Nance’s brothers-in-arms. Primary sources also help to round out the story, and makes the book a must-read for those interested in World War II, and in particular the vital role played by the 29th Division in freeing Europe.

A book launch event was held Friday, October 26th at the National D-Day Memorial to unveil the book, with an appreciative crowd of family, friends, and history buffs in attendance. Nance’s children tearfully discussed their father’s story, from enlisting in the pre-war Virginia National Guard to his company’s arrival to England to the fateful role his men played on D-Day.



*Sue Cobb speaks to the crowd at the book launch held at the Memorial.*



*Sarah Jones and John Nance were in attendance to share about their father’s story.*

To honor their father and the men who served with him, the family has designated the National D-Day Memorial as the exclusive seller of the book, with all profits supporting the Memorial’s operations. The book is \$19.95, and is available through the National D-Day Memorial’s gift shop or the online store at [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org).

“This book is an important first-hand account of truly remarkable men who made—and changed—history,” said April Cheek-Messier, National D-Day Memorial Foundation. “Ray Nance witnessed history, and now his voice speaks to us from across the years.”



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL

- ★ **Thursday, February 21, noon—Lunchbox Lecture:** For **Black History Month**, come learn about the intriguing heritage of **African-American Marines in WWII**. Representatives of the **Montford Point Marine Association** will be on hand to highlight the challenges faced by these often-overlooked heroes of the war, and the impact they had on victory in the Pacific. This program is free and open to the public, and will be held at the Bedford Area Welcome Center.
- ★ **Thursday, March 7, noon—Lunchbox Lecture:** NDDMF Board Member **Capt. Jim Ransom** (US Navy, Retired) has been one of our most popular speakers in recent years. A veteran submariner, he will speak on the **portrayal of submarine warfare by Hollywood** since WWII. What have the moviemakers gotten right—and wrong? This program is free and open to the public, and will be held at the Bedford Area Welcome Center.
- ★ **Thursday, March 28, noon—Lunchbox Lecture:** NDDMF President **April Cheek-Messier** will share with us “**The Secrets of Bletchley Park.**” Long before there was a James Bond or a Jason Bourne, intrepid intelligence operatives and ingenious codebreakers in Britain labored in clandestine silence to unlock German secrets and make Allied victory possible...it’s a story you don’t yet fully know! This program is free and open to the public, and will be held at the Bedford Area Welcome Center.
- ★ **Saturday, March 30—Scout Day:** Boy and Girl Scouts will flock to the National D-Day Memorial to join in a day of activities, education, and the chance to earn badges in this fun-filled event. Full details to follow.
- ★ **Saturday, April 20—Prelude to Invasion: A Living History Event:** D-Day history will come to life as we go back in time to World War II! Come encounter costumed interpreters who tell tales of the War, WWII era encampments scattered throughout the grounds, and WWII veterans eager to share their personal experiences in the war. Full details to follow.
- ★ **Thursday, April 25, noon—Lunchbox Lecture:** **Dr. Marilyn Moriarty** of Hollins University will return to detail the fascinating and moving story of her mother in ***Slivers from a Broken World***. Marilyn’s upcoming book of the same title details her mother’s experiences as a resistance operative in France during the war and a prisoner of the Gestapo as a result; as well as Marilyn’s own journey of discovery as she researched her family’s hidden past. This program is free and open to the public, and will be held at the Bedford Area Welcome Center.

*Stay up to date on event announcements and additional programs throughout the year by checking [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org) and social media!*



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