

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 6 June 1944, during World War II.

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 amphibiou 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.



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Welcome to the National D-Day Memorial

Don't miss the following major points of interest while you are touring the Memorial.



Gray Plaza

While visiting Elmon T. Gray Plaza, one finds statuary representative of the beach landing and fighting. This includes two obstacles in the reflecting pool, a landing craft representation, and several figural pieces.



Overlord Arch

The Overlord Arch in Robey W. Estes Sr. Plaza stands forty-four and one-half feet high (representative of the date of D-Day, 6 June 1944). The Plaza celebrates the breaching of Fortress Europe with the foothold in France.



Gold Star Families Memorial

In both World Wars, a family which had lost a loved one in uniform hung a banner with a vivid Gold Star in their window—hence the term Gold Star Families. This monument—Virginia's first—recognizes the sacrifices of the families left behind when heroes pay the ultimate sacrifice. The "missing man" in the center is a reminder of the profound absence felt by the survivors.



Homage

The sculpture *Homage* portrays a grieving soldier paying tribute to a fallen comrade, buried in a temporary grave, marked by his rifle and helmet. Likewise, we pay tribute here to the "Bedford Boys" as well as the D-Day losses all communities suffered during the war.



Reynolds Garden

Recalling the colorful SHAEF patch design, the Richard S. Reynolds Sr. Garden features a bronze statue of General Dwight D. Eisenhower inside an English folly. Above him is the D-Day battle map in mosaic tile.



Memorial Wall

The names of the 2,502 American service members killed on D-Day are found on the wall on the western side of the plaza. Names of the fallen 1,913 Allies appear on the eastern wall.

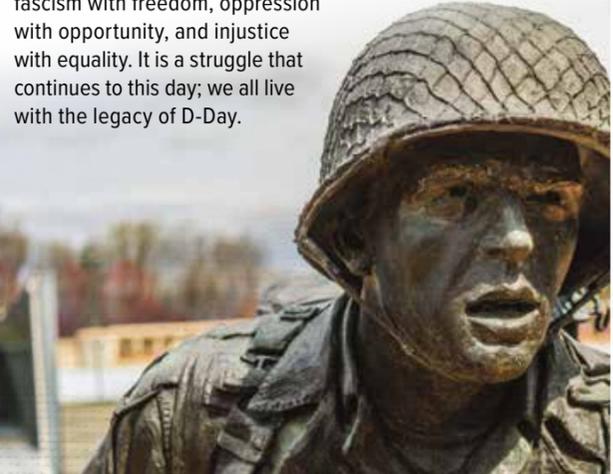
The "Bedford Boys"

Among the hundreds of thousands massed off the shores of Normandy on the morning of 6 June 1944 were 44 soldiers, sailors, and airmen from the town and county of Bedford, Virginia. Thirty-seven of these young men belonged to Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division. For almost all of them, this would be their baptism of fire.

Of the 37 assigned to Company A, 31 loaded into landing craft and headed for Omaha Beach in the first wave; the remainder belonged to supply details and would arrive later. En route, a landing craft struck an obstacle and sank, stranding dozens far from shore, including five of Bedford's own. The remaining 26 successfully reached Omaha Beach, where 16 were killed and four wounded within a matter of minutes. Three others were unaccounted for and later presumed killed in action. Another Bedford soldier was killed in action elsewhere on Omaha Beach with Company F, bringing Bedford's D-Day fatalities to a total of 20. In comparison with its wartime population, Bedford suffered the Nation's highest known per capita D-Day loss, a somber distinction for the rural Virginia community.

From D-Day to Today

Rarely has history so greatly been impacted in a single 24-hour period as on D-Day. The Allied success in Normandy not only set in motion the destruction of the Nazi regime but also positioned the forces of democracy for the struggle that would mark the second half of the 20th century: the Cold War. Since then, D-Day has come to be understood as a watershed event, the first step in a long campaign to replace fascism with freedom, oppression with opportunity, and injustice with equality. It is a struggle that continues to this day; we all live with the legacy of D-Day.



While at the Memorial

This national memorial stands upon earth consecrated in solemn tribute to the Allied Forces who participated in D-Day, 6 June 1944. The Memorial site is a sacred precinct and visitors are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

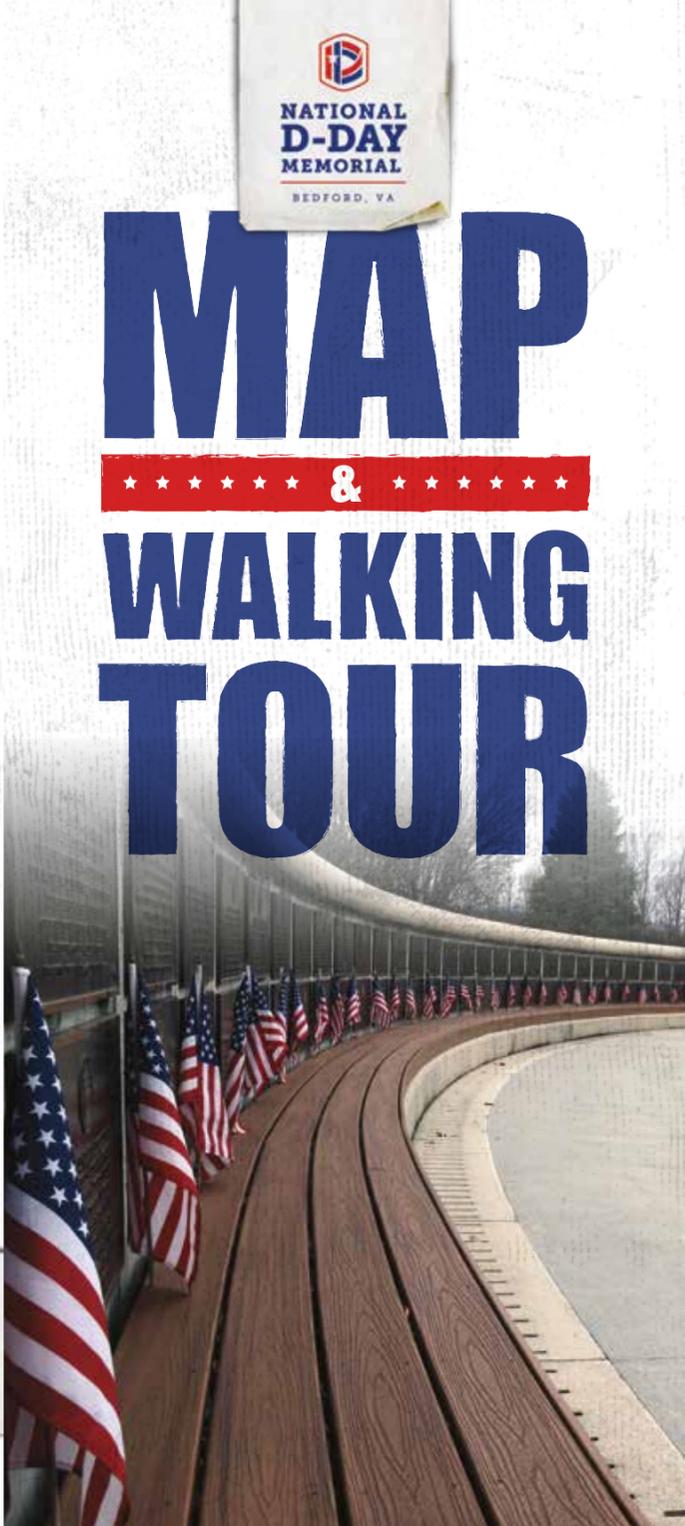
- ★ Running, climbing, and yelling are inappropriate. Please supervise children.
- ★ Do not play, throw things, or enter the water.
- ★ Picnicking is permitted in designated areas only. Please refrain from eating within the monument's perimeter. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- ★ Vaping and the use of tobacco products are prohibited, except in the designated smoking area. Dispose of trash and tobacco products in designated containers located outside the monument's perimeter.
- ★ Pets are not permitted with the exception of service animals. If traveling with pets, please inquire about our free kennel service.
- ★ Firearms are prohibited. Drone aircraft are prohibited.

Support

The Memorial does not receive federal or state funding and relies on donations to operate. All proceeds from Gift Shop sales support the Memorial. You are invited to contribute toward the establishment of facilities that will enable the National D-Day Memorial Foundation to continue to expand upon the educational initiatives that have been central in the memorialization effort. **By supporting the Foundation in telling the D-Day story today you ensure its retelling tomorrow.**

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TOURING THE MEMORIAL

The primary entry into the Memorial grounds is the western entrance across from the Bobbie G. Johnson Pavilion. Here one is immediately greeted by a portrait bust of John Robert “Bob” Slaughter, D-Day veteran and founder of the National D-Day Memorial. Though visitors may begin their walk around the Memorial at any of several entrances, its design reflects a story that begins in Reynolds Garden and culminates at Estes Plaza.

Overview of the National D-Day Memorial:

Dickson Architects and Associates: architect
 Jim Brothers: principal sculptor
 Matt Kirby: sculptor
 Richard Pumphrey: sculptor



Reynolds Garden

The Richard S. Reynolds Sr. Garden, a stylized English garden, connects the Memorial with England, where planning and preparation for the Normandy invasion occurred.

- 1 Centered within the garden folly stands *The Supreme Commander*, a sculpture of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander for Operation Overlord. Overhead, a tile mosaic map depicts the plan for the coming invasion. Eisenhower is surrounded by portrait busts of his principal subordinates: Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur William Tedder, Deputy Supreme Commander; Admiral Sir Bertram H. Ramsay, Allied Naval Commander; Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford L. Leigh-Mallory, Allied Air Forces Commander; Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, D-Day Assault Commander; Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, U.S. 1st Army Commander; and Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, Chief of Staff.
- 2 Portrait bust of Winston Churchill at the northeast entryway. Churchill was prime minister of the United Kingdom for most of the war, from 1940 to 1945. His tenacity, leadership, and eloquence were crucial to England’s fighting spirit and key ingredients to victory.
- 3 Portrait bust of Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the northwest entryway. Roosevelt, United States president from 1933 to 1945, presided over the American war effort with unshakable determination. He envisioned not only victory, but a workable peace afterward. Sadly, he didn’t live to see his dream become reality, dying of a stroke in April 1945.
- 4 The patterned central area of the garden echoes the design of the SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) shoulder patch, worn by those tasked with planning the invasion. An example can be found on the southern wall above the text of Eisenhower’s Order of the Day for 6 June 1944. Arranged on either side of the Order are plaques honoring various Allied forces participating on D-Day.
- 5 Plaques along the eastern and western garden walls mark the transition from preparing for the invasion to initiating it. Monuments along the eastern wall recognize academies, colleges, and universities that prepared many of the Allied leaders for their wartime service. Along the western wall, plaques honor infantry regiments that took part in the Normandy invasion.

Gray Plaza

The Elmon T. Gray Plaza symbolizes the channel crossing and landing through a variety of features and sculptures.

- 6 The plaza floor is divided into five segments, alluding to the five D-Day landing beaches: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword.
- 7 Enclosing the plaza are bronze plaques bearing the names of the 4,415 Allied service members killed in action on D-Day. The names of American service members are on the western wall; the names of the other Allied Expeditionary Force members are on the eastern wall. Guests can search names using the Memorial app or view an alphabetical register inside the Gift Shop.
- 8 The beach tableau depicts the fierce struggle Allied soldiers waged up and down the landing beaches. A stylized bunker serves as a backdrop for the scene.
- 9 A granite “Higgins Boat” represents the thousands of various landing craft that transported troops from ships to shore on the morning of D-Day. For its versatility, the “Higgins Boat” was later credited by Eisenhower with winning the war for the Allies.
- 10 Nearby, two “hedgehogs” typify the range of obstacles the Germans set in the tidal flats to scuttle landing craft making their way to shore.
- 11 The beach sculptures *Through the Surf*, *Death on Shore*, *Across the Beach*, and *Scaling the Wall* capture troops in various poses of battle, honoring the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice that were the hallmarks of Operation Overlord.
- 12 West of the beach tableau, George “Jimmy” Green Circle pays homage to the service and achievements of the naval forces of Operation Neptune, the seagoing component of D-Day. Green Circle’s monuments emphasize major vessels, exceptional leadership, and the U.S. Coast Guard’s role.
- 13 East of the beach tableau, Maurice T. Lawhorne Circle pays tribute to the roles and contributions of the AEF’s air forces on D-Day. More than 11,000 aircraft flew in support of the D-Day operations. Lawhorne Circle includes a series of narrative monuments to distinguished units and leaders.

Estes Plaza

The Robey W. Estes Sr. Plaza celebrates the success of the Normandy landing and the international effort that made it possible while recognizing the operation’s human toll.

- 14 *Final Tribute* is a sober tribute to the more than 4,400 members of the Allied Expeditionary Force who were killed on D-Day. Emblematic of death in battle, the inverted rifle and helmet powerfully address the ultimate sacrifice of the fallen.
- 15 A triumphal arch rises forty-four and a half feet above Estes Plaza – a pointed allusion to D-Day’s occurrence on the sixth day of the sixth month of 1944. The word OVERLORD inscribed on its facade is the official name of the operation now known simply as D-Day. The black and white stripes emblazoned on the arch recall the alternating stripes that made Allied aircraft readily identifiable.
- 16 The National D-Day Memorial Seal is inscribed on the floor of Estes Plaza directly beneath the Overlord Arch. Rendered in Latin, the motto *Ad commemorandum fortitudinem, fidelitatem, sacrificium eorum* translates to “Remembering their valor, fidelity, and sacrifice.”
- 17 The flags of the twelve nations of the AEF fly in an arc along the exterior of Estes Plaza (weather permitting). Beginning with the flag of the United States, the flags of the eleven other nations fly alphabetically: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, and the United Kingdom. Nearby, the allegorical sculpture *Valor, Fidelity, Sacrifice* honors these qualities in all members of the Allied Expeditionary Force at D-Day.

Stettinius Parade

Showing the liberation’s expansion from the beaches to Paris and beyond, the Edward R. Stettinius Jr. Parade stretches southward from Estes Plaza to the garrison flag. Located within Stettinius Parade is the Annie J. Bronson Veterans Memorial Walk.

- 18 *Le Monument aux Morts* was created by French sculptor Edmond de Laheudrie in memory of the forty-four men of Trévières, France, who died in World War I. In the days following D-Day, shrapnel or a round struck the head of the statue, disfiguring it. This recasting of de Laheudrie’s sculpture preserves the World War II damage that still mars the World War I original, a reminder that despite the hard-won success at Normandy, D-Day was but the beginning of the end of the war in Europe. The damaged statue serves as a silent lesson on the fragility of peace and the transience of victory.
- 19 The *Purple Heart Monument* stands in the shadow of the garrison flag. Emplaced by the Military Order of the Purple Heart and National D-Day Memorial Foundation, it is dedicated in particular tribute to those who received the Purple Heart for their service on D-Day.
- 20 Beyond D-Day: Set in the eastern quadrant of the smaller circle around the flagstaff in Stettinius Parade stands a portrait bust of Clement R. Atlee, the successor of Churchill.
- 21 Set in the western quadrant stands a portrait bust of Harry S. Truman, the successor of Roosevelt.

A John Robert “Bob” Slaughter Portrait Bust

Bob Slaughter, who served with Company D of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division, landed on Omaha Beach on 6 June 1944. He was wounded twice while in France. Slaughter’s vision for a national memorial to the Normandy invasion led to the creation of the National D-Day Memorial, which was officially dedicated in 2001.

B Homage Sculpture

C Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

D Fleda A. Ring Education Quonset Hut

E W.E. Stevens Family Victory Garden

Bobbie & Peggy Johnson Quonset Hut Gift Shop

Bobbie G. Johnson Pavilion

Designated Smoking Area

Men’s and Women’s Restrooms