



May 20, 2017

First Release - Web

Dear friend and honored Veteran of World War Two and/or the Korean War Era,

Welcome to D-Day Conneaut, America's premier living history event of the WWII era! Serving as your veteran liaison, with great pride my staff and I welcomed an amazing gathering of 225 WWII Veterans to our 2016 event. We were also honored to welcome WWII Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel Woody Williams and blessed to welcome 91 Korean Era Veterans as well; an unmatched gathering of those that fought for liberty and freedom! In 2017, the Veteran Program dates for our 18th annual event are **Friday August 18th & Saturday August 19th**. As in the past, transportation to and from our Veterans Parking Area and within the park itself along with complimentary refreshments served throughout the day will help you get around comfortably and enjoy the day regardless of any physical limitation you may have. We aim to please and hope you can join us this year for another memorable event! New for 2017, we will be adding a half day of living history on Thursday beginning at noon. Officially, there are NO veteran program activities for that day, but I encourage you to come to the event that day if you are physically able to get around on your own.

Our annual Veteran Program begins at 9AM Friday with veteran reception and registration. At 10:45 AM, I will have the honor to introduce our first set of veterans wishing to share their stories of duty and service. Following our morning "Veteran's Recollection Program" lunch will be provided for you and a guest within the Hospitality Tent. Following the luncheon, weather permitting, those that are up to it can depart by golf cart, parade style, to the shore line to set sail upon a WWII era Higgins boat. After the cruise, veterans who would like to share their experiences can participate in our afternoon "Veterans' Recollection Program" at the Hospitality Tent beginning at 1:30PM. At 3PM, the Tank Battle at Sword Beach returns for its second year. At 5PM, reenactors will recreate the battle of Foucarville located near to the Hospitality Tent. What you decide to attend is entirely up to you and you are free to catch a golf cart to any of the encampments wherever you want. Secure seating will be reserved for you at afternoon battles. Collect your seating passes each day along with your custom built nametags at the WWII/Korean Era Registration desk.

On Saturday our Veteran Hospitality Tent reopens at 8:30 AM. At 9:30 AM, we will transport you and your guest down to the bridge for our third major combat scenario; "Kellam's Bridge" at La Fiere. At 10AM, U.S. Paratroopers will attack and defend a strategically vital bridge from German forces. At 11:15, our "Veterans Salute" program includes a French Legion d'honneur medal ceremony on the Allied parade ground. Following the ceremony, Saturday's "Veterans Recollection Program" will serve as the final forum to showcase your unique wartime experiences at 12:30 lasting until 2PM. At 3PM our event's namesake recreation, the amphibious landing of Normandy, where a record number of reenactors along with tanks, flamethrowers, an 88mm anti-tank gun, airplanes and landing craft of all sorts will portray that longest day. After the landing, you and your guest are welcomed to attend our spaghetti dinner at the Conneaut Human Resources Center until 7PM, and in the evening, our USO Dance begins at 8PM at the same location.

If you are planning to attend the 2017 event then **I NEED TO KNOW** by contacting me by phone, email or just send me a card or note or Veteran Registration Card available on our web site. Once I know you are planning to attend, I will then mail you at the end of July a finalized Veterans Schedule, Veteran Parking Map, and instructions on how to attend the luncheon on Friday. If you would like to share your experience while in service I need to hear from you. Lastly, if you are from out of town and need help to find suitable lodging, I have a short list available for your consideration. Until then my friends, I wish you my very best!

Eric Montgomery - WWII Veteran Liaison - D-Day Conneaut

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