



July 28, 2017

Dear Honored Veteran of World War Two and the Korean Era,

Welcome to D-Day Conneaut 2017! As WWII/Korean Era Liaison it is my honor to welcome you to your 7th annual Veterans program! This letter details the veteran schedule and other important information so that you may have a rewarding experience at D-Day Conneaut. Upon arrival, please kindly check in at Veterans Registration for your custom made name tag, tickets for reserved seating and gift bag!

As mentioned in the invitation letter, there is a ½ day of living history programming on Thursday August 17th, but there are NO veteran services other than parking available. The programming begins at 12 noon and ends with an outdoor movie, "Buck Privates", featuring Abbott and Costello at 9 PM on the Allied Parade Ground. This is an outdoor movie showing so lawn chairs & blankets are necessities. Parking for the movie only is available on site after 6:00 PM. On Wednesday, you are welcomed to come to the park as the reenactors set up their encampments. Handicapped restrooms will be near to the Veterans Tent, at the parking area and at various places around the park. On Friday and Saturday, if at any point you would like to tour the reenactor encampments we have a small fleet of golf carts to take you there. Just ask any of the volunteers and they will get you a cart! Refreshments and snacks will be served on Friday and Saturday; coffee, tea, soda, water etc., etc. compliments of the New Leaf United Methodist Church, so there is no need to bring something to drink.

Highlights of the 2017 Veteran Program specific to WWII/Korean Era Veterans are the following:

Friday, August 18th 2017 – Veteran Program Day 1 - Event opens at 9AM and ends at 6PM

- 10:30 AM until 11:45 AM – Special guest speakers as well as a D-Day Veteran round table where June 6th Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen will field questions about their D-Day experience. This question and answer program will be the first of its kind at this event. We ask you to arrive at the parking area no later than 9:30 AM so we can assist you in getting to the hospitality tent to hear this very special program.
- At 11:45 we will transition the Veteran Hospitality Tent to host the WWII/Korean Era Veterans Luncheon. In years past, we transported all luncheon veterans to the upper pavilion. To make it easier on you and your guest, we are keeping things here. This is an RSVP luncheon and details are below to register. For veterans who do not wish to attend the luncheon this might be a good time to relax, have lunch on your own, visit with the public or visit the reenactor encampments.
- At Noon - A hot luncheon will be served compliments of Bill Creed of the Gazette Newspapers and the AARP. This is a private luncheon for WWII/Korean Era veterans and their singular guest who have pre-registered for the luncheon. Jennelle Gilraith-Owens, aka Lana Turner, and Keith Campbell of the National D-Day Memorial will perform a few songs a piece as you enjoy your lunch. You must call ahead to reserve your tickets. Due to space limitations no extra meals are available.



LUNCHEON: Planning to attend the Friday luncheon? Please call me at 412-726-6665 no later than Sunday, August 13th. If I do not answer the phone, please leave a message clearly stating your name and the name of your guest.

Eric Montgomery – WWII Veteran Liaison – 115 Whitson Drive – Elizabethton TN 37643 - Phone: 412-726-6665

- 1:15 PM Friday – Weather and regulations permitting, for those who are physically able and willing are encouraged to ride the waves on a Higgins Boat cruise. Transportation to the boats and back to the Hospitality Tent will be provided. One person serving as your escort must accompany you on your Lake Erie voyage. At the conclusion of the cruise you and your escort will be taken back to the Hospitality Tent to enjoy the remaining portion of the Friday Veteran’s Oral History Program.
- 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM - We will transform the Hospitality Tent back to the venue to host our Friday Veteran’s Oral History Program. Following the program, for those of you wanting to attend the “Tank Battle”, which begins at 3PM, will be transported over to reserved seating. Reserved seating tickets will be distributed at veteran registration upon request. If you don’t want to attend the tank battle, this would be a good time to visit the reenactor encampments, or take in the Allies/Axis soccer match at 3:30 PM on the Allied Parade Ground. If you would like to present your unique story of service, please contact me by phone.
- 4:45 PM – The “Road to Victory at Foucarville” engagement features US Airborne and German reenactors as they recreate this strategic battle. Reserved seating for WWII/Korean Era Veterans and your escort and/or caregiver will be available and we will assist you in getting seated.

Saturday, August 19th 2017 – Veteran Program Day 2 – Event opens at 9AM – (Remember to stop by at registration if you were not here on Friday.)

- 9:30 AM – Veterans planning to attend the “Bridge Battle at La Fiere” (10AM) are being asked to arrive at the parking areas no later than 8:50 AM. Once at the Hospitality Tent our in-park shuttles will take you and a guest to the reserved seating area for the recreation of the battle and then back to the Hospitality Tent or the Parade Ground Stage and Ceremony Viewing Area following the battle. If you choose not to attend the Salute Ceremony below, this would be a good time to visit with the reenactors or have lunch.
- 11:10 – Salute to Veteran’s Ceremony: Veterans are encouraged to join us at the stage on the Allied Parade Ground for our Flag Raising Ceremony followed by our National Anthem, remarks from international dignitaries, and the presentation of the **French Légion d'honneur** medal to several WWII Veterans. Prior recipients of the French Légion d'honneur encouraged to attend. See insert enclosed.
- 12:45 – 2:00 PM – Following the Salute Ceremony, veterans are encouraged to attend the Saturday Oral History session at the Hospitality Tent. For the past 6 years, veterans from all theaters, Europe, Pacific, Home Front, land, air, and sea have stepped forward willing to share their experiences. If you would like present your unique story please contact me by phone. I still need a few men to step forward!
- 2:30 PM – Veterans and their escort will be transported to our secured seating areas to view the amphibious landing. Be sure to have your reserved seating tickets with you. Premier seating will be reserved for yourself and up to 2 guests (spouse and/or caregiver). Other seating areas near the shoreline and midfield along the crowd line will also be available to you by signing up at registration until filled. We will do our best to seat everyone but space is very limited. Your families’ cooperation is appreciated.
- 5:00 PM – Dinner is served for free to all veterans at the Conneaut Human Resource Center until 7:30 PM. The center is located at 327 Mill Street in Conneaut. Additional meals for non-veterans are \$5.00
- 8:00 PM – The USO Dance begins featuring a 21 piece big band playing all your favorites from the 40’s. The dance concludes at Midnight at the Conneaut Human Resource Center, site of the dinner.

Eric Montgomery – WWII Veteran Liaison – 115 Whitson Drive – Elizabethton TN 37643 - Phone: 412-726-6665

Reminder: If you are planning to attend the Friday luncheon please contact me by Sunday, August 13th.

Veterans Parking: See map below. Coming with a friend or family in the same car? Then use this lot as well. Volunteers will be there to greet and assist you. Once you have parked, a shuttle will transport you to the event grounds and then to the Veterans Hospitality Tent. Remember to wear a hat and appropriate clothing. Drivers of handicapped veterans or guests are encouraged to drop off their passengers with mobility issues at Gate D. This will make it easier for them and for whoever is driving the car. Turn left at Broad and Lake to do this.

If you have any questions please call me at least a week before the event. See you soon! *Eric* Release 7-28-16 Ver:



Directions to Veterans Parking:

Conneaut Ohio is in the far northeast corner of Ohio. The event site lies only a few miles west of the Pennsylvania border and is 4 miles north of Interstate 90. Ohio State Route 7, also known as Broad Street, intersects Interstate Route 90 at Exit 241 in the State of Ohio.

From regional Ohio and points West of Conneaut: Interstate Route 90

- At Exit 241 head north onto Ohio State Route 7.
- ★ Follow Ohio State Route 7 North through town until the traffic light at Lake Road.
- Turn right onto Lake Road turning away from the event site.
- Follow Lake Road to Day Street and turn left.
- The parking area will be on your right. There will be people there to greet and assist you.



Those who are arriving with handicapped passengers are being asked to drop off those with mobility issues at Gate D, corner of Lake and Grove St. so they can be taken directly to the Veterans Hospitality Tent. Handicapped restrooms are available here, at the hospitality tent and areas of the park.

From Pennsylvania and points East: It may be easier to avoid exit 241 in Ohio and exit Interstate Route 90 at Pennsylvania Exit 3. After exiting the interstate, head north on Route 6N towards Route 20. At Route 20, turn left and head west towards Conneaut, turn left on Main Street and then right onto Ohio State Route 7. Follow SR7 as above from the★ Star to the parking area.

The address for the veterans parking area is **888 Day Street, Conneaut OH 44030**