



May 10, 2016

First Release - Web

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

As WWII/Korean Era Veteran Liaison, I am very proud to invite you to D-Day Conneaut 2016 and our 17<sup>th</sup> annual event! In 2015, with great joy my staff and I welcomed over 265 WWII and Korean Era veterans which either pre-registered and/or attended for the first time. Of that number, the bulk of which, over 180, were veterans of WWII, making the event that largest gathering of WWII veterans anywhere in the U.S. at any one place at any one time. What an amazing gathering! The event dates for the 2016 are **Friday August 19th & Saturday August 20th**. As in years past, transportation to and from our veterans' parking area and within the park itself along with complimentary refreshments throughout the day will help you get around comfortably regardless of any physical limitation you may have.

There have been some significant changes to the veterans program this year, especially on Friday. At 9AM, the event opens to the public as usual and tentatively scheduled at this time, at 10:45 AM, I will have the honor of introducing WWII MEDAL OF HONOR recipient, Hershel "Woody" Williams. I have asked Mr. Williams to address those that will gather in our Veteran's Hospitality Tent to discuss the Medal of Honor and his "Gold Star Families Memorial Monument" project. Following Mr. Williams address, at noon, a catered lunch (RSVP) will be provided for you and a guest. Following the luncheon, weather permitting, those that are up to it can come aboard a WWII era Higgins boat for a cruise on Lake Erie. After the cruise, veterans who would like to share their experiences in a group setting can participate in our Friday "Veterans' Recollection Program". Also new for this year, at 3PM, an all new Tank Battle will occur on the site of Saturday's beach landing. At 5PM, reenactors will recreate the battle of Foucarville adjacent to the Hospitality Tent. I realize that this might be a bit too taxing for some of you, so what you attend is entirely up to you.

On Saturday our "Veterans Hospitality Tent" opens at 9AM and many veterans come early to renew friendships from the previous day just like the reunions of the past. At 11AM, the reenactors will stage our third major combat scenario; "Kellam's Bridge" at La Fiere, where U.S. Paratroopers defend a strategically vital bridge from counterattacking German forces. At 12:15, our "Veterans Salute" program, which includes a French Legion d'honneur medal pinning ceremony to as many as 6 WWII veterans takes place on the Allied parade ground stage. Following the Salute, Saturday's "Veterans Recollection Program" will serve as the forum to showcase your unique wartime experiences. At 3PM our event signature recreation, the amphibious landing, where an anticipated record number of reenactors along with the tanks from Friday, a flamethrower, an 88mm main gun, airplanes and landing craft of all sorts will portray that longest day.

If you are planning to attend the 2016 event then I NEED TO KNOW! Please kindly contact me by phone, email or just send me a card or note or the U.S. Veterans Registration Card which is available on our web site. Once I know you are coming, I will then mail you in mid-July a Veterans schedule, event parking map, and instructions on how to attend the RSVP luncheon on Friday. If you would like to share your experience in service, let me know as there are limited spots available. Lastly, if you are from out of town and need help to find suitable lodging, I have a short list available for your consideration.

Please don't forget to inform me that you are coming! Until then, I wish you good health and happiness...

Eric Montgomery - WWII Veteran Liaison - D-Day Conneaut

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