



July 20, 2016

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

Welcome to D-Day Conneaut 2016! As WWII/Korean Era Liaison it is my honor to welcome you to your 6th 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 pouch!

Before the event begins, on Thursday, August 18th a showing of the movie "Memphis Belle" will be on view at 9 PM on the Allied Parade Ground. This is an outdoor movie showing so lawn chairs & blankets are necessities. Parking is available on site but there is no transportation from the veterans parking area for this event as it falls outside the regular event hours. During event week 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 event days, 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. We've got you covered!

Highlights of the official 2016 program specific to WWII/Korean Era Veterans are the following:

Friday, August 19th 2016 – Event Day 1 - Event opens at 9AM to ends at 6PM

- 10:30 AM until 11:40 AM – Special guest speaker, WWII Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams will headline a trilogy of morning speakers. 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 begin a trip to the veteran's luncheon site in a golf cart parade. Transportation from the Hospitality Tent to the luncheon site will be provided for you and one guest. 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. This is a private luncheon for registered WWII/Korean Era veterans and their singular guest who have registered for the luncheon. Jennelle Gilraith-Owens, aka Lana Turner, will perform a few songs as you enjoy your lunch. You must call ahead to reserve your spot. Due to space limitations no extra meals are available.



LUNCHEON: Planning to attend the Friday luncheon? Please call my fellow volunteer, Patti Rowbotham no later than the Sunday, the 14th of August. Patti's telephone number is 440-599-8074.

- 1:15 PM – Weather permitting and for those who are physically able are encouraged to ride the waves on a Higgins Boat cruise. Transportation from the luncheon site 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.

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

- 1:30 PM – For those not wanting to stretch their sea legs we will reconvene at the Hospitality Tent for our Friday Veteran’s Oral History Program. If you would like to speak in front of the audience during this time, please contact me directly by phone. At 2:30PM the speaking program ends and those of you wanting to attend the all NEW “Tank Battle”, which begins at 3PM, will be transported over to the viewing area. This new addition to our reenactment has 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, relax for a while then take in the soccer match were the Allies battle the Axis at 3:30 PM.
- 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 there before the battle from the tent.

Saturday, August 20th 2016 – Event Day 2 – Event opens at 9AM – (Remember to stop by at registration if you were not here on Friday.)

- 10:00 AM – Veterans planning to attend the “Bridge Battle at La Fiere” (11AM) are being asked to arrive at the parking areas no later than 9:30 AM. Once at the Hospitality Tent our park shuttles will take you and a guest to the reserved seating area for the recreation of the battle and then back to the tent.
- 12:15 – Allied Parade and March Past: Veterans are encouraged to join in our Salute to Veterans at the Allied Parade Ground. A flag raising ceremony followed by our National Anthem, remarks from international dignitaries, the presentation of the **French Légion d'honneur** medal to 7 WWII Veterans will conclude with remarks from WWII Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams.
- 1:30 – 2:30PM – At the conclusion of the Salute, veterans are encouraged to attend the Saturday Oral History session at the Hospitality Tent. For the past 5 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 have a couple of openings remaining.
- 2:30 PM – Veterans will be transported to our secured seating areas to view the amphibious landing. If you have not already done so by now, secure your reserved seating tickets at veteran registration. 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.
- 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 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.

Reminder: If you are planning to attend the Friday luncheon please contact Patti by Sunday, August 14th.

Veterans Parking: See map enclosed. Coming with a friend or family? 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. If you have any questions please call me at least a week before the event. See you soon! *Eric*

Release 7-20-16 Ver: -

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