



March 24, 2017

Dear friends of D-Day Conneaut,

As Veteran Liaison for America's premier living history event of the WWII era, D-Day Conneaut, please allow me to welcome you our 2017 event. I am proud to tell you that in 2016, a record number of WWII and Korean era veterans attended our 17<sup>th</sup> annual event. As we prepare for the upcoming event, let me share with you so you may share with as many veterans as possible, especially those who served in the World War Two or the Korean era the exciting program for 2017. The 2017 veteran program event dates are Friday August 18th & Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>. An additional ½ day of living history events, new for this year, begins at noon on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

In 2016, over 225 WWII Veterans and approximately 90 Korean Era veterans participated in our formal veteran program. I find it truly astonishing that our veteran presence has increased each year even as the sands of time has slipped through the hourglass. To me this fact alone is worth noting and truly remarkable.

While at D-Day Conneaut, WWII and Korean Era veterans will be extended every courtesy to assure that their experience at D-Day Conneaut will be long remembered. A commitment to historical accuracy and attention to detail, serve as the back bone of D-Day Conneaut so that the legacy of those who were there is brought forth to the next generation of liberty loving people in complete clarity. Modern day veterans are recognized as well but for now the limits of time and space allows for programming specific to these two eras only.

Our honored veteran activities on Friday feature morning and afternoon speaking programs. Sandwiched in between, our exclusive luncheon for Veterans of WWII and the Korean era along with their guest will be served free of charge. Following the luncheon, for those willing to test out their sea legs again, a cruise on aboard a WWII era Higgins boat will be offered. Following the second speaking program, the days activities conclude with exclusive seating to both re-created combat actions of the day; the Sword Beach Tank Battle at 1500 (3PM) followed by the Road to Victory Battle at Foucarville at 1700 (5PM).

On Saturday, many veterans take the opportunity to enjoy coffee and refreshments, served both days by the way, beginning at 0900 within our "Veterans Hospitality Tent". In the morning, exclusive seating will be offered for our third combat scenario; "Kellam's Bridge" at La Fiere. Following the bridge battle, our Veterans' Salute Program will feature the presentation of the French Légion d'Honneur. Following the medals presentation, our second "Veterans Oral History Program" begins. At 1500, D-Day Conneaut's signature event, the amphibious landing begins. Concluding the day, a Veteran dinner, followed by an USO style show at 2000 caps a complete day of planes, tanks, boats, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and the occasional pin-up; all free to the public.

Lastly, I can't stress enough the very positive effect that this program has on our aging heroes. Through the efforts of our reenactors each veteran comes to realize how important their contributions to winning the war were. I would ask that if you know a veteran of WWII or Korea, please tell them about this event and how to contact me. I so much want them to enjoy this remarkable program and enjoy efforts of so many fine representatives of our younger generation that portray them when they were needed the most.

Please kindly review our 2017 Veterans Program FAQ for additional information.

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