



March 5, 2020

Preliminary Planning Information

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

As Veteran Liaison for D-Day Ohio, I am proud to invite you to America's premier living history event of the WWII era: D-Day Conneaut! In 2019, with great pride my staff and I welcomed 133 WWII and 124 Korean Era Veterans; once again a truly amazing gathering of those that fought for liberty and freedom across the globe! The dates for the Veteran Program for our 21st annual event are **Friday August 21st & Saturday August 22nd**. If you have already attended in a previous year, your personal invitation will be sent in early May, but for those planning to attend for the first time, please, after reading this letter, return to the website and download the appropriate Veteran Registration Card and mail that back to me no later than July 20th. On behalf of the entire event staff, we hope you can join us this year for another memorable event as we celebrate 75 years of victory won in WWII!

After returning your Veteran Registration Card, you will receive in late July a second confirmation letter, called the "Scheduling Letter" which will contain a map to Veteran Parking, the latest Veteran Program Schedule, and other last minute additions. As in the year's 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 and enjoy your time at the event. There will also be a half day of living history programming on Thursday beginning at noon yet officially there are NO veteran program activities for that day. If you are physically able to get around on your own, then consider coming on Thursday as well. Check the event schedule to obtain detail concerning the general program on Thursday.

Our annual Veteran Program begins at 9 AM Friday with veteran reception and registration followed by our first recollection program as veterans wishing to share their stories of duty begins at 10:30 AM. At Noon, our WWII/Korean Era Veteran Luncheon will be provided for you and a guest within the Veteran Hospitality Tent. You must register to attend the luncheon ahead of time (details below). Following the luncheon and weather permitting, those wanting to take a ride on a WWII era Higgins boat will depart. At 1:30 PM, an hour long afternoon "Veteran's Recollection Program" begins. At 3 PM, the Tank Battle at Sword Beach featuring Commonwealth and German reenactors returns for its fourth year. At 5 PM, US, French, and German reenactors will recreate the battle of Foucarville. Secured seating will be reserved for you and a guest for these afternoon battles. What you decide to attend is entirely up to you!

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 at the La Fiere Bridge where U.S. Paratroopers will attack and defend a strategically vital bridge from counterattacking German forces. At 11:30 AM, our "Veterans Salute" Program features 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 unique wartime experiences from 12:45 until 2 PM. At 3 PM, the amphibious recreation of the landing in Normandy will occur featuring even more tanks along with the return of the 105 Long Tom! After the landing, you are welcomed to attend our spaghetti dinner at the NEW LEAF EVENT CENTER, 110 Gateway Avenue until 7PM and in the evening, our USO Dance begins at 8PM at the same location.

Again, if you are planning to attend the 2020 program, then I NEED TO KNOW by forwarding to me your completed Veteran Registration Card July 20th. Once I receive your registration, I will call you and ask you if you would like to enjoy our Friday afternoon Veteran Luncheon and share your unique story of service to a very attentive audience. All the best until then and I look forward to receiving your registration!

Eric Montgomery - WWII / Korean Era Veteran Liaison - D-Day Conneaut
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