



July 25, 2019

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

Welcome to D-Day Conneaut 2019! As WWII/Korean Era Liaison it is my honor to welcome you to your 9th annual Veteran Program! This letter details the Veteran Program schedule and other important information so that you may have a rewarding experience at D-Day Conneaut. Once you park in the Veterans Parking Lot, a handicapped accessible shuttle will bring you to the event site and from there a golf cart will bring you to Veteran Registration. At Veteran Registration you will receive your custom made Nametag, tickets for reserved seating, and a gift bag!

On Thursday August 15th there are NO formal veteran services offered such as golf carts or complimentary refreshments, however, the reenactor encampments will be open for visitation from Noon to 5. There is also an outdoor movie, "The Longest Day" which will be shown on the Allied Parade Ground beginning at 9PM. Lawn chairs & blankets are necessities. Parking on site is available after 6:00 PM. On Thursday, you are welcomed to attend but you will be on your own, but Veteran Parking will be open. Handicapped restrooms will be near to the Veterans Tent and at various places around the park. On Friday and Saturday, a fleet of golf carts will be operating to take you and your escorts to the reenactor encampments, battle scenarios as outlined below, and anywhere you wish to go. Just ask any of the volunteers and they will get you a cart. Refreshments will be served on Friday and Saturday; coffee, tea, soda, water and snacks compliments of the New Leaf United Methodist Church and The Rock Christian Fellowship of Conneaut.

Highlights of the 2019 Veteran Program specific to WWII/Korean Era Veterans are the following:

Friday, August 16th 2019 – Veteran Program Day 1 - Event opens at 9AM and ends at 6PM (Make sure you stop by at Veteran Registration to pick up your Badge and Gift Bag and seating tickets for Friday battles.)

- 10:30 AM until 11:45 AM – Special guest speakers as well as a Veteran round table where Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen will field questions about their WWII experience. This is the third year of question and answer session. We ask you to arrive at the parking area no later than 9:20 AM so we can assist you in getting to the hospitality tent to be a part of this very special program.
- At 11:45 we will transition the Veteran Hospitality Tent to host the WWII/Korean Era Veterans Luncheon. This is an RSVP luncheon and if you have not already registered details are below to register. If you have not registered and want to attend the luncheon the details are below. For veterans who do not wish to attend the luncheon this might be a good time to relax, have lunch on your own at the many food vendors on site, or visit with the public or reenactor encampments.
- At Noon - A hot luncheon will be served compliments of Bill Creed of the Gazette Newspapers and the AARP served by members of the New Leaf United Methodist Church. 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 will perform a few songs a piece as you enjoy your lunch. A limited supply of extra meals will be available to first time veterans and their singular escort on a first come basis.

LUNCHEON: Planning to attend the Friday luncheon and have not pre-registered? Then please call me at 412-726-6665 no later than Saturday, August 10th. If I do not answer the phone, please leave a message clearly stating your name and the name of your guest so I can add you to the guest list.

Eric Montgomery – WWII Veteran Liaison – 283 Buffalo St. – Conneaut OH 44030 - Phone: 412-726-6665

- 1:10 PM Friday – Weather and regulations permitting, veterans 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. At least one person serving as your escort must accompany you on your Lake Erie voyage. At the conclusion of the cruise you and your escort(s) 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 – At 1:20PM we will transform the Hospitality Tent back to the venue to host our Friday Veteran’s Oral History Program where Veterans willing to share their personal story of WWII will be featured. At 2:30, for those of you wanting to attend the “British Beach Tank Battle” will be transported over to the reserved seating area. Reserved seating tickets will be distributed at Veteran Registration as you pick up your welcome package. If you don’t want to attend the tank battle, this would be a good time to visit the reenactor encampments, visit with other veterans and enjoy some Dairy Queen ICE CREAM!
- 4:45 PM – The “Road to Victory at Foucarville” engagement features US Airborne and German reenactors as they recreate this strategic battle which begins at 5PM. Reserved seating for WWII/Korean Era Veterans and your escort and/or caregiver will be available and we will assist you in being seated.

Saturday, August 17th 2019 – Veteran Program Day 2 – Event opens at 9AM – (If you did not attend on Friday stop by at Veteran Registration to pick up your Badge and Gift Bag and Seating Tickets for Saturday’s battles.)

- 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 8:30 AM. Once at the Hospitality Tent our in-park shuttles will take you and your escort to the reserved seating area for the recreation of the battle and then back to the Hospitality Tent or the Parade Ground Stage and Salute to Veterans Ceremony Viewing Area following. If you choose not to attend the Veteran Salute Ceremony detailed below, this would be a good time to visit with the reenactors or have lunch. Refreshments will be served to Badged Veterans and their escort compliments of the Rock Christian Fellowship with drinks & snacks compliments of the New Leaf Church.
- 11:30 – 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 6 WWII Veterans. Prior recipients of the French Légion d'honneur encouraged to attend.
- 12:45 – 2:00 PM – Join us at the Veteran Hospitality Tent following the Salute to Veteran Ceremony for Saturday’s Veteran Oral History Session.
- 2:15 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 if needed). 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 New Leaf Event Center until 7:00 PM. The center is located at 110 Gateway Ave in Conneaut. Additional meals for non-veterans are \$5.00
- 8:00 PM – Midnight - The USO Dance begins featuring a 21 piece big band playing all your favorites from the 40’s. The dance is also at the New Leaf Event Center, 110 Gateway Avenue.

Veterans Parking: See the detailed map on the Veteran Page of our web site. Coming with a friend or family member who is not a veteran in the same vehicle? Then use this lot as well. Our friendly volunteers will be there to greet and assist you. Once you have parked, a shuttle will transport you to the event grounds and then by golf cart if needed 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 as long as they have someone to assist them. This will make it easier for them and for whoever is driving. The driver can then park at Veteran's Parking and take the Veteran Shuttle from the parking lot to the park to rejoin their party within the Hospitality Tent. The Veteran Parking Lot will open at Noon on Thursday and 8AM Friday and Saturday.

I also welcome you to visit our WWII museum, the North Shore WWII Museum, 851 Harbor Street in Conneaut. The museum is 1 block east of the intersection of Lake Road and Broad Street. Lake Road is the road that runs east to west in front of the park so it's easy to find and is handicapped accessible.



Last but not least, D-Day Conneaut is very proud to announce that 6 WWII Veterans will be receiving the French Legion of Honor at the 2019 Veterans Salute Ceremony at 11:30 on Saturday. If you are a prior French Legion of Honor recipient, please plan on joining these honorees, the delegation from France and other dignitaries as the honorees are Knighted. If you are a prior recipient of the French Legion of Honor and wish to be on stage to support your fellow Chevaliers, be at the stage no later than 11:15.

If you have any questions please call me at 412-726-6665 before the event. See you soon! *Eric* Release A 7-25-19

Additional questions? Call our Information line at 1-855-669-2111