



75th
ANNIVERSARY
D-DAY
NORMANDY

Inviting **Every American** and
Every Church in
Every City all across America to remember and celebrate...



75th
ANNIVERSARY
D-DAY
NORMANDY, FRANCE





■ Contents

5 Opening letter

A letter to the churches asking them to remember and celebrate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day

6 Church services

A word about church services and other celebrations

7 Eisenhower's statement

Eisenhower's Statement, June 6th to the Soldiers, Sailor, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force

9 Quotes from President Reagan

Historical quotes from President Reagan at the D-Day and La Pointe du Hoc ceremonies

10 Participating organizations and sites for further information

Participating organizations and sites for further information

11 Sound clips from the invasion as it happened

In this section are some media Internet sites that have the original radio audio broadcasts as the Invasion happened. These include the first reports from German broadcasting in Berlin, hours later the first SHAEF message, and the prayers of people on the major American networks



■ Subject: 75th Anniversary D-Day Remembrance Ceremonies Normandy, France

Dear Friends,

This summer June 6, 2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of the invasion of D-Day known as Operation Overlord.

This historic event carried out by American, British, Canadian and other Allied Armed Forces is considered the most important day in modern history. Liberty, peace and freedom hung in the balance for Europe and the rest of the world as the Allied armies of the "Greatest Generation" stormed the beaches of Normandy that fateful morning known to many as "The Longest Day."

We are asking you to join with us in remembering the sacrifice of the many brave men who landed in Normandy, those who died and also all of the veterans who fought in WWII. This summer most likely will be the last time D-Day veterans will be alive to commemorate the historic landings at Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-mer, France.

We are asking you to join with us to honor and celebrate the courage, sacrifice and achievement of The Greatest Generation. We owe them a debt of gratitude that never can be repaid.

Throughout this spring and summer the 75th Anniversary of D-Day will be celebrated in Europe with emotion, grandeur and pride. An unprecedented program of events will occur across the Continent with military parades, church services, fireworks, concerts, reenactments, television programs and times of reflection.

All churches in all cities - Church Services

We are inviting churches to join with us remembering and celebrating D-Day

Churches across Europe with the Resistance played a vital role in D-Day and WWII. This June special church services, events and exhibitions will occur the week before, during and after D-Day in Europe and elsewhere.

There is no special church or event format. We leave the creativity, the energy and planning in your hands to honor those D-Day and WWII veterans near you and across the nation.

Enclosed is some information that will help you plan your church services and events.

Thank you for joining, praying and participating with us on this great occasion. And as SHAEF Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower said that fateful morning: *"Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."*

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven V. Selthoffer".

Steven V. Selthoffer

Church coordinator

StevenSelthoffer@Gmail.com



■ Church services

Church Services

It is time to welcome and remember the veterans who live near you and who served.

Church services will be held all across Europe. Many re-enactments on that morning of June 6, 1944 will be held at European churches where people in France, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Denmark shouted from steeples and church steps and rang church bells during the morning where they could in Nazi Occupied Europe shouting “*Normandy!!! Normandy!!! The Allies have landed at Normandy!!! Normandy!!!...*”

To many Europeans to this day, the name “Normandy” means freedom and liberty. It is a moment dear to their hearts.

Military color guards will participate and Allied veterans and members of The Resistance and others will be honored. Multi-media events will take place. Please remember this may be the last official D-Day celebration where members of D-Day and the WWII veterans are alive. It is a special time, a moment that deserves our best.

Schools also are participating as well as other organizations. Please join with us to honor “The Greatest Generation,” those who gave their all, who liberated the Continent and secured the peace for generations to come.



■ Eisenhower's Statement, June 6th to the Soldiers, Sailor, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force

Order of the Day

This order was issued by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to encourage Allied soldiers taking part in the D-day invasion of June 6, 1944. Almost immediately after France fell to the Nazis in 1940, the Allies planned a cross-Channel assault on the German occupying forces, ultimately code-named Operation Overlord. By May 1944, 2,876,000 Allied troops were amassed in southern England. The largest armada in history, made up of more than 4,000 American, British, and Canadian ships, lay in wait, and more than 1,200 planes stood ready. Against a tense backdrop of uncertain weather forecasts, disagreements in strategy, and related timing dilemmas, Eisenhower decided before dawn on June 5 to proceed with Overlord. Later that same afternoon, he scribbled a note intended for release, accepting responsibility for the decision to launch the invasion and full blame should the effort to create a beachhead on the Normandy coast fail. Much more polished is his printed Order of the Day for June 6, 1944, which Eisenhower began drafting in February. The order was distributed to the 175,000-member expeditionary force on the eve of the invasion. – **Source:** National Archives Archives.gov

“Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force: You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped, and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944. Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations¹ have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory.

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory.

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking. “

- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander SHAEF

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.



Dwight D. Eisenhower



■ Quotes from President Reagan

Reagan's Speech at La Pointe du Hoc

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eElqdcHbc8I>

Reagan's speech at D-Day Colleville-sur-mer American Cemetery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Leb7ynduCU>

Reagan Quotes:

"In Georgia they were filling the churches at 4:00 am. In Kansas, they were kneeling on their porches and praying...and in Philadelphia they were ringing the Liberty Bell."

"Something else helped the men of D-Day, the rock hard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here. That God was an Ally in this Great Cause. And so the night before the invasion when Col. Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them, "Do not bow your heads, but, look up so you can see God and ask his blessing in what we are about to do."

"Also that night Gen. Matthew Ridgeway sitting on his cot in the dark listening for the promise God made to Joshua 'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee,' these are the things that shaped the unity of the Allies."

"Here in this place where the West held together let us make a vow to our dead, let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for that our actions say to them what Gen Matthew Ridgeway listened for: 'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.' Strengthened by their courage heartened by their value and born by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died."



■ Participating organizations and sites for further information



AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

American Battle Monuments Commission

<https://www.abmc.gov/>



75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy

<https://www.france.fr/en/happening-now-in-france/75-anniversary-of-d-day-and-the-battle-of-normandy>



D-Day Overlord

<https://www.dday-overlord.com/en/normandy/commemorations/2019/agenda>



Normandy Tourism Site

<http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/agenda/anniversaire-du-debarquement-847-1.html>



The National WWII Museum

<https://dday75.org/>



Main D-Day Center Website

<http://www.dday-anniversary.com/>



Normandy Memorial Trust

<http://www.normandymemorialtrust.org/>



■ Sound clips from public broadcasters as the invasion happened

CBS Complete Broadcast D-Day as it happened

https://archive.org/details/Complete_Broadcast_Day_D-Day

NBC Complete Broadcast D-Day

<https://archive.org/details/NBCCompleteBroadcastDDay>

BBC News D-Day

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/0/27800959>

BBC News D-Day Reports

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01zkdry>

NBC Overseas Summary

<https://www.otrcat.com/nbc-broadcast-day-for-june-6-1944-d-day>

D-Day Complete Radio Broadcast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_tciiqsDUQ

Thank you!



75th
ANNIVERSARY
D-DAY
NORMANDY