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Media Advisory

National Museum of the United States Army Commemorates D-Day 80th Anniversary

Fort Belvoir, Va. (May 31, 2024)—The National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and The Army Historical Foundation will commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day with special exhibits, activities, and events. The historic operation took place on June 6, 1944 along 50 miles of French coastline. Nearly 150,000 Allied troops took part in its daring airborne assaults and the largest amphibious invasion in history, marking a decisive turning point in World War II.

All Museum events are included with free admission. More details can be found on the Museum's website at theNMUSA.org.

In addition to the programs below, all visitors can experience the new special exhibit, "D-DAY: FREEDOM FROM ABOVE," which uses interactive HistoPad tablets to take visitors to the D-Day invasion through the eyes of U.S. Army paratroopers. The exhibit also tells the stories of the four Soldiers who earned the Medal of Honor for their actions on D-Day and displays their medals together for the first time. Visitors can also see D-Day artifacts in the Museum's permanent galleries, including one of only six surviving Higgins boats known to have landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.

- **June 1, 2 p.m.:** Screening of the documentary "**Sunken Roads: Three Generations After D-Day**," followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Charlotte Juergens. In the film, Juergens joins eight D-Day veterans on a return pilgrimage to Omaha Beach 70 years later. (This event is hosted by The Army Historical Foundation and requires pre-registration at ArmyHistory.org.)
- **June 4 at 7 p.m. (Virtual) and June 11 at 12 p.m. (Virtual and In-person) – Battle Brief: Tactical Intelligence for D-Day, 1944.** Historian and retired Army Lt. Col. Mike Bigelow explains how intelligence officers prepared for the complex and dangerous D-Day landings. (Participants of this virtual event must register in advance through the Museum's website to receive the link.)

- **June 6: D-Day 80th Anniversary**—will include special D-Day-themed and family-friendly activities.
 - **Family Activity – 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m.:** Craft mini-parachutes and see if they float!
 - **Art Display - 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
A special display of ink and pencil sketches by Pvt. Ugo Giannini who landed on D-Day and created the only known artwork in real-time depicting the first moments shortly after H-hour on Omaha Beach.
 - **Hands-On History – 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m.:** Explore the uniforms and equipment of World War II era U.S. Army paratroopers. Learn about the essentials of a Soldier’s load, including food, clothing and equipment.
 - **Volunteer Showcase – 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m.:** Museum volunteers recount their experiences as U.S. Army paratroopers.
 - **Gallery Talk—12 p.m.:** The chief curator shares the fascinating stories of treasured D-Day artifacts, detailing their restoration journey and subsequent display in the Museum.

- **June 20: 7 p.m. Virtual Book Talk – “Divided on D-Day: How Leadership Failures Threatened the Normandy Invasion”** with Dr. Edward Gordon. (Participants of this virtual event must register in advance through the Museum’s website to receive the link.)

Media interested in touring the Museum or attending D-Day events may contact public affairs officer Susan Smullen, susan.l.fazakerley-smullen.civ@army.mil.

The Museum is open every day of the year except December 25. Free, timed-entry tickets are required and available by request through the Museum's website at theNMUSA.org.

More details about the Museum can be found in the [Museum’s media kit](#). A collection of high-resolution photos is available <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usarmymuseum/>.

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About the National Museum of the United States Army

The National Museum of the United States Army provides the only comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions through the eyes of the American Soldier. By preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting invaluable artifacts, the National Army Museum creates learning opportunities for all visitors and bonds the American people to their oldest military service. We are America’s Army Museum. The U.S. Army owns and operates the Museum. The Army Historical Foundation continues its fundraising role in support of the Museum and manages all retail, catering, and special events. For more information on the National Museum of the United States Army, visit www.theNMUSA.org.

About The Army Historical Foundation

The Army Historical Foundation establishes, assists, and promotes programs and projects that preserve the history of the American Soldier and promote public understanding of and appreciation for the contributions by all components of the U.S. Army and its members. The Foundation serves as the Army’s official fundraising entity for the Capital Campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army. The award-winning, LEED-certified Museum opened on November 11, 2020, at Fort Belvoir, Va., and honors the service and sacrifice of all American Soldiers who have served since the Army’s inception in

1775. For more information on the Foundation and the National Museum of the United States Army, visit www.armyhistory.org.