

NEWS RELEASE

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Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6 at the NVMM With World War II Reenactors, Engaging Activities and Programming *\$5 admission on June 6 including the new WWII Ghost Army exhibition*

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) will present a special schedule of events and activities throughout the day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

“On the anniversary of D-Day, we remember the courage, determination and sacrifices of more than 150,000 servicemen from 12 Allied countries who stormed the beaches of Normandy, turning the tide of World War II,” said Colonel Bill Butler, U.S. Army (Retired), acting president of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. “Everyone involved in that day has a story, and we are bringing some of those stories to life through reenactors, a short documentary film, video conversation with a WWII Veteran, experts from the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force and more.”

World War II reenactors will be posted at the NVMM on D-Day with tents and a Jeep outside, and inside representing the Army, Army Air Forces (precursor to the Air Force) and Navy sharing the uniforms, tools, implements and armor of the day. There will be opportunities to create a mini-working parachute for a toy paratrooper and to create a D-Day cricket clicker making a noise similar to those used by American paratroopers to locate one another behind enemy lines.

Additionally, guests are encouraged to fill out a Field Guide by completing a mission taking them through the NVMM’s new exhibition, [Ghost Army: The Combat Con Artists of World War II](#). Those who successfully complete a Field Guide will receive a Ghost Army Hero Card sharing a photo and information about a member of the Ghost Army unit or a contributor to the efforts that deceived German forces.

A special D-Day program and panel discussion will take place at 3 p.m. including:

- Franklin County Sheriff’s presentation of an M1 Garand signed by members of The Band of Brothers
- Featured story with John Gleeson, WWII B-24 bomber pilot
- D-Day short documentary film presented by Black Rifle Coffee Company in partnership with Beyond The Call
- Discussion of how the Army Air Forces cleared the skies on D-Day:
 - Moderated by [Mike Thompson, director of radio](#), WOSU
 - [Douglas N. Lantry, Ph.D., curator, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force Museum](#)
 - [Jeff Dufford, senior historian, Air Force Research Laboratory](#)
 - Christina Douglass, curator, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force Museum
 - Q&A



[*Ghost Army: The Combat Con Artists of World War II*](#), exclusively sponsored by the E.L. Wiegand Foundation, explores how the top-secret U.S. Army 23rd Headquarters Special Troops known as the “Ghost Army” utilized artists, engineers and soldiers to create and deploy the first mobile, tactical deception unit in U.S. Army history. The unit utilized inflatable rubber tanks, trucks and planes, false radio messages, sound effects and more to deceive enemy forces.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. [The National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.

