

THE NORMANDY INSTITUTE

Trusted Partner of the U.S. Military
Honoring Veterans in Normandy

D-DAY 80

an Epic Commemoration

Supporting Veterans & the Military is an Honor and our Duty

Dear Friends,

In preparation for D-Day 80, The Normandy Institute published a new edition of the Book of Quotes, titled *Why Normandy Matters*, and a Commemorative D-Day 80 magazine, titled *Stories*.

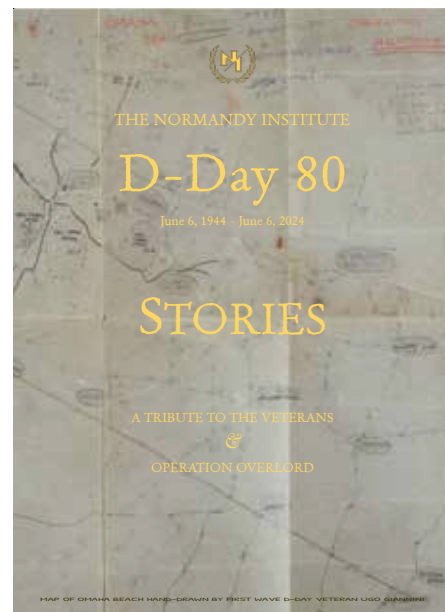
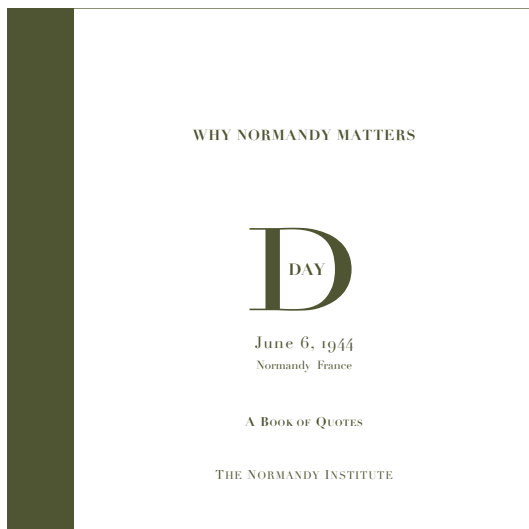
We were honored to receive many new quotes for *Why Normandy Matters*, among them quotes by Dr. Jill Biden, First Lady of the United States, Ambassador Denise Campbell Bauer, and Rita Wilson.

One quote stands out; a powerful and timely message: ***“When we were going into battle, there were no Republicans or Democrats...we were all one, fighting for a common cause.”***

Maurice “Hank” R. Greenberg - D-Day First Wave Omaha Beach Veteran

In our commemorative magazine *Stories* we publish known and unknown stories about D-Day and its participants. GEN John Meyer, Commander of the 1st Division, and GEN Daniel Hokanson, Commander of the National Guard (which includes the 29th Division), both write about the role of the 1st and 29th Divisions on D-Day. There are many other stories by authors that may surprise you.

All of the participants in our events received a copy of both publications. Please contact us if you wish to receive a copy of our D-Day 80 books.



SUNDAY, JUNE 2



On *June 2*, renowned Berlin-based artists Renata Stih and Frieder Schnock came to inaugurate the newly restored Conservatory building with an art show they crafted specifically for D-Day 80: *ROSIE WON THE WAR* (portraits of modern day “Rosies”), and *THE HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN* (portraits of Hollywood female stars who contributed to the war effort).



They also installed a large version of a letter written by a “Rosie” to her husband on the frontlines to explain how working for the war effort had changed her.

Later that day, our filmmaker friend, Steve Nemsick, came to record an interview by Ms. Susan Eisenhower of COL (Ret.) Keith Nightingale about the history of his legendary Staff Rides in Normandy.

This interview will form part of the Staff Rides Film Series that The Normandy Institute is producing, archiving COL Nightingale’s knowledge and stories as recounted to him by the original soldiers of D-Day. There will be 13 episodes, each introduced by a serving or retired General.





On *June 3*, we were pleased to host 100 guests for the first of what will become an annual dinner honoring the 1st Division – the Big Red One. GEN Meyer and COL Nightingale gave passionate speeches about the role of the Division at Omaha Beach on D-Day and beyond.

Sadly, our guest of honor, D-Day First Wave Medic Charles Norman Shay, could not attend as he was under the weather. However, he was with us in spirit and has since celebrated his 100th birthday.

Led by GEN Meyer, a large group of senior officers of the 1st Division gathered on the steps of Château de Bernaville. Ms. Susan Eisenhower and her daughter, Caroline de Carvalho-Eisenhower, joined us for this historic event.

We had a wonderful surprise for our guests with a performance by singer/songwriter Scotty Hasting (a 1st Division Afghanistan veteran) of his song *Red, White & Blue*.

This dinner was generously supported by The Robert R. McCormick Foundation with its CEO, Timothy Knight, in attendance. We encourage everyone to put the 1st Division Museum at Cantigny near Chicago on your to-do list.





On *June 4*, we hosted our fourth annual Generals and Admirals Dinner with our Guest of Honor GEN Christopher Cavoli, Commander U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. We were also honored to host the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Christine Wormuth. She was joined by the following Generals: Saltzman, George, Hokanson, Langley, Poppas, Kurilla, Hecker, Fenton, Chris Donahue, Braga, Basham, Izaguirre, Work, Meyer, Palm, Sylvia, DiNonno, Ferguson, Del Rosso, Wasmund, Rose Keravuori, Eero Keravuori, and Couëtoux, as well as Admiral Munsch and Vice Admiral Bradley. Joining them were many retired officers, including GEN Mark Milley, recently retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Generals Nicholson, Rodriguez, Votel, Perkins, Kellogg, Zais, Collet, Patrick Donahue, Lund, Ashley, Freakley, and Huntoon, all devotees of the Normandy Commemoration.

The dinner was exceptional for several reasons. Many of the attendees comment each year how rare it is to have the opportunity to socialize in a confidential setting, off-the-record, and against such an important historical backdrop.

More importantly, we were extremely honored to host for this dinner 18 WWII veterans, among them 10 D-Day veterans, two Korea veterans, eight Vietnam veterans and an Afghanistan veteran, as well as five Medal of Honor recipients. The veterans were brought to Normandy by The Greatest Generations Foundation and American Airlines, for which we are eternally grateful.

During the cocktail hour the officers were eager to talk with all the veterans and to have a photo taken on the steps of Château de Bernville. GEN Cavoli gave a rousing speech about the importance of alliances, a key theme of the mission of The Normandy Institute.

The dinner began with a performance by world-renowned cellist Michael Fitzpatrick, who played *Song of the Birds* as a musical benediction. He closed the dinner with an exceptional cello version of *Taps*. You could hear a pin drop and there were tears in many eyes. Scores of friends from all over the world had made the effort to join us for this dinner that will be forever etched in our memory.





GENERALS AND ADMIRALS DINNER





GENERALS AND ADMIRALS DINNER







On *June 5*, the Annual Allied Ceremony took place in Bayeux at the General Eisenhower Statue. The ceremony was conducted by GEN Cavoli and Ms. Susan Eisenhower who, in 2019, had initiated this annual event with The Normandy Institute and the Mayor's office in Bayeux.

We were honored to have present the Honorable Christine Wormuth, the 25th Secretary of the Army, joined by Generals Milley, Hokanson, and Admiral Stuart Munsch, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa and Allied Joint Forces. Also participating were GEN Chance Saltzman, Commander of Space Force Operations, GEN Michael Langley, Commander of AFRICOM, GEN James Hecker, Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Air Forces Africa and Allied Air Command, LTG Mary Izaguirre, Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, LTG Steven Basham, Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command, and LTG (Ret.) David Huntoon.

The turnout was extraordinary and the Mayor's office of Bayeux organized a large contingent of French troops to participate in the ceremony. We had requested a fly-over which happened at 9:30am sharp. There was also a bugler present who played *Taps*.

GEN Cavoli, Ms. Eisenhower and the Deputy Mayor of Bayeux all gave speeches. It is clear that the Allied Ceremony will be a recurring event in the D-Day Commemorations going forward. The spirit of the alliance of nations who fought the Battle of Normandy, and WWII in general, is a moral compass for future alliances.





THE ALLIED CEREMONY IN BAYEUX





After The Allied Ceremony in Bayeux, we rushed back to Château de Bernaville to host the WWII veterans supported by American Airlines, along with the WWII veterans who were guests of United Airlines, a beautiful sign of friendship and alliance between these two patriotic corporations. We are so grateful for their efforts and ongoing support of veterans.

There were over 400 guests for this luncheon! 1st Division veteran Scotty Hasting performed his song *Red, White & Blue*, and American Airlines COO, David Seymour, and Randy Stillinger, Manager of Military and Veterans initiatives, presented us with beautiful commemorative plaques.

Words can't describe the emotion that everyone felt to be so close to these brave men and women of The Greatest Generation and how much fun they are to be around. The banter, joking and general laughter was just fantastic.

Again, the historic photo took some time to organize, but all were good sports and patiently waited to be placed. It was a very emotional and uplifting moment. We want to thank American Airlines for supporting this exceptional and unforgettable event.

Friends from all over the world had once more joined us for this personal salute to The Greatest Generation. We all felt that this might be the last pilgrimage for some of the Veterans, though many said they hope to return.





THE ALLIED LUNCHEON





THE ALLIED LUNCHEON






On *June 6*, The Normandy Institute premiered four episodes of the Staff Rides Film Series: La Fièvre Part I and Part II, Sainte-Mère-Eglise, and Charles Norman Shay.

The Normandy Institute has produced films of the annual staff rides that COL Nightingale has conducted in Normandy since 1984 with the active and reserve soldiers who participate in the yearly D-Day Commemoration.


We were honored to have GEN Chris Donahue, Commander of 18th Airborne Corps, GEN James Work, Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, and Chloe and Marjorie Gavin, daughters of 82nd Airborne Division WWII General James Gavin, among the spectators. They were all impressed by the films and thank The Normandy Institute and COL Nightingale for this effort.

GEN Donahue gave a beautiful speech about the importance of the Battle of La Fièvre to the 82nd Airborne Division.

Chloe Gavin surprised us all with a very special gift: an 82nd Airborne Corps silk scarf. We will cherish this scarf and wear it with pride.




THE NORMANDY INSTITUTE
THANKS THE SPONSORS OF THE FILM SERIES



NORMANDY STAFF RIDES
COL (RET.) KEITH NIGHTINGALE

CHLOE GAVIN BEATTY
JOHN BEATTY
COL (RET.) OTTO PADRON



JAMES HAGEDORN
KATE LITTLEFIELD
ROBERT R. McCORMICK
FOUNDATION
HELEN AYER PATTON
THE AIRBORNE MUSEUM

INTRODUCTION WITH SUSAN EISENHOWER - OVERVIEW WITH GEN (RET.) DAVID PETRAEUS - UTAH BEACH WITH ADM (RET.) WILLIAM McRAVEN -
BRÉCOURT MANOR WITH GEN (RET.) MARK MILLEY - SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE WITH GEN (RET.) MICK NICHOLSON - MERVILLE BATTERIES -
LA FIÈRE I AND II WITH GEN CHRIS DONAHUE - OMAHA BEACH WITH GEN (RET.) STAN McCHRISTAL - CHARLES SHAY WITH GEN (RET.) JAMES MATTIS -
CHEF-DU-PONT - POINTE DU HOC WITH GEN (RET.) JOSEPH VOTEL - PEGASUS BRIDGE WITH LT GEN (RET.) SIR GRAEME LAMB - NEUVILLE-AU-PLAIN



On *June 7*, we hosted a 29th Division and National Guard Educational Foundation dinner with GEN Hokanson and his wife, Kelly, GEN Joseph DiNonno, Commader of the 29th Division, GEN (Ret.) Ted Shuey, and other distinguished guests.

During the dinner I was humbled and pleased to announce that the rare collection of D-Day drawings by 29th Division veteran Ugo Giannini were acquired by the National U.S.Army Museum. Everyone was very relieved that this exceptional collection has found a safe and permanent home.

The Normandy Institute would like to initiate an annual 29th Division Dinner during the Commemoration week going forward. The historic divisions of the Battle of Normandy and beyond are deeply attached to their legacy. Their robust educational missions to remember and honor their history align with those of The Normandy Institute and we will continue to support them.





On *June 8*, Patton Legacy Sports and its Chairman, Michelle Strauss, hosted the Remembrance Bowl BBQ at Château de Bernaville.

The Remembrance Bowl is the annual flag football game between the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division soldiers. It was very well attended and great fun. The Remembrance Bowl has become an annual event in the D-Day Commemoration calendar.

The 18th Airborne Corps Commander (this year GEN Donahue) plays one half of the game with the 82nd team and the other half with the 101st team.

We served Normandy grilled sausages on French bread, to the great delight of the soldiers who had participated in the game that morning. GEN Donahue joined us too.

We want to thank Patton Legacy Sports for supporting this BBQ and The Normandy Institute's mission.



SUNDAY, JUNE 9

PARACHUTE JUMP AT LA FIÈRE BRIDGE



On *June 9*, we attended one of the most perfect commemorative parachute drops in recent history.

Each year, at La Fièvre Bridge, U.S. and Allied paratroopers perform a commemorative jump on the Sunday closest to June 6.

This was the grand finale of the D-Day 80 Commemorative week of ceremonies. It is a unique event that you must experience in person, standing in the cowpad, rubbing shoulders with WWII veterans, Generals, paratroopers, and members of the U.S. Congress in the most informal and convivial atmosphere. We hope this event will be maintained forever more.

We were joined on the drop zone by twenty U.S. Senators who were part of the congressional delegation to Normandy. We were honored to interact with Senators Cruz, Manchin, Blumenthal, Cassidy, Peters, Boozman, Hassan, Shaheen, Reed, and Murray. Many of the Senators participated in our 2021 film, *Members of Congress Pay Tribute to The Greatest Generation*, with personal stories about family members and WWII.



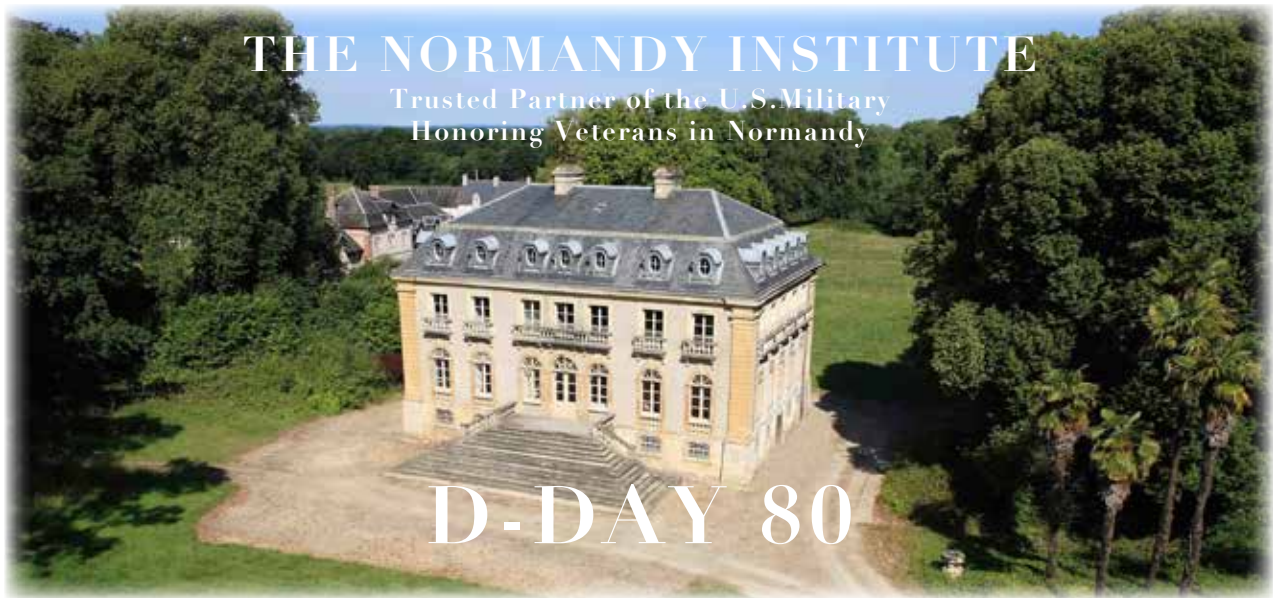
Marjorie Gavin
Lewis

Chloe Gavin
Beatty



PARACHUTE JUMP AT LA FIÈRE BRIDGE





The Normandy Institute wishes to express its deep gratitude to all its donors and supporters for their generosity. Every donation counts and creates an ever wider community around our mission.

We also want to thank the numerous volunteers who helped with the D-Day 80 events, in particular Lisa Pierozzi, Ana Holland, Stefan Verholen, and Dominique Luce. We also thank American Airlines and The Greatest Generations Foundation for allowing us to use their photos. A particular thank you goes to world-renowned cellist, Michael Fitzpatrick, for his performance during the Generals and Admirals Dinner on June 4.

D-Day 80 was a unique opportunity to remind the world of the importance of alliance building and the spirit and grit of the commanders and soldiers of WWII.

The Normandy Institute seeks support to build a unique residential campus with a 100-bedroom capacity on the Château de Bernaville estate, and to create a high level active faculty and curriculum for The Normandy Institute's academic center. The drawings of the Masterplan for the residential campus were presented during D-Day 80 and were met with great enthusiasm.

Next year we will have completed the restoration of the WWII Library and Music Salon. We will also host the unveiling of the Eighth Air Force Monument near La Fièvre Bridge around the anniversary of V-E Day 80, May 8, 2025.

We look forward to your ongoing support!

* * *

Postscript. On June 6 we were honored to have a spontaneous visit by the Chairman Emeritus of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Dr. Nick Mueller, accompanied by Dr. Don Miller, author of *Masters of the Air*, and several members of the Board of Trustees of the Museum. The Normandy Institute is immensely grateful for Dr. Mueller's leading role in promoting the importance of the study of WWII.

For those who have not yet visited the National WWII Museum, please do, it is an experience that will enrich your understanding of the history of WWII and the exhibits are phenomenal.

* * *

The Normandy Institute wishes to especially thank the following donors. The encouragement and support for our mission is deeply meaningful and appreciated.



MISSION, VISION & VALUES OF THE NORMANDY INSTITUTE

Bridging the Past, Building the Future

Our Mission is to inspire leaders and educators to shape the future by building strategic alliances, advancing understanding of history, and applying this knowledge to complex global issues.

Creating a World Class Institution

Our Vision is to build an academic campus and leadership conference center located in the American Paratrooper drop zone on D-Day, close to Utah Beach, in Normandy France

The Normandy Institute campus is an interdisciplinary center for political, academic, and defense coalition leaders to forge pathways to peace through education, diplomacy, and trade.

Ethical Leadership

In pursuing our mission we are guided by a set of core values.

Global Perspective
Fairness & Integrity
Excellence

Diversity of People & Ideas
Respect & Empathy
Resilience

* * *

Contact: Dorothea de La Houssaye - Dorothea@NormandyInstitute.org - +33612906917

NormandyInstitute.org

The Normandy Institute is an educational nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Virginia, USA