D-DAY 75
Memorial Wind Band Tour
June 2-8, 2019 | Paris & Normandy
Col. Arnald D. Gabriel & Col. Dennis M. Layendecker
Artistic Directors
The D-Day 75 Memorial Wind Band will be a highlight of the D-Day 75 Memorial Concert at Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial on June 6, 2019. Wind bands and individual band performers from across the United States are invited to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Conducted by COLONEL ARNALD D. GABRIEL – Conductor Emeritus of the United States Air Force Band, and member of the United States Army’s 29th Infantry Division that fought in the Battle of Normandy and COLONEL DENNIS M. LAYENDECKER – Director of the George Mason University School of Music– the mass band will rehearse in Paris, and present a concert there, in advance of the June 6 performance in Normandy.

The dawn of June 6, 1944 (D-Day) saw one of the largest, most dramatic, invasions in world history. Over 160,000 forces, including 70,000 Americans, landed on 50 miles of Normandy coast. 195,700 Allied naval and merchant navy personnel in over 5,000 ships were also involved. Over 2,000 Americans lost their lives storming the beach head to secure the high ground. More than 8,000 others would be lost in the days and weeks following as the Allied forces secured the surrounding countryside to establish a foothold on Continental Europe.

No words can describe the overwhelming feelings of joy, the flowing tears of hope and happiness, and the expressions of gratitude, that the French exuded upon their liberation from the Nazi occupation. This momentous and daring event marked the beginning of the end of Adolf Hitler’s reign, and a new day for humankind.

75 years later, we remember and honor all the men and women memorialized at the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer in Normandy, France. 9,387 graves are located on these hallowed grounds, along with the etched names of 1,557 American soldiers whose bodies were never found. It is to these men and women that we salute, revere, and honor their sacrifice.
TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1: Saturday, June 1, 2019
• Depart via scheduled air service to Paris, France

DAY 2: Sunday, June 2
• Arrive in Paris
• Meet tour manager who will give orientation of the logistics and schedule
• Transfer to hotel
• Evening welcome dinner and overnight

DAY 3: Monday, June 3
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Morning Rehearsal
• Lunch, on own
• Tour of Paris artistique, including entrance to the Louvre, the world’s largest and greatest art museum
• Evening Dinner at local restaurant
• Evening Rehearsal

DAY 4: Tuesday, June 4
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Morning guided tour to Versailles Palace. This palace is the creation of the French monarchy at the moment of its greatest splendor. Consisting of the great palace, the gardens and the Tri-anons, it is a wonderfully harmonious composition of building and landscape, the definitive monument of French classicism
• Lunch, on own
• Afternoon at leisure
• Evening Dinner at local restaurant
• Evening Concert

DAY 5: Wednesday, June 5
• Breakfast at the hotel followed by checkout
• Morning at leisure
• Lunch, on own
• Transfer to Caen region
• Late afternoon check in, followed by dinner and overnight

DAY 6: Thursday, June 6
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Morning at leisure
• Lunch provided
• Afternoon Concert
• Evening dinner and overnight

DAY 7: Friday, June 7
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Morning excursion to Coleville and participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the American Cemetery, site of the June 6th Normandy Invasion
• Lunch, on own
• Afternoon transfer to Paris
• Evening farewell dinner and overnight

DAY 8: Saturday, June 8
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Transfer to Charles de Gaulle Airport for return flight
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...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 BESŒECH THE BLESSINGS OF ALMIGHTY GOD UPON THIS GREAT AND NOBLE UNDERTAKING.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower