

VFW Remembers D-Day

Bravery and sacrifice on full display as Allied forces launched their assault on Normandy, June 6, 1944

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WASHINGTON — Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) pauses to remember the more than 156,000 brave Allied troops who landed by air and by sea targeting the 50-mile stretch of Normandy's beaches to liberate German-occupied France and bring an end to the Nazi regime.

June 6, 1944, forever changed the course of history. With over 5,000 ships, 11,000 airplanes and more than 150,000 servicemen, the Allied forces' airborne and amphibious invasion of Europe was, and remains, the largest air, land and sea operation ever undertaken.

Sand-colored beaches turned crimson, and bodies littered the beaches and water. Yet, because of their valor, sacrifice and sheer determination, by the end of the day the Allied forces had successfully breached the German's fortress. But Allied success on D-Day came at a very steep price, with nearly 10,000 casualties and 4,000 confirmed dead.

Now, 79 years after the massive operation that changed the tide of World War II, the 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary remain thankful for the bravery and heroism displayed that day, and we reflect on a selflessness that has transcended continents and generations.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org