

ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Monday, November 11th, 2019

As the country remembers the 75th anniversary of "D-Day," St. Johns County veterans, past, present, and future, will be front and center at a celebration of patriotism on Veterans Day. The event is organized by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County (VCSJC) in conjunction with the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, and hosted by the Anastasia Baptist Church in its 1,200 seat auditorium. It will bring veterans organizations from northeast Florida together in a salute to the approximately 22,000 living veterans in the county, honor the service and sacrifice of all those who have gone before, and recognize the young men and women preparing to carry the noble heritage of service in our armed forces into the future.

As its Chairman Lt. Colonel (ret.) Bill Dudley says, "this is a very special day for the Veterans Council, as each year we honor our comrades who have served our nation and those who continue to serve. The United States of America is the envy of the world for the freedom we enjoy -- paid for by the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform." Indeed, the massive armada of 156,000 troops, 6,939 ship, and 11,90 aircraft, that landed on French beaches far across the Atlantic is an icon for the readiness of America's sons and daughters to leave hearth and home in defense of liberty since the Republic's birth.

Doors to the Church's expansive atrium will open at 9:00 AM, where the 46 foot long Traveling Vietnam Wall and the 24 foot long War on Terrorism Wall will anchor dozens of displays presented by regional veterans groups. These, plus a continuously running multi-media presentation in the auditorium, will set the tone for the celebration that begins at 11:00 as Junior ROTC cadets from 3 regional high-schools, St. Augustine, Nease and Bartram Trail march in. Many of these cadets will take up the torch of military service as generations have before them. Keynote speaker, the Honorable Howard O. McGillin Jr, Court Judge in Florida's Seventh Judicial Circuit, had an impressive career in the Army's Judge Advocate General Corps, and was instrumental in establishing the St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Center. Ray Quinn, SGM USA (ret), will be master of the ceremonies that also feature traditional military honors and patriotic music by the 50 voice St. Johns Center for the Arts Chamber Singers at St. Augustine High School.

This event is a chance for all citizens in the region to honor their neighbors who have served in the armed forces. It is also a special opportunity for newly arrived veterans to meet those already here, and discover the many groups and organizations that form a very special community in the county. Admission as well as parking is free, and we expect a large turnout for this very special day.



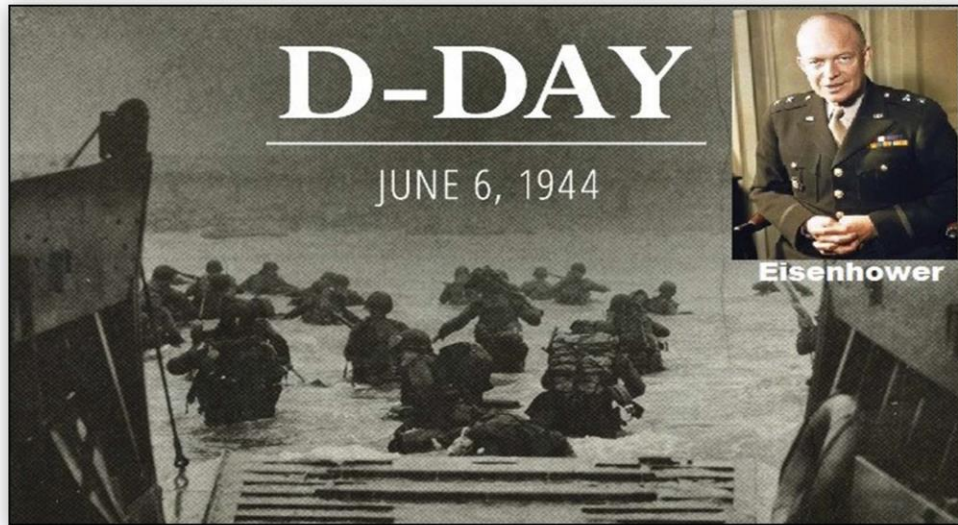
The St. Johns Chamber Singers



The quintessential "GI Joe"

The D-Day armada

Veterans Day



Monday November 11, 2019

Anastasia Baptist Church - 1650 A1A South - St. Augustine FL.

Atrium Displays Including Traveling Vietnam Wall

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Ceremonies begin at - 11:00 am

Doors Open 9:00 am - On Site Parking

“ Free Event - Public Welcome ”



**Military Officers Association of America- Ancient City Chapter - 501(C)(3)
Veterans Council of St. Johns County- 501(C)(3)**

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