

Program for D-Day Commemorations – Updated March 25, 2014
Sainte-Mere-Eglise Sector

Note: Official ceremony means that it is organized by the Town Hall (of specific town listed). All other ceremonies are “private” meaning they have been organized by private associations. Veterans are welcome at any and all ceremonies.

June 3rd, 2014

Arrival of American, French and German paratroopers in Sainte-Mere-Eglise, Carentan & Picauville

June 4th, 2014

- 10:00 am: Official Gourbesville Ceremony at 90th ID & 82nd AD Monument
- 11:30 am: Official Amfreville Ceremony, at the 507th PIR Monument
- 02:30 pm: Ceremony at “Timmes Orchard”, Amfreville, organized by US Normandie Assn
- 04:00 pm: Ceremony at Chaplain Maternowski site at Guetteville, organized by US Normandie Assn
- 05:00 pm: Official Montebourg Ceremony

Official Ceremonies at Carentan:

- 04:30 pm: Inauguration of Monument Cole by town of Carentan at round-about “Palmiers”
 - 05:30 pm: Official Carentan Ceremony at Cabbage Patch Square
 - 06:30 pm: Official Carentan Ceremony at Signal Monument in front of Town Hall
- Note:** The 3 ceremonies follow one another. Everyone is invited to walk from one site to another. Those unable to walk will be provided transportation to following ceremony.

June 5th, 2014

- 10:00 am: Official Picauville Ceremony at the USAAF Monument with the Inauguration of a Monument in honor of the US Airfield A8 pilots.
- 02:00 pm Official Chef-du-Pont Ceremony at Rex Comb square

Sainte Mere Eglise

- 03:00 pm: Memorial Service honoring 82nd & 101st Divisions, church, organized by AVA
- 04:00 pm: Official ceremony at the Signal Monument in church square
- 05:00 pm: Inauguration of the Airborne Museum extension which includes the presentation of a C-47 of the 82nd Airborne (Invitation Only)

Utah Beach

- 07:30 pm: Civilian Parachute Drop
- 08:00 pm: Official Utah Beach Ceremony with presentation of French Legion of Honor to veteran John Ramon and David & Gene Dewhurst
- 09:30 pm: Concert by Gary Sinise’s Lt Dan Band (to be confirmed)
- 10:45 pm: Lighting Up of the Coast: Coordinated fireworks over 80 km of coastline of the Normandy landing beaches

June 6th, 2014

- 10:00 am: Official Ceremony at the American Cemetery at Colleville
Note: Paperwork must be completed and filed for veterans and family wanting to attend.
- 03:00 pm: Official Allied Ceremony at SWORD Beach with Heads of State
Note: Paperwork must be completed and filed for veterans and family wanting to attend this ceremony.

Please Note: It is STRONGLY suggested to pick one of the 2 ceremonies to attend. Due to security and heavy traffic, circulating between Caen and Isigny Sur Mer will be extremely difficult. Even with help being offered to veterans to travel between these 2 destinations, it will be a long, tiring day.

Sainte Mere Eglise

- 12:00 pm: French National TV Station TF1 will be presenting live from church square
- 02:00 pm – 05:00 pm: Welcome of Veterans on stage in SME church square
- 02:00 pm – 07:00 pm: Memorial Parade with over 1200 musicians (2 marching bands & 2 choirs)
- 09:00 pm: Peace Concert, Church Square with the Lower-Normandy Regional Orchestra and Choir

June 7th, 2014

Sainte Mere Eglise

- 10:30 am: Inauguration of Stele at the “Charles de Glopper” site, organized by Assn US Normandie
- 10:30 am: Official Angoville au Plain Ceremony at Monument for Medics Wright & Moore
- 11:30 am: Inauguration of Stele at Cauquigny Chapel, organized by Assn US Normandie
- 03:00 pm: “Building Peace Together” Theater Piece presented by 39 French, American, German middle school students on Church Square.
- 05:00 pm: Peace Ceremony on Church Square, organized by Town Hall with the participation of children from local schools
- 07:00 pm: Liberty Banquet, Covered Market, organized by AVA
Note: The banquet is already booked, however, seats have been reserved for veterans and their families. Please notify the AVA (ava50480@gmail.com) to reserve your place. Veterans are no charge, tickets are 29 euros per adult.
- 7 – 11 pm: Musical concerts on Church Square
- 11:00 pm: Fireworks on Church Square
- 12:00 am: Dancing, Church Square

June 8th, 2014

Sainte Mere Eglise

- 09:30 am: Religious Service/Mass at church square
- 11:00 am: International Military Parachute Jump at the historical site of La Fiere

- 02:00 pm: Official Ceremony at Iron Mike (La Fiere) including the presentation of the French Legion of Honor medal to medic Fred Morgan of the 505 PIR, 82nd Airborne (maybe others??)
- 03:30 pm: Civil Commemorative Jump at La Fiere
- 04:30 pm: Paratroopers parade from La Fiere to Sainte Mere Eglise town square
- 06:00 pm: Welcoming of paratroopers in town square
- 06:15 pm: Inauguration of Allied Parachutists Monument organized by AVA

Please Note: For the parachute jump, veterans (+ 1 escort) will be shuttled from SME to the site at La Fiere (times to be confirmed). A traditional VIP luncheon will be served on site at La Fiere for veterans + 1 guest. Due to budgetary constraints and limited space, not all family members will be able to attend the luncheon. However, access to the VIP area will be given to family members and friends of veterans. And there will be food and beverage stands available at La Fiere.