



OPERATION BRAVO ZULU 75TH D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

PRESENTED BY HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kelli Oakley, Chair, 859-433-6495
honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com

Honor Flight Bluegrass “Operation Bravo Zulu” to Honor Veterans on 75th D-Day Anniversary

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY -- Seventy-five years ago, on June 6, 1944, United States (US) forces led the Allied Nations in the largest amphibious invasion in history—Operation Overlord, known as D-Day. Over 73,000 U.S. soldiers and marines set in motion, the final phase of World War II (WWII), risking their lives to preserve and protect the freedoms we enjoy today in America.

On June 6, 2019, in a very special and memorial event, Honor Flight Bluegrass will honor these American heroes who served in WWII with a celebration at Louisville Memorial Auditorium, an historic site that was built to commemorate those who fought in WWI. This special celebration “Operation Bravo Zulu” (Thanks for a job well done!), will feature honored guest, 95-year-old WWII Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel “Woody” Williams, who will join his fellow WWII Veterans on this historic day. He will lead the ceremony with 75 or more WWII Veterans and their families as we recognize and pay tribute to these members of the “Greatest Generation.” Included in the program are exhibits, the Ladies for Liberty singing troupe, the Don Krekel Orchestra and a special recognition of each WWII Veteran. The public is invited to join these Veterans and their families for the ceremony followed by a meet and greet. Emcees include Heather French Henry and Rachel Platt.

Honor Flight Bluegrass is proud to host this event and is expecting a celebration worthy of heroes.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the public to meet and thank these great American heroes for their service to the country,” said Jeff Thoke, HFB Board Chairman. “Their sacrifices made the freedom we enjoy today possible.”

Veterans will be on hand for media interviews, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Louisville (KY) Memorial Auditorium, 970 South Fourth Street. Doors open to the public at 6 p.m. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission to Operation Bravo Zulu is free for WWII Veterans and three of their guests. Additional tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased through the Louisville Memorial Auditorium website at www.louisvillememorialauditorium.com. Veterans will be onsite at the event for media interviews at 4 p.m.





OPERATION BRAVO ZULU 75TH D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

PRESENTED BY HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS

75th D-Day Event:

In Honor of the 75th Anniversary of the landing on the Normandy beaches of France on June 6, 1944, Honor Flight Bluegrass is hosting Operation Bravo Zulu on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at Louisville Memorial Auditorium. Make plans to attend the largest gathering of World War II veterans in the history of Kentucky with special guest, Hershel "Woody" Williams, WWII Medal of Honor Recipient.



Honor Flight Bluegrass Mission:

The Honor Flight Bluegrass mission is:

1. To locate & identify eligible veterans to visit their respective war memorials located in Washington, DC.
2. To provide each veteran with the opportunity to receive the accolades for service from a grateful nation to a Hero's Welcome Home.

What Honor Flight Bluegrass Does:

Honor Flight Bluegrass is an Honor Flight Network Chapter based in Louisville, Kentucky and is recognized as a 501 (c)(3), all volunteer, non-profit organization created to honor America's World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans for all their sacrifices.

Honor Flight Bluegrass flies veterans to Washington, DC and provides them with a first-class, VIP, Police escorted tour to each of their respective memorials to honor their service, sacrifices and to create the greatest memory of a lifetime.

Top priority is given to those veterans from any war or conflict that have been diagnosed with a terminal illness. Subsequent priorities are given to World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans.

Honor Flight Bluegrass Needs Your Help!

The Honor Flight Network is comprised of over 130 hubs across the United States and has flown over 200,000 veterans since 2004. Louisville has flown over 2,200 veterans in 10 years. Honor Flight Bluegrass flew 94 World War II, 77 Korean War and 41 Vietnam War veterans to Washington, DC in 2018.

Time is critical to find WWII Veterans. There are over 5,000 remaining in Kentucky. Of the 16 million who served, about 400,000 remain and it is estimated that over 300 die each day. If you know a veteran, please sign them up on the HFB website: www.honorflightbluegrass.org.





OPERATION BRAVO ZULU 75TH D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

PRESENTED BY HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS

FACT SHEET

The D-Day Invasion – June 6, 1944

Invasion Date	Over 73,000 American soldiers landed on D-Day
Allied Forces	Over 156,000 Allied troops from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada
Invasion Area	The Allied code names for the beaches along the 50-mile stretch of Normandy coast targeted for landing were Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. Omaha was the costliest beach in terms of Allied casualties
The Armada	Over 5,000 ships and landing craft, 50,000 vehicles, and 11,000 planes
Commander	United States – Supreme Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Casualties	Numbers represent total killed, wounded, missing or captured from the United States – 6,603 (1,465 killed)
The Outcome	By June 11, with the beachheads firmly secured, more than 326,000 Allied troops had crossed with more than 100,000 tons of military equipment. Paris was liberated on August 25. Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945
Veterans Today	The number of remaining WWII veterans is estimated at just over 400,000. There is no official resource for how many D-Day veterans remain with us today. The VA has detailed numbers on total WWII veterans remaining at www.nationalww2museum.org/urgency

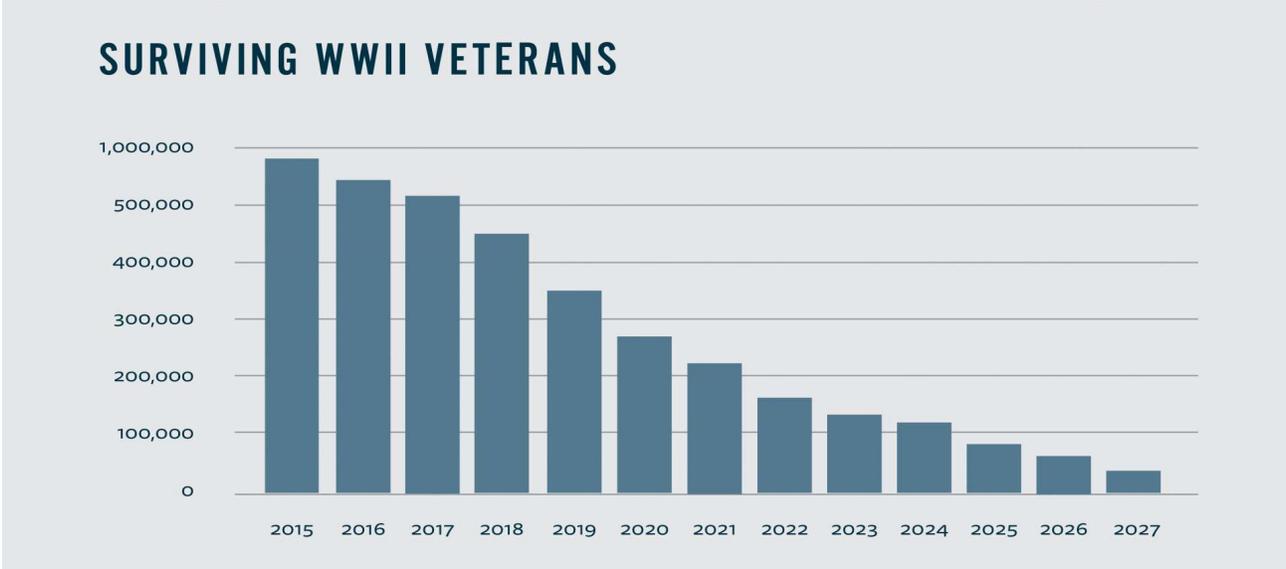




OPERATION BRAVO ZULU 75TH D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

PRESENTED BY HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS

 16 MILLION Americans served in WWII	 362 Dying Each Day	 558,000 WWII Veterans Today
--	---	--





LIVING WWII VETERANS BY STATE 2018

Alabama	5,868	Maine	3,169	Pennsylvania	26,346
Alaska	286	Maryland	8,090	Rhode Island	2,064
Arizona	13,186	Massachusetts	12,958	South Carolina	7,006
Arkansas	4,658	Michigan	15,898	South Dakota	1,397
California	51,567	Minnesota	10,133	Tennessee	8,653
Colorado	7,598	Mississippi	3,497	Texas	28,811
Connecticut	7,532	Missouri	10,697	Utah	3,881
Delaware	1,493	Montana	1,814	Vermont	1,312
D.C.	830	Nebraska	3,343	Virginia	11,555
Florida	49,400	Nevada	3,689	Washington	12,663
Georgia	9,323	New Hampshire	2,776	West Virginia	3,026
Hawaii	2,772	New Jersey	14,620	Wisconsin	10,658
Idaho	3,407	New Mexico	3,523	Wyoming	602
Illinois	17,550	New York	26,190	Puerto Rico	1,410
Indiana	8,891	North Carolina	11,988	Is. Areas & Foreign	2,234
Iowa	6,365	North Dakota	1,023		
Kansas	4,723	Ohio	19,618		
Kentucky	5,829	Oklahoma	6,210	Grand Total	496,777
Louisiana	5,350	Oregon	9,293	Deaths Per Day	348



75TH ANNIVERSARY

**D-DAY
JUNE 6
2019**



**OPERATION
BRAVO - ZULU
WWII VETERANS REUNION**

Join us as we honor the largest gathering of
WWII veterans in the history of Kentucky

6:00 PM

LOUISVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Honored Guest: Hershel "Woody" Williams, WWII Medal of Honor Recipient



Presented by Honor Flight Bluegrass

WWW.HONORFLIGHTBLUEGRASS.ORG

[#WWIIOPERATIONGRATITUDE](https://www.facebook.com/WWIIOPERATIONGRATITUDE)