



COMMANDER GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE ORDER

My Fellow Companions,

Welcome to this special edition of the Naval Order's newsletter. The recent Dedication of the Navy's D-Day Monument in Normandy, France on 27 September was an event of such special and historic significance, we want to share with you some of the stories and pictures of the days leading up to the Dedication and the ceremony itself. This issue of NOUS News is being sent not only to our Companions of the Naval Order, but also to the many individuals whose generous donations, large and small, made the Dedication possible.



Some of you will recall reading "To Honor our Navy at Normandy" in *Naval History* magazine back in June 2006. In that article, CAPT Greg Streeter, Chairman of the Monument Committee, and Dick Krischten posed the question, all these years after the Navy's indispensable role in the D-Day invasion of northwestern Europe, "isn't it time the service got its own monument in Normandy?" Finally, the Naval Order of the United States was able to see that American Sailors and Coast Guardsmen – 1,068 of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice in that invasion – got their monument. It has taken much hard work over the past four years, and more than a

half million dollars raised entirely through private donations. Each of you reading this should feel justly proud as "part-owners" of this Monument.

Our official Monument Dedication tour was organized by Companion Ray Pfeiffer and his wife, Cristy, of Historic Tours, Inc. We had a wonderful time visiting the various battle sites, historical markers, bunkers and the Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach, on the days leading up to the Dedication. Our veterans helped to hoist the Colors at the Cemetery and placed a wreath at the foot of the statue, *The Spirit of American Youth Rising From the Waves*. While there, I was able to pay my respects and place an American flag at the grave of a friend's father, killed in June 1944.

At last the Dedication day came and after a morning visit to Ste. Mere-Eglise, we sat down for luncheon with many distinguished guests. Among them were ADM Mark Fitzgerald, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe, VADM William Sullivan, U.S. Military Rep to NATO, and VADM Richard Gallagher, Deputy Commander U.S. European Command. To our great pleasure and surprise, Ms. Barbara Bush, the President's daughter, also joined us! Secretary England met with Mr. Marshall Cloyd, whose generosity helped so much to meet the Monument's fundraising goal. The Dedication itself took place under a beautiful blue sky. I will let the pictures within tell the story, but please imagine for yourselves the large French and American crowd of perhaps 900 people with us at Utah Beach. CDR Ryan Tillotson, USN and his crewmembers from USS THE SULLIVANS (DDG 68) added a great Navy presence.

Our Companions have already received the December 2008 *Naval History* and read the fine article on page 62 by Dr. William Dudley and CDR Dan Felger, reflecting on the Dedication ceremony and the comments of Secretary England. Our organization has received official congratulatory letters from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, ADM Mike Mullen and from Secretary of the Navy,

Donald Winter, among others. But what pleased me even more was a personal letter from Mr. England, after Judy and I returned home to Monterey: "Major General Leonard Gerow summed it up well on D-Day when he said, 'Thank God for the United States Navy!' With the establishment of the U.S. Navy Memorial at Normandy, let me say, thank God for the Naval Order of the United States. Your members tackled the task of establishing this memorial with the same resourcefulness and determination that has made our Navy the greatest in the world... Bravo Zulu and congratulations on a job well done!"

Warm regards,
Ken Johnson
CAPT, USN (Ret)



NOUS Commander General Ken Johnson and the Hon. Gordon England



USN veterans of Normandy awarded the Legion of Honor (from left): Mr. Chester Collins, who served in USS DOROTHEA L. DIX (AP 67); Mr. Jim Gaff, an LCVP coxswain assigned to LST 351; and CAPT Richard Zimmermann, USN (Ret), CIC Officer in USS FRANKFORD (DD 497).

PROFILE OF THE ARTIST



Stephen Spears grew up in a military family and was influenced by his years of living in exotic places, especially the Orient. An avid student of art history and sculpture, Stephen's medium of choice is bronze. He says, "I welcome the challenge of bringing the illusion of movement, a variety of textures, and a feeling of warmth to an essentially cold, still piece of metal."

Mr. Spears, with his wife Katy and their four children, raise alpacas on a farm in Fairhope, AL. He commutes to a foundry and his studio in Loveland, CO to cast his bronze pieces.



CAPT Reggie Carpenter, Naval Attaché to France, provided much of the coordination for the Dedication ceremony. Working as closely and often with Naval Order leaders as email allows, CAPT Carpenter and an augmented staff worked for many weeks to plan every detail of the event. And on that day, every detail worked out smoothly!

A MONUMENT-AL VOYAGE

Stephen Spears created the figures on the Navy D-Day Monument to represent the three aspects of Navy participation in the invasion: leadership, planning and Command & Control; combat operations; and beach clearance. Together they symbolize the Navy's unity of effort. The statue's base is in the shape of a pentagon, each face representing one of the five Landing beaches. The name of each ship that took part in Overlord is engraved so that the families of the veterans can touch the name of the ship on which their relative served.

Once completed at the foundry in Colorado, the Monument had a long journey to its new home on the shore of the English Channel in France.

The two pieces in their crates were too large for air freight, so they were trucked down to Galveston, TX in late July 2008 and loaded onto the *MV Tagus*. The ship off-loaded the crates in Zeebrugge, Belgium, where they were transferred to another ship bound for the port of Le Havre. Finally, after clearing Customs, the two crates were trucked to Utah Beach, Normandy. They arrived in mid-September, with just a few days leeway for Mr. Spears to oversee the Monument's placement in time for the Dedication.



Photos courtesy of Utah Beach Landing Museum
See more photos at the Museum's website,
www.utah-beach.com



A time capsule is placed inside the Monument's base during assembly. CAPT Greg Streeter filled a sonobouy canister with memorabilia from the Naval Order's project, as well as first-person accounts of the Navy in Normandy.



Ed Seiling and Carter Conlin drove down from Houston to see the Monument begin its voyage.



Dan Felger presented an ensign flown from USS *NORMANDY* (CG 60) to M. Benoit Noel, Assistant Curator of the Utah Beach Landing Museum.

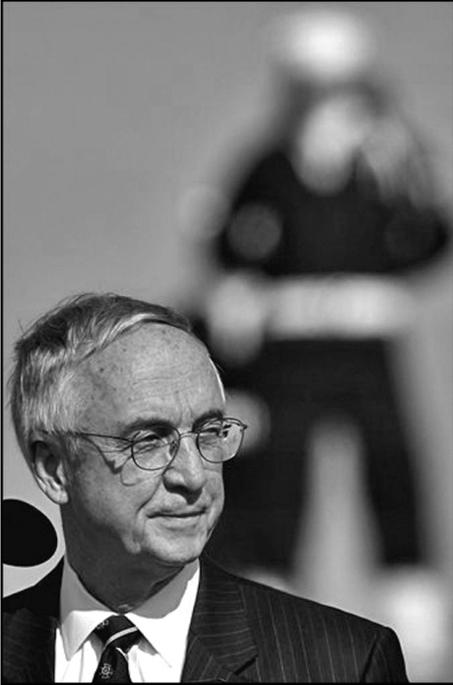
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PO Box 2714
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CAPT Kenneth A. Johnson, USN (Ret)
Commander General and Publisher

CAPT Kathryn T. Gray, USN (Ret)
Editor, *NOUS News*
1312 Sussex Place
Norfolk, VA 23508-1133
Email: grayusnr@aol.com

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GIVES KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Hon. Gordon England received the Naval Order's *Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award* in 2006 and was made a Life Companion. His remarks at the Monument's Dedication are reprinted here.



Good afternoon. To our gracious hosts – *Merci*.

Let me add my congratulations to the Naval Order of the United States for spearheading the effort to establish this magnificent tribute to the brave heroes of our naval forces. It's a great honor and special privilege to be a part of this most special occasion at this most hallowed place.

Throughout history, brave men in decisive battles have changed the course of civilization. The same can be said of the men who fought here on D-Day sixty-four years ago. They, too, were a part of something profound and historic.

Victory or defeat at Normandy would determine the future, not just for France or Europe, but for all of humanity...for freedom...for liberty.

On that cold June morning - along the string of beaches below - the brave, young men of the Allied Expeditionary Force engaged in one of the most decisive military battles in history. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill called it "the most difficult and complicated operation ever to take place."

And, none of it would have been possible without the support of Allied naval forces, which comprised the largest naval

armada ever assembled. Nearly 200,000 men were transported to the shores of France by Allied ships and other craft, including the Higgins boats, which were so crucial to success at Normandy. All day, against heavy enemy resistance, naval forces bravely carried a steady stream of men, supplies, and ammunition to the beaches...returning each time with the wounded.

The successful invasion of the heavily fortified beaches and cliffs was only possible with the massive fire support provided by the amphibious fleet assembled just off shore. History will certainly record and the world will long remember the many contributions and sacrifices made by naval forces that day.

Major General Leonard Gerow summed it up well after going ashore to set up V Corps headquarters following the successful invasion. His first message to General Bradley, the Commander of all American ground forces on D-Day, was: "Thank God for the United States Navy!"

The Invasion was an unimaginable undertaking. And, what makes it even more incredible is the realization that many of the young men were 18 or 19 years old. They were new to the Service, and had never experienced even a moment of combat before that day at Normandy. Now, suddenly, they were a part of the most complex and consequential amphibious operation in history.

A young Lieutenant aboard USS BAYFIELD, the flagship for the Utah Beach landings, described the noise of D-Day as being like "the fireworks display of a thousand Fourth of Julys rolled into one."

The weather conditions were poor. Many of the young men were made horribly sick by the churning seas. The water was littered with bodies of dead troops, some shot, others drowned by their gear. Men were crammed together in small transport craft headed toward the beaches. Yet, somehow, in the midst of this chaos and carnage each of them bravely did his duty. They were all heroes.

But, more importantly, all along the beaches – they were a team. They were Americans, Canadians, French, Brits, and other allies – Sailors and Soldiers – they came from different backgrounds and faiths, but on this day they were brothers.

Robert Farrington, a signalman-gunner aboard USS CATAHOULA PARISH (LST-

528) made landings at Gold, Juno, and Sword beaches in June 1944. On the fiftieth anniversary, he returned to those beaches...and, he stopped by the nearby cemetery to pay his respects. He was kneeling before one of the graves when another veteran came up and asked him if the deceased was a friend of his. Mr. Farrington got up, looked out over the graves, and replied "They were all my friends."

The brave men who fought and died here on D-Day taught us all a profound lesson by their examples of courage and sacrifice. The lesson is that freedom must be fought for and defended by every generation. As President Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We don't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same."

Today, we thank our comrades in arms, once again, for joining together on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, to fight the evils that threaten this generation. The solidarity that was the foundation for Allied success at Normandy is just as crucial today. Nations must stand resolutely together against adversaries that threaten freedom and liberty in our world. Today, the actions of global leaders and those who serve – like those at Normandy – will undoubtedly determine the course of civilization in this century.

We honor the profound sense of duty of those men who fought here on D-Day. We honor their service to country and to the Allied Expeditionary Force. And we honor their many sacrifices as we dedicate this monument.

The American cemetery is located not far from here on the bluffs above Omaha Beach. If you haven't had the opportunity, I would encourage all of you to take some time to visit it. There's a beautiful chapel on the cemetery grounds. And, a wall in that chapel has an inscription that reads: "Think not upon their passing – remember the glory of their spirit."

This afternoon, we remember. People living in freedom will always remember...the sacrifices made on that June morning in 1944. God bless our Veterans. God bless all those who serve the cause of freedom, and especially all those standing the watch in Harm's Way.

Vive la France! And, may God continue to bless America.

CATCHING UP WITH THE NAVAL ORDER IN NORMANDY

Observations from the Tour Diary • 25-29SEP08

The NOUS tour group left Paris the morning of 25 September, heading for Normandy through the beautiful French countryside. After a quick stop in the medieval city of Bayeux – our base for the next four days – we drove to the coast along the road that divided the American and British sectors of the Invasion. At Port-en-Bessin, the townspeople (including about 50 school-children) greeted us and all enjoyed an open-air concert by the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band. Later the children passed among us with thank-you cards they'd made in school. It was a heart-warming start to our visit.



The U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band performs near the beachfront at Port-en-Bessin. The Band gave several special concerts in local towns as well as playing for the official Dedication events.

On the day before the Dedication ceremony, we headed early for morning Colors at the Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. Our gathering was quite emotional as we listened to the Band play Taps and the National Anthem. We spent part of the morning among the graves before driving down to Omaha Beach. The tide was out, and we were able to walk on the Beach, to look up and observe the German positions on the heights – as had those Americans so long ago in June 1944.



Companion Bill Eckel in the American Cemetery

In the afternoon, we returned for a poignant wreath-laying ceremony. We found

the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band already playing for visitors to the Cemetery, many of whom stayed to observe our simple ritual. We could hear voices in the crowd around us singing “La Marseillaise,” and when the Band struck up “The Star Spangled Banner,” many of the French audience hummed along, honoring our anthem as well.



Our veterans present a floral tribute from the Naval Order at the foot of the magnificent statue, *The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves*.

Finally came the day of the Monument's Dedication, sunny and fine. We stopped first at Ste. Mere-Eglise, made famous in the film, *The Longest Day*. We walked around the town and admired its historic church, where a paratrooper famously dangled from the steeple during the first hours of the invasion. The town happened to be hosting a display of classic cars on the morning of our visit, adding to the air of festivity.

Arriving at last at Ste. Marie-du-Mont, we met the Hon. Craig Stapleton, Ambassador to France, and enjoyed a VIP luncheon with a number of special attendees – not least of whom were our own cadre of WWII vets. With a police escort, the tour group made our way to Utah Beach on the outskirts of the town. A large French and American crowd was already gathered, with seats for our Companions and dignitaries reserved toward the front. The very best seats went to our veterans, in a row set just before the dais.

The U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band played for the waiting assembly, giving a spirited rendition of a piece composed by the Hon. J. William Middendorf, II, former

Secretary of the Navy – *The Naval Order March!*



USS THE SULLIVANS (DDG 68) sent a contingent of ship's company and provided sideboys for the arrival of the Official Party

Then, with all appropriate honors, the Official Party was piped aboard and seated. Up on the dunes behind them, the Monument stood, shrouded with a white parachute and with its own honor guard of sailors. Bright French and American flags snapped in the breeze coming in from the sea.



CAPT Greg Streeter was the man of the hour, with heartfelt comments as Master of Ceremonies. CAPT Ken Johnson spoke to represent all Naval Order companions. ADM Pierre-François Forissier, Chief of Staff of the French Navy, awarded the Legion of Honor, Order of *Chevalier*, or knight, to three of the Normandy veterans with us. Other speakers were M. Henri Milet, Mayor of Ste. Marie-du-Mont, and Ambassador Stapleton.



Chester Collins receives his award from ADM Forissier

CATCHING UP WITH THE NAVAL ORDER IN NORMANDY

Observations from the Tour Diary • 25-29SEP08

After the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Hon. Gordon England, gave his remarks, the audience was invited to walk up to the Monument itself for the unveiling. The crowd quietly reassembled, sailors pulled away the shroud, and the Navy D-Day Monument stood before us.



Dan Felger caught the flyover on camera!

The day was still not over. Many attendees posed for photos and stayed for a reception hosted by the Mayor and town of Ste. Marie-du-Mont. Back at the hotel, our new friends from USN CAN DO joined us

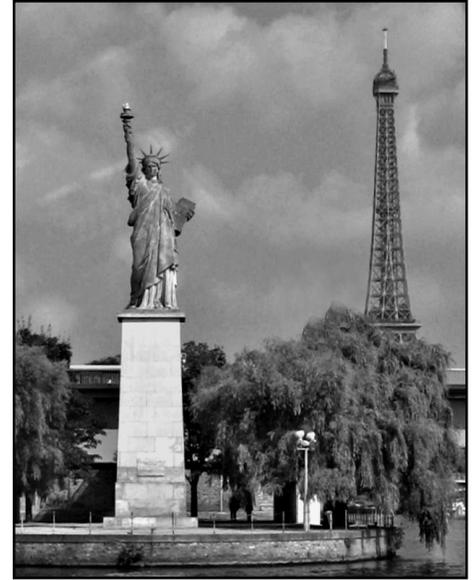
for dinner. These young WWII reenactors (photo on page 7) live in Belgium and France, and wearing their period uniforms had been with our group at the Cemetery and the Monument site.



Ambassador Craig Stapleton presents one of the eight magnificent wreaths laid before the Monument.

On our last day in Normandy, we visited Pointe du Hoc where U.S. Rangers had to scale 100-foot cliffs to knock out the German guns that threatened both the beach landings and ships at sea. We continued to Arromanches in the British sector, where "Port Winston," the artificial harbor, was so vital to the landings success.

The tour drew to its close on 29 September, with our return to Paris for a luncheon cruise on the Seine. Almost the last vista we shared as a group was of another famous monument – actually, a pair of monuments: the Eiffel Tower and a small-scale Statue of Liberty that faces west, towards its larger sister in New York Harbor. Somehow, this was quite a fitting conclusion to our Navy D-Day Monument Dedication Tour.



ENDURING IMAGES OF THE DEDICATION



Photo by MCC(SWIAW) Jason Morris

Don Krebs was a Sonar Tech aboard USS HARDING (DD625), one of the ships delivering close gunfire support for the first hours of the landing. With the official tour group in September, Don once again visited the church in Vierville where HARDING demol-

ished four machine gun nests and a lookout post. Don's health failed shortly after the tour; he died in November and was buried on Veteran's Day.



Marie Nobile and her daughter Denise remember Marie's late husband, Alfred Nobile, at the unveiling. Al served in LCT 810 during the Normandy invasion. His daughter wrote that he'd waited a very long time for recognition of the Navy's role, and hoped to return to Normandy for the Dedication. Sadly, Al Nobile passed away earlier this year.

WE SALUTE ALL SUPPORTERS

The Naval Order of the United States and the Naval Order Foundation thanks these major sponsors of the Navy D-Day Monument at Normandy. Their generosity, and that of many contributors of smaller amounts, made possible the Monument's dedication on 27 September 2008.

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The personal sponsorship of Texas Companion Marshall Cloyd has buoyed up the Normandy Monument Project since its beginning, with contributions totaling over \$100,000. A champion of the U.S. Navy, Marshall is a past President of the Greater Houston Council of the Navy League. Mr. Cloyd's interest in Normandy stems from his father's WWII service in the European Theater, and he first visited the region as a teenager with his father. His wife, Robin, also has a connection; her uncle was killed at Normandy and is thought to be buried there.



Cristy and Ray Pfeiffer, who own and operate Historic Tours, Inc., inspired the Monument project. In a presentation to the First Coast Commandery five years ago, Companion Ray Pfeiffer told about the many statues, plaques and other memorials dotted around Normandy. Nearly every Allied service branch that took part in the invasion was represented...but not the U.S. Navy!

Once the Naval Order began the Navy D-Day Monument project, Ray and Cristy helped by coordinating the work with local authorities in France. They also drew on their 26 years of leading commemorative tours and special events to develop the program for the official Dedication tour.

FROM THE USN REENACTOR GROUP CAN DO

Sirs:

All the USNRG CAN DO members send you our deepest thanks for receiving us so well during the U.S. Navy Monument ceremonies. It was a great honor for us to participate at the official observance with veterans, NOUS members and U.S. Navy officials.

It is our way to perpetuate the memory of those who served and we hope we've done it right. We shall be proud to be with you again for other ceremonies and memorial events. Please thank all NOUS members for us. We were touched to receive the Naval Order commemorative medals; we will keep them proudly. With all gratefulness,

Fred Carre
USNRG CAN DO
"MCPO"



NOTES FROM SICK BAY

Dr. Snyder's regular newsletter column fits the theme of this special issue so well we include it here as another tribute to Navy service in Normandy.

Our Navy's Medical Department made good on its motto – "Standing By to Assist" – in support of Allied landings at Normandy. They helped evacuate casualties, cared for wounded men during their transit to England, and assisted in their transfer to hospitals ashore or to airplanes for evacuation back to the United States.



Historical Half Minute

The Normandy invasion involved more than 4,000 ships. Experience from earlier operations, including the landings at North Africa and Italy, provided firm guidance for medical planning.



"Wounded Taken Aboard LST on D+2"
(Ink Wash, June 1944 by Alexander P Russo;
Navy Historical Center Art Collection)

The main work of the Medical Department was to be shore-to-shore (from France to England) evacuation of casualties, and their care while in Navy hands. The wounded were to be gathered at designated points on the beaches. They could then be evacuated to waiting LSTs. More than 90 LSTs carried 3 medical officers and 20 corpsmen, along with supplies and equipment sufficient to care for 200 patients for their return trip to the UK.

Navy medical personnel landed on OMAHA and UTAH Beach as early as 40 minutes before the launch of the landings. The tactical situation on UTAH Beach developed well, so that an orderly medical sorting, caring and evacuation was established early on. OMAHA Beach was different: effective and aggressive German defenses caused a chaotic tactical situation (including the loss of medical materiel coming ashore), and only first aid was rendered to wounded soldiers for the first several hours. An acute shortage of litters complicated matters as men were placed on any available craft to get them out to the waiting LSTs. By D plus 1, however, medical sections of the Navy's two

beach battalions on OMAHA were up and running, and casualties evacuated in an orderly manner, moving up to 200 men an hour.

The vast majority of the evacuees rode LSTs for their trip to England. Some received life-saving surgery during the transit. Most arrived in England in good condition. During the initial flood of injured – especially D plus 3 and D plus 4 – LSTs stacked up outside ports in Britain, because the loading of ships with men and materiel desperately needed to support combat operations on French beaches received pier-side priority. As a result, many wounded men rode small LCTs the last few yards to definitive care in England.

By D plus 11, nearly 19,000 wounded soldiers, sailors, allied soldiers and even POWs, received care from Navy corpsmen and doctors in what amounted to a huge and successful mission of mercy.

Respectfully submitted,
CAPT Tom Snyder, MC, USN (Ret)
NOUS Surgeon General

www.navalorder.org

FROM THE MONUMENT PROJECT CHAIRMAN

Dear Companions:

Four years ago, in General Session of the Naval Order Congress, you approved the challenge of properly recognizing the brave Navy heroes of Normandy. This was no mean decision. The Normandy Monument was the largest project ever undertaken by the Naval Order. Every one of you should be deeply proud of the magnificent Monument you have placed on Utah Beach in Normandy.

Many unexpected – almost miraculous – events combined to bring our effort to its successful finish. First, we needed a design, but to commission rival sculptors to submit drawings could be an expensive and lengthy process. Our good fortune in having Stephen Spears step forward with his offer to research and create a model at no cost was absolutely critical to getting the whole project off the ground. Stephen's design received almost universal acclaim both within and outside the Naval Order.

The next significant step was to establish the Naval Order Foundation. In order to raise funds, we needed a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that could solicit tax-deductible donations. RADM Doug Moore got that done in just a few months, a task that the Order had considered for years without bringing it to fruition.

Shortly afterward, under the leadership of then-Commander General, Carter Conlin, we recognized we could not ask others for help without first helping ourselves.

You each were asked to donate \$100 and, according to what we heard from fundraising professionals, your response was double what we might have expected from the organization's membership. Your contributions provided the seed money to really launch the major fund-raising effort, covering the costs for brochures, mail-out packages, gratuities for donors and much more.

Dan Felger then stepped forward to lead the fund-raising and his tireless labor set the bar for others. I could go on for pages describing the hard work of many Companions and the generosity of hundreds of donors that brought in the necessary funds to complete the Monument.



Sideboys from USS THE SULLIVANS render honors as CAPT Greg Streeter, USN (Ret) arrives for the opening of the Dedication ceremony.

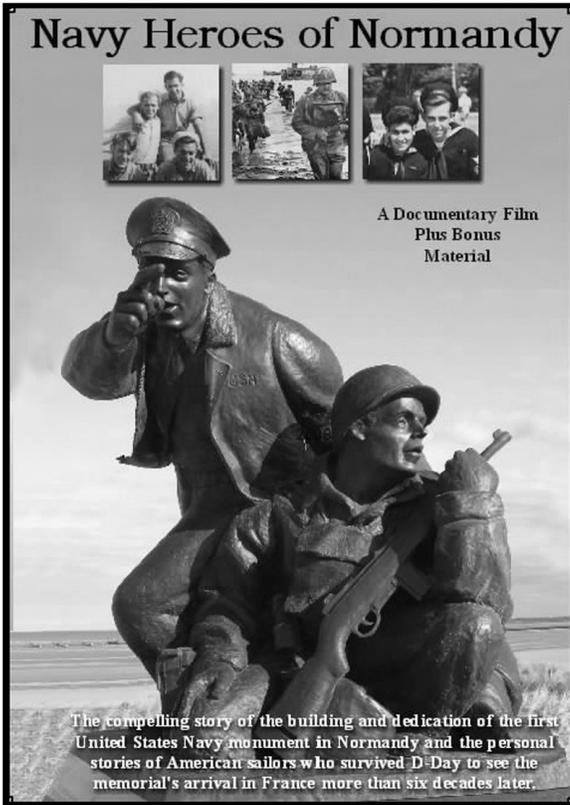
Money, of course, was the critical path to moving ahead through the actual production of the Monument. At our Congress in Monterey last autumn, we agreed that fundraising had progressed far enough to set the Monument's dedication date for 27 September 2008. The home stretch then began – the Monument's construction, transportation, installation and planning for the Dedication – along with continued fundraising. We had committed to the date and by July of this year, we were past the point of no return.

So many people "heaved around" to make the Dedication itself a joyful and meaningful occasion that it is impossible to mention them all here. You will see some of them in photos in this newsletter. Their joint efforts culminated in the most memorable Navy ceremony I have ever taken part in, or indeed have witnessed. The weather was magnificent, the French people were so hospitable, the ceremonial precision was impeccable, and the emotion of the veterans and everyone present was deeply touching.

Leaving Utah Beach at the end of that historic day, with the sun silhouetting the Monument against the deep blue sky, I could not help but feel a touch of sadness that I probably will not see the Monument again. It is beautiful.

Greg Streeter
October 2008

Relive the Dedication!



The Naval Order Foundation proudly offers ***Navy Heroes of Normandy***, a DVD documentary of the Monument story from concept to Dedication, by filmmaker Tim Gray.

Complete this form, detach and mail with your check (payable to the **Naval Order Foundation**) to:

CDR Robert Averill, USN (Ret)
3339 Lighthouse Point Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32250

Ship to:
Name: _____

Address: _____

Navy Heroes of Normandy DVD \$20.00 each \$ _____
plus S&H per copy \$ 2.00 each \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

MINI-MONUMENTS STILL AVAILABLE!

You can still order the small replicas of the Navy D-Day Monument. Also available, thanks to a terrific suggestion from one of our Companions, is a separate plate noting the Dedication date and artist.



Please fill out the order form below, detach and mail it with your check (payable to the **Naval Order Foundation**) to:

CDR Robert Averill, USN (Ret)
3339 Lighthouse Point Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32250

Questions? Contact Monument Chairman, Greg Streeter, at gstreetr@bellsouth.net.

Ship to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Item	Unit Price	Number	Amount
6-inch Bronze finish	\$99.00	_____	\$ _____
6-inch Pewter finish	\$89.00	_____	\$ _____
Engraved Plate	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
Shipping and Handling			\$ 10.00
Total			\$ _____

Shipping and handling is the same for single or multiple replicas shipped to the same address.