

# ★ Military ★

## A P P R E C I A T I O N M O N T H

**MAY 1 – 31**



May is Military Appreciation Month, which includes five specific dates to honor and recognize the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform and their families.

**Loyalty Day** on May 1 kicks off Military Appreciation Month and is a day set aside for the confirmation of loyalty to the United States and reflection on the proud heritage of our American freedom.

**Victory in Europe Day** recognizes May 8, 1945 as the day when Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allies, marking the end of World War II in Europe.

**Military Spouse Appreciation Day** is May 11 and is traditionally the Friday before Mother's Day. It is a day to honor military spouses by recognizing the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong.

**Armed Forces Day** is celebrated the third Saturday in May (May 19 this year) and is a holiday for citizens to thank our military members for their service to our country by honoring those serving in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, whether active duty, National Guard or Reserve.

**Memorial Day** is observed on the last Monday in May and is a remembrance of the men and women who died while in military service to our great nation.

**This year marks the 75th Anniversary of D-Day** (June 6), a milestone that is expected to represent the last large gathering of D-Day veterans around the globe. The youngest D-Day veterans are in their middle-90s; a few more years and they will be gone from us.

American, British, and Canadian troops landed on the dangerous beaches of Normandy to liberate Europe from Nazi domination.

Operation Overlord, or D-Day as many simply call it, was the largest air, land, and sea operation undertaken before or since June 6, 1944. The landing included over 5,000 ships, 11,000 airplanes, and 156,000 service men. After endless planning and training, it all came down to this: the landing craft's ramp slams down, a 19-year-old soldier carrying 80 pounds of gear jumps, swims, runs, and crawls to the cliffs. He faces small-arms fire and artillery over 200 yards of beach before reaching cover. When it was over, the Allied Forces had suffered nearly 10,000 casualties; more than 4,000 were dead. However, due to planning and the valor and sacrifice of the Allied Forces, Nazi Europe had been breached.

As we celebrate Military Appreciation Month it is time for every American to recognize those who have answered the call to service deserve our gratitude. They have endured the most difficult of conditions to protect America with many making the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our Nation for generations to come.

Many who have worn this country's uniform are unaware of the benefits and programs available to them because of their service. To county employees who are veterans or family members of veterans, thank you for your courage, sacrifice, and willingness to serve in our great nation's Armed Forces.



**If you have questions about federal and state VA benefits, please contact the dedicated staff of the Veteran Services Office at (805) 477-5155 and visit our website at [www.vchsa.org/veterans](http://www.vchsa.org/veterans)**

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