



**Unveiling a New Monument  
Commemorating the Contributions  
of American Merchant Mariners  
in Support of D-Day**



**REMEMBER & HONOR**

**Wednesday, 5 June 2024; 11:00 AM  
Utah Beach, Normandy, France**





**General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander  
Allied Forces, European Theatre, 8 May 1945**

*Every man in this Allied command is quick to express his admiration for the loyalty, courage, and fortitude of the officers and men of the merchant marine. We count upon their efficiency and their utter devotion to duty as we do our own; they have never failed us yet and in all the struggles yet to come we know that they will never be deterred by any danger, hardship, or privation. When final victory is ours there is no organization that will share its credit more deservedly than the merchant marine.*



The plaque, including Gen. Eisenhower's quote, was designed by Ian Watts of AMMV and manufactured in bronze by Cornille-Harvard in France. The monument, with a concrete base, was constructed by the Utah Beach Museum.

The USMM monument is located near the Lone Sailor monument and the Higgins Boat monument on Utah Beach. The photograph shows the concrete base with the bronze plaque mounted (Ross Rowlinson/USA Warrior Stories).



**USMM Mariner's  
Medal**



**USMM Atlantic War  
Zone Service Medal**



**USMM World War II  
Victory Medal**



**Agenda for American Merchant Marine Veterans  
Unveiling the U.S. Merchant Marine Monument  
Wednesday, 5 June 2024; 11:00 AM  
Utah Beach, Normandy, France**

We honor U.S. Merchant Mariners who participated in the D-Day armada on 6 June 1944 that supported the invasion of France, and the beginning of the end of Nazi oppression and tyranny in Europe.

**Capt. Dru DiMattia** *President, American Merchant Marine Veterans* -  
Opening Remarks about the U.S. Merchant Marine

**Charles de Vallavieille**, *Mayor, Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, Normandy, France* -  
Welcome to All and Remarks about D-Day

**Reading of the Plaque**, in English and French, with Gen. Dwight  
Eisenhower's 8 May 1945 quote about the U.S. Merchant Marine

**Dave Yoho**, *U.S. Merchant Marine WWII Veteran* - Remarks about the U.S.  
Merchant Marine and D-Day

**Col. Peter Hurley** (*U.S. Army, ret.*), *Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 605, Paris, France* – Remarks about the U.S. Merchant Marine

**National Anthem of the United States of America**

**National Anthem of France**

**U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Choir**

**Rita Cosby**, *Award-winning journalist, news anchor, and author* - Remarks  
about the U.S. Merchant Marine

**Participants**, Unveiling of U.S. Merchant Marine Monument on Utah Beach

American Merchant Marine Veterans  
gratefully acknowledge support for the  
unveiling of the USMM monument on Utah Beach  
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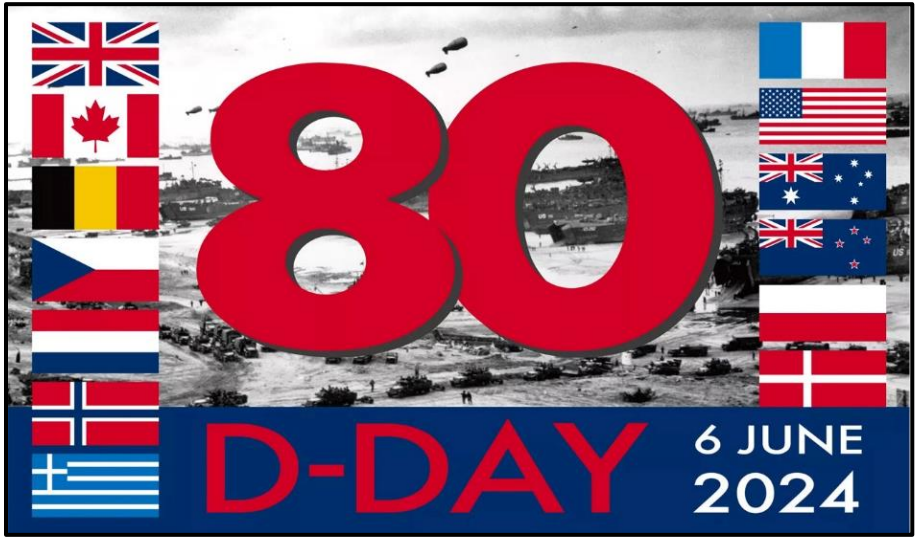


American Airlines



**MERCHANT SEAMEN ARE D-DAY HEROES**  
**New York Times, Saturday, 10 June 1944**

**LONDON, June 9** -- *D-Day would not have been possible without the Merchant Marine. Now that the long-awaited day is history and great Allied forces have been landed in France, it is permitted to indicate the part played by these intrepid civilians, whose deeds for the most part have gone unsung.*



The D-Day invasion fleet, drawn from eight different navies, comprised 6,939 vessels, including more than 800 merchant vessels. About 200 U.S. merchant ships with Merchant Marine crews supported the D-Day invasion operations.



The **SS Jeremiah O'Brien** is a Liberty ship that is based in San Francisco, CA. She is a rare survivor of the powerful D-Day armada on 6 June 1944. Of the 2,710 Liberty ships built during World War II and crewed by the U.S. Merchant Mariners only the **SS Jeremiah O'Brien** and two other Liberty ships are still afloat today.



## **80th Anniversary of D-Day Message Capt. Dru DiMattia, President AMMV**

*The U.S. Merchant Mariners' heroic dedication to supply troops, ammunition, goods, and vehicles during D-Day enabled the Allies' remarkable success for the invasion of the Normandy beaches. Reinforcement and resupply by U.S. merchant ships in the weeks after D-Day allowed the Allies to push forward into France, which began the end of Nazi conquest, terror, and oppression in war-torn Europe.*

*The American Merchant Marine Veterans salute the U.S. Merchant Marine and all members of the Allies' invasion forces who struck a mighty blow for freedom on D-Day. The new monument unveiled on Utah Beach is a fitting tribute to U.S. Merchant Mariners' service and sacrifices. May their achievements on D-Day and all of World War II never be forgotten!*

### **About the American Merchant Marine Veterans**

Since 1984, the American Merchant Marine Veterans has been a not for profit, pro-American organization established to gain recognition for what American Merchant Mariners have accomplished for our country in times of peace and war. We are dedicated to promoting and educating the American people and the U.S. Government about the services that American Merchant Mariners have provided to our Nation in connection with military sealift support and preservation of our national security through a strong maritime industry.

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