



Cooler, Storms Likely

9 a.m.: 62 | 3 p.m.: 64 | DETAILS: PAGE 2

SATURDAY ■ June 7, 2014



GOV. DAUGAARD
ADDRESSES GIRLS
STATE, TOUTS
TECH. EDUCATION

PAGE 3

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On D-Day

The world paid tribute Friday to the 70th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. This photo of the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial site, where the remains of more than 9,300 fallen Americans rest, was taken a few years ago by Mount Marty College professor Rich Lofthus. World leaders gathered at Normandy to commemorate the event. (Photo: Rich Lofthus).

Yankton WWII Vets Gather For D-Day Anniversary

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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On the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, France, approximately 40 Yankton-area World War II veterans met to commemorate the occasion and find fellowship among their peers.

David Hosmer and Doug Haar, who have been collecting the stories of local World War II veterans since February, organized the event at Yankton's G.A.R. Hall.

"The purpose of this gathering is to have a little bit of lunch and to visit," Hosmer told the group. "This is an opportunity for all of you to enjoy each other's company."

On the menu was hotdogs and apple pie — with cheese, of course.

"Each one of the pies is homemade," Hosmer stated. "As my grandmother used to say when she made me a pie: 'When I make you a pie, I'm telling you I love you.' And so I want you to know when we bake pie, we love you all. I am proud of you, and I thank each one of you for my freedom."

Added Haar, "Your legacy is one that Dave and I and everybody here has tried to live up to."

The crowd included at least two men who were there on D-Day along with the 160,000 Allied troops that landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline held by Nazi Germany. Another four men in the G.A.R. Hall joined the invasion at a later date.

LeRoy Kuestermeyer, 89, Yankton, and Ed Johnson, 95, rural Yankton, were present on D-Day.

"I was on a LST (Landing Ship, Tank)," Kuestermeyer said. "I stayed on it. I didn't even get my feet on the ground. I was a radio operator."



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

LeRoy Kuestermeyer, above, was a radio operator on a LST (Landing Ship, Tank) during the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Normandy, France. Ed Johnson, below, was also on an LST that day. Both Yankton men took part in a luncheon at the Yankton G.A.R. Hall Friday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the momentous battle.



VETERANS | PAGE 10

The World Honors D-Day's Fallen

BY GREG KELLER AND ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — It was a day of pride, remembrance and honors for those who waded through blood-tinged waves, climbed razor-sharp cliffs or fell from the skies, staring down death or dying in an invasion that portended the fall of the Third Reich and the end of World War II.

It was also a day of high diplomacy for a Europe not completely at peace.

After 70 years, a dwindling number of veterans, civilian survivors of the brutal battle for Normandy and 19 world leaders and monarchs celebrated on Friday the sacrifices of D-Day, an assault never matched for its size, planning and derring-do.

The events spread across the beaches and lush farmlands of Normandy, in western France, had an added sense of urgency this year: It would be the last grand commemoration for many of the veterans, whether they relived the anniversary at home in silence or were among the some 1,000 who crossed continents to be present despite their frail age.

For President Barack Obama, transmitting the memory of their "longest day" means keeping intact the values that veterans fought and died for.

"When the war was won, we claimed no spoils of victory — we helped Europe rebuild," Obama said in a speech at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. It is the site where 9,387 fallen soldiers rest under white marble tombstones on a bluff above



MAXPPP/ZUMA PRESS/MCT
President Barack Obama (right) joins French President Francois Hollande at the D-Day ceremony in Colleville, France.

D-DAY | PAGE 13



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

1SG Brooks Schild of Yankton receives congratulations and an embrace from a fellow South Dakota National Guard member following Friday's change of responsibility ceremony. Schild now becomes the senior enlisted officer in the unit.

Schild Comes Home For A Change

Yankton Native Is Promoted To First Sgt. Of Bravo Battery

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For 1SG Brooks Schild, Friday's ceremony at the Yankton armory proved historic in more ways than one.

Schild accepted the formal change of responsibility during the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG) ceremony. He now serves as the senior enlisted soldier, taking leadership for Yankton-based Bravo Battery of the 1/147 Field Artillery.

"It's a special day, to become first sergeant for Bravo Battery. I don't take it

lightly," he said. "I'm honored, especially when you look at the history of the Yankton unit dating back to the cavalry in the 1800s."

For Schild, Friday's ceremony marked a homecoming of sorts. Since 2012, he has served as the chief instructor with the 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment in Sioux Falls.

Now, the Yankton resident will lead the unit with which he has served for nearly a decade. During that time, the Yankton unit responded to combat missions as well as natural disasters across the state.

Friday's ceremony became even more historic because it was held on the 70th anniversary of the June 6, 1944, Normandy invasion.

The timing of Friday's ceremony on D-Day was coincidental, but Schild saw it as highly appropriate.

"They are the greatest generation," he said of the World War II veterans. "What we

"It's a special day, to become first sergeant for Bravo Battery. I don't take it lightly."

1SG BROOKS SCHILD

do today is minuscule compared to what those guys went through 70 years ago. It truly was the greatest generation we ever had, and that's why we're a free country today."

His family present at Friday's ceremony were his wife, Joan, and their children: Blake, Jordan and Clara Schild; his mother, Colleen Schild; and his aunt and uncle, Natalie and Duane Frick.

In separate comments to the *Press & Dakotan*, Brooks Schild pointed to Duane

SCHILD | PAGE 20



REGION 2 | OBITUARIES 3 | VIEWS 4 | LIFE 5 | SPORTS 7 | MIDWEST 11 | WORLD 12 | CLASSIFIEDS 14

MONDAY: Yankton Police Officer Is Honored

YANKTON RECYCLING NEXT WEEK:
NORTH
OF 15TH STREET