

The D-Day Memorial

The National D-Day Memorial, on a hilltop near U.S. 460 and state Route 122, will hold a ceremony today at 11 a.m. The dog tag of a young Tennessee man killed on D-Day on Omaha Beach is to be returned to members of his family. From 10 a.m. to noon today, admission will be free.

Dedicated: June 6, 2001

Cost: \$25 million

Key feature: A 44-foot-high granite arch inscribed with the word "Overlord" — the code name for the invasion — and bronze sculptures of soldiers struggling across a beach.

Open: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Closed Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's days.

Admission: Adults, \$5; children, \$3.

D-Day

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ries haunted Nance's dreams. He would wake up and replay the events in his head, asking himself what he might have done differently to save some of his men. Nance was a lieutenant.

But he can no longer access those dark memories, he and his wife, Alpha, said in recent interviews. As a result, his wife said,

"Ray is much more at peace."

Nance, who still has a boyish face and penetrating blue eyes, said he would prefer to remember everything — "the good and the bad." Then he added, "Maybe some things are better forgotten."

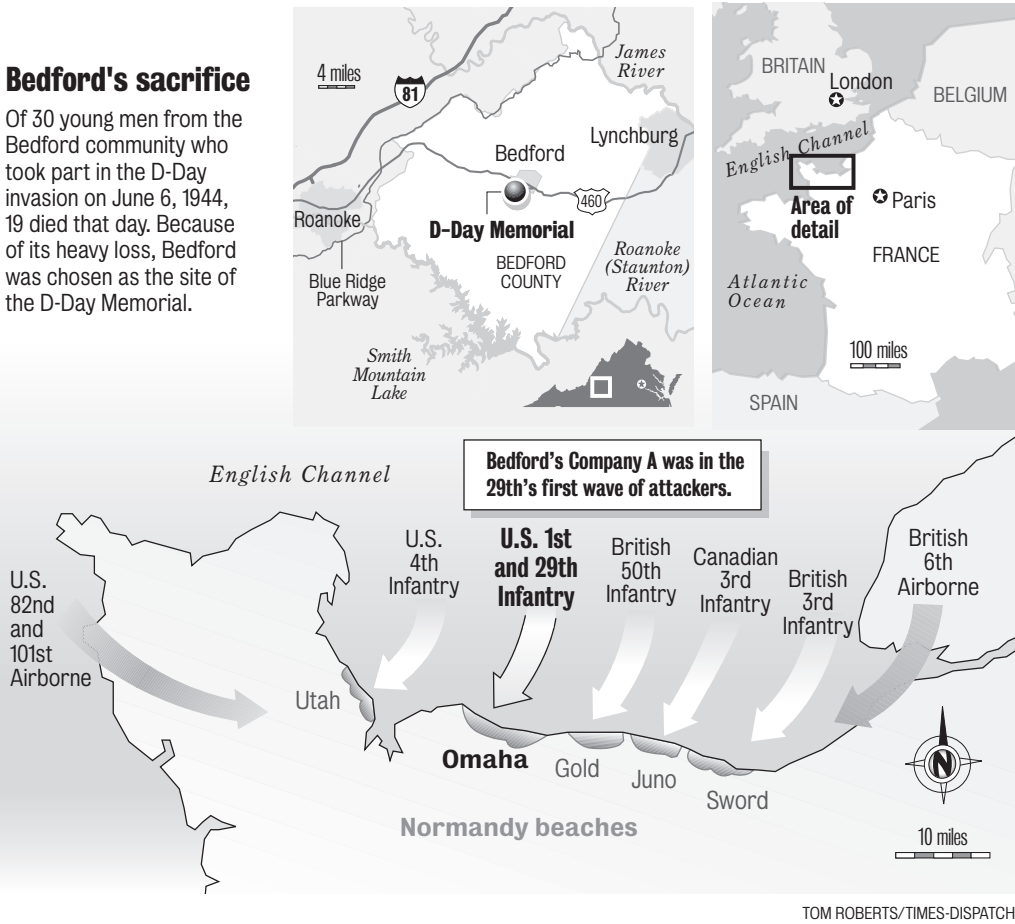
He gestured with a smile at Alpha, his wife of 62 years. "She is my memory now."

Ray and Alpha Nance moved out of their brick ranch house outside town about three years ago, and into Elks National Home, a sprawling retirement home in Bedford. He had a mild stroke a year ago. They don't go out much, but at least once a week they visit the National D-Day Memorial on a hilltop nearby.

Nance always salutes the flag at the memorial and then stops at a marker to pay his respects to Capt. Taylor Fellers, his

Bedford's sacrifice

Of 30 young men from the Bedford community who took part in the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, 19 died that day. Because of its heavy loss, Bedford was chosen as the site of the D-Day Memorial.



Ray Nance (right) and Roy O. Stevens visited the National D-Day Memorial in 2001, just before it opened in Bedford. Stevens died on New Year's Day.

friend and former company commander, who was among the 19 Bedford casualties. Before the invasion, Fellers told Nance he feared the worst. But Fellers got out of a sickbed to lead his men to the beach.

Nance became a postal carrier, delivering mail to the rural boxes of the families of some of the dead. They would stop him and ask him for details he could not provide.

"Bedford has never seemed the same," he said last week.

Nance became the last living "Bedford Boy" on New Year's Day, with the death of Roy O. Stevens. The annual Company A reunion dinner was not held this year.

The Nances said they would spend at least part of the D-Day anniversary today at the memorial in Bedford. He used to grouse about the cost and the

management of the memorial, but now it is an unalloyed joy to him. Sometimes a volunteer will point him out to visitors.

Nance said last week that he has never stopped wondering why he survived D-Day when so many others died. Now, he said, "I wonder why I'm the last one left. But I've had a good life. I'm very, very glad to be alive."

• Contact Bill Geroux at (757) 625-1358 or wgeroux@timesdispatch.com.

Too late to stop 'lion,' Iran says

Nuclear sanctions futile, leader says; U.S. begs to differ

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's nuclear program cannot be stopped, and any Western attempt to force a halt to uranium enrichment would be like playing "with the lion's tail," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday.

In Berlin, Germany's foreign minister reported no progress in talks with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator ahead of the Group of Eight summit.

And with the U.N. Security Council preparing to debate a third set of sanctions for Tehran's refusal to suspend enrichment, Britain raised the possibility of adding curbs on oil and gas investment to the limited measures against individuals and companies involved in Iran's nuclear and weapons programs.

"We advise them to give up stubbornness and childish games," Ahmadinejad said at a

news conference. "Some say Iran is like a lion. It's seated quietly in a corner. We advise them not to play with the lion's tail."

Ahmadinejad added: "It is too late to stop the progress of Iran."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack responded: "It isn't."

"He could make the decision today to take up the reasonable offer to negotiate with the rest of the world," McCormack said. "The international system is not going to be intimidated by these kinds of threats."

Adding to the tensions, shortly after Ahmadinejad's news conference, Tehran issued its harshest refusal yet of American demands to release dual citizens held in Iran on espionage charges.

The Foreign Ministry said U.S. abuses — from prisoner mistreatment at Guantanamo to a UCLA police officer's shocking an Iranian-American student with a Taser — showed that Washington had no right to criticize Iran's human-rights record.

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Today's events serve as tomorrow's history. Yet sometimes even the most powerful success stories and hard-working individuals in our community go unnoticed. The Valentine Richmond History Center has launched Richmond History Makers - a program that recognizes, honors and celebrates those everyday citizens and outstanding organizations that are making significant contributions to the greater Richmond region.

HELP US FIND THE 2007 RICHMOND HISTORY MAKERS!

Public nominations will be accepted for those who are benefiting our community by mentoring best practices, leading successful initiatives and contributing positively through innovative methods. Richmond History Makers nominations will be accepted **through June 29** for five categories of distinction:

★ **Creating Quality Educational Opportunities** - Nominee will have enhanced educational opportunities for citizens, academic achievement, or ensured a safe, constructive learning environment.

★ **Demonstrating Innovative Solutions** - Nominee will have demonstrated innovation and vision in making the Richmond region a better place to live, work, or visit.

★ **Promoting Stronger Communities** - Nominee will have worked to address problems, develop initiatives, or make lasting improvements that result in stronger, more stable communities.

★ **Improving Social Justice** - Nominee will have shown a commitment to promoting diversity, access and opportunity for all.

★ **Fostering Regional Cooperation** - Nominee will have brought entities together to create a new synergy and improve efficiency and effectiveness.

NOMINATE NOW!

Nominate those individuals who help make the greater Richmond region a better place to live, to learn, to develop, and to grow as a community.

Nominate your Richmond History Maker at www.richmondhistorymakers.com

Nominations must be received no later than 5:00 P.M. Friday, June 29, 2007.

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Corporations, organizations and individuals are invited to partner with the following prestigious community leaders, as together we launch Richmond History Makers 2007. Based on the level of participation, sponsorship opportunities include valuable public recognition, publicity and benefits.

For more information, contact Cathryn Lowe, Director of Development, Valentine Richmond History Center, at (804) 649-0711.

RICHMOND HISTORY MAKERS CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 23, 2007 • 5:30 P.M.

VALENTINE RICHMOND HISTORY CENTER

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