



80^e  ANNIVERSAIRE
**D-DAY & BATAILLE
DE NORMANDIE**

Background of Best Defense Foundation

- **Founded in 2018 by Donnie Edwards, former NFL football player**
- **“Taking Care of Those Who Took Care of Us”**
- **Returned veterans to Normandy, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, Guam, Saipan for commemorations.**
- **We are 100% volunteer driven.**
- **I have been the Medical Director since 2021.**

D-Day Anniversary 2023 by the Numbers

Nearly 160,000 Allied troops, 73,000 from the U.S. landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944

2024 marks the 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Total of 47 WWII veterans on program this year

Average age is 100. Youngest is 97 and oldest is 104

10 days of travel, June 3 - June 12, 2024

What do volunteers do?

Every veteran has a caregiver who accompanies them every step

Medical staff - physicians, RNs, paramedics

Admin managing logistics and the day to day issues

Media team - providing photography and video for each veteran and media

NextGen - 16 - 22 year olds with a passion for history competed to be there

The Itinerary

June 2 - Arrival in Atlanta and kick off ceremony

June 3 - Departure on charter flight

June 4 - Arrival in Deauville, France

June 5 - Pegasus Bridge, Tank Museum

June 6 - US cemetery ceremony and International ceremony

June 7 - Overload museum, Jeeps on Omaha beach

June 8 - Utah beach and Carantan parade

June 9 - La Fiere jump, Ste Mere Eglise parade

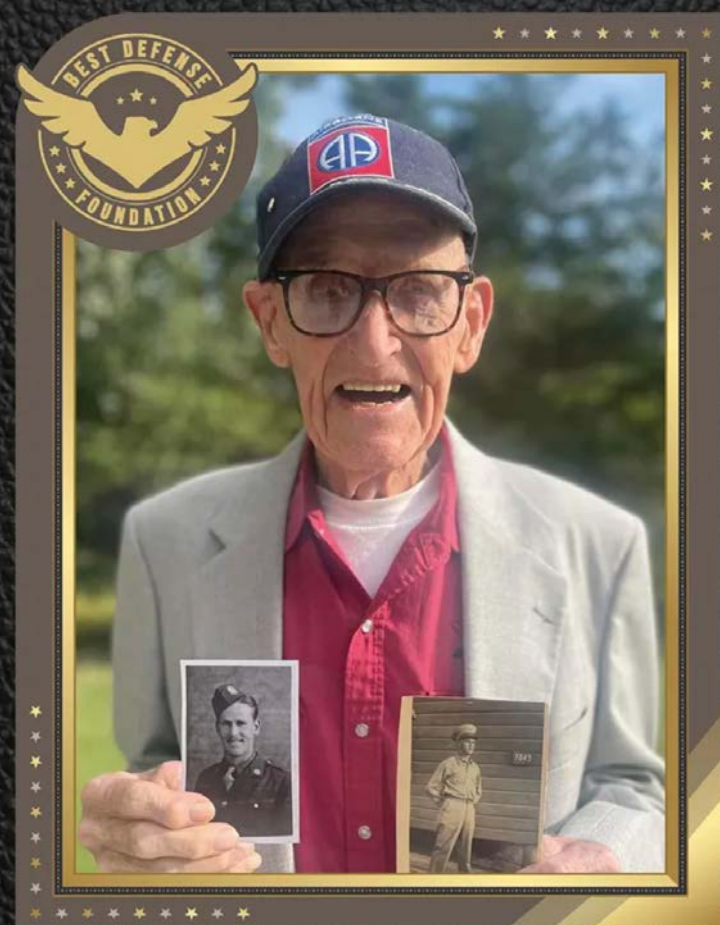
June 10 - School visit and Farewell dinner





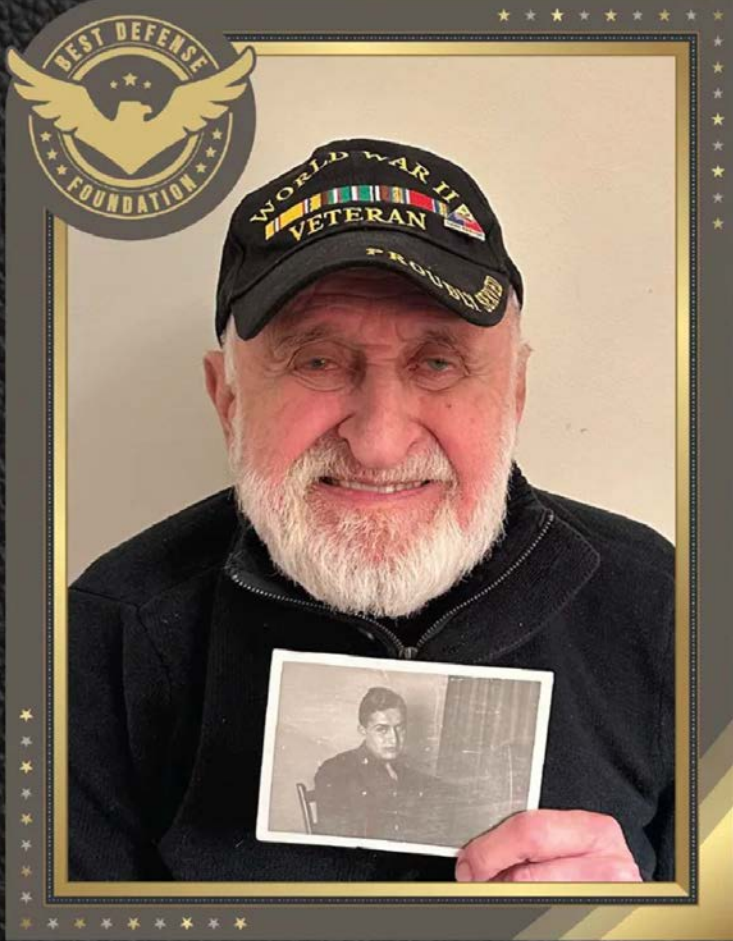
Pfc. John M. Wardell

Company E, 2nd Ranger Battalion



Pfc. Joseph B. "Ben" Miller

307th Airborne Medical Company, 82nd Airborne Division



Pvt. Gideon Kantor

3804th Quartermaster Truck Company, 4th Armored Division



2Lt. Hewitt B. Gomez

857th Bomb Squadron, 492nd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force



F/O Daniel Keel

"Tuskegee Airmen"

477th Bombardment Group, 1st Air Force



Anna Mae Krier

"Rosie the Riveter"















D-DAY 80TH BATTLEFIELD RETURN: NORMANDY



DELTA

