

World War II

70th Anniversary Wreath-Laying Event

Welcome to Williamsburg Memorial Park. Today, you, and people at more than 2,000 locations around the world, are participating in the longest continuous wreath-laying ceremony in history. This event, sponsored by the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, celebrates the end of World War II and honors the men and women who fought bravely to liberate Europe. Thank you for being here.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Please rise and remain standing

Master of Ceremonies Colonel Alan R. Cunningham, USAR (Ret)

Invocation Madeleine Bryant, Assoc. Member, VBOB

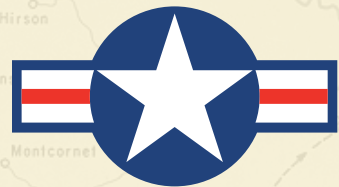
Advance of Colors Combined Veterans' Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance J. David Bailey, 106th Infantry
Former President of VBOB

National Anthem Alberta Prather (Mezzo Soprano)

GUEST SPEAKER

Please be seated



Colonel William S. Galbraith, USAF
Commander, 733rd Mission Support Group
Langley-Fort Eustis

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Please rise and remain standing

Wreath Laying Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Taps Auston O'Neill, Spirit of '45 National Bugler

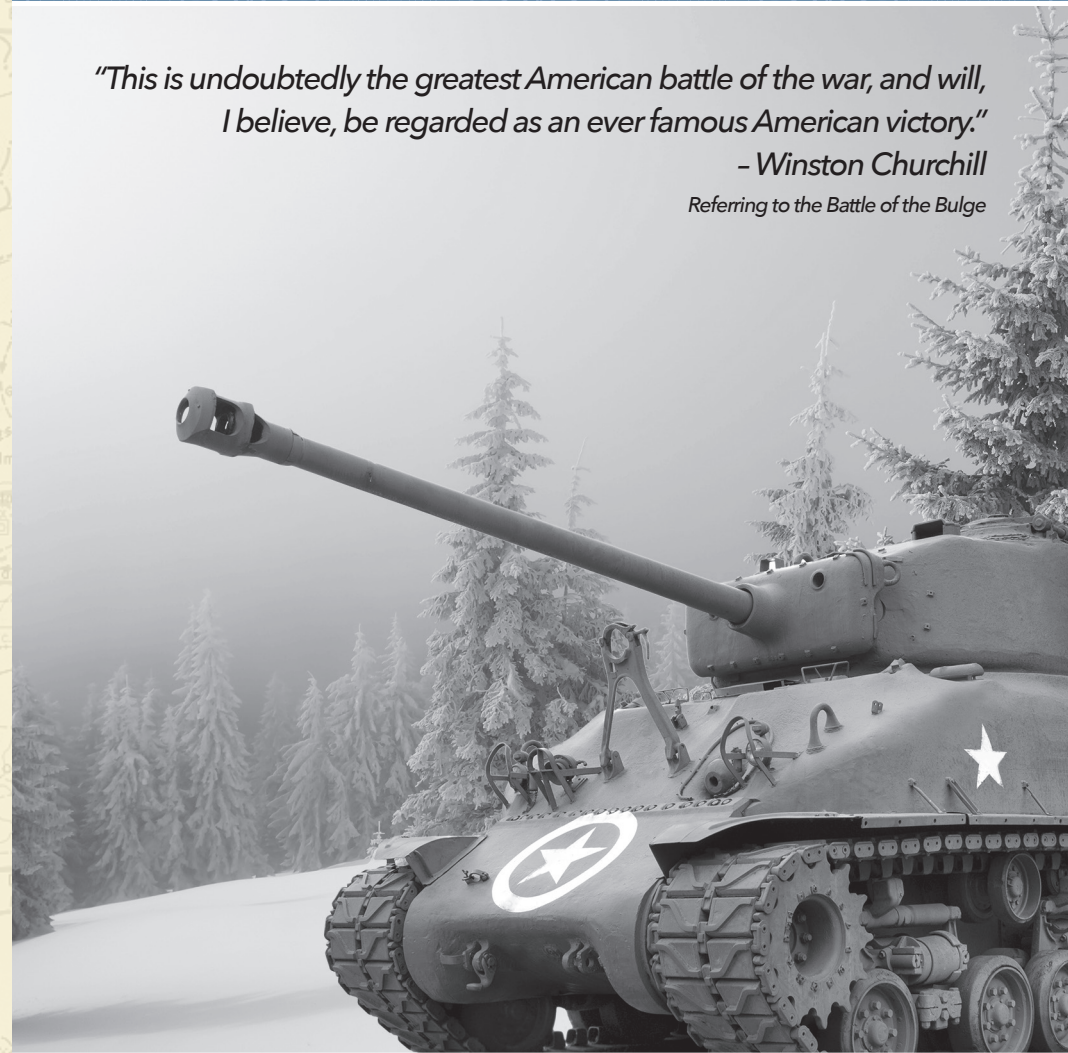
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"This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war, and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory."

- Winston Churchill

Referring to the Battle of the Bulge



Williamsburg
MEMORIAL PARK

300 King William Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188

A Tribute to the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE—A BRIEF HISTORY

December 16, 1944–January 25, 1945

The Battle of the Bulge, named after the “bulge” that formed when the Germans broke through the Allied line, was a major offensive launched in the misty morning of December 16, 1944. Its objective was to split the Allied forces in half and drive them back to the English Channel, as the Germans did earlier in May of 1940.



Four inexperienced and battle-worn American divisions- consisting of 80,000 men, 250 tanks, and 400 artillery guns- were tasked with holding back a force of 200,000 seasoned German soldiers and 1,000 tanks and assault guns. The battle would take place along a 75-mile stretch of dense forests known as the Ardennes.

Against overwhelming odds, isolated, and often unaware of the complete battlefield picture, these young soldiers fought gallantly to slow the Nazi advance and give Allied forces critical time to mount a counterattack. Our troops fought with tremendous bravery as they defended vital crossroads, destroyed critical fuel supplies, and used arcane Americana questions to capture English-speaking Nazi infiltrators who had posed as American soldiers.

The battle raged on for more than a month and ended on January 25, 1945. It was a decisive Allied victory, but a costly one. The Americans suffered nearly 80,000 casualties, making it the largest and bloodiest US battle fought in World War II. Thankfully, most survived.

Today, we're honored to have with us 29 brave Americans who helped repel an attack that could have turned the tide of war. On behalf of everyone here, thank you for your service to this great nation.



Honored Veteran

James David Bailey
Dorothy Taft Barre
Maurice Berry
Robert Bowles Jr.
Jessie O. Bowman

Vernon H. Brantley
Thomas L. Burgess
Frederick R. Carmichael Sr.
Francis Chesko
Clayton A. Christensen

Louis E. Cunningham
Donald R. Dillon
A. Wayne Field
David K. Gillogly
Ward A. Goodrich

Fred F. Gordon
Thomas E. Hoke
John T. Ingram
Hope Carlson Kirkendall
Athance J. Landry Jr.

William G. Leunig
M.J. Levin
George J. Merz
Arthur B. Mohor Jr.
Katherine M. Nolan

Robert W. Shaw
Jack Stitzinger
Alvin Sussman
Alfred H. Taylor

US Army Division

106th Infantry
16th General Hospital
26th Infantry
26th Infantry
87th Infantry

75th Infantry
87th Infantry
87th Infantry
7th Armored
99th Infantry

106th Infantry
2nd Infantry
6th Armored
10th Armored
123rd Ordinance

9th Armored
87th Infantry
90th Infantry
16th General Hospital
776 Anti-Aircraft

285th Engineer
7th Armored
818th Military Police
94th Infantry
53rd Field Hospital

4th Armored
87th Infantry
106th Infantry
10th Armored



What's the capital of Illinois?

(one of the questions used to identify German infiltrators)