French Consul General Visits Lamorinda, Pays Tribute to Veterans of Normandy

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By Laurie Snyder

"We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields and in the streets. We shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender." – Winston Churchill



Three Normandy veterans swap stories. From left: Leonard Snyder (Orinda), Warren Jensen (Concord), and Bill Armstrong (Walnut Creek). Photo Ohlen Alexander

hen British Prime Minister of terror. Joined by Bill Cooper, those words before the House of Scout Troop 237 who organized the Commons in 1941, he knew the event with help from Scouting authorworld was in for a long, difficult fight. ities and VFW Post 8063 (Lafayette), The "War to End All Wars" (World Carmona saluted 14 East Bay resi-War I) had left behind the dormant dents who fought in the June 6, 1944 seeds of despair, waiting for the Allied invasion of Normandy: wrong gardener to cultivate them into Leonard Snyder and Richard Hersey fields of hatred and horror. Less than (Orinda); Hilbert Seiwert (Lafayette); a decade later, Adolph Hitler appointed himself for the job. By World cock (Benicia); Jake Larson (Mar-War II's end, 25 million men, women tinez); Bill Armstrong, Daniel and children had been wounded with more than 50 million killed. Many were soldiers; many more were innocent civilians.

On Feb. 2, Pauline Carmona, Consul General of France in San vicissitudes of history," noted Car-Francisco and Orinda Vice-Mayor Victoria Smith reminded listeners just how close the world came to oblivion as they led a special ceremony at the Orinda Community Church honoring those who helped end Hitler's reign

Winston Churchill uttered Scoutmaster Emeritus of Orinda Boy Benny Jordan (Moraga); Bob Hitch-Franklin, Chuck Sapper, Bob Tharratt, Herbert Smith (Walnut Creek); and Lynn Freeman, Warren Jensen and Earl Mortenson (Concord).

"Far from being weakened by the mona, "the state of the friendship and the alliance between France and the U.S. is very strong" – bolstered by the belief of their citizenry in freedom and democracy. "People of my generation were allowed to grow up in a

free country," she said, because American soldiers came by the thousands 70 years ago to help save her nation, freeing Paris on Aug. 25,

Many of the 3 million troops liberating France during Operation Overlord were former Scouts, including Medal of Honor winner Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, the only general to land during D-Day's first wave, and Colonel James Rudder, commander of the Army's 2nd Rangers which suffered a 50 percentplus casualty rate as men scaled 100foot cliffs and attacked the Nazi artillery at Pointe Du Hoc. A full 75 percent of the medals awarded for World War II heroism overall were in fact pinned to the chests of former Scouts, according to a 2008 speech by Vice Admiral Richard Gallagher, former deputy commander of the U.S. European Command (now U.S. Navy, ret.). ... continued on page B2





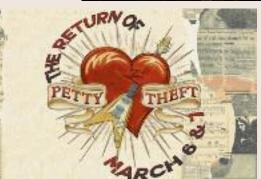
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Taxis to Hell and Back: American soldiers head from a Coast Guard landing barge toward the Normandy beach on Photo Public domain, U.S. Library of Congress, Robert F. Sargent D-Day, June 6, 1944.

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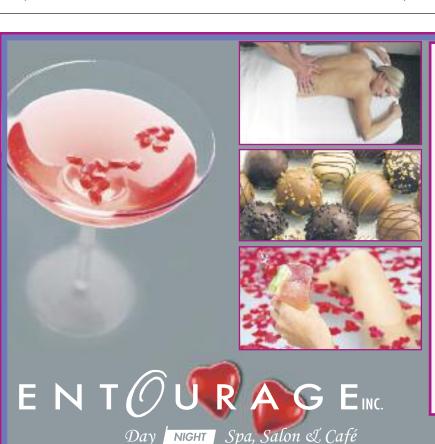
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