

## Alexandria Times

Denise Dunbar  
 Publisher & Executive Editor  
 ddunbar@alextimes.com

Margaret Stevens  
 Sales Director  
 mstevens@alextimes.com

Caitlyn Meisner  
 Managing Editor/Reporter  
 cmeisner@alextimes.com

Wafir Salih  
 Reporter  
 wsalih@alextimes.com

Arwen Clemans  
 Photo Intern

Audrey Keefe  
 Intern

James Matheson  
 Intern

### ADVERTISING

Margaret Stevens  
 mstevens@alextimes.com

Marty DeVine  
 mdevine@alextimes.com

Patrice V. Culligan  
 pculligan@alextimes.com

Tina Franco  
 Office Administrator  
 tfranco@alextimes.com

### DIRECTOR OF ART & DESIGN

Jessica Kim  
 graphics@alextimes.com

### CONTRIBUTORS

Kerry Boyd Anderson  
 Kim Davis  
 Mark Eaton  
 Mark Edelman  
 Thompson Eskew  
 Kim Gilliam  
 Ryan Hopper  
 Kim Jackson  
 Lexie Jordan  
 Louise Krafft  
 Brianne McConnell  
 Jim McGrath  
 Kaitlin Murphy  
 Erin Shackelford  
 Dr. Vivek Sinha  
 Dr. David Weintritt  
 Amy Will

### ALEXTIMES LLC

Denise Dunbar  
 Managing Partner

The Ariail family  
 Suzanne Brock  
 William Dunbar

# D-Day, 80 years later

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings and invasion of Normandy during World War II. The City of Alexandria has shared a sister city relationship with the city of Caen, Normandy's capital, since 1991. As part of Alexandria's participation in Sister Cities International, the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee promotes educational and cultural exchanges between Alexandria and Caen, France. Alexandria's 14th Annual D-Day Commemoration is planned for this Sunday between 1 and 4 p.m. on Market Square as part of that exchange.

On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops invaded Normandy, France, gaining a significant foothold in continental Europe. The city of Caen was the center of some of the heaviest fighting after the Allies landed on nearby beaches, and the Battle for Caen raged from June 6 to Aug. 6, 1944. When the fighting ended, 80% of the city was destroyed. It took 18 years to rebuild the city. More than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded during the initial invasion. Their sacrifice played an invaluable role in the Allied victory over Adolf Hitler and the Axis Powers.

Alexandria's commemoration program includes live



The 2022 Alexandria D-Day Commemoration.

PHOTO/ALEXANDRIA-CAEN SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

period swing music by Modern Swing Collective, World War II reenactors, swing dancers, history displays, community tables and performances by the U.S. Army Fife and Drum Corps, and the Alexandria Citizens Band. The commemoration also features a short formal ceremony with the mayor and city officials, military representatives and embassy delegates from Allied nations.

Alexandria offers a second D-Day program at the Lyceum on June 6 at 7 p.m., the actual

80th anniversary of D-Day. U.S. Army Historian, Kim Bernard Holien, Ph.D. presents "How Patton's Ghost Army Beat Hitler." This year, more than 80 years after their mission, soldiers of the "Ghost Army" received the highest civilian honor of the United States, the Congressional Gold Medal, for their clever tactics outwitting the enemy in the most unlikely ways.

Their unconventional tactics included inflatable convoys, sound effects, fake radio shows and misinformation.

Come and learn how the Allies weaved the web that held the German 15th Army at Calais, ensuring victory in Normandy. Lecture tickets are \$10 and are available at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov). A wine and dessert reception follows the lecture.

We hope you can join us in celebrating our sister city Caen, as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the battle that changed Normandy forever.

*Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.*