

Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 38 – 2014 Folds of Honor

70th Anniversary of D-Day Landings at Normandy, France



Chapter President **Randall Eliason**

Music Director **Joe Cerutti** Associate

Choreographer **Carlos Barillo**

Tour Director **Ken Fess**

Director **Anthony Colosimo**

Package Show Producer **Greg Tepe**

The Alexandria Harmonizers were honored to be invited to participate in ceremonies at Normandy, France on or about June 6, 2014, commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. Following this participation, we performed in concerts at Paris, France and Cologne, Germany.

Veterans Tribute Show, First Baptist Church of Alexandria, May 17th. As a send-off for our Normandy tour, we offered a moving tribute in song and story to a large

group of World War II veterans in a program that was soon to become an annual Armed Forces Day Show in Alexandria.

D-Day Concert, American Cemetery, Brittany, Normandy, June 5th. Our Harmonizer family traveled in four buses to each concert site. This was our first chance to feel the impact of thousands of white crosses rising up from fields of well-manicured grass. Performing with us were school bands and ROTC units coordinated by Earl Hurray, **Ike Evans'** fellow US Marine Band alumnus. Our songs included "Amazing Grace," "Something About A Soldier," "Armed Forces Medley," "I'll Walk With God," "Stars and Stripes Forever," and "Tribute To World Peace."

Musical Salute to Liberation and D-Day Parade, Sainte Mere Eglise, France, June 6th. We were quickly immersed into a huge celebration crowd of folks from around the world and carried banners in the parade. We performed our song set at the town square, adding: "The Longest Day," "Anything Goes," and "Glenn Miller Medley."

D-Day Concert, American Cemetery, Omaha Beach, Normandy, June 7th. Just as the ceremony started, the rain stopped, the sun came out, and we repeated our package plus "Ave Maria." After we sang we walked the path to take a picture with Omaha Beach in the background.

Lt. Billie D. Harris Memorial Concert, Les Ventes, France, June 7th. In a gesture arranged by **Chris Huber**, we planned to honor Army Air Corps pilot **Billie D. Harris** (1922-1944) and meet his widow, **Peggy Harris**, who, until 2006, never knew his fate and heroic action when crashing a stricken plane away from this small French village in July 1944. With some French dialogue supplied by **Peter Hubbard** and **Chuck Hunter**, we performed for the entire enthusiastic town in "a magical moment of pure happiness," per Mayor **Christine Guerard**. It was a major emotional highlight when **Anthony Colosimo** sang the solo in "Bring Him Home" to Peggy.

Concert, Notre Dame de Chartres, Paris, France, June 8th. An audience of about a thousand heard us sing "Ave Maria," "I'll Walk With God," "Deep River," and "Tribute to World Peace."

Concerts, Koln Cathedral and Theater am Tanzbrunnen, Koln, Germany, June 9th. We were happy to meet and sing with our friends and hosts from **Erster Kolner**

Barbershop Chorus. This was probably our most enthusiastic audience and a fitting climax to our European trip!