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“A Legacy of Loyalty and Service”

A veteran's loyalty and service to their country is the ultimate form of patriotism. I felt this patriotism in May 2024 as I was walking barefoot on the cold sandy beach between Utah and Omaha beaches. Seeing the waves crash against the WWII Higgins boat on display, and then turning to see the German bunker on Pointe du Hoc that seemed a football field high on the rocky coast, it was as if I was walking in the footsteps of the American soldiers and could see the impossible job they had to do during the D-Day invasion on June 1944.

Those soldiers showed their loyalty and service to the country by having to endure hunger, being wet, cold, and seasick in the boats that brought them to shore, being scared and lost in the dark in a country where they did not speak the language, climbing the rocky cliffs using ropes while under enemy fire, watching one after the other of their friends being killed next to them, and not knowing if they would get to see their families again. Ronald Reagan referred to those soldiers as “the champions who helped free a continent” and “the heroes who helped end a war” during his speech in Normandy at the 40th anniversary of D-Day. The Pointe du Hoc soldiers left a legacy of strength and patriotism by giving the ultimate sacrifice.

Loyalty and service to our country did not stop at Pointe du Hoc, it still exists today. I am humbled by the sacrifices made by veterans of every war, and it is my responsibility to honor their immense bravery by remembering them and following their example. I am proud of the service that our veterans still do today. I love this country, I am a living legacy of patriotism, and I am grateful for the loyalty and service of past, present, and future veterans.