



Honoring D-Day Veterans of the Pennsylvania House

Seventy-five years ago, June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, was the turning point of World War II, which ultimately led to the Allied liberation of Western Europe. More than 156,000 American, British, and Canadian forces landed across 5 beaches stretching 50 miles on France's Normandy coast. The invasion was one of the largest military operations by sea in history. Many Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives served in WWII, and a few even landed on the Normandy beaches. Throughout the Archives' research, six former Members that survived the Normandy Invasion have been identified.

Raymond T. Book

(1983-1988, Allegheny County)



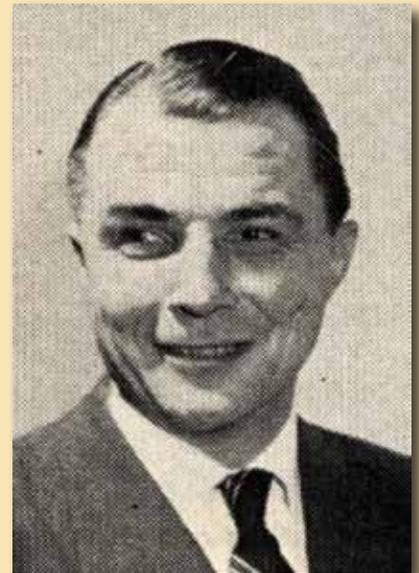
Raymond T. Book enlisted in the United States Army in 1943. Book served until 1945 and earned a Purple Heart, as well as other honors, for his meritorious service during WWII. Serving as a sharpshooter,

Book was assigned to different units during the war, including service under Gen. George Patton. After the Normandy Invasion, Book also fought in the third wave of the Battle of the Bulge.

William A. Bolton

(1951-1954, Montgomery County)

William A. Bolton served in the United States Army from 1942 until 1946. He achieved the rank of Major, and served as part of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division during the Normandy Invasion. For his military service, Bolton received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, the Belgian Croix de Guerre, and the Dutch Orange Lanyard. Upon his return to civilian life, he served as a president of the 101st Airborne Division Association.



Harry D. Ridinger, Sr.
(1963-1964, Adams County)



Harry D. Ridinger, Sr. served in the United States Army with the 173rd Field Artillery Group. He landed in Normandy in July 1944 at Utah Beach. Following Normandy, he continued his service in Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe.

Joseph C. Manmiller (1975-1988,
Dauphin and Lebanon Counties)

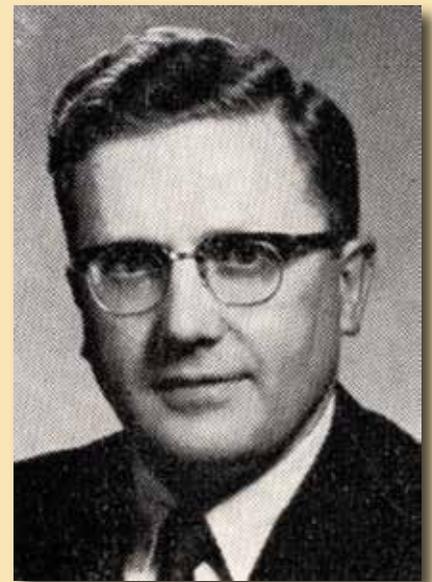
Joseph C. Manmiller served in the United States Navy from 1942 to 1944. He achieved the rank of Radioman, Second Class. As part of the Naval Amphibious Forces, Manmiller landed at Normandy on D-Day.



Victor R.H. Yarnell (1963-1964, Berks County)



Victor R.H. Yarnell achieved the rank of First Lieutenant in the British Army, serving from 1939 (when England entered WWII) to 1945. As part of the 86th Field Regiment, Yarnell landed on Gold Beach. He led his men and four self-propelled field guns to shore. By the end of the day, he and his men traveled nearly a mile inland from the beach to the town of Ver-sur-Mer. Yarnell also served at Dunkirk and at the Battle of the Bulge. Born in Canada, Yarnell received American citizenship in 1950. In addition to his House service, he was the Mayor of Reading from 1968 to 1972.



Source: <https://www.albright.edu/reporter/wint02/colors01.html>

Wayne L. Balthaser
(1959-1960, Berks County)

Wayne L. Balthaser enlisted in the United States Army in 1941 and served until 1945. He was a part of the 30th Chemical Decontamination Unit. Since no chemical warfare took place during the D-Day invasion, the unit did not have to perform its primary function. They instead helped clear the beaches of Normandy.



The Members highlighted here are just a few from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that served during WWII. For more information on other House veterans, as well as many other former Members, please visit our Historical Biographies page on our website at <https://www.house.state.pa.us/BMC/archives>. If you have any information about any other veterans that served during the Normandy Invasion, please let us know so we can recognize them in future publications. Contact us at 717-783-3866 or records@pabmc.net.

Disaster Response and Recovery Training

Recently, some of the House Archives staff had the opportunity to attend disaster and response training administered by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts located in Philadelphia. At the training, staff learned how to effectively organize and conduct rescue efforts of archival materials following natural disasters and accidents, such as burst water pipes. The workshop began with a variety of commonly found items from archives and museums being placed in pools of water. Participants were assigned roles and worked together to safely remove items from the water. Below are some tips for saving materials that have gotten wet:



- **Stay calm and make sure affected area is safe to enter**
- **Wear protective gear such as gloves and masks if necessary**
- **If multiple people are involved in clean-up, assign roles to facilitate an organized response**
- **Prepare areas for cleaning and drying materials**

- **Identify materials that are most vital to be attended to first, such as items that are valuable or most vulnerable (i.e. artwork or rare books)**
- **Document where items are being relocated**
- **Decide what items you can clean and dry yourself, and which may need professional attention**



Above: A rope and some clothespins used for drying vinyl records and film negatives

Below: Ceramic, wood, and metal materials drying



Above: Photographs, watercolor paintings, and media materials drying

Do Some Prep Work!

Being prepared for a disaster is key to a successful response. Having materials such as plastic tarps, newspaper, paper towels, trash bags, sheets, and buckets on hand will save valuable time when responding to a disaster.

If you have many important documents or photographs, you may also want to consider specialized tools such as micro-spatulas, which can assist in separating wet pages.



Micro-Spatula



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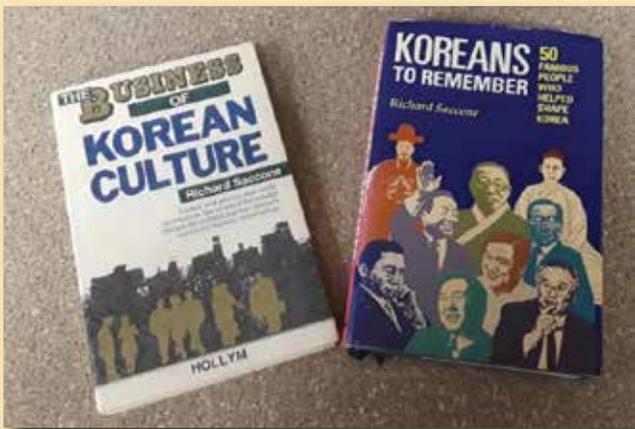
Library of the Pennsylvania House Archives

The Library of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives contains hundreds of books and other works related to the history and operations of the House and its Members. These works are a valuable collection that are often utilized by staff and researchers. Here are some of the highlights of the Library's collection:

- **Legislative Journals for the House and Senate.**
These Journals contain the daily procedures, bill and amendment proposals, speeches, debates, and other announcements that occur on the House and Senate Floor during Session.
- **Legislative Histories for the House and Senate.**
The Histories contain summaries of the Bills and Acts proposed and/or accepted during that Session.
- **Smull's Legislative Handbooks, 1867-1925; Pennsylvania Manuals, 1923-present; and Laws of Pennsylvania**



- Biographies, memoirs, novels, and other works written by and/or about current and former Members, books on Pennsylvania government, and Pennsylvania history.



Left: A recent donation of two books authored by former State Representative Richard Saccone. *Koreans to Remember: 50 Famous People Who Helped Shape Korea* and *Business of Korean Culture* are just two of the nine books Representative Saccone has gifted us over the years. The Archives strives to collect all published works created by Members of the PA House. If you are a current or former Member who authored a book not in our collection, please consider donating! Contact us at 717-783-3866 or records@pabmc.net for more information.