



RNCCA members please read below - anybody who would like to attend and march please contact Mark Rutley (Honsec@rncca.org.uk) before the 3rd June so that he can coordinate numbers with the Council.

On behalf of the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth South branch of the Royal British Legion, I would like to invite you and members of your association to the Memorial Service at the D-Day Stone, Southsea Esplanade on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day on Thursday 6th June 2019 at 10:45am. This annual Service is being jointly organised by the Royal British Legion and Portsmouth City Council.

The Service will be attended by veterans from across the city who will march to the Stone, preceded by a platoon from the Royal Marines Cadets. The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines will lead the parade.

FORMAT

Marching veterans are asked to assemble at Canoe Lake car park, Southsea Esplanade where you will be marshalled by the Veteran's Parade Commander, Spike Redwood. Toilet facilities and first aid will be available in this area.

The parade will be led by the Standards, so we ask that your Standard Bearer assembles at the front of the parade. The Standard's Parade Commander will be available to brief your Standard Bearer on arrival.

Non-marching veterans should go directly to the D-Day Stone near South Parade Pier where seats will be provided.

The march from Canoe Lake Car Park to the D-Day Stone is approximately 500 – 600 metres. Veterans in wheelchairs are very welcome to take part in the parade.

The Service will be conducted by the Revd Canon Bob White. Towards the end of the Service there will be an opportunity to lay wreaths; please allow the official wreath layers to go forward first, Father Bob will then invite you to make your way to the Stone if you wish to lay a wreath.

After the Service, the parade will form up on the road, and march past the saluting dais. The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire has kindly agreed to take the salute.

TIMINGS

By 10.15am Veterans assemble at Canoe Lake car park.

10.20am Parade marshal forms up the parade.

10.30am Parade step off, led by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines

10.50am D-Day Service begins

11.30am Parade forms up and marches past.

In the event of wet weather, the event will carry on as planned above.

DRESS

All those taking part are invited to wear Regimental Blazers, berets and medals where appropriate.

PARKING

Parking is available free of charge for veterans in the Canoe Lake Car Park. Alternate parking is available free of charge on Castle Field (next to the Pyramids Car Park). Please note that all other guests will be charged to park in either of these parking locations. Please show your medals to the parking officer who will allow you access. Buggies will be available at both car parks to transport you to the D-Day Stone if required.

Alternatively there is plenty of free on street parking around Canoe Lake.

Please note that road closures will be in place on St Helen's Parade and Southsea Esplanade around the D-Day Stone area from 06:00am so to access Canoe Lake car park or the on street parking at Canoe Lake you will need to approach from the Eastney end of the city.

I do hope you and members of your association will be able to join us on this occasion. I would be grateful if you can let me know numbers of veterans attending from your association by Monday 3rd June 2019 at the latest. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 023 9268 8938.

Should you wish to find out further information about the events in Portsmouth, please visit our website: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/d-day-75-programme.pdf>

Lydia Mellor

Events Manager