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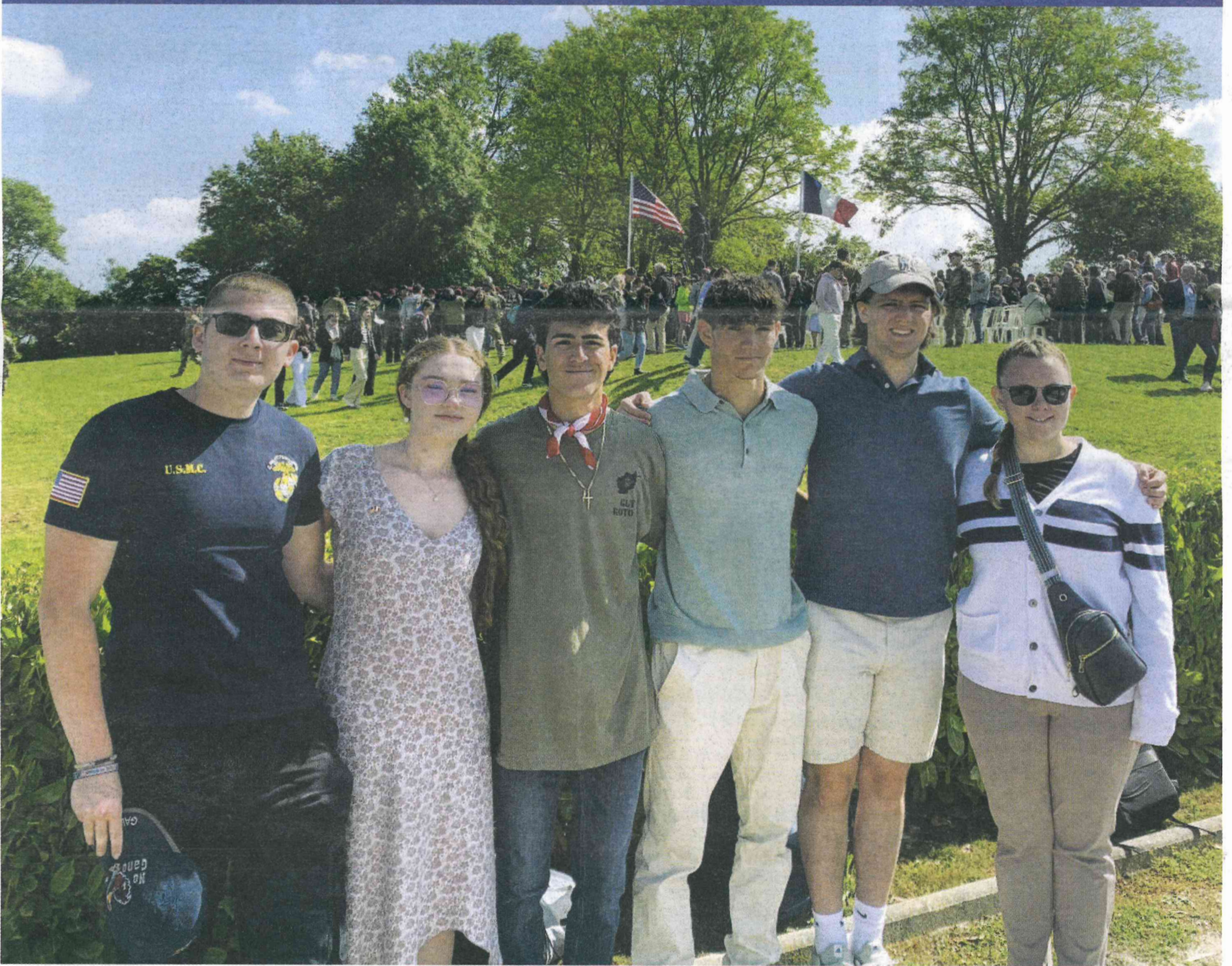
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D-Day in Normandy



Locust Valley High School Student Ambassadors went to Normandy last week for the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. From left to right: Matthew Borrasso, Kelsey Neves, Sonny Consolazio, Michael DiLorenzo, Spiro Lampoutis, and Riley Haas. Story on page 8.



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Locust Valley Students Venture to France to Commemorate D-Day

On June 1st, a delegation of Locust Valley students Sonny Consolazio, Matthew Borruso, Kelsey Neves, Riley Haas, Spiro Lampoutis and Michael Di Lorenzo and Chaperones Dan Durante and Principal of LVHS Patrick Di Clementi embarked on a trip of a lifetime to Normandy France, specifically, St. Mere Eglise, the sister city to Locust Valley since 1947. In a serendipitous story that began with the community of Locust Valley creating a philanthropic effort to support rebuilding of this quaint little Normandy town in 1947 and culminating with the District hosting last Fall's Remembrance Bowl, honoring and remembering the soldiers who fought in the June 6th D-Day invasion. This trip which was sponsored by Patton Legacy Sports, Michele Strauss, provided the students of Locust Valley the opportunity to take part first hand in the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. The President and HONorary President of Operation Democracy, Kaye Weninger & Cathy Soref shared in the experience with the students and hosted us at many events while there. Traveling independently on their own accord, the Superintendent Dr. Turnow, Board President and Vice President Margaret Marchand and



Students, Faculty and Board members at the La Fiere Bridge, on June 9th Jump Day. 1300 enlisted, veteran and volunteer Paratroopers jumped from WW2 planes on Jump Day to remember the Paratroopers that jumped on June 6th, 1944. La Fiere Bridge was the bloodiest small arms battle per square foot and most crucial to the liberation supply route in the D-Day invasion. It lasted from June 6-9th. Now home of Helen Patton, Patton Foundation, and Granddaughter of WW2 General George Patton.

Lauren Themis partook in shared events with the delegation.

In the Spring of 2023 Operation Democracy, headed by Cathy Soref and Kaye Weninger partnered with Michele Strauss and Helen Patton of Patton Legacy Sports and approached the Locust Valley School District Board of Education and administration with an idea for a curriculum which would Remember history through sport.

General Patton, the Grandfather of

Helen was an the most notable WW2 General and avid athlete was stationed with his troops in the Champagne region of France. In December 1944, as the war seemingly was coming to a close, the American Soldiers longing to be home for Christmas realized that was not going to materialize. The troops planned an American Football game, "The Champagne Bowl" that was intended as a goodwill game against the French Allies on Christmas Day. There were programs made, teams formed, uniforms created but instead the war returned with a vengeance and the soldiers slated to play in that game were called back to the Battle of the Bulge. That football game in 1944 in the Champagne regions of France was never played and became widely known as the Game that Never Happened and is curated in museums in 101st Airborne history in Belgium & Fort Campbell in Kentucky. Patton Legacy Sports has held a Remembrance Bowl in Normandy since 2019 with active soldiers from the 82nd and 101st. Last Fall, Locust Valley hosted the first Stateside Remembrance Bowl against Cold Spring Harbor with High School Students.

To support the game here Locust Valley teachers wrote a curriculum that was implemented district wide and connected with the local American Legions from Bayville and Locust Valley to bring the community together. As a thank you

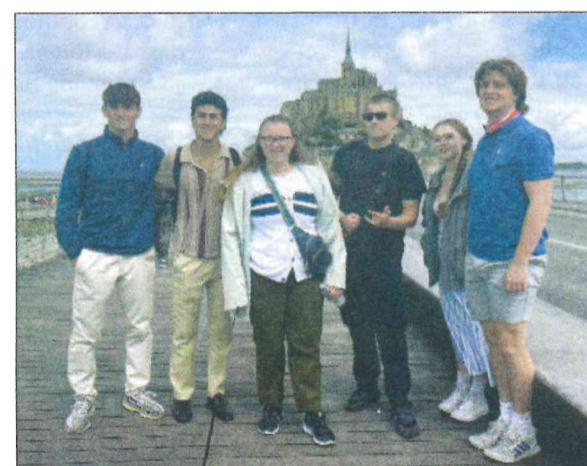
The city of St. Mere Eglise and their hometown hero Maurice Renauld, son of the Mayor of SME on June 6th and his brother Henri-Jean hosted the students at their annual AVA gala. The brothers who were children during the invasion, have



Matthew Borruso, WW2 Veteran, and hero David Yoho, LV Social Studies teacher Dan Durante, Kelsey Neves and Riley Haas at Omaha Beach.

for hosting the first game, PLS paid for the student delegation to travel during the week of June 6th to Normandy and be a part of the many ceremonies and celebrations commemorating the sacrifice and the liberation of France.

Included In the week's itinerary was the unveiling of The Eisenhower Statue, Teddy Roosevelt Statue, The Renauld Family Memorial ceremony, all held in the center of ST. Mere Eglise, where the students were able to meet Susan Eisenhower and her daughter Caroline. The myriad of dignitaries who spoke included the Commander of the American Legion, Retired General Miley, current Supreme European Commander Covelli and other active four and five star Generals.



The Locust Valley Seniors at Mont St. Michel.

followed in their mothers footsteps of never forgetting the heroism and selfless acts by American and Allied forces to not just liberate France on June 6th but pave the way to Victory in Europe and essentially the end of WW2. Their mother Simone Renauld,



The daughter of Jim Gavin, of whom the Iron Mike Statue is dedicated, speaking about her father, with Maurice Renauld, the son of Alexander Renauld, Mayor of St. Mere Eglise on D-Day.

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