

WWII veterans to attend “Thundering Herd” Monument Dedication

By Robert Martin, PAO 23 June 2022



Jake Ruser (left) and Benjamin Berry (right), WWII veterans, joined USAWC command team in dedicating a monument commemorating the service of WWII's 8th Armored Division and a stained glass window memorializing the Battle of the Bulge.

The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center and the Army Heritage Center Foundation will host American Legion Post 405 this Saturday, June 25th, for a dedication ceremony of a monument to commemorate the service of WWII's 8th Armored Division. The ceremony is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in the Memorial Grove area on the Army Heritage Trail. The public is invited.

Attending the dedication will be two WWII veterans.

Combat medic Jake Ruser who is 95 years old, was assigned to the 12th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division. He landed on D-Day and participated in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge.

Benjamin Berry served in the Quartermaster Corps assigned to the 3rd Army and is 99 years old. He landed in Normandy on D+22 and provided logistical support to the forward troops for the rest of the war.

Both are members of American Legion Post 405 and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Delaware Valley Chapter at the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains.

The nickname of the 8th Armored Division, the "Thundering Herd," was coined before the division went to Europe in late 1944. It was also known as the "Iron Snake" late in the war, after a correspondent for Newsweek likened the 8th to a "great ironclad snake" as it crossed the Rhine River in late March 1945.

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