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The Author

Dr. Harold “Hal” Baumgarten is a multidecorated survivor of the first-wave landing on Dog Green sector of Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He was silent on his wartime memories until his first trip back to Normandy, France, in 1988. When he looked at the graves of his buddies in the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial at Colville, he realized that God had spared him to be their spokesman. These true heroes of D-Day must never be forgotten. Thus, he wrote two self-published books on D-Day called *Eyewitness on Omaha Beach*, which is sold in France as *Temoin sur Omaha Beach*. Hal then embarked upon several speaking tours, speaking all over the United States, South America, and Europe about D-Day. His most recent tours have taken him back to Omaha Beach. Hal returned to Normandy as a part of the National World War II Museum’s Normandy Tour on June 6, 2006. He laid a wreath at the American cemetery to honor his D-Day buddies and shared stories about these real heroes of D-Day. In September 2006, Hal once again returned to the Dog Green sector as a speaker for the

second part of the National World War II Museum's tour.

His exploits have been recorded in the National World War II Museum, *Yank Magazine*, the *New York Daily Mirror*, *People Magazine*, *Time Magazine*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *U.S.A. Today*, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *U.S. Army News*, Italy's *La Stampa*, the *Florida Times-Union*, the *Beaches Leader*, *Mature Matters Magazine*, every Knight-Ridder newspaper, and even the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Forty books, including his own, published in the U.S. and France, mention Hal's experiences. Bob Edwards dramatized Hal's D-Day activities on NPR's *Morning Edition*. Jordan Rich of WBZ Radio has interviewed him, and many TV programs from the United States, Austria, France, and Germany have featured him. Hal has spoken at schools and libraries and for clubs and civic and professional organizations. He was the Gould Humanities Lecturer in 2004 at the University of Miami. Steven Spielberg even requested that Hal host the showing of his *Saving Private Ryan* on ABC television on Veterans' Day 2004.

After discharge from the service, Hal returned to New York University to receive his bachelor's degree and earned his master's degree from the University of Miami. Realizing that God had spared him in part to become a physician and help his fellow man, he attended the University of Miami School of Medicine, receiving his medical doctorate degree. He is board certified in family medicine and practiced industrial surgery throughout his career. In addition, Hal was the medical director of Gulf Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of American General Life Insurance Company, until 1992. That year he became a part-time physician with the Veterans' Administration, from which he retired in 1998.

Hal's wife, Rita, has been the light of his life for nearly sixty years, and he has three wonderful children and six precious grandchildren. He resides in beautiful Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

