

Milestone Anniversaries With A Present Day Connection



This stylish 75th Anniversary logo commemorates the founding of LeChase Construction, one of New York's premier commercial builders. LeChase Construction began during World War II, and today helps advance our nation's economic prosperity.

Celebrating anniversaries is a time-honored custom that helps put in perspective the way people, places and events that came before us have shaped the world we live in. In the next few days some noteworthy remembrances and new beginnings are coming up. We as a region are very fortunate to have such a robust heritage that manifests itself almost daily. It certainly keeps public officials and chamber of commerce president's busy scheduling ribbon cuttings!

In 1944, Raymond F. LeChase founded a construction company in Rochester to fill local demand during World War II. His first job was a \$64 sidewalk for the city. Since then, LeChase has constructed or managed more than 60 million square foot of development across 36 states. That includes more than 16 years of building projects in Albany and the surrounding area. "We're proud to be 75 years strong and growing," said LeChase CEO and Managing Partner William H. Goodrich. "In fact, in the last 10 years we've doubled our revenue, with expanded operations to have a presence across New York State. That includes the Capital Region, where we currently rank #5 among contractors."

LeChase was founded on a family first culture that values partnerships, and the company works to remain true to its roots even though it now counts among its clients some of the biggest projects in the region such as GLOBALFOUNDRIES, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and the Rivers Casino & Resort at Mohawk Harbor. LeChase Vice President Neil Schiavi adds, "the New York Capital Region is one of the country's emerging manufacturing and technology hubs, and LeChase has delivered local projects totaling more than a half-billion dollars within these segments." For more information on the company visit www.lechase.com.

1944 was an interesting time to start a construction company, because World War II was at its zenith and the US was conducting massive offensives in both



A tranquil evening view of the USS Slater (DE-766) at its Albany berth belies the fact that this was a ship built for war. Destroyer escorts sacrificed mightily to make sure cargoes of food, fuel and materials reached Europe to sustain the war effort during the planet's greatest conflict.

Europe and the Pacific in order to defeat powerful enemies thousands of miles apart. Construction was urgently needed everywhere, not just on the home front. In Tampa, FL, a small-but-powerful ship joined the US Navy in May of that year. It was the USS Slater (DE-766), a

destroyer escort designed to protect vital supply convoys from submarine attack as they carried vital materials between the USA and Britain to support the war effort. After a career in both the US and Greek navies, the Slater survives today as the only destroyer escort remaining afloat (of 563 constructed!) in the United States. More information on the Slater is



This forest of crosses, located in France, is a remembrance of the human cost and sacrifice of the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944, 75 years ago (Daily Gazette photo)

available at www.ussslater.org.

June 6, 1944 is one of the greatest days in history, a date on which US General Dwight D. Eisenhower had a draft of a letter in his possession which read in part, "My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that Bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone." Fortunately for freedom's sake, he didn't have to use it. The US invasion of Normandy on that date became known as D-Day, and the massive invasion succeeded despite some of the fiercest opposition the world has ever seen. Sadly most of the soldiers, sailors, aviators and Marines who took place in that battle are now deceased (many of them never left the beaches of Normandy and are memorialized there), but many

commemorations will be taking place as we remember the sacrifice of those who put their lives on the line for the entire world, nearly four generations ago. Many will even be returning to Normandy for services and memorials at the site of where it all happened.

2019 is also a year for new beginnings, as your local chamber celebrates ribbon cuttings with businesses that are starting, expanding or growing into new facilities in our area. For example, on Wednesday, June 5, Builders FirstSource (www.blr.com) will be celebrating the official grand opening of its showroom in Halfmoon. The company is the nation's largest



A view inside of the Builders FirstSource Showroom off Route 9 in Halfmoon. The June 5 ribbon cutting at 11AM, as well as all CSSC ribbon cuttings, is sponsored by First New York Federal Credit Union

supplier of structural building products, value added components and services to the professional market for new residential construction and repair and remodeling. Founded in 1998, the company has over 400 locations and had more than \$7 Billion in sales in 2017. It is a pleasure to welcome them to "the 12065!"



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