***Joseph Balkoski***, over the past 30 years, has written seven books on World War II and D-Day and the 29th Division, which was largely composed of soldiers from Maryland and Virginia. Drawn on a vast array of eye-witness accounts, in “Omaha Beach,” he chronicles in gripping fashion the bloodiest day in World War II for the US Army and its ultimate victory. He is the Director of Maryland Museum of Military History and was appointed to the Maryland Military Monuments Commission in 2003 and has worked on the preservation of the state’s military shrines.