

Fall
2021

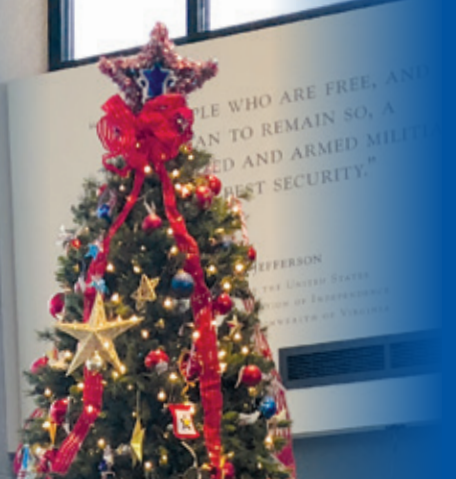


Blue Star Families Hero Tree

NOW ON VIEW
An annual tradition proudly hosted
at the Virginia War Memorial



The charitable tax incentives enacted by the
CARES Act have been extended through 2021.
As you consider your year-end contributions,
be sure you activate these benefits.



You can trust us to provide a future for the past

The Virginia War Memorial collects and preserves objects related to veterans who are from or otherwise associated with Virginia. Our collection and archive continue to grow as new items are acquired through the generosity of individuals.

We are actively collecting material relating to all branches of military service, from World War I to the present.

Historical items of interest for our preservation effort include:

- Photographs, letters, diaries, and manuscripts
- Yearbooks and other military-related documents
- Uniforms, military equipment, and weaponry

We are particularly interested in securing personal items — photographs, letters, and other objects — of Virginians who were killed in action and are included on the walls of the Shrine of Memory.

For more information on how to contribute to our collection and archive, please contact:

Jesse Smith, Curator
Virginia War Memorial

Jesse.Smith@dvs.virginia.gov
804.786.2067

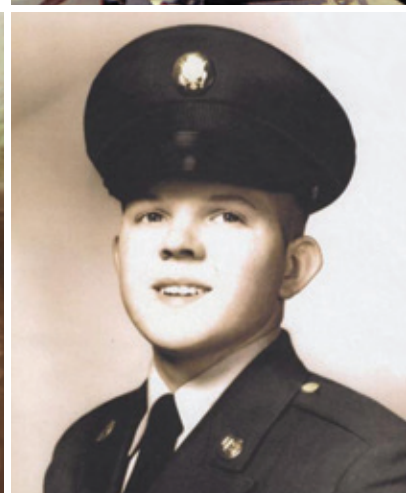
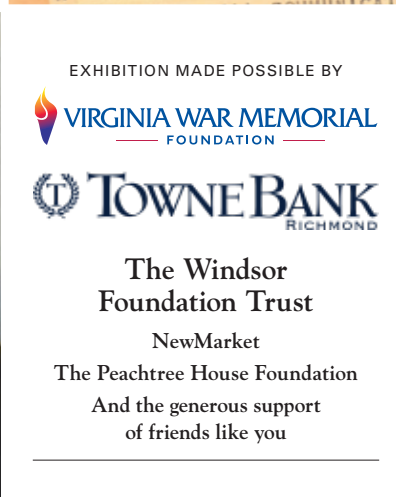
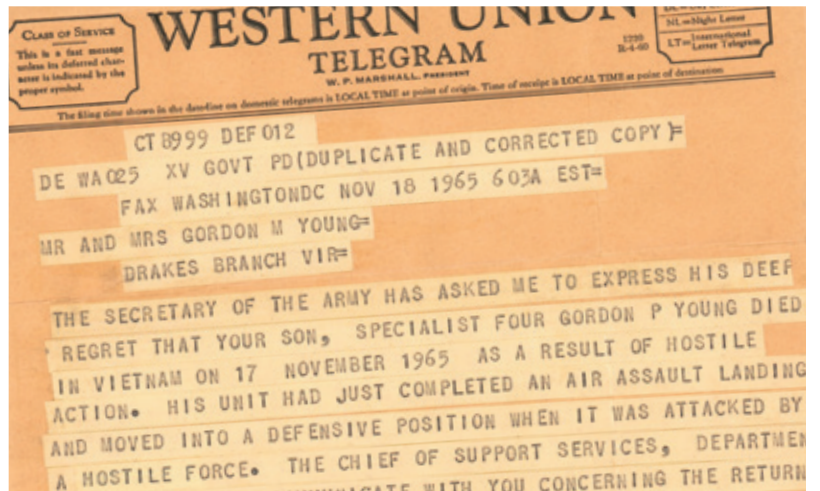
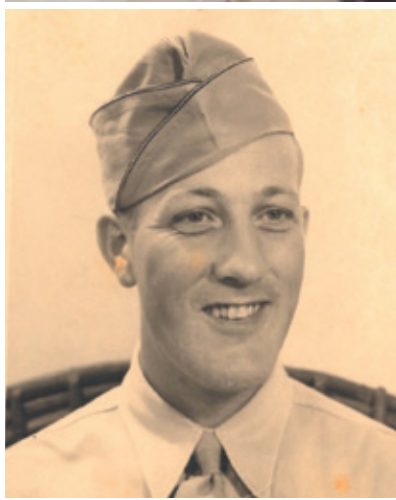


WHO THEY WERE

Lives Worth Knowing

More than thirty names from the Shrine of Memory
profiled in stories of courage, service, and honor

EXHIBITION ON DISPLAY NOW



Hope for the future?
You bet.



It was my privilege to be part of the team that reviewed the submissions for our most recent Veterans Day student essay contest. Essays were evaluated for use of primary sources for research, writing mechanics, and

adherence to the prompt: Write about a military veteran who served after 9/11/2001 who inspires you.

This was our largest response so far in the years we have been sponsoring the contest. In my short tenure at the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, I have seen these student challenges — the essay contest, art contest, and poetry



“Helping Hands”
by Grant Berneche, Chesterfield

showcase — attract a larger, more geographically diverse group of students each season. But the most important thing is this: These students are deeply appreciative of our veterans. Some of the young writers are military children, but most don’t identify themselves as such. The recurring theme in the essays is gratitude that people make great personal sacrifices, even risking their lives, to keep us safe. Many students write about lost family time, precious moments that can’t be recaptured. One especially moving essay was written to honor a history teacher who had served in combat, had led troops into battle, had faced the enemy with courage, and was now teaching students the lessons of history through a particularly meaningful lens.

It is common to think that the younger generation is self-absorbed, reckless, oblivious to current events, and not as academically grounded as they should be. That might be true for some young people, just as it is true for some of us who are older. But based on what I’ve seen of today’s students, I have great hope both *in* and *for* the next generation. I also think we, an older generation, deserve some credit for setting the stage for a concerned and compassionate young citizenry. We fought a lot of battles in our younger days. We launched Earth Day, and we launched a rocket to the moon and back. I have a wonderful friend who says he lived through the 1960s so that his children wouldn’t have to.

As a mother and a grandmother, I see back-to-back generations who are generous, tolerant, curious, kind, and hardworking. Visit our website and read the student essays, see the art entries, experience the poetry. I think you will agree that we are in good hands.

Pam

Pamela R. Seay
PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Joseph Moreno, a sixth-grader from Fairfax County, and Maria Turner, a 10th-Grader from Patrick County, both presented their winning essays during the Veterans Day ceremony.



2021 IN REVIEW

THE VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION is on a mission with defined objectives and strategies for achieving them. Your support is essential and always appreciated. Thanks to you, the Virginia War Memorial is recognized as the nation’s leading state war memorial. We have never had a busier year.



Honoring Veterans

The **Mighty Pen Project** offers intensive writing classes to veterans at no cost. In partnership with Richmond’s Firehouse Theatre, we premiered **War in Pieces**, a festival of four one-act plays written by Virginia veterans. The **Veterans’ Art Gallery** is a natural extension of our efforts to create a center for veterans’ expression, free from judgement and convention. Rotating exhibitions in 2021:

- **Sacred Scenes — American Parks and Battlefields: The Photography of Amanda Ransom and Frank Lee Ruggles**
- **From Wings to Waves: The Artwork of Maureen Stewart**
Currently on view
- **The Art of Clutch: Willie Grimes**



We observe **POW MIA Day** by placing a traditional “Missing Man Table” in the Anne Carter Robins and Walter R. Robins, Jr. Foundation Lobby. All of the elements of the place setting — the tablecloth, the slice of lemon, the salt on the bread plate, the



red ribbon, and a red rose — are symbolic of the different aspects of the grief endured by those who mourn the missing.

The **Richmond Blue Star Families Hero Tree**, an annual tradition proudly hosted at the Virginia War Memorial, is on view.



And Inspiring Patriotism

- **Commonwealth’s Memorial Day Ceremony**
- **Hill of Heroes** — Our annual display of 12,000 flags symbolizing Virginians who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II; the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf; and the Global War on Terrorism
- **Commonwealth’s 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony**
- **Commonwealth’s Veterans Day Ceremony**
- **Commonwealth’s Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony**
- **Marocchi Memorial Scholarships** for Virginia students enrolled in or expecting to enroll in a Virginia College ROTC program
- **JROTC recognition days**
- **Leadership in America: An Evening with Rick Atkinson**



Rick Atkinson greets veterans after his lecture on October 6, 2021.

- **Wreaths Across America Arlington Escort** — Again this December, the Virginia War Memorial will be an official stop for Wreaths Across America as part of their escort to Arlington National Cemetery.

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Inspire Military Family of the Year



At the ceremony for my father's retirement from the US Army in 1998, he jokingly introduced my mother, my brother, and me as The Mountcastle Moving Company. Those in attendance laughed, not because it was the funniest of jokes, but

because they knew the truth behind it. My family, like most military families, moved frequently throughout my dad's service, sometimes spending less than a year in a particular spot.

The frequent moves, the long deployments, and the uncertainty of the near future can certainly wear on a family. Strength often comes from adversity, however, and the military families that I knew growing up were proud and resilient.

At the Virginia War Memorial, we go to great lengths to remind people of the sacrifices that have been made for our freedoms by American men and women in uniform. We must also honor their families who have served alongside them and offered the love and support needed to get through the many challenges that serving in the US Armed Forces entails.

In keeping with the idea of honoring families, the Virginia War Memorial has initiated the *Inspire Military Family of the Year* program, which will recognize one military family from Virginia for exceptional service. The honored family will be announced at our annual Veterans Day ceremony, and a photo of the family will be proudly displayed in the Robins Lobby of the Memorial.

It is my pleasure to introduce the Cogbill family as our inaugural *Inspire Military Family of the Year* for 2021. The Cogbills have served the US Army for generations, most recently in World War II, Cold War Germany, and the Global War on Terrorism. John Cogbill III is a longtime friend of the Memorial and is currently a Director on the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board. John and his wife Janet, along with John's parents, Jack and Patricia Cogbill, are great supporters of our mission, and I could not be more honored to recognize their service to this nation.

We are tremendously proud of the Cogbills and all of our military families. They are truly the strength and backbone of our country's armed forces.

John C Mountcastle

Dr. Clay Mountcastle
DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL

OUR MISSION

To honor veterans,
preserve history, educate youth,
and inspire patriotism in all.

OUR VISION

A global audience will recognize
the valor and sacrifice of Virginia's military
veterans in the pursuit of liberty,
democracy, justice, and peace for all.



Education

80

livestreams

20

student and
teacher programs

15

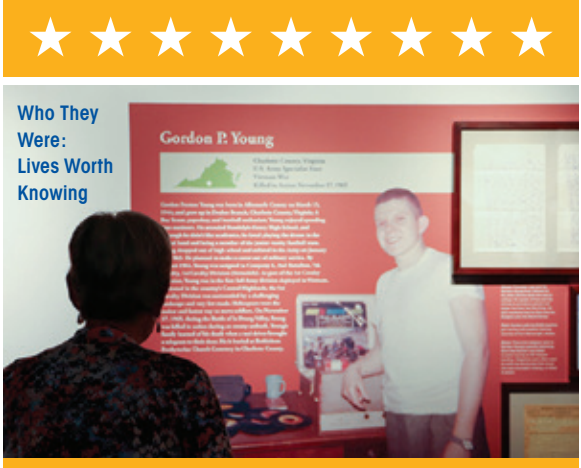
programs in
the community

22+

speakers
and partner
organizations

166

student entries
for the
Creative
Challenge



And Preservation

Who They Were: Lives Worth Knowing

THIS EXHIBIT profiles individuals whose names are engraved in our Shrine of Memory. We hope it will encourage not only visitation but also gifts of collections to the Memorial so that we can provide more background for other individuals memorialized here.

THE DOCUMENTARY FILM by the same name features veteran oral histories and interviews with surviving family members. It is a dramatic complement to the exhibit and will become the Memorial's orientation film to be shown in the VMI Alumni Hall of Honor.



Scenes from
the 2021
Teacher Institutes



The Walkway of Honor

There are heroes among us worthy of recognition. There are people we have lost who should be remembered. There are dates that should be commemorated. You can purchase a brick to be placed on our Walkway of Honor for any of these (or other) reasons. Your brick purchase directly benefits our core mission programs.

To order a memorial brick, contact Annie Warman at awarman@vawarmemorial.org or 804.786.2176.





The Mighty Pen Project

Now in its eighth year, the Mighty Pen Project provides creative writing instruction for veterans and their families. Students receive personalized feedback so they may exercise creative expression and develop their recollections into a complete written narrative. Since the program's inception, Virginia's Veterans from all different backgrounds, ages, and branches of service have honed their talents as creative writers, memoirists, poets, playwrights, and beyond. These beautifully crafted works help advance our mission of honoring veterans through preservation of Virginia's military history and by inspiring an appreciation for the sacrifice and dedication required to protect our nation's democracy. The Virginia War Memorial Foundation is proud to offer this outstanding and enduring program.

Registration is currently open for the Mighty Pen Project in 2022 and is open to all Virginia Veterans. In the new year, we will be offering three sessions to suit the needs of veterans across the Commonwealth, including in-person and virtual classes, all taught by VCU professor and author David L. Robbins. For more information or to apply for a class, visit vawarmemorial.org/mpp or email our Engagement and Outreach Manager at awarman@vawarmemorial.org.



Mighty Pen Project — Master Class 2022: January 5 – March 23, 2022

This course is open to previous graduates of the Mighty Pen Project. Students will go beyond entry-level writing techniques to further develop their memoirs and recollections. Classes will be held in-person at the Virginia War Memorial for 12 weeks, on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Schumann Conference Room. A graduation ceremony will be held on March 30, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Mighty Pen Project — Virtual Semester 2022: April 13 – June 15, 2022

We are proud to offer a virtual semester of the Mighty Pen Project. Students are encouraged to join from anywhere in the Commonwealth of Virginia via Zoom for this 12-week semester. Classes are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., and a virtual graduation will be streamed on June 22, 2022.

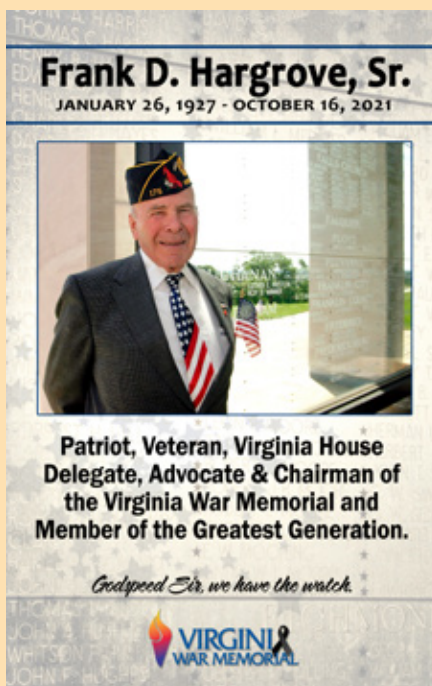
Mighty Pen Project — In-Person Semester 2022: August 24 – November 9, 2022

This course is open to new and returning students of the Mighty Pen Project. No writing experience is required. Although free, space in this class is limited, with preference given to new Mighty Pen students. Classes will be held in-person at the Virginia War Memorial for 12 weeks, on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Schumann Conference Room. A graduation ceremony will be held on November 16, 2022.

Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store

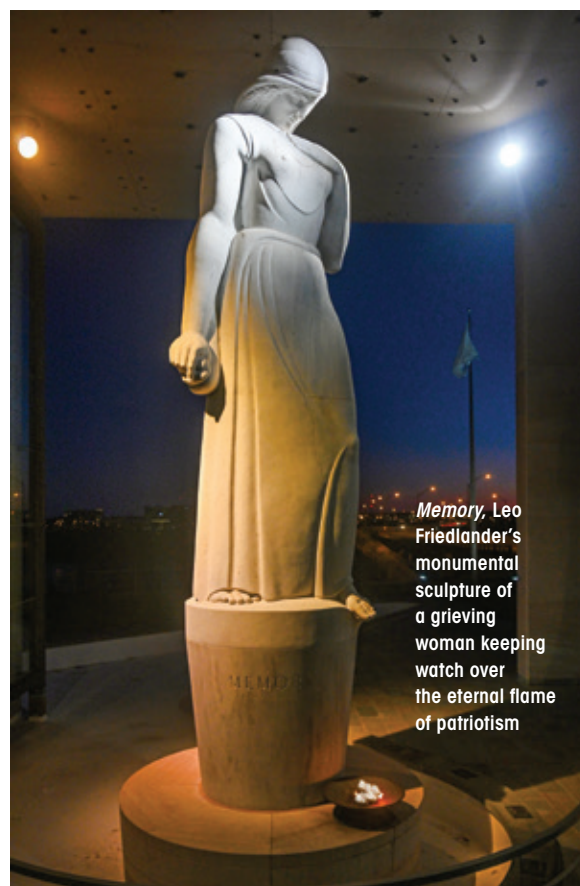
We are making our shopping experience easier than ever with online purchasing. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a longtime supporter, the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store has mementos for everyone. Seasonal items have hit the shelves: view our selection of ornaments, children's gifts, and cold weather gear. For the veterans in your life, challenge coins and service hats make the perfect gift. From books and home goods to art from our Veterans Art Gallery, there's something special for every member of the family. All proceeds from purchases made through the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store fund the continuing educational mission of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation.

Shop our entire inventory online at VaWarMemorial.org. Shipping and local pickup options are available.



Veteran Patients Week

We need your help. The *National Salute To Veteran Patients* will be observed Sunday, February 13, through Saturday, February 19, 2022. This special week is meant to recognize the millions of veterans across the nation receiving care in medical centers, outpatient clinics, long-term care facilities, and their homes. Last year, staff and volunteers wrote and hand-delivered over 100 Valentines and cards, and this year we hope to write and send even more throughout Virginia. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to participate as a group (Scouts, school groups, etc.), please contact us at mmwachur@vawarmemorial.org.



Memory, Leo Friedlander's monumental sculpture of a grieving woman keeping watch over the eternal flame of patriotism

Leave a Legacy and Shape the Future of the Memorial

Every day, our staff and volunteers work to inspire everyone to honor veterans and to appreciate the service and sacrifice necessary to protect our democracy. Estate gifts to the Foundation support core mission education, preservation, and patriotic programs. Since 1956, *Memory* has stood watch over the flame of patriotism. She makes sure that we never forget our military heroes. You can be sure that your gift will be gratefully received and carefully invested. If you have already made plans to provide for the Foundation, please let us know so we can thank you now.

If you are considering such a gift, please contact Pam Seay at 804.239.6956 or pseay@vawarmemorial.org.