This traveling exhibition was created by the Military Women's Memorial with the goal of shedding light on the sacrifices and contributions of a selection of minority women who served in or alongside the U.S. Military throughout history. Not only does the The Color of Freedom exhibit highlight the determination necessary to overcome discrimination on multiple fronts, but it also sends a message that diversity is our strength, and women of color have played and continue to play integral roles in our nation’s military.

Sponsored by Virginia Humanities, with additional support from Iron Mountain Entertainment Services and Iron Mountain's Living Legacy Initiative.

The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America’s Servicewomen
Exhibition on View May 24 – June 28, 2022

Fifty Years Beyond: An Overdue Thank You to Our Vietnam Veterans

In preparation for a major exhibition that will feature 50 Virginia Vietnam War veterans, we are actively collecting in-country candid photographs of the era, museum collections, personal correspondence, and oral histories from those who served.

This exhibit will open on January 27, 2023, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, which was officially titled the “Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam.”

For more information or to submit materials, please visit VaWarMemorial.org/50yearsbeyond or email exhibits@vawarmemorial.org

WHO THEY WERE
Lives Worth Knowing

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

Call for Collections

EXHIBITION MADE POSSIBLE BY
The Windsor Foundation Trust
NewMarket
The Peachtree House Foundation
And the generous support of friends like you
At the January meeting of our Board of Directors, we marked the end of Linda Schreiner's two-year term as Board chair. That simple sentence doesn't begin to convey what her leadership has meant to the Virginia War Memorial Foundation. Linda's term as chair began as my staff appointment as president began. She smoothly led us from a very successful capital campaign to more programmatic fundraising. We saw tremendous growth in our base of annual support thanks to her stature in the corporate community and her wide network. She seamlessly moved us into the world of webEx and Zoom meetings. And all of this during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. She never hit the panic button, never even tapped on the brakes.

Accepting the gavel from Linda was CDR Kathleen (Kathy) Owens, USN (Ret.). Besides being the new chair of our Foundation, Kathy, a resident of Virginia Beach, serves on the Board of Veterans Services, and is active in business and real estate development in the Virginia Beach/Hampton Roads area. A retired U.S. Navy aviator, Kathy has accumulated more than 15,000 career military and commercial flight hours. Indeed, we are in good hands.

Linda Schreiner and Kathy Owens are only two of the remarkable individuals who comprise our Board of Directors. It is a strong team of diverse community leaders working together to make the Commonwealth's military memorial the best it can be.

We know we can make the Virginia War Memorial even stronger. Already, some objectives are taking shape as we work on our long-range plan. We want to strengthen our statewide outreach. We want to bolster our oral history plan. We want to improve our grounds and create an interpretive public green space appropriate for gatherings as well as somber reflection. And most of all, we want to expand our creative offerings for veterans.

We know that our success is only possible with your support. It is your support that has brought us this far.

Please stick with us. We are planning on it.

FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

PHILIP BIGLER
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: A Century of Honor

Bigler is a well-known author who has served as an official historian at Arlington National Cemetery. A dynamic speaker and instructor, he has been a featured guest on numerous TV shows and has provided historical commentary on the History Channel, CNN, CBS-Newsmark, Fox News, and other shows.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.
Reception and book signing following the lecture

DR. JAMES C. KELLY
From West Point to the World: The Army Museum Enterprise

The Army Museum Enterprise holds 600,000 historical artifacts and operates 42 Active Army museums in thirteen states, Germany, and South Korea. Not surprisingly, the first U.S. Army museum was established at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1848. Kelly is a nationally recognized museum curator, exhibition designer, and author. In addition to his work with U.S. Army collections and museums, Dr. Kelly is the Army Museum Enterprise’s Chief of Museum Programs.

Wednesday, August 3, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.
Reception following the lecture

RUSH LOVING, JR.
Fat Boy and the Champagne Salesman

This new book (available in fall 2022) offers a compelling behind-the-scenes exploration of the road to World War II and the invasion of Poland by Hitler’s Third Reich. Focusing on the personal power struggle for Hitler’s approval, long before the battle for Poland had begun, Loving, a former newspaper journalist and writer for Fortune magazine, is a leading American railroad historian.

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.
Reception and book signing following the lecture

Washington, DC, October 1, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.
Reception and book signing following the lecture
April Poetry Showcase

The Virginia War Memorial is proud to announce a virtual poetry showcase in honor of the Month of the Military Child and National Poetry Month. We will be accepting poetry from Virginia students of all ages (K–12). Submissions will be highlighted on the Memorial’s website for the month of April. Visit VaWarMemorial.org to see this poem and others from the 2021 entries.

Military Child

By Gabrielle C., 6th Grade, York County

I am from everywhere
Big Ben and double decker buses
With red telephone boxes is where I began
Brings me to the Gateway Arch
With new family additions
Now a middle child headed South to
Always summer and white sandy beaches
Watching dolphins and ocean life
Packing, sorting and selling
More miles then I can count
Headed North for the changing of seasons
Settled for now
Another bedroom, another school
And friends across the miles

Welcome Steph Haeg, Virginia War Memorial Archivist

Steph is from Sauk Centre, Minnesota. She attended the College of St. Benedict for her undergraduate degree in American history, where she wrote her senior honors thesis about the reactions of college campuses to the Vietnam War. She then attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received her Master of Arts in library and information science with a focus on Archival Management. Steph is excited to expand the Memorial’s archives to further preserve the stories of our veterans and share them with others.

FROM THE MEMORIAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Clay Mountcastle holds a series of lively online discussions about military history in his ongoing series “Popcorn Thursdays.” Who were the best and worst generals of all time? Hear Clay’s opinions and weigh in with yours alongside his panel of deliberators. Audience participation is encouraged. Get your popcorn ready, because it’s going to be a show. See Clay’s past Popcorn Thursdays on our YouTube channel. And learn more at VaWarMemorial.org/popcornthursdays.

VIETNAM
2 SOLDIERS. 2 ARTISTS. 2 JOURNEYS. THEN & NOW

The National Salute to Veteran Patients — Each year, during the week of February 14th, this event pays tribute to the nearly 100,000 patients a day who receive medical treatment in Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities as well as the nine million U.S. veterans who get care every year. The Virginia War Memorial Foundation is proud to participate in this effort. This year, we delivered hundreds of hand-signed cards and notes to veterans care facilities in Richmond, Roanoke, and Hampton. Plan now to help us expand this program next year. Scout troops, corporate teams, family groups — all are welcome to be a part of this important effort. Let’s remind our veteran patients that they are not forgotten.

FROM HELICOPTERS TO WATERCOLORS AND CANVAS, this art exhibit tells story of two brave soldiers who battled their way into the world of art. Trading the tools of war for the tools of the trade. On loan from the Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center, Hendersonville, Tennessee.

The Virginia War Memorial is a place for reflecting, gaining insight, and expressing gratitude for the service and sacrifice that have secured our freedom. We take our mission to honor, preserve, educate, and inspire very seriously. That does not mean, however, that we cannot also have some fun. Learning can, and should be, an enjoyable, engaging exercise. With that in mind, we have launched our new “Popcorn Thursdays” evening livestream program, focused on entertaining and — dare I say — fun discussions of military history, trivia, and pop culture. With this program, we hope to both inform and entertain, and provide our community with something fun to do on a Thursday night.

These will occur once a month. Our inaugural Popcorn Thursday program, “Bombs and Bombs: The Best and Worst War Films,” featured me and a couple of my old Army colleagues debating the good and the bad of military movies. We didn’t agree on everything, but we had a great time, and I believe our audience did as well. And that’s the whole point, just having fun. Future Popcorn Thursday program topics will include The Biggest Egos in Military History, The Dumbest Decisions in Wartime, and the Wheel of Misfortune: A Military History Game show. Keep an eye out for more info on the Virginia War Memorial website and be sure to register. Then tune in and enjoy.

We look forward to having you share in the fun. The inclusion of popcorn is completely up to you.

Dr. Clay Mountcastle
Director
Virginia War Memorial

Memorial Director Dr. Clay Mountcastle hosts a series of lively online discussions about military history in his ongoing series “Popcorn Thursdays.” Who were the best and worst generals of all time? Who from military history would you have for a dinner party? Hear Clay’s opinions and weigh in with yours alongside his panel of deliberators. Audience participation is encouraged. Get your popcorn ready, because it’s going to be a show. See Clay’s past Popcorn Thursdays on our YouTube channel. And learn more at VaWarMemorial.org/popcornthursdays.

Our Mission

To honor veterans and inspire patriotism through education and preservation.

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.
Foundation Thrilled to Welcome Two New Board Directors in 2022

LG Robert B. Flowers, USA (Ret.), served in the U.S. Army for 35 years. As Chief of Engineers and commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), he led engineering, construction, and real estate programs for the Army, Air Force, and other federal agencies and foreign governments. He directed the execution of a worldwide $15.5 billion per year program of engineering and construction services in over 90 countries and began the $20 billion program for reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan. After retiring from the Army, he was selected to head HNTB Federal Services Corporation, and went on to have an esteemed career in the private sector working for ARCADIS and L3 LSG. He holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Virginia Military Institute, and a master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Virginia. He is a registered professional engineer. He also attended the Senior Engineer Executive Program at Stanford University.

The Honorable Michael M. Rand, USN (Ret.), is a retired juvenile and domestic relations district judge and a retired Navy captain. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1971 and served in various units and roles, including on the USS Elmer Montgomery (DE/FF-1082); on the staff of Commander Amphibious Group Two; on Arthur W. Radford (NRRD-969), as commanding officer; and in the Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic’s Wilmington/Morehead City Detachment, as officer in charge. After leaving active duty, Mike received his J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law and began private practice in South Boston. In 1993, he was appointed to the bench for the 10th Judicial District, where he served as the presiding judge in Halifax, Mecklenburg, and Lunenburg counties until his retirement in February 2012.

Who They Were:
Lives Worth Knowing

Nearly 12,000 names, engraved in stone and walls of glass, represent men and women from a grateful Commonwealth. The cities, towns, and counties represented here by a flame of patriotism are remembering those to whom we owe so much.