

Virginia's Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 29 — 11 am
E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater



Hill of Heroes Day

Friday, June 23
Installation of 12,000 flags: 8 am
Family activities: 9 am – 2 pm

ALSO ON VIEW



Virginia Medal of Honor Gallery Beyond the Call of Duty

Learn the history of the brave Virginians who have been awarded the nation's highest and most prestigious military honor for valor. Of the more than 25 million men and women who have served and sacrificed in our nation's wars, fewer than 3,600 have received the Medal of Honor. Of those, 50 have been officially attributed to the Commonwealth of Virginia by the U.S. Department of Defense.



The exhibition includes Vietnam veteran Charlie McConnell's self-portrait, *Me and My Old Guitar*.

My Art Is My Portrait

A Vietnam veteran and native of Coeburn in Wise County, Virginia, Charlie McConnell grew up with a passion and talent for drawing and painting. A current exhibit at the Memorial features his work from his time in the service to the present. McConnell's art is not only *his* portrait, but also a portrait of Virginia, and a portrait of moments in time preserved for Memorial visitors today.

ON DISPLAY NOW

50 YEARS BEYOND

The Vietnam Veteran Experience

Over half a century has passed since the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973, marking the beginning of the end of the war in Vietnam. Virginia is home to nearly 200,000 veterans who served during the Vietnam era. For 50 years, these Virginians have lived with the war in the backgrounds of their lives. This exhibit offers a glimpse into 50 of those lives, acknowledging that the Vietnam experience remains understudied and misunderstood.



Veterans gathered with loved ones and friends for their private opening of the exhibit.



50 YEARS BEYOND The Vietnam Veteran Experience

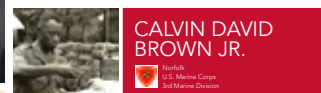
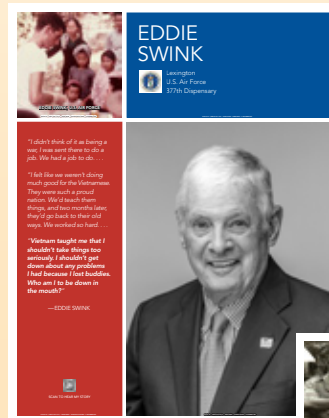
THIS EXHIBIT MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF

Roller-Bottimore Foundation

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E. B. Duff Charitable Lead Annuity Trust

War Heroes' Initiatives Fund
at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
Virginia War Memorial Foundation



The exhibit consists of 50 panels, each profiling a Vietnam veteran.

Moving Forward with Purpose



Thanks to your support, there’s a lot going on at the Memorial. Not all of it is included in the newsletters. The best way to be sure that you are getting the details of everything we do is to visit our website: VaWarMemorial.org.

When you do that, you can also register to receive our weekly e-blasts that give more details about each event.

By the time you receive this newsletter, two significant March events will have occurred: Our inaugural .9K Memorial Walk for K9 veterans sponsored by Woodfin, and “War in Pieces,” a festival of four one-act plays written by veterans. This year, for the first time, our VMI Alumni Hall of Honor is the venue for the one-act plays. Virginia Rep is our theater partner.

Rest assured that our activity is part of moving forward with purpose. In 2022, our board approved a long-range plan to ensure that we make the highest and best use of your contributions as we advance our mission. Every activity, every program, every expenditure is matched to our long-range plan and the five goals we have set for ourselves:


- Invest and align resources (staff resources, board resources, and financial resources) to achieve financial sustainability
- Invest in technology and marketing across all media platforms to increase awareness
- Pursue collaborations and partnerships
- Strengthen our public/private partnership with the state
- Create strong connections to veterans

When you visit our website, you can read the particulars of each goal and the action steps in place to achieve them. You can also read about our values and guiding principles:

- Historical accuracy
- Transparency
- Accessibility
- Diversity
- Patriotism

We do not take your support for granted. Rather, we realize that we must work hard to earn the trust and confidence you place in us.

As we strive to meet the 2023 Memorial Day Giving Challenge issued by our board, please consider renewing your investment in the Virginia War Memorial Foundation. Your contributions are what make this the best Memorial of its type in the country.


Pamela R. Seay
PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Meet Sylvia Marshall,
Virginia War Memorial Archivist

We are thrilled to have Sylvia Marshall join our ranks. Originally from Columbus, Georgia, Sylvia has a B.A. in history and anthropology from Agnes Scott College and an M.A. in history with a public history concentration from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Charlotte. She has extensive archival experience from such places as the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the Special Collections and University Archives at UNC Charlotte, and the DeKalb History Center.

“The commitment to preserving and honoring the stories of veterans drew me to the Virginia War Memorial,” Sylvia says. “The archives and library at the Virginia War Memorial are a unique repository dedicated to preserving the voices of Virginians at war and Virginia’s involvement in war. The memoirs, scrapbooks, and other material in our archives give a glimpse into how veterans understood their roles as members of our armed forces and the events that happened around them. This material supports the Virginia War Memorial mission to honor veterans, preserve history, educate, and inspire patriotism. As the archivist, I am honored to be a part of this effort and excited to work with our veteran community.”

Work Continues on
Oral Histories —
Integral Part of
Memorial’s Archives

Sometimes humorous, often sad, and always honest, these first-person accounts are powerful in their ability to place us where the action was. A grant from the Alfred I. duPont Trust has made it possible for us to begin the laborious process of transcribing more than 1,300 hours of interviews.

“Although they just left the harbor at San Diego, the water was rough. The ship was rocking and rolling. I lay down and heaved up my toenails. But after I’d finally got over it. We got to Frisco, I got a little bit more, a little more used to it. A guy said, “You guys firemen?” We said, “No, we’re seamen.” Said, “We want firemen. So, which one you want to be firemen.” I said, “Well, what do they do?” He said ... took me down through the engine room. He said, “You work down here.” He said, “If anybody asks you to do something topside, tell him to kiss your behind.” So, I said, “Yeah, I want to be a fireman.”



Bert Brewer — Petty Officer, 2nd Class, U.S. Navy, WWII – Pacific



Honors for LTG Joseph R. Inge, USA (Ret.), member of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board

During the recent session of the Virginia General Assembly, LTG Joe Inge was recognized with a commending resolution for his military career, spanning 38 years and including many high-level domestic and overseas postings. His service to his country continues as a private consultant to industry, government, and the military. He also serves on the boards of several foundations and nonprofit organizations, including the Virginia War Memorial Foundation board. He was a proud member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and was commissioned a second lieutenant of armor when he graduated from Virginia Tech in 1969.

Recently, MG Randal D. Fullhart, USA (Ret.), Commandant of Cadets at Virginia Tech, presented the G Company Guidon to Inge (seated). Standing, from left to right: CDR Nate Brown, USN (Ret.), Virginia Tech Alumni Director; Bob Archer, member of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors; Jim Archer, G Company classmate of Inge; and MG Randal D. Fullhart, USAF Ret.).



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One Week, 13 Names, and 40 Years



In the fall of 1983, I was 11 years old and I had my first job, delivering the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper to our military housing area in Kitzingen, Germany. I distinctly remember one very dark early morning, opening the metal box containing

that day's edition and being struck by the photo on the front page. It showed a U.S. Marine, covered in dust, his clothes ripped from his body, being pulled from a pile of debris. The headline announced a bombing in some place I had never heard of: Beirut, Lebanon. More than 200 Marines had been killed, and more were expected to die. Even at that age, I understood that this terrible, tragic event was historic, something that would change things.

Eleven of the 241 American servicemen killed in the bombing of the Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut were from Virginia. Their names are on the Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial. They are joined by the names of two other Virginians killed in the same week in 1983 during Operation Urgent Fury, the U.S. invasion of Grenada. Thirteen names, all representing one terrible, but significant, week in American history.

This coming October will mark the 40th anniversary of that week, and in recognition of those events we are producing the next *Virginians at War* documentary, a new film titled *One Week in October*. We are teaming with PBS Blue Ridge to produce and distribute the film, and have lined up a wonderful list of interviewees from Virginia who participated in the campaigns in Beirut and Grenada, or lost a loved one in them. I am very excited to hear their stories and to see how they will translate into what will surely be an informative, moving, and inspiring film. To mark the film's release in October, we will host a *Leadership in America* event featuring a panel of veterans involved in the making of the documentary.

It's hard to believe it has been nearly 40 years since those fateful events. It's perhaps even harder to accept that few, if any, young Americans know what happened in Beirut or Grenada. Let's do what we can to honor those 13 Virginians listed on the Shrine of Memory; let's pass on their stories.

Dr. Clay Mountcastle
DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL

OCTOBER 23, 1983 — BEIRUT USMC BARRACKS BOMBING

Nicholas Baker
Richard E. Barrett
James R. Baynard
William B. Foster Jr.
Michael D. Fulcher
Warner Gibbs Jr.
Douglas E. Held
James C. Knipple
Jeffrey Owen
Joseph A. Owens
Eric G. Washington

OCTOBER 25, 1983 — GRENADA

John P. Giguere
Michael F. Ritz

KILLED IN THE BEIRUT APRIL 1983 EMBASSY BOMBING

Ben H. Maxwell
Robert V. McMaugh



Creating a Public Green Space

We are recognized as the nation's leading state war memorial. We very much want to look the part. Our fallen veterans deserve no less.

The Virginia War Memorial is located on five rolling acres with a beautiful view of the James River and the skyline of downtown Richmond. The names of nearly 12,000 Virginia men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II and the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf are engraved on the Memorial's Shrine of Memory—20th Century. The Memorial's Shrine of Memory—Global War on Terrorism carries the names of Virginians killed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and other locations around the world.

The setting provides the perfect backdrop for paying tribute to the military veterans whose service is, and has always been, essential to our democracy. We know that scenic beauty, shade, and accessible green space are essential to the soul. Examples of quiet space architecture, such as the Memorial, can be powerful places of connection and contemplation. The creation of a public green space will provide a sense of arrival and better wayfinding.

The plan provides opportunities for special commemorative gardens. The use of native and favorite Virginia plants, shade trees, and pollinators will encourage longer, more comfortable visits.

Visit our website and look for exciting details on our plans and learn how you can help us share the most beautiful view in Richmond.



The National Salute to Veteran Patients — Each year, during the week of February 14, 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, Salem, 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.



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.



OUR MISSION

To preserve the stories of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice, to honor all veterans and active-duty military, and to inspire love of country through education.

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.



2023 Calendar of Events

Please check our website and follow our e-news for details on these important events and dates to remember in 2023.

May 3
Leadership in America Speaker Series
Alex Kershaw — *Against All Odds: A True Story of Courage and Survival in World War II*
Alex Kershaw is the widely acclaimed, prize-winning, *New York Times* best-selling author of 11 books, including *The Longest Winter* and *The Bedford Boys*. His latest book tells the story of four men — all from the same unit — awarded the Medal of Honor for their courage during World War II. A light reception and book signing follow the lecture.

May 29
Commonwealth of Virginia's Memorial Day Ceremony

June 23
Hill of Heroes Day
Every June, 12,000 American flags are placed on the hillside of the Virginia War Memorial, representing the nearly 12,000 names engraved on the Shrine of Memory. This year, after volunteers finish placing the flags in the ground, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation will host a fun and patriotic festival for children and families. The event will include live music, K9 demonstrations, interactive exhibits, giveaways, tactile learning opportunities, military vehicles to explore, food trucks, crafts, scavenger hunts, and more.

September 11
Commonwealth's 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony

September 16
National POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 22
Sips on the Skyline
The Virginia War Memorial Foundation is proud to host the 5th Annual Sips on the Skyline, a salute to Virginia Spirits Month. This evening celebration features delicious food, great music, creative craft

cocktails designed by Virginia's best distilleries (many of them veteran-owned), and, of course, the dramatic skyline views of downtown Richmond and the James River.

October 24
Leadership in America Speaker Series
One Week in October — Moderated Panel

October 2023 will be the 40th anniversary of the Beirut bombings. In the barracks bombing, 241 U.S. military personnel were killed, including 220 Marines. The incident was the largest single-day death toll for the U.S. Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima.

That same week, citing danger to the U.S. citizens in Grenada, President Ronald Reagan ordered nearly 2,000 U.S. troops onto the island, where they soon found themselves facing opposition from Grenadan armed forces and groups of Cuban military engineers who were in Grenada to repair and expand the island's airport.

November 11
Commonwealth of Virginia's Veterans Day Ceremony

December 7
Commonwealth of Virginia's Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

Announcing insider trips to some of Virginia's most remarkable destinations

For more information, visit VaWarMemorial.org/insidertrips

JUNE — Fort Eustis and Yorktown Battlefield, co-presented with St. John's Church Foundation

AUGUST — Hampton Roads Naval Museum, MacArthur Memorial

SEPTEMBER — Fort Monroe



OPEN: Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday: noon – 4 p.m. Shrine of Memory: Open 5 a.m. to midnight daily	CLOSED: New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day VaWarMemorial.org	PHOTOGRAPHY: Mark Mitchell Lizzie Oglesby Virginia War Memorial Virginia War Memorial Foundation	COPY EDITING: Jenny M. Abel Editorial Services NEWSLETTER DESIGN: Communication Design Inc.
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Who They Were: Lives Worth Knowing

The Importance of Local History

An understanding of local history is essential to developing pride of place. Whether immigrant, transplant, or native, understanding how your community affected, and was affected by, national events is the first step toward love of country.

One of the most important things the Virginia War Memorial does is to offer local history education in a current, specific, and accurate way that published textbooks can never attain.

The cities, towns, and counties represented here by a flame of patriotism are remembering their local history and the men and women to whom we owe so much.

CITIES Bristol	COUNTIES Amelia Augusta Bland Botetourt Caroline Chesterfield Fauquier	Floyd Goochland Halifax Hanover Henrico Louisa Lunenburg Madison	Mecklenburg Nelson Nottoway Pittsylvania Rappahannock Scott Southampton Stafford
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SPRING 2023

If your city or county would like to support our efforts, please contact us at mmwachur@vawarmemorial.org or (301) 580-1488. Or visit VaWarMemorial.org/support/whotheywere.