

Blue Star Families Hero Tree

NOW ON VIEW



VIRGINIANS IN THE NORMANDY INVASION

EXHIBITION OPENS JUNE 6, 2024
TO MARK THE
80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Over 150,000 Allied troops attacked the heavily fortified beaches in Normandy, France, initiating the largest amphibious assault in human history. Code named Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy served as the turning point of World War II, began the drive to liberate Europe, and ultimately led to an Allied victory.

What General Dwight D. Eisenhower described as a “great and noble undertaking,” the D-Day invasion would forever characterize the indomitable strength and spirit of the more than 70,000 American troops who participated.

Many of them were from Virginia. This is their story.

D-DAY TRAINING: Preparing for the Normandy Invasion

Allied D-Day training and preparing was a vast endeavor, stretching from South America to southern England. Firing ranges were at a premium, as space was needed for practicing landing operations from ships to aerial gunnery and anti-aircraft guns. However, the emphasis was upon amphibious operations and landing, and some facilities had been in use long before June 1944.

Here is how Joe Broadhead describes a typical training day in mid-April 1944, when the Light Infantry moved to a coastal camp about the mile from Southampton:

Life on the whole was pleasant. We observed our duties of where it would be, but the question was when? Sometimes the question was not the answer. We all had our own duties to do in what it would be. Around May 1944, a drastic move took place. The camp was moved, our training was over. The day that followed was spent in the air. We had to move around the camp area, around the air. We received no mail, but were still allowed to write home, subject to our censorship.

The U.S. Army set up at least eight training centers prior to D-Day, most notably at Williamsburg, North, Tennessee. Because of its topographical similarity to Normandy, the Virginia Beach region of the eastern coast was selected for amphibious rehearsals, leading to the disastrous Operation Tiger in April.



Exhibit Design: The 1717 Design Group, Inc.

The lessons of World War II — those learned from triumphs as well as losses — will be forgotten without the efforts of organizations like the Virginia War Memorial to keep the memories, the sights, and the sounds in the public consciousness.

Five Gallery Sections will cover these topics:

- Training for the Invasion
- Operation Overlord Landing
- Paratrooper and Glider Operations, and Amphibious Landings
- Hedgerow Fights
- The Battle of Saint Lô to the Normandy Breakout

Now Open in the Veterans’ Art Gallery



F-4 Taxi Cat, one of Paulk’s paintings featured in *Dreams of Flight*; Inset: Paulk aboard the USS Midway.

Dreams of Flight

Longtime Virginia resident Tom Paulk had his dreams of flight come true — he was fortunate enough to find a path that led to flying Jet Fighters for the U.S. Navy. Tom could always draw, but he was not a painter until he left the Naval Academy and realized how terrible an apartment wall can look when it is devoid of art and color. His first painting effort was an experiment, where he enlarged a gift shop postcard. The result was very encouraging, leading to a few more artistic efforts while on his first tour to Japan, as time allowed. Most, but not all, of his paintings then and since, have had a tie to aviation.

Completing his Navy career led to a business career, as well as more off-duty opportunities to create art. Tom, a resident of Chesapeake, Virginia, joined the Southside Artists Association, and the American Society of Aviation Artists (ASAA), with the goal of learning his craft and creating beautiful works that would delight collectors.

EXHIBITIONS ON VIEW:

- 50 Years Beyond:
The Vietnam Veteran Experience
CLOSES APRIL 2024
- Dreams of Flight:
The Art of Tom Paulk
- Arms for the Nation
- Virginia Medal of Honor Gallery
- Undercroft Exhibit Hall
- The Shrine of Memory

Making New Friends by Making New Partners



Thanks to new friends in Southwest Virginia, Blue Ridge PBS, and Appalachia Digital PBS, as well as to all of the Foundation's partners, our most recent documentary, *One Week in October*, aired on PBS stations across Virginia and into D.C., Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia. If you missed it, you can also see it on our website VaWarMemorial.org.

When we approached the folks at Blue Ridge PBS about the production, they were quick to see the importance of preserving this story. They produced an unforgettable narrative, in the voices of Virginia veterans, of a momentous week in October 1983. A week still fraught with unanswered questions. A week that saw the horrific bombing of the Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut and then two days later the invasion of Grenada.

We have also formed a partnership with the Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Music. As part of the *Mighty Pen Podcast*, music students will contribute original compositions to the effort.

Strengthening our partnership with our sister sites in the Virginia World War II Heritage

Alliance is a mandate in our strategic plan.

Garden Clubs across the state are partners in our Public Green Space initiative. The Garden Club of Virginia has a strong history of relief efforts during World War II. Love of Commonwealth, and of country, are evident in all that is undertaken by this historic group.

Firehouse Theatre is our production partner for the 2024 *War In Pieces*

festival of veteran-authored one-act plays.

Our participation on the Board of Veterans Services and our work with the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations ensures that our programs are closely aligned with 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.

Teachers and education professionals across the state, our museum colleagues who belong to the Virginia Association of Museums, and decision-makers in state and local government – all of these partners work with us to consolidate resources for greater efficiency.

What would we do without our friends in the media – print, broadcast, and digital partners – who share our dedication to critical educational programming for all ages?

As important as all these collaborations are, YOU are our most important partner. Without the support of people like you, we would not be operating from the position of strength that allows us to be bold in our planning.

Thank you.

Pamela R. Seay
PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Listen to Our *Mighty Pen Podcast* – New in 2024

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Our Mighty Pen Project

Each week in 2024, stories from our longest-running creative writing program for veterans will be released, followed by conversations between Mighty Pen Project instructor David Robbins and the authors of the stories. In cases where the author is no longer with us, a close friend will remember them. The wide reach of a podcast will provide easy access to veterans who might not be aware of our free creative programs designed especially for them. And for nonveterans, the podcast will focus much needed attention on veterans as individuals, not as a monolithic demographic with a single dimension.



Alexander Sapp reads for the *Mighty Pen Podcast* in the studio at the Memorial, as Foundation employees Dan Thomas and Ennis Kristiansen listen carefully.

Work has started. The response from our network of professional actors wanting to deliver this powerful medium has been outstanding. New partnerships with the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Department of Music will provide original music, further enhancing the veteran pieces and allowing students a chance to spotlight their compositions to this new community.

The Virginia War Memorial is proud to be a member of the Virginia World War II Heritage Alliance. We invite you to visit all our partners:

The National D-Day Memorial
dday.org

MacArthur Memorial
macarthurmemoial.org

Hampton Roads Naval Historical Foundation
hamptonroadsnavalhistoricalfoundation.org

Virginia Holocaust Museum
vaholocaust.org

The Stonewall Brigade Museum
shenandoahatwar.org/stonewall-brigade-museum

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum
portsmouthnavalshipyardmuseum.com

Military Aviation Museum
militaryaviationmuseum.org



Dawn Goldstein, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, a *Mighty Pen Graduate*, U.S. Army veteran, *War In Pieces* playwright of 2024 One-Act Play.

RIGHT:
A scene from the 2023 season.

War in Pieces Continues in 2024

Once again, four one-act plays, each written by a military veteran, will be presented on stage in our VMI Alumni Hall of Honor. Firehouse Theatre will be our partner in 2024. Performances are scheduled for March 15, 16, 17 and on March 21, 22, 23, 24.

These live performances will connect you to the cast, and to the playwrights, and to others in the audience. The intimacy and the immediacy of the stage makes the experience more than entertaining. Each play offers an eye-opening snapshot of pain, humor, loss, redemption, or validation, delivered from one soul to another.



Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors 2023

CHAIR

CDR Kathleen Owens, USN (Ret.)

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Ms. Linda V. Schreiner

1ST VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Richard L. St. John Jr.

2ND VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Michael L. Santoro Jr.

SECRETARY

LTC Joseph C. Barto III, USA (Ret.)

TREASURER

Mr. Bill Davis

Mr. Robert A. Archer

Ms. Lacy Barton

Judy S. Brown

(Mrs. Peter W. Brown)

Mr. David A. Christian

Mr. John V. Cogbill III

Mr. Stephen Y. Dickinson

MG Robert M. Dyess Jr., USA (Ret.)

LTG Robert B. Flowers, USA (Ret.)

Mr. Jamie Galanti

Hon. William J. Howell

Ms. Alison M. Kaufmann

CWO-3 Michael A. Kord,

USMC (Ret.)

Ms. Shari E. Litow

Mr. John A. Luke Jr.

Hon. Alexander B. McMurtrie Jr.

Hon. John M. O'Bannon III, MD

CAPT Michael M. Rand, USN (Ret.)

RADM Frank F. Rennie IV,

USN (Ret.)

LTC Ronald O. White, USA (Ret.)

EMERITUS

Dr. Charles F. Bryan Jr.

CDR Paul E. Galanti, USN (Ret.)

MG LH Ginn III, USA (Ret.)

RDML John G. Hekman,

USN (Ret.)

Virginia War Memorial Foundation Staff

PRESIDENT

Ms. Pamela R. Seay

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Mary-Michael Wachur

DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Ms. Brenna Magette de Wolff

ANNUAL FUND AND DATABASE MANAGER

Ms. Annie R. Warman

ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH MANAGER

Mr. Dan Thomas

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Virginia War Memorial Foundation
Receives the Garden Club of Virginia
Common Wealth Award

On October 18, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation was awarded the Garden Club of Virginia 2023 Common Wealth Award for our Public Green Space Project. This prestigious and historic recognition dates to the Garden Club of Virginia’s annual meeting in May 1979, when the club voted to provide an annual grant to promote projects in the interest of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation, and education. The two-word name “Common Wealth” was chosen to describe the “wealth” that is “common” to all Virginians. The nearly 12,000 names etched on the Shrine of Memory represent sons and daughters from every city, county, and town across the Commonwealth.

Our Public Green Space Project was nominated by the four Richmond Garden Club of Virginia clubs — the Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, the Boxwood Garden Club, the James River Garden Club, and the Three Chopt Garden Club — and voted on by each of the 48 Garden Clubs across the state.

The Award provides us with \$20,000 to kickstart our Capstone Challenge Campaign to meet our \$1 Million goal before year end.

The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton is donating an additional \$7,500 toward the Capstone Challenge for the purchase of five large White Oak trees to be planted in a space to be named the “Gold Star Oak Grove.” RoseMarie Bundy, member of the Tuckahoe Garden Club and the Public Green Space Project Committee, reported the donation and said it is part of the Club’s Centennial Service project: “We make this gift to honor Gold Star Families, an honor no one should bear. The White Oak is a symbol of peace and serenity and we hope the Gold Star Oak Grove at the Virginia War Memorial will provide that for all.”

Garden Club
of Virginia
Common
Wealth
Award
Winner

Help us
meet
the Capstone
Challenge

The Award provides
us with \$20,000
to kickstart our
Capstone Challenge
Campaign to meet
our \$1 Million goal
before year end.

Such Wonderful Friends



In recent months, the Virginia War Memorial has made a concerted effort to connect with retirement communities in the Richmond area. The reason for this outreach is rooted simply in the catalogue of wonderful moments we have built

at the War Memorial while hosting visiting retiree groups and conducting tours for them. Hearing their amazing stories, the insightful questions, and the joy for learning from these visiting residents makes us want to do more with and for these patriotic Virginians.

It should come as no surprise that our retirement communities are rich with veterans. From World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, their generations hold a higher percentage of veterans than those now amid the workforce and those beginning their careers. As a result, I hope to find a means to tap into their wisdom and experience to help us preserve history, educate, and inspire a new generation of patriots. It would be a terrible shame to miss such an opportunity to enrich the War Memorial’s programs and our visitors’ experience.

Therefore, we are reaching out to our retirement communities to participate in our oral history project, capturing the stories of veterans. Our education team of Jim Triesler and Crystal Coon continue to visit several local communities for engaging historic presentations. We are also looking into the possibility of extending our creative writing Mighty Pen Project to residents as well as other creative arts programs we are developing. And of course, we are working with program directors at retirement communities to schedule more group visits here to the War Memorial, to include a special program about the World War I Christmas Truce this December 13th.

We have much to learn from our wonderful friends who are enjoying retirement. The Virginia War Memorial wants to show them all we do for veterans, their families, and for the Commonwealth. Any recommendations or information for connecting with retirement communities can be sent to Catherine Allen at Catherine.allen@dvs.virginia.gov.

John C Mountcastle

Dr. Clay Mountcastle
DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL



Assistant VWM Director of Education Crystal Coon presents to a group of retirees on life during the Civil War.



Welcome Jamie Galanti,
the Foundation’s
Newest Board Member

Jamie is one of the owners of Commonwealth Commercial Partners — a Virginia-based commercial real estate firm. As a Senior Vice President and Partner in the firm, Jamie is one of the top commercial agents in Richmond specializing in office and industrial properties.

Jamie’s love for our veterans started at home. Both of his grandfathers were colonels in the U.S. Army and served in World War II. His father, Paul, was a naval aviator who fought in Vietnam and spent nearly seven years in a Vietnamese prison camp as a Prisoner of War in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton.” Back here at home, Jamie’s mother, Phyllis, was a tireless advocate for the POWs and helped to secure their release in 1973. Jamie has given back to our veterans by volunteering at the VA Medical Center here in Richmond and assisting with the Families of the Wounded Fund. He attended Hampden-Sydney College, where he was the Vice President of the Student Senate, and a standout on the lacrosse field.

Meet Dan Thomas,
Engagement and Outreach
Manager, Virginia War
Memorial Foundation

Dan is originally from Alexandria, Virginia, but has spent much of his life in Richmond. He holds a BA in history from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Before joining the Foundation, Dan worked for VCU Libraries and held internships at the City of Westminster Archives and here at the Virginia War Memorial assisting with research for the Medal of Honor Gallery.

Dan is especially excited about the upcoming *Mighty Pen Podcast*, which he was tasked with producing on his first day on the job: “It’s been a privilege to be working with the Veterans in the *Mighty Pen Project* to showcase their work and use it in making this podcast. I believe sharing stories like this, the types that aren’t usually put forward in popular media, is one of the most effective ways to connect people to our shared history. Listening to the Vietnam Veterans’ stories has made me think quite a bit about my grandfather, who passed long before I was born, who served in the Air Force in Vietnam. I like to think he would have appreciated the opportunity I have with the podcast as well — after he served, he hosted a late-night show on a radio station in Fredericksburg.”

Suggestions and questions regarding the *Mighty Pen Podcast* can be sent to mppodcast@vawarmemorial.org.

Contact Dan at dthomas@vawarmemorial.org for help with other outreach/engagement needs, such as rentals, Walkway of Honor purchases, the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store, Bus Trips, and the *Mighty Pen Project*.



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.

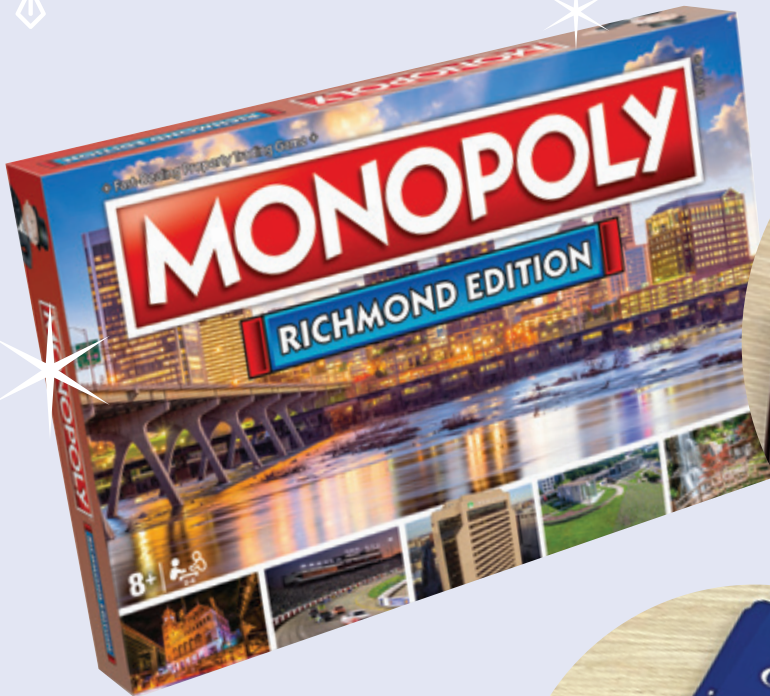
JOSEPH A. WEINBERG MEMORIAL STORE

Shop here before you PASS GO

RICHMOND MONOPOLY is here and we are on the board. Pick up your edition here at the Memorial and enjoy time with your family competing to snag your favorite local places. Also new to our lineup is a commemorative coaster honoring Phyllis Galanti, gently reminding us in her inimitable way,

“No whining!” Brush up on your civic knowledge with citizenship flash cards.

All proceeds from the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store fund the continuing educational mission of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation. Shop online at VaWarMemorial.org. Shipping and local pickup options are available.



Phyllis and Paul Galanti Coasters



U.S. Citizenship Test Flashcards

Visit the Memorial Store to find these and other great holiday gifts!



621 South Belvidere Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2805
RICHMOND, VA



OPEN:
Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday: noon – 4 p.m.
Shrine of Memory:
5 a.m. to midnight daily

CLOSED:
New Year’s Day, Easter,
Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day

VaWarMemorial.org

PHOTOGRAPHY:
David Robbins
John Crank
Virginia War Memorial
Virginia War Memorial Foundation

COPY EDITING:
Jenny M. Abel Editorial Services

NEWSLETTER DESIGN:
Communication Design Inc.

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.

- CITIES**

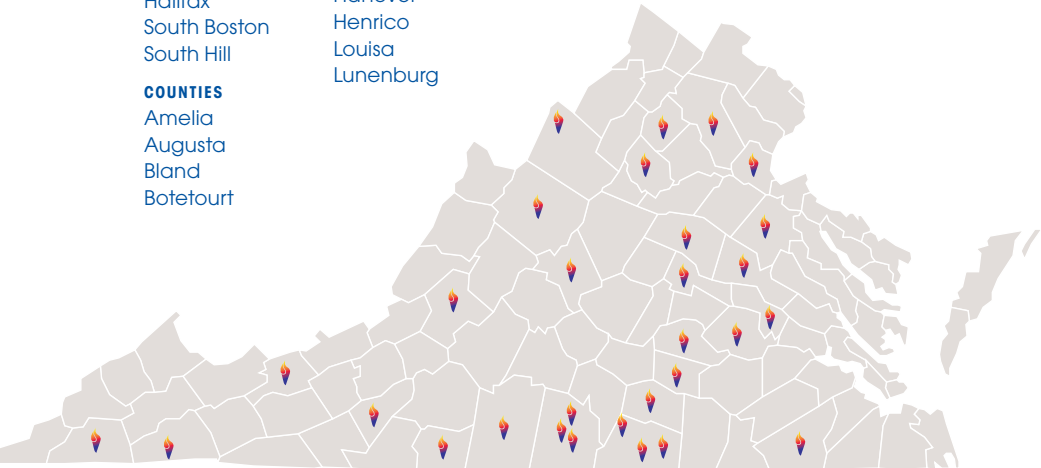
Bristol
Martinsville

TOWNS

Chase City
Elkton
Halifax
South Boston
South Hill

COUNTIES

Amelia
Augusta
Bland
Botetourt
- Caroline
Chesterfield
Fauquier
Floyd
Goochland
Halifax
Hanover
Henrico
Louisa
Lunenburg
- Madison
Mecklenburg
Nelson
Nottoway
Pittsylvania
- Rappahannock
Scott
Southampton
Stafford



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.

2024 Events Calendar

Visit our website and sign up for e-news alerts for details on these events and others at VaWarMemorial.org/events. Our popular *At Ease on the Bus* insider trips return in 2024. Details and open registration to be announced by e-news.

- January 2**
Launch – *Mighty Pen Podcast*

February 11 – 17
National Salute to Veteran Patients

March 15
Opening Night Performance – *War in Pieces*

March 16
K-9 Veterans Day Memorial Dog Walk

March 16 – 17
Performance – *War in Pieces*

March 21 – 24
Performance – *War in Pieces*

April 10
Leadership in America:
Adam Lee – “Security Threats:
Government and the Private Sector”

May 27
Commonwealth of Virginia’s
Memorial Day Ceremony
Annual Walkway of Honor Breakfast

- June 6**
Leadership In America:
Gallery Talk and Exhibition Opening —
D+80: Virginians in the Normandy Invasion

June 16
Performance – *Father’s Day Concert by the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra*

June 28
Hill of Heroes Installation
Join us for the installation of 12,000 American flags on our hillside representing the names engraved on the Shrine of Memory.

June 29
Hill of Heroes Celebration and Flag Exchange
Free family-friendly activities

September 11
Commonwealth of Virginia’s 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony
Leadership in America:
Alex Kershaw – *Patton’s Prayer*

September 13
Sips on the Skyline

September 20
National POW/MIA Recognition Day

November 11
Commonwealth of Virginia’s Veterans Day Ceremony

December 7
Commonwealth of Virginia’s Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony