



## Virginia's Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 27 — 11 a.m.  
E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater



### Hill of Heroes

Installation of 12,000 flags  
Friday, June 28

Hill of Heroes Family Day Celebration  
Saturday, June 29



ON VIEW NOW

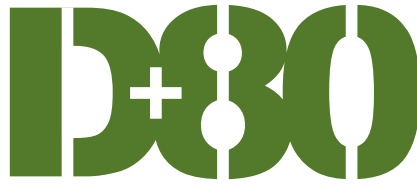


### Dreams of Flight: The Art of Tom Paulk

ALSO CURRENTLY ON VIEW:

- The Shrine of Memory
- Undercroft Exhibit Hall
- Arms for the Nation
- Virginia Medal of Honor Gallery

OPENING JUNE 6, 2024 — THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORMANDY INVASION



VIRGINIANS IN THE NORMANDY INVASION

**D**-Day, the Invasion of Normandy, is one of the most significant days in world history. Code-named Operation Overlord, the amphibious assault on the beaches of northern France landed more than 150,000 Allied servicemen on the Normandy beaches in one day.

Virginians were there, and they played a critical role in the liberation of Europe.

This immersive exhibition will feature "rediscovered" video interviews collected more than two decades ago from World War II veterans in Virginia. Many of these oral histories have only recently been transcribed for the public.

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



Historic video interviews from the Memorial's archives, including those with 1Lt. Ruth Puryear (ABOVE) and Cpl. Robert "Bob" Harwell, are part of the upcoming D+80 exhibition.



Artifacts from June 6, 1944, are featured in the exhibit, including a map of Utah Beach and a German helmet.

THIS EXHIBITION IS MADE POSSIBLE BY



The Widgeon Foundation and The Chrisman Family Foundation

The Peachtree House Foundation

The Elmon B. Duff Charitable Fund

Marsha Mercer in memory of Guy De Genaro

Linda Miller

Martha and Mike Santoro in memory of LTG Joseph R. Inge

And the generous support of friends like you



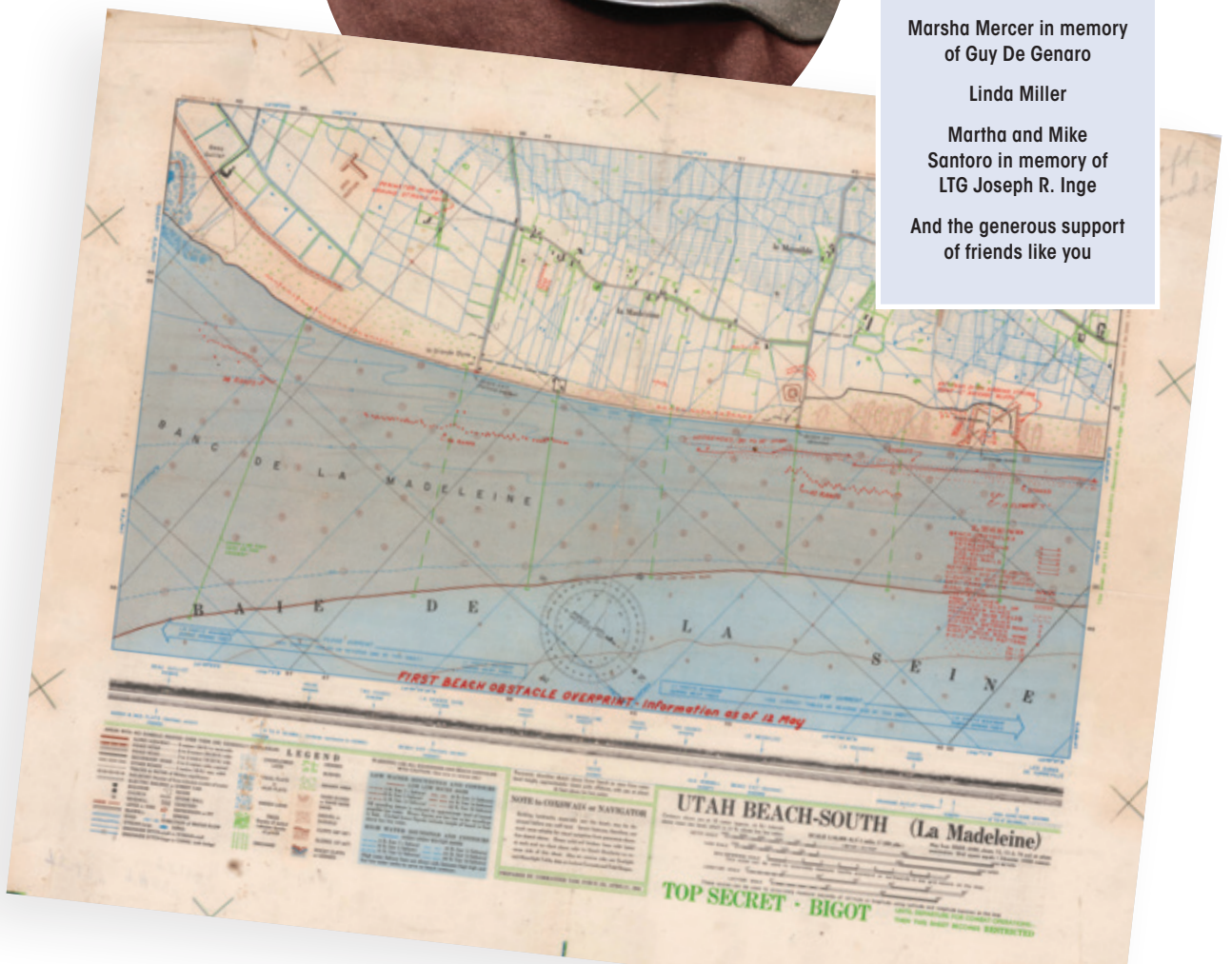
The Shrine of Memory



Undercroft Exhibit Hall

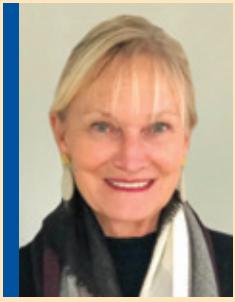
LEFT: Arms for the Nation

BELOW: Virginia Medal of Honor Gallery





## Thank You, Commander Owens



At the January meeting of our Board of Directors, we marked the end of Kathy Owens's two-year term as Board Chair. Kathy, a retired U.S. Navy aviator, has accumulated more than 10,000 career military and commercial flight hours. As good

leaders and aviators must do, she knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

Kathy's tenure as board chair was punctuated with successful fundraising, masterful negotiations, and unapologetic delight in the many achievements of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation. At every board meeting, she assigned a *Virginians at War* documentary for all of us to watch and discuss at the next meeting — the "Chairman's Challenge."

Accepting the gavel from Kathy was Richard (Rick) L. St. John Jr. He is the recently retired president of Triad Metals International, a wholesale steel distributor with locations in four states as well as Canada. Rick's passion for veterans' affairs comes naturally. The son of a retired Army colonel and Vietnam veteran, Rick grew up on Army posts in Berlin, Germany, Fort Benning (GA), Fort Ord (CA), and Fort Leavenworth (KS).



Kathy Owens



Rick St. John Jr.

Both of his grandfathers served in the U.S. Army, one a brigadier general and World War II veteran and the other a colonel, who was killed in Laos in 1969. In his retirement, Rick mentors start-up CEOs and entrepreneurs and serves on several other nonprofit boards.

The Board of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation is a strong team of community leaders

from diverse backgrounds representing all parts of the Commonwealth. They may bring differing points of view about various issues to the table, but when it comes to the Virginia War Memorial, there is only one side, and everyone is on it.

When you visit the Memorial for special events, please look for the blue name tags identifying our board members. I can assure you that your comments and suggestions will be heeded. All of us, board and staff, know very well that our success is only possible with your support.

Nearly 12,000 Virginia men and women who gave their lives for their country from World War II to the present are memorialized here. Whether their remains rest overseas or in hometown cemeteries, their stories are preserved here. Your support ensures that those stories are not only preserved but also interpreted and passed on to current and future generations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Foundation, thank you.

Pamela R. Seay  
PRESIDENT  
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



## NEWS NEWS NEWS

### Our Public Green Space Project Is Taking Root

Work on our Public Green Space Project began in January. Thanks to a wet and warm spring, we are well on our way to planting 87 trees, 375 shrubs, 553 perennials, and hundreds of groundcover specimens. We are especially proud of our Gold Star Oak Grove, supported by the Tuckahoe Garden Club as part of the Club's Centennial Service Project. The White Oak is a symbol of peace and serenity.



Garden Club of Virginia  
**Common Wealth Award Winner**



Help us meet the Capstone Challenge

The Award provided us with \$20,000 to kickstart our Capstone Challenge Campaign to meet our stretch goal of \$1 Million.



## National K9 Veterans Day Was March 13

We saluted all four-legged heroes at our annual .9K for K9s Memorial Walk.

It was on March 13, 1942, that the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. armed forces.

Today's military dogs are valued as important members of their military units and even have their own retirement ceremonies, awards and medals, and memorial services.

Each year, our Memorial Walk highlights service dogs like Royal, pictured here with his handler, Stuart Blankenship, with whom he served in Vietnam.



Subscribe to our e-newsletter today!

SIGN UP AT

[VaWarMemorial.org/get-involved/sign-up-for-newsletter](http://VaWarMemorial.org/get-involved/sign-up-for-newsletter)

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Let's Debate!



Education and inspiring patriotism are two of the Virginia War Memorial's core tenets. We have always searched for ways to combine the elements of our mission with engaging and informative programs

that will benefit partner organizations and visitors of all ages. Recently, we have zeroed in on a particular means by which we can facilitate learning and engagement as well as promote patriotism: debate.

Next academic year (2024–2025), the Virginia War Memorial will host a daylong debate symposium for local high school debate teams,

focusing on issues surrounding military history, service, and American civics. Should the United States reinstate the draft? Should women be required to register for selective service? Should we keep the Patriot Act? By bringing young learners together to debate these topics, and by inviting veterans to be part of the preparation/research process, we hope to create a unique, engaging event that reflects

our mission and facilitates the sharing of ideas between veterans and young Virginians. Our hope is that, if successful, this debate will become an annual affair, furthering our strong bonds with the education community and veterans.

Our first step to making this idea a reality is to connect the War Memorial with high school and/or college debate teams from around the Commonwealth. We have begun reaching out to debate team coaches in the Richmond area, and would be happy to receive any recommendations of debate teams or coaches for us to contact. Any recommendations or inquiries can be sent to me directly at [clay.mountcastle@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:clay.mountcastle@dvs.virginia.gov). We are excited about bringing debate to the War Memorial next year as we continue to grow and develop our programs seeking to honor, preserve, educate, and inspire!

Dr. Clay Mountcastle  
DIRECTOR  
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL



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.



2024

Add These Exceptional Programs to Your Calendar



The Memorial Is on the Move

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

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS & RIPPON LODGE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Join us for a special tour of new galleries at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, including a look at new exhibits. We will conclude our trip with a stop at Rippon Lodge, built around 1747 for Richard Blackburn.



A TOUR OF THE PENTAGON & DEA MUSEUM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

The second trip of the year will take insiders on a highly sought-after Pentagon tour, along with a trip to the nearby Drug Enforcement Administration Museum, packed with oddities and artifacts.



A TRIP TO LEXINGTON TO VISIT VMI AND W&L

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

We will visit two of the oldest universities in Virginia: Washington & Lee University and the Virginia Military Institute. While there, we will take a look at W&L's renowned Reeves Collection of Ceramics and take a tour of VMI, led by our very own Virginia War Memorial Director, Dr. Clay Mountcastle, VMI class of 1994.



Leadership in America

Our Leadership in America lectures feature a wide array of speakers addressing topics such as military readiness, economic strength, medical advances, history, and cultural influence.

ADAM S. LEE

Security Threats: Government and the Private Sector

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 – 6 p.m.

Reception following the lecture

Adam Lee is Dominion Energy's Vice President and Chief Security Officer. In 2018, he retired from the FBI after a career spanning 22 years in counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and cyber operations, in addition to specializing in cases involving political and governmental corruption, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and antitrust violations. Lee previously served as the FBI's Executive over its national Public Corruption Program, overseeing the FBI's most sensitive criminal investigations involving elected and appointed officials across the spectrum of government.



DR. CLAY MOUNTCASTLE

D+80:

Virginians in the Normandy Invasion

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 – 6 p.m.

Reception following the gallery walk

Clay Mountcastle is Director of the Virginia War Memorial and a retired U.S. Army officer. He is a 1994 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and holds a master's and PhD in history from Duke University. Before joining the Virginia War Memorial, he served as Professor of Military History at the University of Washington in Seattle and as an Assistant Professor of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Lee (now Fort Gregg-Adams) Virginia. Dr. Mountcastle will deliver a gallery talk and officially open our newest marquee exhibit about the significant role played by Virginians in the Normandy Invasion launched 80 years ago.



ALEXANDER KERSHAW

Patton's Prayer

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 – 6 P.M.

Reception and book signing following the lecture

Alex Kershaw is the widely acclaimed, prize-winning, *New York Times* best-selling author of 12 books, including *The Longest Winter* and *The Bedford Boys*. Kershaw is the resident historian for Friends of the National WWII Memorial, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., whose mission is to make sure that one of the most inspiring chapters in U.S. history is taught in as many Virginia high schools as possible. His newest book, *Patton's Prayer*, tells the story of General George Patton's finest hours during the Battle of the Bulge.







## Host Your Next Meeting or Event at the Memorial

Event rentals at the Memorial are an excellent way to support the Memorial's mission while holding your event at a beautiful, historic, and contemplative site. Upon completion of the Public Green Space Project, this will only become more true. A variety of native Virginia species have been planted throughout the grounds, and physical improvements have been made to support their growth. Look ahead towards springtime and summer events both this year and next, and consider how Virginia's natural beauty can add to your experience.

To learn more about hosting your event at the Memorial, contact Dan Thomas at (804) 786-1482 or [dthomas@vawarmemorial.org](mailto:dthomas@vawarmemorial.org). Or visit our website at [VaWarMemorial.org/rental-inquiry](http://VaWarMemorial.org/rental-inquiry) and complete the rental inquiry form.



The Controllers Executive RoundTable recently met in Veterans Hall. Virginia War Memorial Foundation board member Steve Dickinson was a founding member of this organization and its partnership with VCU School of Business.



These note cards feature beautiful new photographs of the Shrine of Memory. Support the Foundation's programs by buying them individually or in sets of eight.

## A "Noteworthy" Addition to the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store

New to the store this spring: note cards with beautiful photos of *Memory* and the Memorial, on sale now in the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store. With eight different cards available, you're sure to find one that will be inspiring and insightful for any occasion. The photographs have been chosen from the excellent portfolio of John Henley, Richmond artist and Army veteran.

## Shop at the used book sale during our Hill of Heroes Family Day on June 29.

We have accepted donations throughout the year and have quite the collection of military history books, biographies, and general history. Ranging from the pre-Revolutionary period to the present, we have what you need to bolster your summer reading list. If you'd rather check out some DVDs or VHS tapes for shows and documentaries you've been meaning to watch, we have those too. You'll be hard-pressed to find a sale with better variety, better quality, and better pricing!



Mark your calendar for the used book sale at the Memorial Store on Saturday, June 29th.



621 South Belvidere Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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### 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](http://VaWarMemorial.org)

### PHOTOGRAPHY:

John Crank, John Henley, Mark Mitchell  
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 The Importance of Local History

An understanding of local history is essential to developing pride of place. Whether you are an 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 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  
Martinsville

### TOWNS

Chase City  
Halifax  
South Boston  
South Hill

### COUNTIES

Amelia  
Augusta  
Bland  
Botetourt  
Caroline  
Chesterfield  
Fauquier  
Floyd

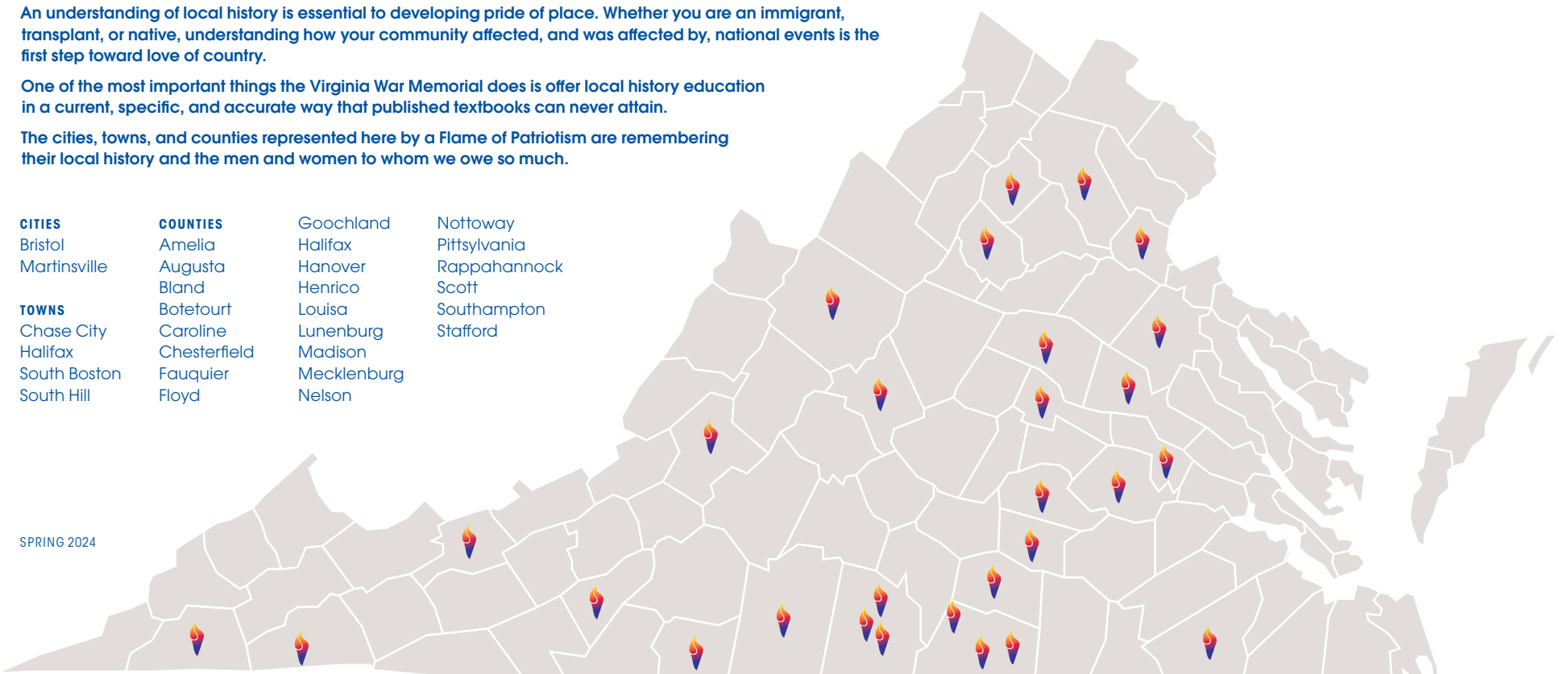
### CITIES

Goochland  
Halifax  
Hanover  
Henrico  
Louisa  
Lunenburg  
Madison  
Mecklenburg  
Nelson

### CITIES

Nottoway  
Pittsylvania  
Rappahannock  
Scott  
Southampton  
Stafford

SPRING 2024



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