



The Commonwealth's Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony

Friday, December 6 — 11 a.m.
Shrine of Memory



Blue Star Families Hero Tree

On view beginning November 23

AND THE WINNER IS ...



One Week in October, Our Latest Documentary, Wins an Emmy® Award

The Virginia War Memorial Foundation (VWMF) and Blue Ridge PBS (headquartered in Roanoke, Virginia) are proud to announce that the 2023 documentary *One Week in October* won an Emmy® Award for Outstanding Military Documentary Film – Long Form Content by the Capital Emmys (The National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences) at the 66th Annual Emmy Awards in June. The Capital Emmys oversees the Emmy® Awards regionally, including all media outlets in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

The *One Week in October* film is the 26th in the Foundation's award-winning documentary series, *Virginians at War*. Through personal recollections of Virginia veterans, the film examines two significant military events that occurred the same week of October 1983. The 40th anniversary of the bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983, was the deadliest single-day death toll for the U.S. Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima. That same week, citing danger to U.S. citizens in Grenada, then President Ronald Reagan ordered nearly 2,000 troops to launch a military intervention, occupation, and evacuation. Operation Urgent Fury launched at dawn on October 25, 1983.

During these two events, 13 Virginians lost their lives. Their names are carved on the wall of the Shrine of Memory – Global War on Terrorism at the Virginia War Memorial.

The co-production is the first film created through the partnership of the VWMF with Blue Ridge PBS. It was created in the spirit of all the Foundation's *Virginians at War* films, to share the firsthand stories of Virginians who witnessed and participated in critical moments in U.S. military history. Watch the film at VaWarMemorial.org/learn/resources.

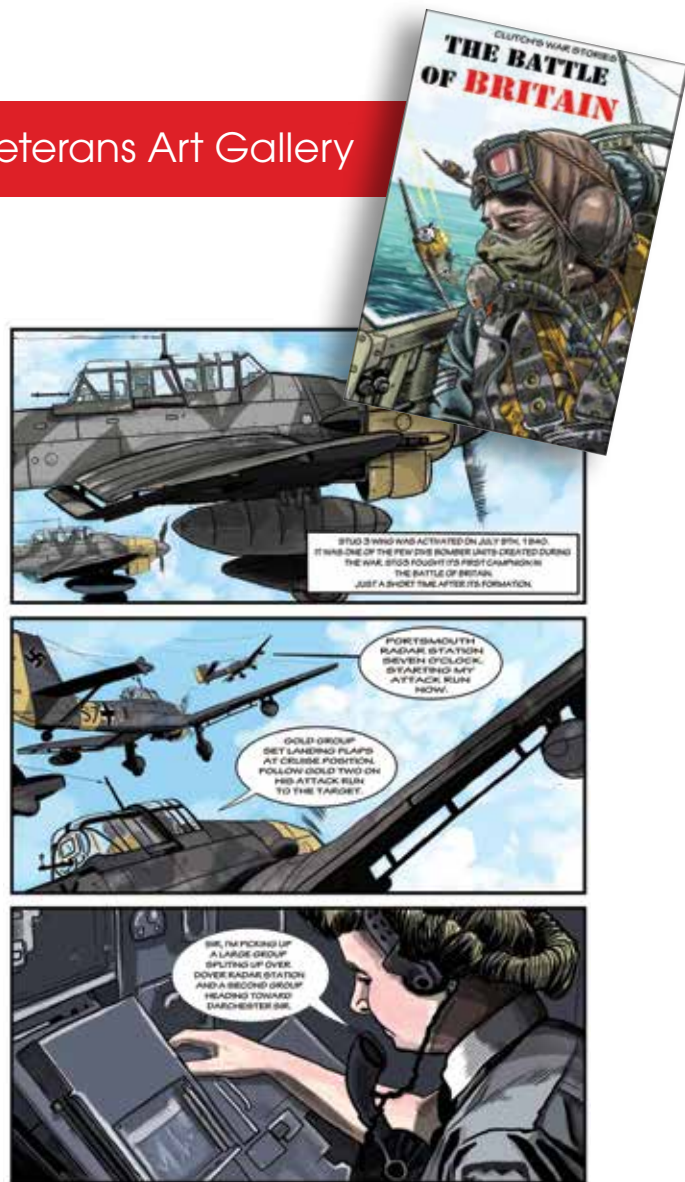
Now Open in the Veterans Art Gallery

Clutch's War Stories: The Artwork of Willie Grimes

Clutch (Willie Grimes) a Richmond native, is a combat-wounded Army veteran and multimedia creator who has developed a career spanning two decades, as a photographer, illustrator, and soon-to-be graphic novelist.

Since April 2008, Clutch has been healing from and dealing with multiple wounds suffered when a 500-pound bomb exploded in the street below the building rooftop where Clutch was positioned. The building was reduced to rubble, and Clutch suffered a traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, and other internal injuries. His art, in all its shapes and forms, is his therapy.

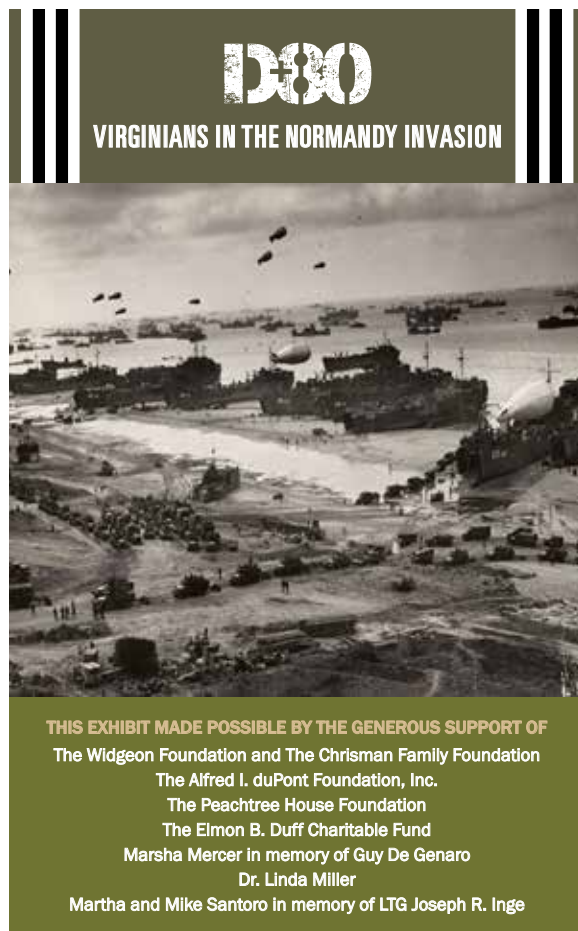
The Virginia War Memorial Veterans Art Gallery is showcasing some of Clutch's latest work — artwork he has created for a graphic novel on the Battle of Britain, the first major military campaign fought entirely by air forces. The campaign, from July until the end of October 1940, overlapped the Germans' Blitz air raids over London.



Visit Now



Thousands of people have visited this remarkable exhibition since its opening on June 6, 2024, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the invasion. The first-person accounts of Virginians who were there, but who are no longer alive, have only recently been made available to the public. Their voices create a poignant narrative throughout the five gallery sections.



Whether their remains rest in a hometown graveyard or in a military cemetery overseas, the stories of the Virginians who gave their lives at Normandy are preserved at the Virginia War Memorial.

Please Help Us Finish Strong



Your enthusiasm for the work we do, your attendance at events, and your financial support make the Virginia War Memorial the best memorial of its type in the country. The nearly 800,000 veterans who call Virginia home

deserve no less. The nation pauses twice a year to recognize the armed services — on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. At the Virginia War Memorial, we honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans every day.

Our goal is to give a grateful community a variety of ways to show their appreciation, by learning more about our country’s history, by coming together in celebration, by coming together in remembrance, by offering exhibitions that encourage reflection and understanding.

Thanks to you, we enter these last weeks of 2024 from a position of strength. As is the case with any nonprofit, fourth-quarter contributions are key to meeting revenue goals. If you stand with us, we will meet those goals and exceed them.

Pam

Pamela R. Seay
PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Virginia War Memorial is many things to many people. First and foremost, we are a place where we gather in recognition of our fallen. We are also a place of learning, sponsoring lectures and exhibitions about our military history. And we are also a place where we can gather to celebrate the American spirit that binds us together.



Our Patriot Day commemoration on September 11.



Author Alex Kershaw spoke in Veterans Hall at the Memorial on September 11 about his latest book, *Patton’s Prayer*, enjoyed by Ralph Lett, WWII veteran (inset above).



Our annual Sips on the Skyline reception, September 13.



Welcome to the Foundation Board

Maj. Thomas (Tom) A. Gibson is the Director of Special Projects for Community Preservation Partners, a WNC Company. Gibson is a veteran and current artillery officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. As such, he has served in various leadership positions in the United States, Morocco, and Japan.

After returning to civilian life, he consulted for the Housing Authority of Prince George’s County and was formerly vice president of development for Stratford Capital Group, where he managed new construction and complex acquisition rehabilitation projects in Northern Virginia. He received an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia. Gibson received his MBA from Cornell University and an MPS in real estate from Georgetown University, and he is currently pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts from Harvard University. Gibson lives in Northern Virginia.



Col. Charles (Charlie) Martin is the Manager of Community Impact for Altria Client Services in Richmond. Martin joined the Virginia Army National Guard in 1994, serving first as an infantryman, before graduating from Virginia Officer Candidate School and being commissioned as an Engineer Officer in 1996. During his 29 years of military service, Martin served in key command and staff positions. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Service Staff School, Intermediate Level Education Course, and the Joint and Combined Warfighting School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science from Longwood College and a master’s in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2018. He completed the

USNORTHCOM Dual Status Command Course in 2022, and is a recent graduate of the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government program in Leadership in Homeland Security. In November 2023, Martin was named the Virginia National Guard’s Assistant Adjutant General – Army.

Dr. Rebecca Kaiser is a dermatologist who recently transitioned from private practice to working full time at the Richmond Veterans Administration Medical Center to help support those who have served. She attended William and Mary and participated in the ROTC program before moving back to her home state of Illinois, where she graduated from the University of Chicago Division of Biological Sciences Pritzker School of Medicine in 2014.



HERE TO SERVE

Ben Lovelace Joins the Team as Engagement and Outreach Manager

Ben comes from a long line of U.S. service members. His great-grandfather, 1st Lt. Harold L. Eck Sr., USAF, was a bombardier on a B-17 during World War II, and was shot down and captured by the Germans on his second combat mission. Ben’s grandfather, father, and stepfather all served in the Marine Corps. His brother currently serves in the Army National Guard. Ben’s nonprofit experience includes archives, education, grants, events, and museum operations. For help with facility rentals, Walkway of Honor purchases, the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store, Insider Bus Trips, and the Mighty Pen Project, contact Ben at blovelace@vawarmemorial.org.



Amanda Burton Is Our Foundation Operations Director

Amanda Burton, who joined us in 2022 as a part-time contract bookkeeper, began her new full-time role as Foundation Operations Director in May 2024. With degrees in music from James Madison University and Virginia Commonwealth University, she established a career in arts administration serving as the Executive Director for the International Conductors Guild for 10 years. There she developed a passion for finance, which led her to create a bookkeeping business serving many area nonprofits and businesses. She continues to play French horn as an active freelance musician, and she runs her own online vintage shop.



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Volunteers: Our Heart and Soul



I received an email the other day that truly made my week. A longtime friend and supporter of the Virginia War Memorial wrote to share his experience on a recent tour of the Memorial with his lifelong

learning group. I was pleased to hear how well the group’s tour had gone, and even more pleased to hear how the group really enjoyed spending time with one of our volunteer docents. I hear similar comments time and time again, but they never grow old.

I have long said that our volunteers are the heart and soul of the Virginia War Memorial. They are

the first faces that visitors see when they arrive at the Memorial, and they hold a wealth of knowledge about the exhibits, displays, and stories that fill the facility. They explain the sacred significance of the Shrine of Memory, they educate young learners, and they offer a sense of understanding and camaraderie to our visitors, who are filled with love of country, our military, and its history. The Virginia War Memorial is the best of its kind in the nation for several reasons, but perhaps for none more important than our terrific volunteers.

We are always looking to grow our happy army of volunteers, and we celebrate each new individual who contacts us looking to join. We know that times are busy, and schedules are tight, so we greatly appreciate any time that people can commit to helping at the War Memorial. Greeting visitors, giving tours, assisting our archivist and curator with special projects, or simply being here to help with the daily operation of the Memorial — every bit of volunteer assistance is vital to our success and is greatly appreciated.

Please consider volunteering at the Virginia War Memorial and helping us in our march forward. Veterans or civilians, young or old (or seasoned, as my mom would say), all are welcome. It’s a wonderful place to be a part of, largely because of the wonderful people who have made themselves a part of it!

John C Mountcastle

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.



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.

Add these lectures to your 2025 calendar

MOLLY GUPTILL MANNING

When Books Went to War

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 – 6 p.m.

Molly Guptill Manning is an author, historian, curator, and associate professor of law at New York Law School. She is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *When Books Went to War*. She has spoken across the country about the power of the written word and has curated the exhibit, “The Best-Read Army in the World.” The exhibit showcases the essential role that books, magazines, and newspapers played in World War II. Before she became a professor, Manning worked in the New York federal courts for 13 years. She earned a BA and MA in American history, a JD at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, and an MA in museum studies from New York University.

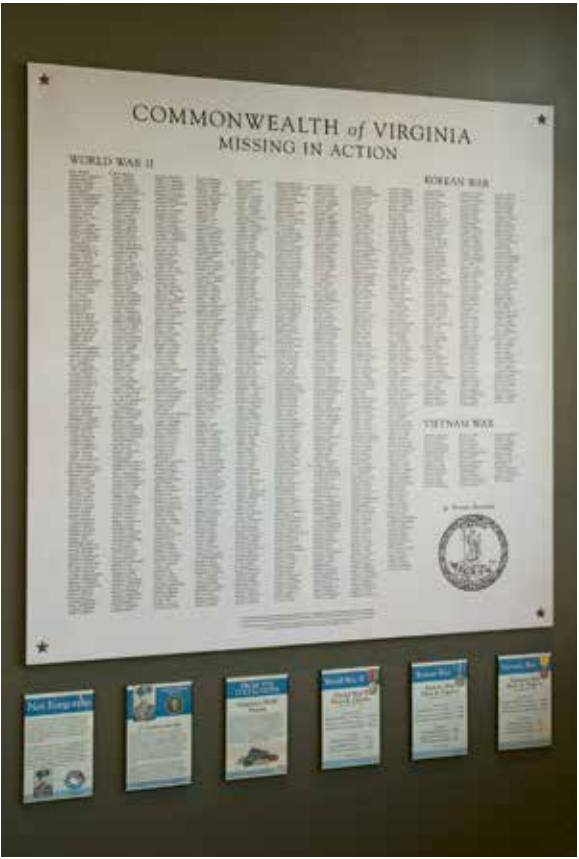


KELLY McKEAGUE

MIA: The Search Continues

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 – 6 p.m.

Mr. Kelly McKeague began service as the director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) on September 5, 2017. He is responsible for policy and oversight of all aspects of the DPAA’s program to account for our nation’s missing personnel from past conflicts. He leads the U.S. Department of Defense’s worldwide enterprise of research, investigation, recovery, and identification operations, and supporting functions, in order to provide the fullest possible accounting of our missing personnel to their families and the nation. In December 2015, McKeague culminated a 34-year career in the U.S. Air Force, retiring at the rank of major general. His talk will be the opening event for our next exhibition: *Virginia’s Missing in Action: The Search Continues*.



One of the more poignant charges of the Virginia War Memorial in the Code of Virginia is to honor the memory of those missing in action and, as remains are officially identified, to accord them the Gold Star designation.

Virginia’s Missing in Action: The Search Continues

Exhibition opens September 19, 2025, to mark National POW/MIA Recognition Day

This exhibit will be presented on behalf of surviving family members of the more than 1,200 Virginia veterans who are still missing in action (MIA) and on behalf of the more than 700,000 veterans who call Virginia home.

Nationally, 72,103 Americans are still unaccounted for from World War II; 7,480 from the Korean War; 1,577 from the Vietnam War; 126 from the Cold War; and 6 from other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,000 still missing, 75% of the losses were in the Indo-Pacific, and more than 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea.

This exhibit will feature photos, letters, and other archival materials related to those Virginians still MIA. Additionally, the exhibit will explore the scientific process behind searching for and recovering the remains of those individuals by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). The sacrifices made by those who never came home will be forgotten without the efforts of organizations like the Virginia War Memorial and DPAA, which help keep their stories in the public consciousness.

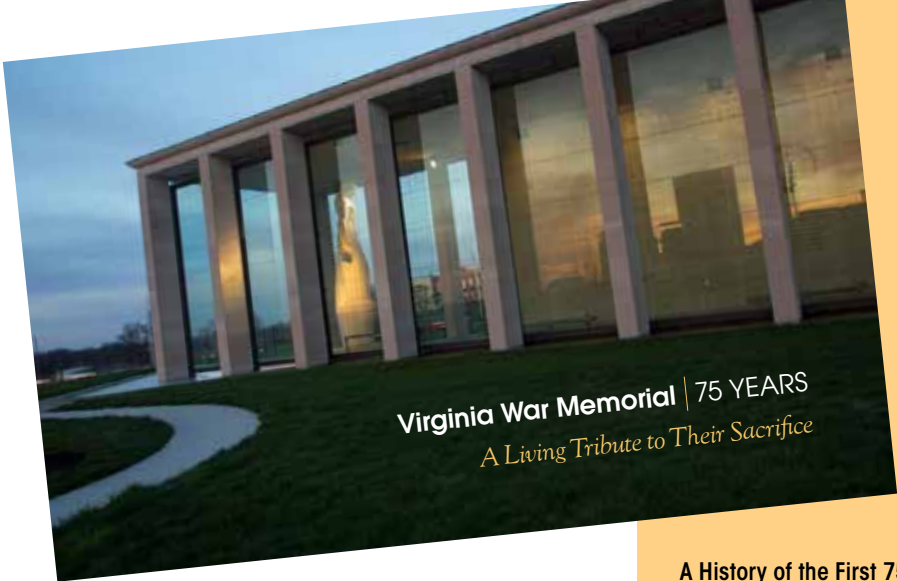


The Walkway of Honor

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 Ben Lovelace at blovelace@vawarmemorial.org or (804) 786-1482 (o), (910) 330-0241 (c).





COMING SOON

The First Definitive History of the Virginia War Memorial

The Virginia War Memorial is one of Virginia's most important and cherished landmarks — a place for pilgrimage, remembering, and learning. It began as a vision and desire to honor Virginians who had nobly left family, friends, jobs, and school to fight fascism and tyranny during World War II. Over the past seven and a half decades, the Memorial has evolved and expanded. This book documents the creation and evolution of the Memorial against the backdrop of post-World War II America. It highlights the ongoing struggle between historic preservation and development; relevance and public art; political partisanship and public opinion.

Construction of the original Shrine of Memory at the Memorial, one of scores of historical images included in the book, along with striking new images of the Memorial today.



A History of the First 75 Years:
1950–2025

Two-book volume, large format
(16" x 10"), 200 pages,
150 archival and contemporary
photographs

Written by Philip Bigler,
a former Arlington National
Cemetery historian and the
author of *Tomb of the
Unknown Soldier: A Century of
Honor, 1921–2021* as well as
12 other books

Principal photography by John
Henley, U.S. Army veteran
and well-known Virginia artist

Design by Tim Priddy, a former
principal and co-owner of
Communication Design

Limited first edition
**Order your copy now
for early 2025 delivery
at the special insider
price of \$85.**

(Price after January 1, 2025: \$105)

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VaWarMemorial.org
/historybook**



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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

PHOTOGRAPHY:

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Virginia War Memorial,
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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 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	COUNTIES	Halifax	Rappahannock
Bristol	Amelia	Hanover	Scott
Colonial Heights	Augusta	Henrico	Southampton
Martinsville	Bland	Louisa	Stafford
	Botetourt	Lunenburg	
	Caroline	Madison	
	Chesterfield	Mecklenburg	
	Fauquier	Nelson	
	Floyd	Nottoway	
	Goochland	Pittsylvania	
TOWNS			
Chase City			
Halifax			
South Boston			
South Hill			

FALL 2024

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.