



High Marks Again

READ OUR IMPACT REPORT
ON PAGE THREE



LAST WEEKS TO SEE

D+80: Virginians in the
Normandy Invasion

Clutch's War Stories:
The Artwork of Willie Grimes

ALSO ON VIEW

The Shrine of Memory

Undercroft Exhibit Hall

Arms for the Nation

Virginia Medal of Honor Gallery

Leadership in America

KELLY McKEAGUE

MIA: The Search Continues

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. Kelly McKeague is the director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). 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. 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*.



Opening Memorial Day in the Veterans Art Gallery: Featured Artist Henry Kidd

A Humble Gift of Gratitude

Perhaps the most compelling element of Henry Kidd's one-man show at the Virginia War Memorial is his choice of canvas. Just as a litter represents the movement of the wounded under the most difficult of conditions, the scenes painted on these litters honor those who are wounded under the most tragic of circumstances. Born in 1950 in Petersburg, Virginia, Kidd is a lifelong resident of Colonial Heights. He grew up playing on the battlefields surrounding Petersburg and has spent his life studying America's military history in all conflicts. Kidd is a graduate of Virginia State University and served six years in the U.S. Army Reserves as a sergeant.

Kidd's art has appeared in documentaries on the History Channel and on covers of many books and magazines. His artwork hangs in numerous prestigious institutions and museums. His accolades include an award from the American Red Cross and a personal thank you from General Schwarzkopf for a piece he created to honor Persian Gulf War fighting forces. Kidd donated all proceeds from the limited edition prints of that piece to the American Red Cross for the families of military personnel.

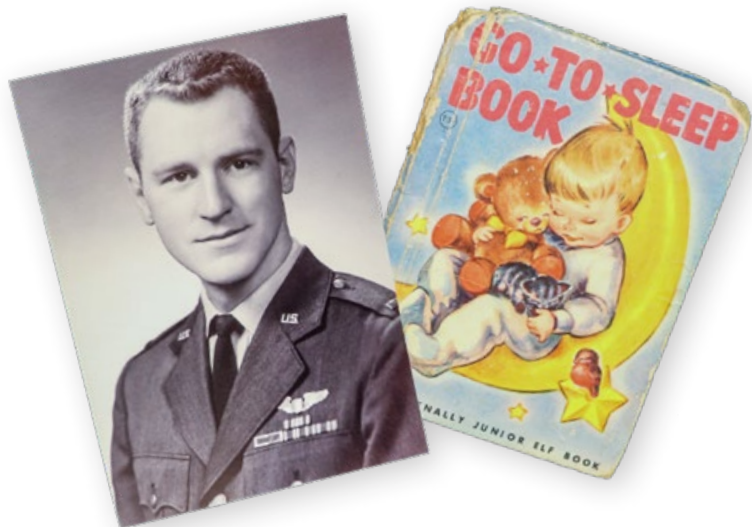
A Joint House and Senate Resolution by the Virginia General Assembly recognized Kidd for his artwork and efforts aiding 9/11 victims.



Exhibit Opening September 19, 2025, to Mark National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Virginia's Missing in Action: The Search Continues

More than 1,200 Virginia veterans are still missing in action (MIA). Their sacrifices will be forgotten without the efforts of organizations like the Virginia War Memorial and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). 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.



LEFT: A photograph of MAJ Lee Harley. RIGHT: A baby book that Harley took with him to Vietnam to remind him of his daughter. She was 22 months old when he was shot down. Gift of Patricia J. Harley Patton



Copies of scrapbook pages kept by a childhood friend of PFC Stuart Christian with photographs and news clippings about him. He fought in the Korean War and died in a prison camp in 1951 after enduring the Tiger Death March. Gift of Peg Hubbard-Holliday

- This exhibit will feature photos, letters, and interviews with family members who still await news of loved ones, gone for decades but never forgotten.
- This exhibit will recognize and illustrate the commitment of DPAA and international partners working diligently around the world to find the missing and bring them home.

THIS EXHIBITION
IS MADE POSSIBLE BY



Altria

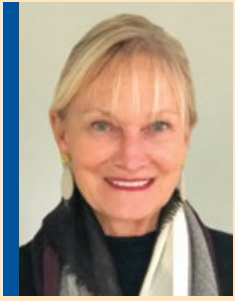
The Windsor Foundation
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Foundation

Members of the VMI Class
of 1969 in memory of their
Brother Rat, Capt. John W.
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Virginia Heritage
Veterans Club

Would you like to join
these supporters in our
efforts to tell the stories
of Virginia's Missing in
Action? Contact Annie
Warman at awarman@vawarmemorial.org to learn
more about sponsorship
opportunities.

Impact: You Know It When You See It



Thanks to your support, we are making an impact across the Commonwealth. It is an honor and privilege to show you, on the facing page, how that support advanced our noble mission last year.

We are proud that the country's leading charity-monitoring agencies have given us the highest possible marks for excellence. The awards and honors we garnered in 2024, including a first-ever regional Emmy® for Outstanding Military Documentary Film, are gratifying. But the most important honor to us is your trust.

This year marks a critical milestone in the history of the Virginia War Memorial. It was 75 years ago that the Virginia War Memorial was authorized by the Commonwealth of Virginia. When it was dedicated six years later, it included not only the names of Virginians killed in action in World War II, its original

mandate, but also the names of Virginia's Korean War dead. Through the years, Virginians lost in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and the Global War on Terrorism have been memorialized on the Shrine of Memory's massive walls of glass and stone. Thanks to the efforts of the Virginia War Memorial, these individuals, and the more than 1,200 Virginians still missing in action, will not be forgotten.

The Virginia War Memorial Foundation was recognized by the IRS in 2000 — a quarter of a century ago — as a 501(c)(3). During that time, the Foundation has contributed mightily to two major capital projects at the Memorial. The Foundation has funded award-winning documentaries, compelling exhibitions, professional development opportunities for teachers, lectures, classroom programs, a public Green Space, a virtual Shrine, creative programs for veterans, oral history initiatives, and ROTC scholarships.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for our mission and vision.

Pamela R. Seay
PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



An Invitation from Joe Barto to the Veterans of Desert Storm



Did you serve in Operation Desert Storm? Next year marks the 35th anniversary of that short but decisive conflict. I am proud to tell you about a new program sponsored by the Virginia War Memorial Foundation. Our plan is to host annual reunion celebrations to salute the service of Virginia's veterans from particular conflicts.

The first of these Salute to Service Reunions, scheduled for March 21, 2026, will be dedicated to those who served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

This event will be a day of celebration and remembrance on the majestic grounds of the Virginia War Memorial. I am inviting you to join us, and the people who served with you, for a day designed as a tribute to you and as a way that, together, we can remember the seven Virginians killed in Desert Storm and memorialized on the Shrine of Memory.

If you have never visited the Virginia War Memorial, you owe it to yourself to experience the power of this Shrine to provide a quiet space for peaceful reflection and an emotional connection to those, like you, who wanted to live, but were willing to die, when called to serve. The *Salute to Service Reunion Celebration* will recognize the valor and sacrifice of Virginia's military veterans in the pursuit of liberty and democracy for all. That has always been our mission, and the *Salute to Service Reunion Celebration* program is the next major milestone in the pursuit of our sacred responsibility.

The program will feature speakers, musical performances, and documentaries, providing rich context and a broad perspective of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. A wreath-laying ceremony and free time will allow veterans to remember and honor those who did not return. You will have an opportunity to contribute to the history you helped create through oral histories, and photographs.

Enjoy refreshments, lunch, and a happy hour reception. In future years, we will work to reunite veterans from Vietnam, the Global War on Terrorism, and the Cold War.

Requests for invitations to the *Operation Desert Storm Salute to Service Reunion Celebration* are open. For more information, and to be added to our mailing list, please contact info@vawarmemorial.org.

LTC Joseph C. Barto III
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CHAIR, DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM SALUTE TO SERVICE REUNION CELEBRATION

SALUTE TO SERVICE

35 Years Beyond
Operation Desert Storm

Celebrating The Veterans Who Served Together



Task Force 2-4 Cavalry, 24 ID(M) Tactical Operations Center Team, February 21, 1991, Northern Saudi Arabia.



HERE TO SERVE

The Foundation Welcomes Anne Wilson as Director of Marketing and Communications

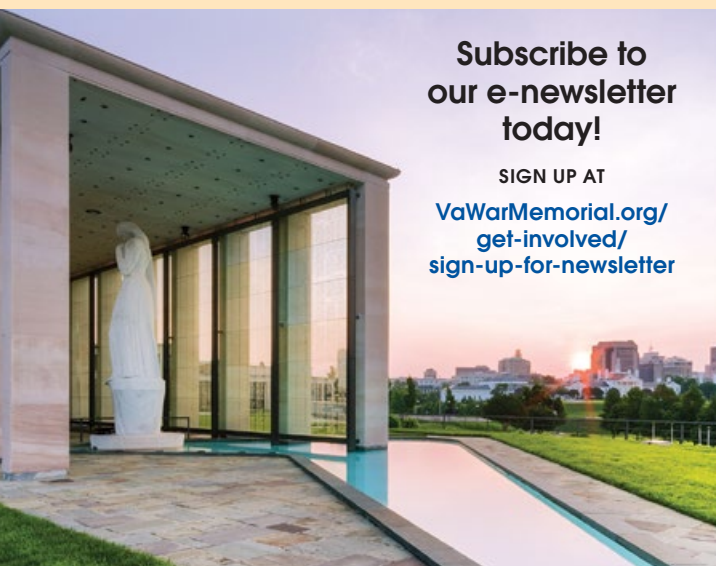
Anne brings more than 20 years of nonprofit marketing and communications experience to the Foundation, having served nonprofits in Atlanta, St. Louis, and Richmond. Most recently, Anne led the marketing efforts at Stratford Hall Historic Preserve. She is a graduate of Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia.



Anne's interest in the Virginia War Memorial is a personal one. Her father, Edwin Hines (now deceased), was a 1966 Virginia Military Institute graduate and Vietnam War veteran. Contact Anne at awilson@vawarmemorial.org.

Lizzie Oglesby Is the Memorial's Education Outreach and Programs Manager

Lizzie joined the Virginia War Memorial education department in August 2024. Already, she has introduced initiatives to bring more school-age children to the Memorial, including a new program called "Storytime at the Memorial." Lizzie is not only a seasoned museum professional, but also the mother of five-year-old twins who is always looking for free, fun, and educational activities. She is a graduate of Hollins University and has an MFA in photography from Savannah College of Art and Design. Contact Lizzie at Elizabeth.Oglesby@dvs.virginia.gov.



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Scouting and the War Memorial: A Perfect Combination



For more than a decade, the Virginia War Memorial has welcomed the Boy Scouts of America (now Scouting America) and Girl Scouts of the USA to the War Memorial for Merit Badge Day. This annual event typically entails

over a hundred Scouts taking classes, seminars, and programs to achieve their merit badges, often to gain the next level of Scout rank. This year, we welcomed a combined group of over a hundred Scouts and instructors, representing 24 different Scouting troops from the Richmond Metro area, to the War Memorial on a chilly but dry first day of February.

This year's Merit Badge Day was an especially productive one, with Scouts engaged in such classes as Engineering, Filmmaking, Emergency Management, American Heritage, and several others. The classes ran all day, with Scouts occupying nearly every space in the Memorial. As they travelled between classes, they had the opportunity to take in our *D+80: Virginians in the Normandy Invasion* exhibit and *Clutch's War Stories* in our Veterans Art Gallery, both making a significant impression. I thoroughly enjoyed watching these young Americans soaking in the stories told by the World War II veterans featured in *D+80*, and I was even more pleased to see them telling their fellow Scouts to go view the exhibit if they hadn't already.



There are plenty of locations where these troops could conduct their Merit Badge Day, but none quite like our War Memorial. It's the perfect combination: young Americans, engaged in learning about leadership, citizenship, and American values, while surrounded by the nation's premier memorial to those who gave all to protect our freedoms and make our way of life possible. I have no doubt that these Scouts will go on to serve our country in all kinds of valuable, productive ways, and I like to think that they have gained much from their time at the Memorial. We look forward to hosting more Merit Badge Days in the coming years.

John C Mountcastle

Dr. Clay Mountcastle
DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL



Members of American Heritage Girls Troop VA0516 decorated and delivered cards to nearly 2,000 veteran patients in February 2025.



2025 Events Calendar

Visit our website and register for e-news alerts for details on these events and others at VaWarMemorial.org/events.

May 10

Storytime at the Memorial

May 26

Commonwealth of Virginia's Memorial Day Ceremony

June 11

At Ease on the Bus

Mariners' Museum — A behind-the-scenes tour of the Wet Lab, where conservation work is done year-round to preserve the remains of the USS *Monitor*, the world's largest marine archaeological metals conservation project.

June 14

Storytime at the Memorial

June 15

Performance — Father's Day concert by the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra

June 27

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.

September 11

Commonwealth of Virginia's 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony

September 12

Sips on the Skyline

September 18

Leadership in America: Kelly McKeague —

"MIA: The Search Continues"

September 19

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Exhibition opens to the public:

Virginia's Missing in Action: The Search Continues

November 11

Commonwealth of Virginia's Veterans Day Ceremony

December 7

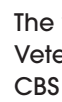
Commonwealth of Virginia's Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

Yes, Your Support Mattered in 2024

Your support helped us reach nearly a million people, on-site, online, and on the air.



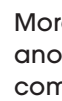
Visitation to vawarmemorial.org, our YouTube and Vimeo channels, and our collections on scholarscompass.vcu.edu totaled more than **320,000**.



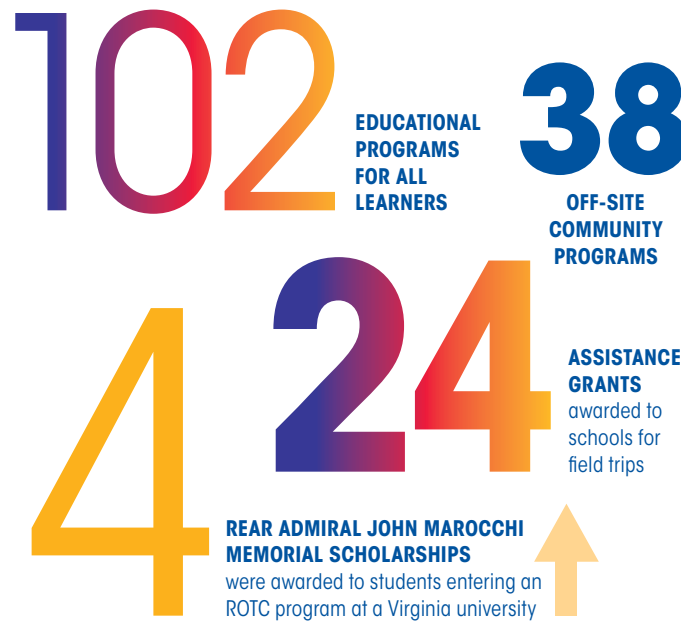
The viewership of our Memorial Day and Veterans Day commemorations broadcast on CBS affiliates expanded to **120,000** households.



Our programs are also promoted in the e-newsletter of the Department of Veterans Services, which has nearly **500,000** subscribers.



More than **52,000** people visited on-site and another **7,200** people were served through community outreach programs.



We provided Lesson in leadership for cadets in JROTC and ROTC, Scouts, and candidates for Boys/Girls State.

The Virginia War Memorial worked with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion Posts, high schools, and universities across the state.

Our Mighty Pen Project celebrated its 10th year in 2024.

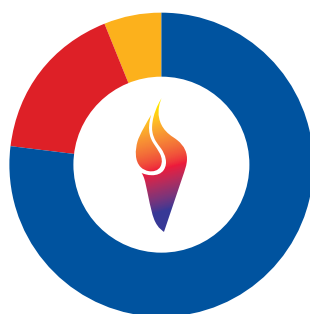
This free creative writing program for veterans and their families offers seminars, produces veteran-written one-act plays with Firehouse Theatre, and streams podcasts on multiple platforms. Selected stories, plays, and poems are included in our annual literary journal.



A Note About Our Financial Statements

As we went to press, the draft of the annual audit of our financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2024, had been reviewed. The numbers, which will be made available on our website when accepted by our Board of Directors, show how the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, continues to grow.

Thank you.



\$1,722,000 — 2024 expenses net of endowment investments, cost of goods sold, and cost of direct benefits to donors

- **77%** — Program expenses
- **17%** — Management expenses
- **6%** — Fundraising expenses



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.



621 South Belvidere Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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 with 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
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photographs

Written by Philip Bigler,
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Cemetery historian and the
author of *Tomb of the
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Honor, 1921–2021* as well as
12 other books

Principal photography by John
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Sunday: noon – 4 p.m.
Shrine of Memory:
Open 5 a.m. to midnight daily

CLOSED:

New Year's Day, Easter,
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day
VaWarMemorial.org

PHOTOGRAPHY:

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Who They Were: Lives Worth Knowing

The Importance of Local History

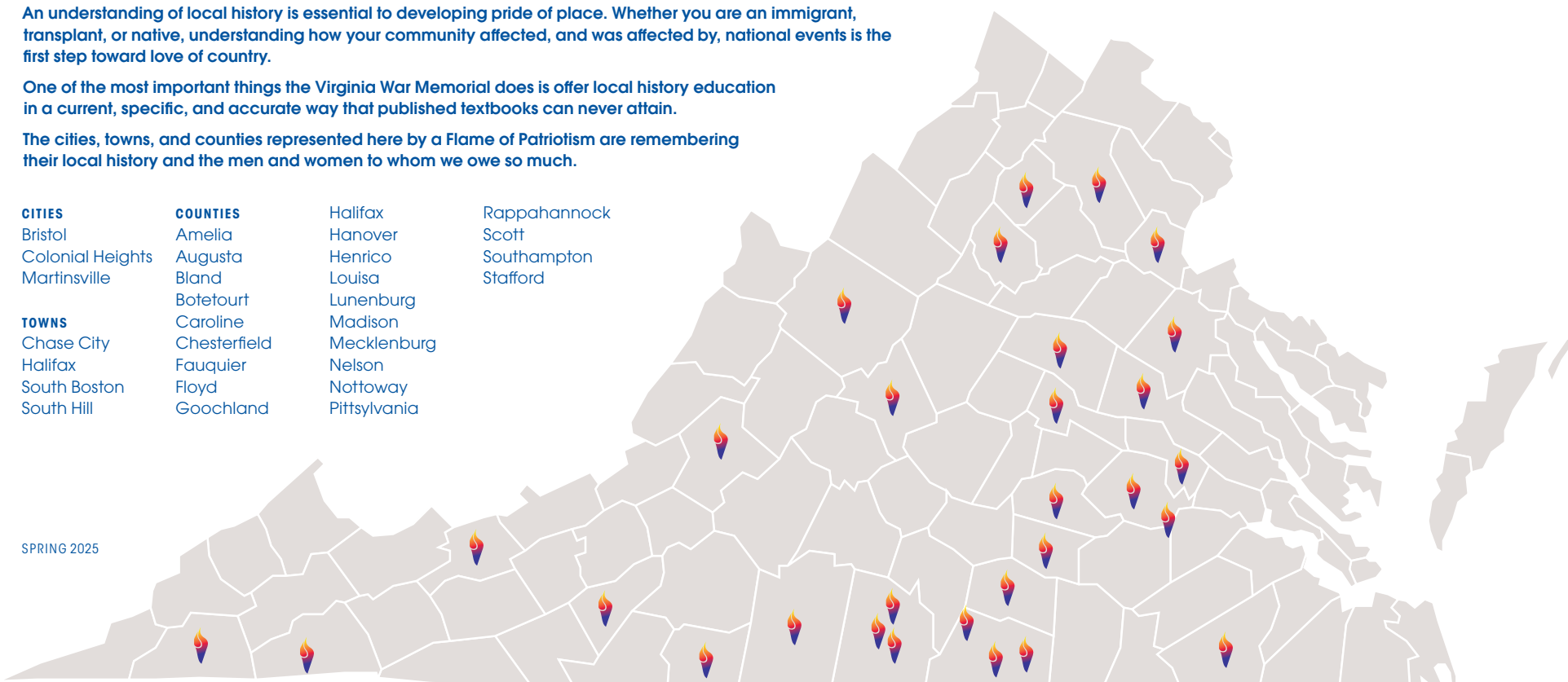
An understanding of local history is essential to developing pride of place. Whether you are an immigrant, transplant, or native, understanding how your community affected, and was affected by, national events is the first step toward love of country.

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.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
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SPRING 2025



If your city or county would like to support our efforts, please contact us at awarman@vawarmemorial.org or 540-808-6410. Or visit VaWarMemorial.org/support/whotheywere.



Thank you for a record-breaking 2024.

Your support has made the Virginia War Memorial the premier state memorial in the country. Virginia's veterans deserve nothing less. Virginia has the second-largest active-duty population in the country. The Commonwealth is also home to more than 700,000 veterans. Our active-duty, reserve, and military veterans follow generations of men and women who have served at home and abroad. By example, they inspire love of country in current and future generations. Our vision is that a global audience will recognize the valor and sacrifice of Virginia's military veterans in the pursuit of liberty, democracy, justice, and peace.

We gratefully acknowledge the total giving of the following individuals and institutions who made gifts and pledges of \$250 or more during the 2024 calendar year to the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

We recognize multi-year pledges for their full amounts in the year they are made. Subsequent payments are recognized for their cash values.

If your name is not listed, it may be because we made a mistake, you asked that your gift be anonymous, or your gift was recorded before January 1, 2024, or after December 31, 2024. We are aware of delays in receiving physical checks in the mail. If we have made a mistake, or if you believe your donation has been lost in the mail, please accept our apologies, and advise Annie R. Warman at 540-808-6410 or awarman@vawarmemorial.org.

- Staff member or volunteer (including current and former Board of Directors)
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- + Deceased

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