



THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING TO OUR SURVEY WITH GREAT COMMENTS SUCH AS THIS ONE:

“I think that your programs for teachers and students are incredibly important, especially because so many students don’t have any personal connections to veterans.”

On page 3, read about other ways your support made an impact.

CURRENTLY ON VIEW

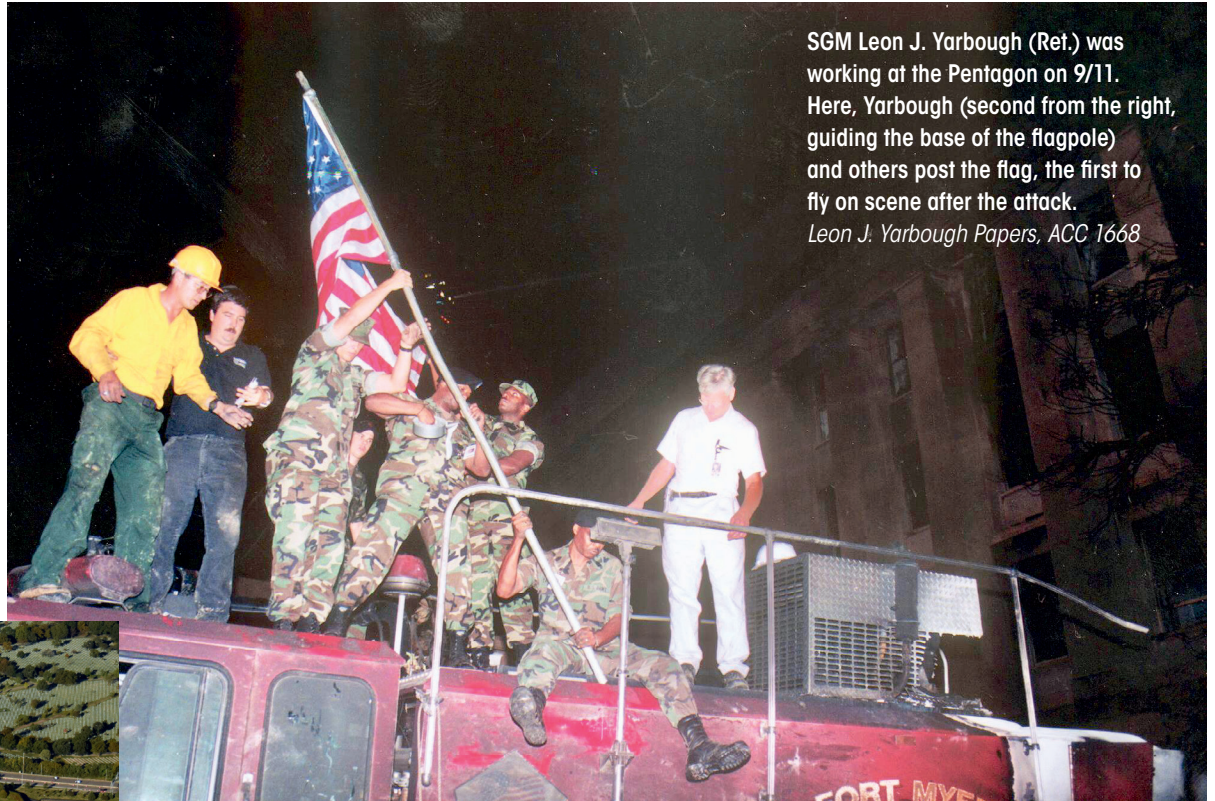
Virginia’s MIA: The Search Continues

Ode to the Warrior Class:
The Artwork of Michael Solovey

The Shrine of Memory

Arms for the Nation

Virginia Medal of Honor Gallery



SGM Leon J. Yarbough (Ret.) was working at the Pentagon on 9/11. Here, Yarbough (second from the right, guiding the base of the flagpole) and others post the flag, the first to fly on scene after the attack.
Leon J. Yarbough Papers, ACC 1668



A cornerstone exhibit at the Memorial is a piece of the Pentagon and a list of every person killed in the Pentagon attack. The Virginia War Memorial also has a piece of the World Trade Center, which will be displayed during the 9/11 commemoration.



25 YEARS AFTER 9/11

THE DAY THAT STARTED TWO WARS

As the nation approaches the 25th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation offers a place for remembrance, reflection, and education.

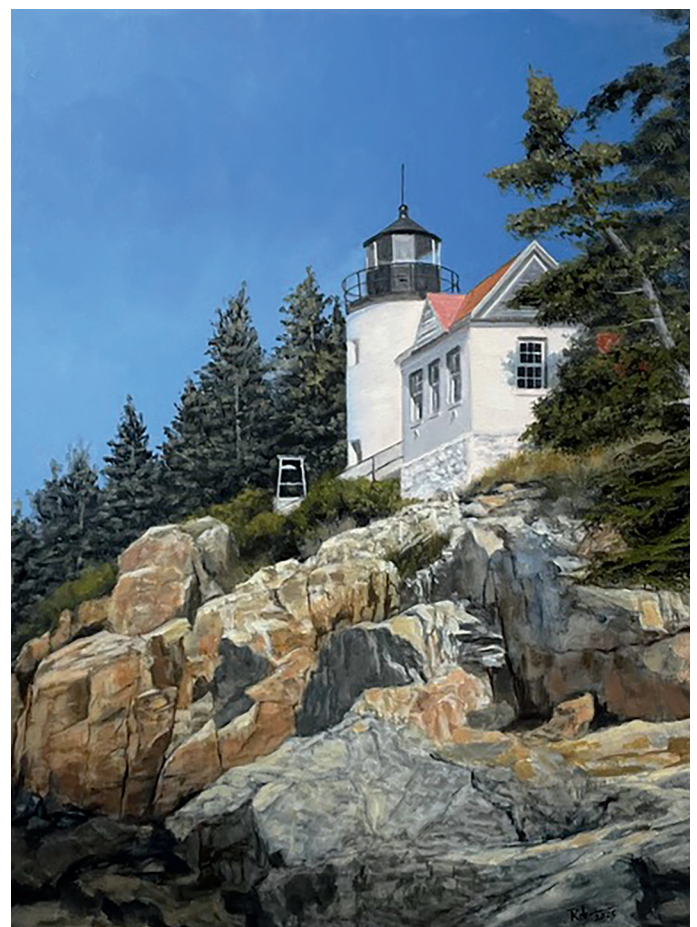
25 Years After 9/11: The Day That Started Two Wars is a comprehensive commemoration designed to honor those who perished on 9/11, recognize the generations of service members whose lives were shaped by that day, and ensure that future generations understand the lasting impact of the attacks on our nation and the world.

Through new exhibitions, public programs, memorial ceremonies, and expanded educational initiatives, this project will deepen public understanding of 9/11 and the Global War on Terrorism while strengthening our mission.

OPENING MEMORIAL DAY IN THE VETERANS ART GALLERY

Contrast, Form, and Value: Contemporary Impressionistic Realism Works of Stephen A. Roberson

Following college, he was commissioned a Marine officer and got the opportunity to receive the “Wings of Gold” as a Marine aviator flying the CH-46E helicopter. Stephen Roberson is also a member of the American Society of Aviation Artists and a contributing member of the Coast Guard Art Program.



Thank you for your thoughts,
and for sharing them.
We are listening.



Recently, we conducted a donor survey. We do this from time to time to be sure that our mission, and the ways we advance it, are hitting the right note. Responses (all anonymous) are still coming in. If you have not yet completed the survey, I hope you will.

This column has written itself because your survey responses are eloquent, bittersweet, authentic, and inspirational. Here are a select few:

Why does the Virginia War Memorial matter to you?

“As a retired service member, I understand the importance of military service and the absolute need to recognize and honor those who gave their life for our country while serving.”

“Because of the great sacrifices made by our servicewomen and servicemen in the 250 years of our great country.”

“We appreciate and want to honor the sacrifice Virginia men and women have made to preserve our freedom and way of life.”

“It memorializes those who gave everything for their nation and its people. I have personally lost friends during past conflicts.”

“My uncle was killed in WWII. To have him remembered on the wall and with remembrance bricks for future Virginians to see will keep his

memory & sacrifice alive forever.”

“It keeps alive history. It allows people to see a name and wonder what happened, who they were ...”

“I am a veteran. As a young boy, I was present at the dedication of the War Memorial.



You shape the future of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation. Thank you for being on our team.

I have served on the advisory board of the War Memorial. I am so very impressed by the programs presented by the War Memorial!”

Your suggestions for improvement have also been heeded — more educational programs for students, more programs for veterans.

Please stick with us, and please keep watching us. We welcome more eyes on all of our programs. We not only want to celebrate our wins, but also improve.

Pam

Pamela R. Seay
PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

You Can Always Take it to the Top

Recently we transferred leadership of our Board to a new Chair, Mike Santoro. Mike is a VMI graduate, 1969, has an MBA from Darden, is a Marine Veteran, and is the former Director of Finance and Strategy for MeadWestvaco. Just as our former chair, Rick St. John asked for your comments and suggestions, you will find that Mike will continue that tradition.



Rick St. John Jr.



Mike Santoro



An Invitation from Paul Galanti to the Virginia Veterans of the Vietnam War



Friends,

Too many of our buddies did not come home from Vietnam. We owe it to them to gather at the Virginia War Memorial for a Salute to Service Reunion Celebration to honor all who served in Vietnam. This will be the second in a series of Reunion programs designed to reunite veterans of specific conflicts and provide a space to connect with long lost friends.

SALUTE TO SERVICE

**Coming Home
The Vietnam War
1955-1975**

Celebrating The Veterans Who Served Together

We will meet on the grounds of the Virginia War Memorial, where we will have a chance to share stories, enjoy music, hear inspiring speakers, and visit the Shrine of Memory to pay our respects to our missing brothers and sisters.

After my seven-year stay at the not-so-luxurious Hanoi Hilton as a POW, the Virginia War Memorial became another type of home for me and my family. It was the first major memorial in the United States to honor Vietnam-era service members, predating the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., by almost a year.

I am proud to chair this event with my son Jamie. We dedicate the day to the thousands who did not come home. In their memory, we will lay a wreath and then later in the day raise a glass to them, and to all of us, proud Vietnam veterans.



CDR Paul E. Galanti, USN (Ret.)
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CO-CHAIR, THE VIETNAM WAR SALUTE TO SERVICE REUNION CELEBRATION

On March 21, 2026, we reunited 400 Desert Storm and Desert Shield veterans, Gold Star Family members, and friends as we said, “We salute your service; we remember the fallen; and we celebrate your contributions.”



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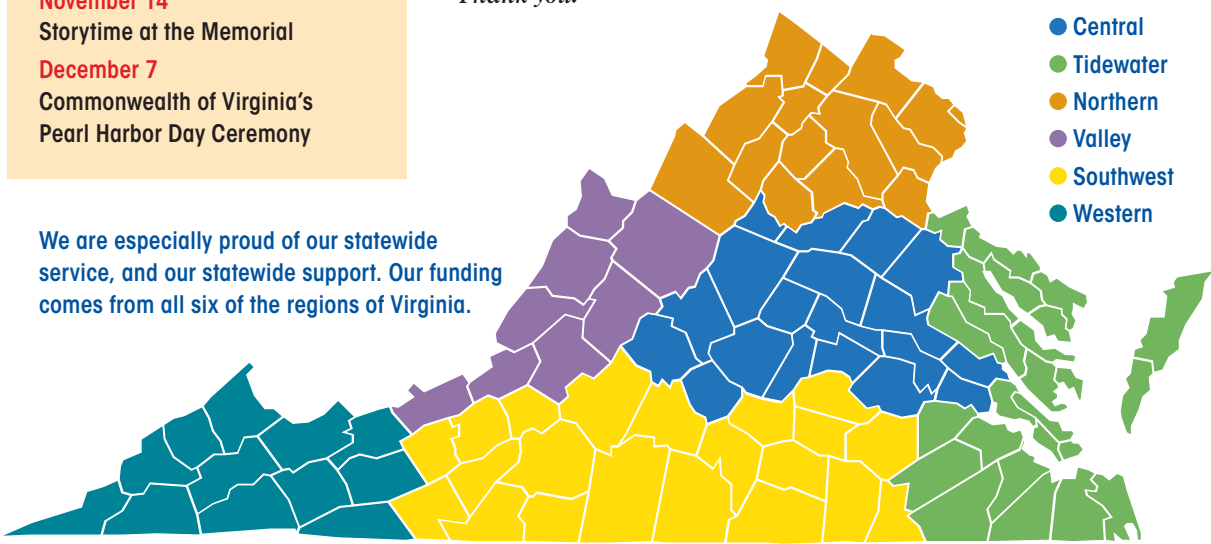


2026 Events Calendar

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

- May 4**
Homeschool Open House
- May 24/May 25**
Say Their Names Marathon
At 12:45 p.m. on May 24, Virginians from all walks of life will begin reading aloud the names of every hero whose name is listed in the Shrine of Memory. With each reader assigned to read 50 names, the Marathon will continue nonstop in the order in which the names are listed in the Shrine. It is estimated that the Marathon will end around 12:30 a.m. on Memorial Day, May 25.
- May 25**
Commonwealth of Virginia's Memorial Day Ceremony
- May 25**
Giant Book Sale
- June 21**
Performance – Father's Day concert by the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra
- June 26**
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 10**
Leadership In America: 25 Years after 9/11
- September 11**
Commonwealth of Virginia's 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony
- September 12**
Storytime at the Memorial
- September 18**
Sips on the Skyline
- September 18**
National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- October 10**
Storytime at the Memorial
- November 11**
Commonwealth of Virginia's Veterans Day Ceremony
- November 14**
Storytime at the Memorial
- December 7**
Commonwealth of Virginia's Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

We are especially proud of our statewide service, and our statewide support. Our funding comes from all six of the regions of Virginia.



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.

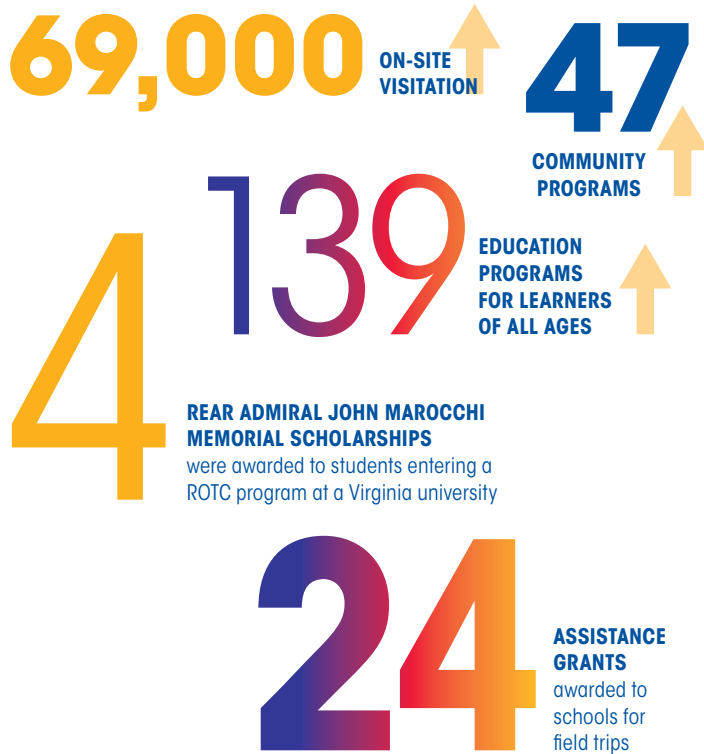
We are Grateful for the Recognition



Congratulations to Annie Warman, our Director of Development, for Being Named a 2025 Style Weekly Top 40 Under 40

Warman graduated from Radford University with a degree in environmental biology — knowledge that came in handy when the War Memorial went through a million-dollar green space redevelopment last year. "I knew some Virginia native plants, so that was helpful," she laughs. When she's not working for veterans, Warman volunteers with the National PKU Alliance and the Children's Hospital of Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University to counsel parents about phenylketonuria, a metabolic disorder that affects her 2-year-old son, Rudy. "It can be managed with diet and medication but it's lifelong, and there is no cure."

Your 2025 Gift Served Nearly a Million People, On-site, Online, and on the Air.



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, 2025, 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.

FROM THE MEMORIAL DIRECTOR

Forever Waiting



The Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial, which bears the names of nearly 12,000 Virginians killed in wars from World War II to the present, is much more than a list of names. It is, as I like to say, the heart and soul of

the Virginia War Memorial. Each day that I am at the Memorial, I make sure to visit the Shrine and to say a name or two out loud that I have not yet spoken. I try to learn the story behind a name I have not yet known.

Stories like that of Gregory T. Copes, a Marine from Altavista who was killed in Afghanistan in 2012. Gregory grew up loving the outdoors and sports. He graduated from Longwood University in 1999 and was due to return home to Virginia less than a month before he was killed.

Willie T. Brickhouse from Northampton County died in Vietnam. He was aboard a UH-1 helicopter that went down in Bien Hoa Province in December 1967. Two of his grandchildren (Ronde and Tiki Barber) went on to have outstanding careers in the National Football League.

Visitors to the Shrine will see that six Virginians with the last name of Hubbard, listed under Wise County, died in World War II. Were they related? We have yet to discover the answer to that and so many other questions.

The names in the Shrine of Memory, and the stories behind them, are not only preserved indefinitely; they are waiting. Waiting for each new generation to see them, to speak their names, to learn their stories. They will wait long after we are gone.

It's easy to get so caught up in all the upcoming events and special projects at the War Memorial that we sometimes forget to remind ourselves why the Memorial is here in the first place. Of course, we want our visitors to experience and enjoy our ceremonies, educational programs, and exhibits and galleries. Most of all, however, I want everyone to see the Shrine of Memory. I want as many people as possible to do as I do when I walk through. Please come to the Virginia War Memorial and see the names, say the names, and learn something about them. They are waiting.

John C. Mountcastle

Dr. Clay Mountcastle
DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL



The Walkway of Honor

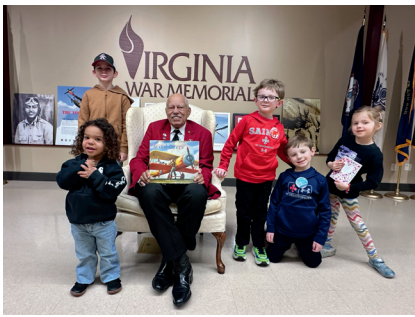
There are heroes among us worthy of recognition. There are people we have lost who should be remembered. There are dates that should be commemorated. You can purchase a brick to be placed on our Walkway of Honor for any of these (or other) reasons. Your brick purchase directly benefits our core mission programs.

To purchase a brick, contact Allie Rose at arose@vawarmemorial.org or call (804) 786-1482.





Howard Baugh read the book *Wind Flyers* by Angela Johnson at Storytime at the Memorial on February 14. He is the son of Howard Lee Baugh (January 20, 1920 – August 23, 2008), an original Tuskegee Airman.



Guests of all ages are welcome at the Virginia War Memorial.



Film director Beth Lane and Delegate Betsy Carr.

On November 16, 2025, at the Virginia War Memorial, the Virginia Holocaust Museum and the Virginia War Memorial presented a special screening of *UnBroken*, a film directed by Beth Lane and now available on Netflix. The robust talkback after the film highlighted the importance of preserving history, especially giving voice to those no longer able to share their stories.

The Virginia War Memorial is proud to be a member of the World War II Heritage Alliance.

- WORLD WAR II HERITAGE ALLIANCE**
- Virginia War Memorial
 - National D-Day Memorial
 - Hampton Roads Naval Museum
 - MacArthur Memorial
 - Virginia Holocaust Museum
 - Military Aviation Museum
 - 29th Division Museum

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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, Christmas Day
VaWarMemorial.org

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Virginia War Memorial
Virginia War Memorial Foundation
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Who They Were: Lives Worth Knowing

The Importance of Local History

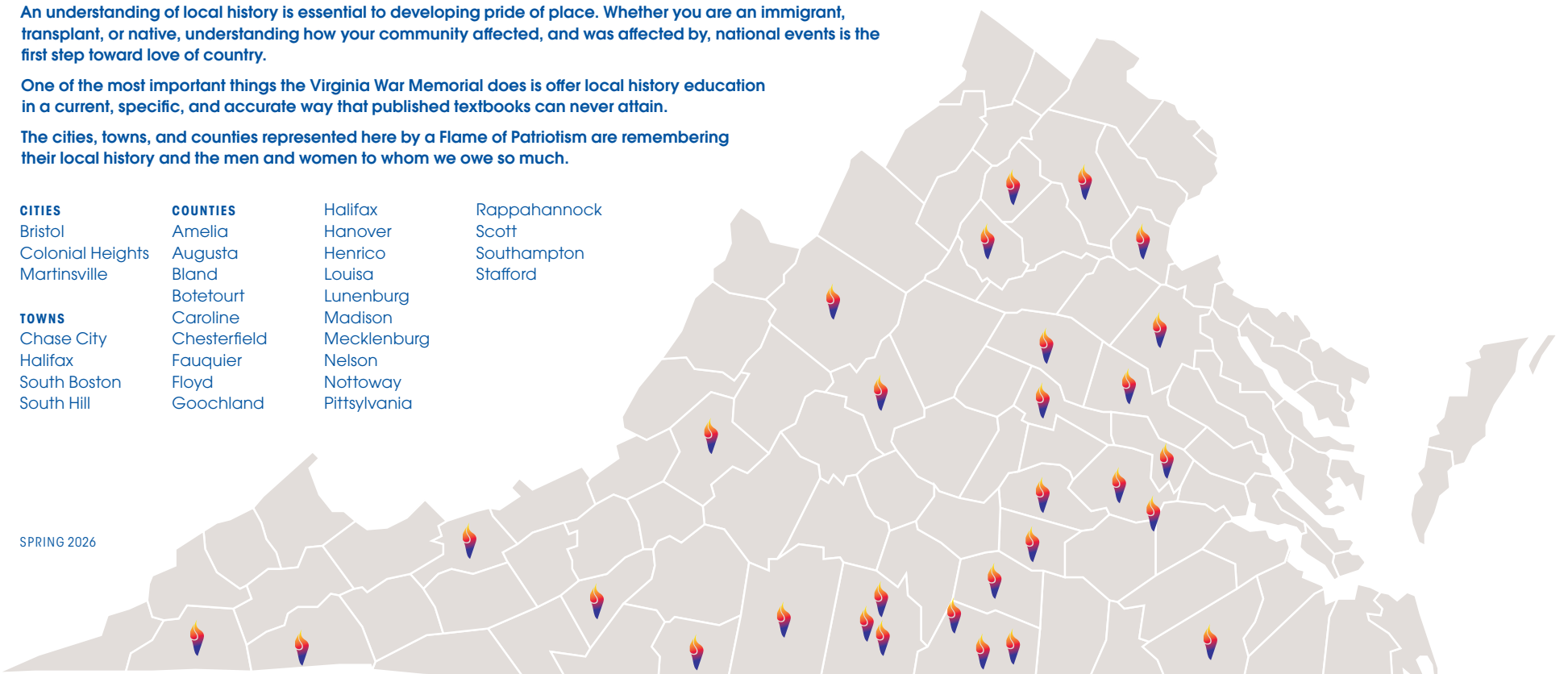
An understanding of local history is essential to developing pride of place. Whether you are an immigrant, transplant, or native, understanding how your community affected, and was affected by, national events is the first step toward love of country.

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

SPRING 2026



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.



Your support in 2025 made a profound difference.


On behalf of the nearly one million people who benefited, we thank you sincerely. The Virginia War Memorial is 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 2025

calendar year to the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We recognize multiyear 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, 2025, or after December 31, 2025. 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)
- * Funds given through a community foundation
- + Deceased






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Ring of Honor














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Introducing the Legacy A-Team

When you include the Virginia War Memorial Foundation in your estate plan, you ensure that current and future generations learn of the sacrifices required to assure our freedoms.

If your charitable gift plan includes the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, please let us know. The greatest benefit of discussing these gifts during your lifetime is the ability to let us know which things hold the most interest for you. The greatest benefit for us is being able to thank you now and plan for the Foundation's financial future.

Pam Seay
President, Virginia War Memorial Foundation
pseay@vawarmemorial.org
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Anonymous

*Gift has been realized

CONTINUED ON BACK



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