



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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**Governor McAuliffe To Address Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony
at Virginia War Memorial**

Public Invited To 58th Annual Program Honoring All Who Served in U.S. Armed Forces

(Richmond, VA) Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe will be the keynote speaker at the 58th Annual Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony to be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 11 at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

Co-hosted by the American Legion 11th District and the Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation, the program will be presented in the E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater and the Shrine of Memory on the grounds of the War Memorial.

This event is free of charge and the public is encouraged to attend and participate in honoring their fellow Virginians and all Americans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces from the Revolutionary War to present day.

"November 11 is the day we Americans set aside to honor and remember the men and women who have proudly wore the uniforms of our United States Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard and Merchant Marine," said Jon Hatfield, executive director of the Virginia War Memorial.

"It is because of their service and sacrifice that we continue to enjoy the liberties and freedoms we all hold dear. We invite all Virginians to join our Governor and our other speakers in showing appreciation for all who unselfishly served our Nation at the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony."

Hatfield noted that Governor McAuliffe will be introduced by Dr. John O'Bannon, III, chairman of the Virginia War Memorial Board and member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

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Other participants in the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony will include Charles Talley, commander, and Rick Oertel, past commander, American Legion District 11; Chaplain, Dr. Carroll Londoner; the Marine Corps League Honor Guard; Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet Chris Oliver of Atlee High School; Army Chaplain Major Deborah Brown of the 59th Ordinance Brigade, Fort Lee; the Marine Veterans Honor Guard; the American Legion Memorial Rifles and Detachment #329 Marine Corps League.

Music will be provided by the Richmond Children's Choir, the 392nd Army Brass Ensemble of Fort Lee, and the St. Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums. Dr. Tommy South and John Blair of *Bugles Across America* will perform TAPS at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Civic, military, veterans and community organizations that wish to participate in the presentation of memorial wreaths are requested to bring their own wreaths and must register with American Legion representatives onsite from 9 – 9:45 a.m. prior to the call to order of the program.

The Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony will be held rain or shine. The Virginia War Memorial's Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center will be open for tours from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Virginia War Memorial is located at 621 South Belvidere Street (US Rts. 1 & 301) in downtown Richmond. For more information or directions, please call 804.786.2060 or visit www.vawarmemorial.org or www.facebook.com/virginiawarmemorial.

About the Virginia War Memorial

The Virginia War Memorial's mission is *Honor Veterans, Preserve History, Educate Youth and Inspire Patriotism*. Dedicated in 1956, the Memorial includes the names of the nearly 12,000 Virginia heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and the Global War on Terrorism. The Virginia War Memorial is a division of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and serves as an integral part of its mission in support of all Virginians who served in our military forces.

About The Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation

The Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation (VWMEF) is the non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation dedicated to the financial support of the educational and patriotic programs of the Virginia War Memorial. Donations to the Foundation from individuals, corporations, military and veterans groups and other organizations may be tax-deductible and are encouraged and appreciated. For more information, please visit www.vawarmemorial.org and click on *Get Involved*.

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