

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Anne Atkins
(804) 371-0441

Memorial Day ceremony will be held May 28 at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery

SUFFOLK—A ceremony honoring veterans will be held on Memorial Day at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on May 28, 2012. The cemetery is located at 5310 Milners Road in Suffolk. Captain Daniel Schulz and Suffolk Mayor Linda Johnson are the featured speakers.

Captain Daniel Schulz, USN, is best known in Hampton Roads for his commanding officer tour of duty at Mobile Diving Salvage Unit TWO, Joint Expeditionary Base, Little Creek in Virginia Beach. In August 2007, President George W. Bush personally summoned Captain Schultz and his command of diving experts to the Mississippi River following the collapse of the I-35 bridge in Minneapolis. Schultz led the Hampton Roads Dive Command in the successful recovery of all victims and restoration of a \$1.1 million-a-day commercial waterway, while instilling a sense of calm in Minneapolis citizens and local authorities.

Mayor Linda Johnson was elected to Suffolk City Council in 2000. She represented the Sleepy Hole Borough for two terms and became Suffolk's first female mayor on July 5, 2006. She became Suffolk's first directly elected mayor on January 5, 2009. Mayor Johnson is a real estate agent with Prudential Towne Realty and has been a member of the Board of Realtors and National Association of Realtors since 1986. She also serves on the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, and as Chair of the Hampton Roads Mayors and Chairs Caucus.

The Memorial Day Ceremony is sponsored by American Legion Post 88 of Suffolk, Virginia. As part of the ceremony, representatives from veteran service and other organizations will place wreaths at the Committal Shelter to honor Virginia's veterans.

American flags will be placed on all gravesites. Weather permitting, 34 American flags will line the cemetery drive from the entrance to the committal shelter, creating the Avenue of Flags. Cemetery staff will be available to help visitors locate gravesites, and military service members and veterans can file pre-applications for future burial in the cemeteries.

Service members who were honorably discharged qualify for burial in one of Virginia's veterans cemeteries. A gravesite, opening and closing of the grave for the veteran, placement of a government grave marker, and perpetual care of the site are provided to the veteran at no charge. Veterans' spouses and eligible dependent children may be interred for a small fee, currently \$300. Veterans and family members being interred in the cemetery may also purchase outer burial containers (burial vaults) at cost (\$400) from the cemetery.

The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery is one of three state-operated veterans cemeteries. Other state veterans cemeteries include the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, located in Amelia, and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, located in Dublin. The cemeteries are operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

In addition to operating three veterans cemeteries, DVS operates 22 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members with filing claims for veterans benefits. The agency operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center, a 240-bed long-term care center in Roanoke, and the 160-bed Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. DVS coordinates the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, and also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements. For more information about DVS, visit <http://www.VirginiaforVeterans.com>.

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