



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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American Legion and Virginia War Memorial Team Up Again To Collect Worn American Flags

Citizens Encouraged To Drop Off Old Flags For Proper Disposal November 8-16

(Richmond, VA) The Virginia War Memorial is again teaming up with the American Legion to collect and properly dispose of old, worn and soiled American flags.

From Saturday, November 8 through Sunday, November 16, anyone with an American flag or flags in poor condition can bring them to the Virginia War Memorial at 621 South Belvidere Street in Richmond. The flags will be collected and retired as part of a formal ceremony by members of American Legion Post 84 in Henrico County.

“Last November, we offered this public service program and were overwhelmed with the response,” said Candi Shelton, Virginia War Memorial Education Director. “Nearly 1,000 American flags were collected. Many of those who brought the worn flags told us that they were grateful to have the opportunity to have their flags disposed of in a proper and dignified manner.”

“The collection bins will be located in the Grand Lobby of the Memorial’s Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center for eight days, including Tuesday, November 11, when the Memorial will host the 58th Annual Commonwealth’s Veteran Day Ceremony,” Shelton added.

The Galanti Center is open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on Sunday from noon – 4 p.m.

According to Dr. Dean Decker, American Legion Post 84 commander, the Flag Code of the U.S. states, “The Flag, when it is such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Since 1937, the American Legion

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has promoted the use of a public flag disposal ceremony as a fitting tribute and overt expression of patriotism and a way to enhance the public's understanding of honor and respect due our American flag.”

For more information on the worn American flag collection program or the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony, the public is invited call 804.786.2060 or visit www.vawarmemorial.org .

About the Virginia War Memorial

The Virginia War Memorial's mission is to *Honor Veterans, Preserve History, Educate Youth and Inspire Patriotism in All*. 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 ongoing Global War on Terrorism

Situated on over four acres overlooking downtown Richmond and the James River at 621 South Belvidere St., the Virginia War Memorial also includes the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center which houses military-related exhibits, programs and theaters showing the award-winning *Virginians At War* documentary series and the multi-dimensional film, *Into Battle*.

The Galanti Education Center is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon- 4 p.m. The Shrine of Memory and grounds are open from 5 a.m. – 12 midnight daily. All events at the Virginia War Memorial are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 804.786.2060 or visit www.vawarmemorial.org or www.facebook.com/viriniawarmemorial.

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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