



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Virginia's Fallen Heroes To Be Honored At The Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony At The Virginia War Memorial**

*Governor Terry McAuliffe Scheduled as Keynote Speaker at 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Event*

**(Richmond, Va.)** Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at the Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 25 at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

The ceremony, co-hosted with American Legion 11<sup>th</sup> District, will be held at 10 a.m. in the E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater and the Shrine of Memory on the War Memorial grounds.

The public is invited to attend to honor and remember family members, friends and fellow citizens who have given the ultimate sacrifice in military service to our Nation. This event marks the 59th annual Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony to be held at the Virginia War Memorial.

The ceremony will include special recognition of the four Virginians who have lost their lives in the ongoing Global War on Terrorism since Memorial Day 2014. Each of their names will be read by Colonel Terrence W. Singleton of the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command, U.S. Army Reserve, as the ship's bell from the USS Virginia tolls.

Those to be remembered are: Major Michael J. Donahue, U.S. Army, Lynchburg; Major General Harold J. Green, U.S. Army, Falls Church; Staff Sergeant David H. Stewart, U.S. Marine Corps Stafford; and Sergeant Charles C. Strong, U.S. Marine Corps, Suffolk.

Following patriotic music played by the 392<sup>nd</sup> Army Band of Fort Lee, the Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony will be called to order by Rick Oertel, past commander, American Legion 11<sup>th</sup> District. Webster Ballard, president of the Military Retirees Club of Richmond, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem will be sung by the Jubilation Choir.

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## **The 2015 Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony, Page 2**

The Honorable John M. O'Bannon, III, chairman of the Virginia War Memorial Board, will welcome attendees.

The ceremony will conclude in the War Memorial's Shrine of Memory for the presentation of memorial wreathes accompanied by music by the St. Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums, a rifle salute by the James S. Slay Detachment, Marine Corps League, and playing of TAPS by Dr. Tommy South of Bugles Across America.

The Virginia War Memorial, located at 621 South Belvidere Street, will be open extended hours from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Memorial Day. Admission is free. Parking is available in the Memorial lot, in the Virginia Housing and Development Authority lot and deck next door, and in the Afton Chemical Corporation lot at Spring and Belvidere Streets.

The public is also invited to enjoy a free concert of patriotic music performed by the Thomas Jefferson High School Corps of Cadets Alumni Band at 2 p.m. and to tour the exhibits and experience the films shown in the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center all day.

For more information, please call 804.786.2060 or visit [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org).

### **About the Virginia War Memorial**

The mission of the Virginia War Memorial is to *Honor Veterans, Preserve History, Educate Youth and Instill 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 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.

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*.

### **About the Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation**

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

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