



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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**McMurtrie Foundation Honors Family Member and WWII Veteran
With Gift To Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation
*Grand Lobby of Paul & Phyllis Galanti Center to be Named
In Memory of Private Edward A. McMurtrie***

(Richmond, VA) The Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation has announced that the Grand Lobby of the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center at the Virginia War Memorial will be formally named in memory of Private Edward A. McMurtrie in a special ceremony at 4 p.m., June 1, 2015.

The naming was made possible by a gift of \$200,000 to the non-profit Educational Foundation from the Alexander Benedict & Margaret Hillenbrand McMurtrie Foundation of Richmond.

Private McMurtrie of Henrico County lost his life while serving in Battery 1 of the 85th Coastal Artillery of the United States Army in 1943 at the age of 20. His name is etched on the wall of the Virginia War Memorial's Shrine of Memory along with the over 9,000 of his fellow Virginians who died in battle during World War II. His body was returned home and is buried in Richmond's Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Private McMurtrie was the elder brother of Richmond attorney Alexander B. "Alex" McMurtrie, Jr.

"The board of directors of the Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation joins me in expressing our appreciation for this most generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. Murtrie and their family," said Rear Admiral John Hekman, the Foundation's executive director. "

"This gift will further honor the military service of Edward A. McMurtrie and his family as these funds will be used to finance our educational outreach and programs, documentary films and historical exhibits," Hekman added. "It is only with donations such as this that we can assure

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today's young people and future generations never forget that it was brave men and women, such as Private McMurtrie, who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that all of us enjoy the freedoms we Americans too often take for granted.”

Admiral Hekman noted that a special plaque will be installed on a kiosk in the Virginia War Memorial's Grand Lobby, which is the main entrance to the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center. Lettering will also be added to the entrance doors that will read the “Edward A. McMurtrie Grand Lobby.”

In 2014, over 70,000 visitors from throughout the United States and nearly 50 foreign countries toured the Virginia War Memorial.

About the Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation

The Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation is the non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the sole financial support of the educational outreach and patriotic programs, events, films and historic exhibits of the Virginia War 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 and click on *Get Involved*.

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*. The Memorial is open 7 days a week. For more information, please visit www.vawarmemorial.org or www.facebook.com/viriniawarmemorial.

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