



**VIRGINIA
WAR MEMORIAL**
FOUNDATION

Spring
2021

Virginia's Annual Memorial Day Ceremony



Monday, May 31, 11 AM - noon
Heilman Amphitheater

Join us in person or online.
Please visit VaWarMemorial.org
for details and updates related
to weather and COVID restrictions.



Coming to the Virginia War Memorial

Who They Were: Lives Worth Knowing Exhibition Opening Veterans Day 2021

The Memorial's walls are engraved with the names of nearly 12,000 military veterans from Virginia who perished in combat during World War II; the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf; and, more recently, those who have lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism.

A new exhibition opening later this year will shed light on who these veterans were and what they were doing before military service interrupted and cut short their lives. Our overarching mission is to honor veterans. We do that most effectively through the preservation of their stories (a sampling of which are below). Our vision is that a global audience will recognize the valor and sacrifice of Virginia's military veterans in the pursuit of liberty, democracy, justice, and peace for all.

If you have donation items that help tell the story of any name engraved on our walls, please contact Jesse Smith, Virginia War Memorial Curator, at jesse.smith@dvs.virginia.gov.



- ★ ALFRED GREGORY
- ★ LESLIE GREGORY
- ★ HERBERT HOOVER LOGAN

On June 27, 1950, first cousins Alfred Gregory and Leslie Gregory, and their best friend Herbert Hoover Logan, volunteered for the U.S. Army. The three grew up together in Buckingham County, attended school together and were members of the same church. They attended basic training together, and were assigned to the, still mostly segregated, African American 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in Korea. On April 12, 1951, Logan was killed in action. On May 23, 1951, both Alfred and Leslie Gregory were also killed. Still together, Herbert, Alfred, and Leslie are buried at the Baptist Union Baptist Church cemetery in Buckingham.

★ GORDON PRESTON YOUNG

Gordon Preston Young was born in Albemarle County on March 15, 1944, and grew up in Drakes Branch (Charlotte County). A Boy Scout, paperboy, and baseball enthusiast, Gordon enjoyed spending time outdoors. He attended Randolph-Henry High School, and while he didn't like academics, he loved playing the drums in the school band and being a member of the junior varsity football team. Gordon dropped out of high school and enlisted in the Army on January 25, 1963. He planned to make a career in the Army. By August 1964, he was assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). As part of the 1st Cavalry Division, Gordon was among the first full Army division deployed to Vietnam. Stationed in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division was surrounded by challenging landscape and very few roads. Helicopters were the easiest and fastest way to move soldiers. On November 17, 1965, during the Battle of Ia Drang Valley, Gordon was killed during an enemy ambush. His family learned of his death when a taxi driver brought a telegram to their door.

★ LESLIE DENISE JACKSON

Leslie Denise Jackson was born on October 28, 1985, in Richmond. Leslie graduated from George Wythe High School, where she rose to the rank of Battalion Commander in the school's JROTC program. She then joined the U.S. Army. On March 28, 2004, Leslie deployed first to Kuwait and then to Iraq. That same year, on May 20, Leslie's vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. She died later that day. At the age of 18, this fearless young woman was one of the youngest casualties of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



★ PAUL PISKLA, JR.

Paul Piskla, Jr., was born on July 26, 1923, to immigrant parents: Paul Piskla, Sr., from Hungary and Christiania Piskla from Austria. After graduating from high school in Hopewell, Paul Jr. was employed at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, before joining the Army on November 6, 1943. After basic training he was assigned to the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion of the 7th Armored Division. In August 1944, he arrived in Normandy and fought across France. On September 11, 1944, near Dornot, France, Private Paul Piskla, Jr., was killed in action. He was initially listed as Missing in Action. It took more than a year for his remains to be recovered and identified. They are still interred at the Lorraine American Military Cemetery in St. Avold, France.

