



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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Reserve Organization of America
Student Veterans of America
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association
Wounded Warrior Project

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JLC Initiative 2025-04
Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery Expansion

OBJECTIVE: Secure the necessary funds to expand the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of our veterans and their families.

BACKGROUND:

1. The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk is the second most heavily utilized veterans cemetery in Virginia (after Arlington) and the third most heavily utilized state veterans cemetery in the United States.
2. It provides a dignified final resting place for those who have served our country.
3. Due to its high usage, the cemetery is approaching its maximum capacity, and without proactive efforts to identify and acquire additional land for expansion, it will soon run out of space.

DISCUSSION:

1. Our nation owes a profound debt of gratitude to its veterans, and providing a respectful and enduring resting place is a fundamental obligation.
2. The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk serves a large and growing veteran population in the region, making it an essential resource for veterans' families. The anticipated space shortage poses a significant risk to maintaining this vital service.
3. Expanding the cemetery would not only ensure that future generations of veterans are honored with the same dignity as those who have come before them but would also demonstrate the Commonwealth's commitment to veterans' care.
4. Identifying and acquiring additional land for the cemetery's expansion is both a practical and moral imperative. The cost of inaction is significant, as the cemetery could soon be unable to accommodate new burials, leading to a crisis in veterans' services in the region.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Governor and General Assembly allocate the necessary funds to secure land and expand the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. This expansion is critical to continuing to honor our veterans with the respect and care they deserve.