

Board of Veterans Services
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was held on December 16, 2021 at 11 a.m. at the Richmond Times-Dispatch Building, 8460 Times Dispatch Blvd, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

Members Present

- Victor Angry
- David Ashe
- Carl Bedell (via Zoom)
- John Bell (via Zoom)
- Carl Bess
- Paige Cherry
- Michael Dick
- Jenny Dye
- Mario Flores
- Buddy Fowler
- Dan Helmer (via Zoom)
- Joyce Henderson
- James Icenhour
- Thurraya Kent
- John Lesinski
- Kathy Owens
- Susan Riveland
- Melissa Watts
- Denice Williams, Chair, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
- John Maxwell, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
- Pam Seay, President, Virginia War Memorial Foundation

Members Absent

- Mamie Locke
- Kathleen Murphy
- Bryce Reeves
- Marcus Simon
- Jack Lanier, 2nd Vice Chair, Veterans Services Foundation

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Tramaine Carroll-Payne, Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS)
- Steven Combs, VDVS
- Claudia Flores, VDVS
- Glendalynn Glover, VDVS
- Robert Jukic, VDVS (Zoom)

- Kayla LaFond, VDVS
- Matt Leslie, VDVS
- Ravi Padma, VDVS
- Phil Trezza, VDVS
- Annie Walker, VDVS

Members of the Public

- Chris Snider, Office of Senator Bryce Reeves

Materials Distributed as part of the Agenda Packet (sent via e-mail and posted on BVS webpage)

- Draft Agenda
- Draft Minutes of the August 25, 2021 meeting
- VDVS Operational Update
- JLC Report
- VSF Report
- Virginia War Memorial Foundation Fall 2021 Newsletter
- Proposed BVS 2022 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan
- Proposed BVS Points of Contact 2021-2022

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Michael Dick called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Chairman Dick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call, Introduction of Members, and Quorum Determination

The roll call determined that there were 17 of 26 members present at the meeting site, and a quorum was established. Four members were present online via Zoom, bringing the total to 21 of 26 members present. The members introduced themselves to the Board.

Approval of Agenda *(See Attachment 1)*

Chairman Dick asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. James Icenhour made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. John Lesinski, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes of the August 25, 2021 Meeting

Chairman Dick asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2021 meeting. Ms. Kathy Owens made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Victor Angry, to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Introduction of VDVS staff and guests

VDVS staff and guests introduced themselves. The names are recorded above.

Update on current VDVS operational status *(See Attachment 2)*

VDVS Commissioner Maxwell gave an update on VDVS Operations.

Briefing on veteran and military-related items in GOV introduced budget *(See Attachment 3)*

Ms. Claudia Flores, VDVS Director of Policy & Planning, and Mr. Steven Combs, VDVS Chief Deputy Commissioner, gave an overview of the veteran-related items in the Governor's introduced budget.

2022 General Assembly session: legislation, calendar, GAMVC, etc.

Chairman Dick noted the 2022 JLC legislative initiatives and turned the floor over to JLC Chair Williams.

Chair Williams commented on the JLC meeting held December 15, stated that the 2022 JLC Day at the General Assembly is planned for January 13, and noted that the JLC 2022 initiatives are posted on the JLC webpage.

Chairman Dick turned the floor to Delegate Fowler. Delegate Fowler commented on initiatives he will plan to carry forward into session.

Chairman Dick turned the floor over to Senator Bell. Senator Bell commented on the bipartisan support for veteran issues. Senator Bell also commented on an initiative for National Guard recruitment and retention. The Senator noted the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus (GAMVC) and encouraged members of the BVS and JLC to testify in committee on behalf of veteran and military legislation.

Chairman Dick turned the floor over to Mr. Chris Snider, Senior Advisor to Senator Bryce Reeves. Mr. Snider commented on the GAMVC noting the desire to hold these meeting in person during session.

Chairman Dick turned the floor over to Delegate Helmer. Delegate Helmer commented on the initiatives to address veterans' issues and needs to include National Guard issues.

Chairman Dick asked Senator Bell for an update on the GAMVC meeting schedule. Senator Bell noted the first meeting would likely take place during the first week of the session and every week throughout session. Senator Bell noted the military and veteran bill matrix as a means to help garner support.

Reports *(See Attachments 4, 5, 6)*

JLC Chair Denise Williams delivered the JLC report.

In the absence of VSF 2nd Vice Chair Jack Lanier, Mr. John Lesinski, who also serves on the Veterans Services Foundation as Chairman, delivered the VSF report.

Ms. Pam Seay, representing the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, delivered the VWMF report.

Old Business – Performance Measures Working Group

Chairman Dick noted the strategic priorities of the VDVS and commented on the effort to measure progress in achieving the strategic priorities. Chairman Dick noted the establishment of a BVS working group to help develop metrics and measures asked members of the BVS interested in participating in the working group to inform the Chairman.

Chairman Dick turned the floor over to the Commissioner. Commissioner Maxwell commented that metrics and measures are established within the service lines yet the broader measures and metrics, with respect to the larger performance of the agency, is the desired focus of effort.

New Business

Chairman Dick called the members' attention to the proposed BVS 2022 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan. Chairman Dick reviewed the plan, then asked for a motion to approve the plan as presented. Mr. James Icenhour made a **motion, seconded** by Vice Chair Thurraya Kent, to approve the plan as proposed. The motion carried by unanimous consent. The approved plan is included as Attachment 7.

Chairman Dick called the members' attention to the proposed BVS 2021-2022 Points of Contact (POCs), discussing the reasons for having POCs. He asked that any member wishing to serve in a different capacity to contact him via e-mail, so that he may finalize the list in the coming weeks. The proposed POCs are included as Attachment 8.

Chairman Dick asked if there were any "Good of the Order" reports.

Mr. James Icenhour commented on his locality's effort to help junior enlisted members return home for the holidays.

Mr. John Lesinski provided information on the VSF brochure for new members of the BVS.

Public Comment

None was received.

Wrap Up & Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Dick asked for a motion to adjourn. Delegate Buddy made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Victor Angry, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

Agenda

December 16, 2021

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (11:00 – 11:02)
- II. Roll Call, Introduction of Members, and Quorum Determination – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (11:02 – 11:14)
- III. Approval of Agenda – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (11:14 – 11:16)
- IV. Approval of Minutes of the August 25, 2021 meeting – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (11:16 – 11:18)
- V. Introduction of VDVS staff and guests – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (11:18 – 11:20)
- VI. Update on current VDVS operational status – *John Maxwell, VDVS Commissioner* (11:20 – 11:35)
- VII. Briefing on veteran and military-related items in GOV introduced budget – *Claudia Flores, VDVS Director of Policy & Planning* (11:35 – 11:55)
- VIII. 2022 General Assembly session: legislation, calendar, GAMVC, etc. – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman and BVS legislative members* (11:55 – 12:10)
- IX. Reports (12:10 – 12:25)
 - a. Joint Leadership Council – *JLC Chair*
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Jack Lanier, VSF 2nd Vice Chairman*
 - c. Virginia War Memorial Foundation – *Linda Schreiner, VWMF Chairman*
- X. Old Business (12:25 – 12:30)
 - a. Performance Measures working group – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman*
- XI. New Business: (12:30 – 12:50)
 - a. 2022 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman*
 - b. BVS Points of Contact – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman*
 - c. “Good of the Order” Reports – *all members*
 - d. Other new business – *as requested by members*
- XII. Public comment (12:50 – 12:55) – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman*
- XIII. Wrap Up & Adjourn – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (12:55 – 1:00)

ATTACHMENT 2

VDVS OPERATIONAL UPDATE



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

John Maxwell
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0220
Fax: (804) 786-0302

Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) Operations Update for the Board of Veterans Services December 16, 2021

Over this past quarter, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) continued balancing virtual offerings with more in-person services. We've also resumed many outreach activities that were regular elements of our work within the community.

The number of total Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) existing and new clients served was significantly higher in November 2021, increasing by 22% over November 2020. Additionally there was a 29% increase in new clients in just one month from October 2021 to November 2021. For November 2021, 36% of service needs were for housing assistance, 10% for benefits, 6% for homeless assistance, 12% employment, and 7% for Behavioral Health. Over 20% of client referrals come from VDVS Benefits.

The Benefits service line continues both in-person and virtual appointments. The Benefits team serviced 2,480 veterans and family members in-person in November and submitted 1,473 claims in the same month. This is an increase of 434 claims submitted from October and an increase of 1287 in-person contacts. Total contacts for the month of November included 22,490 contacts via phone, email and in-person. This is a 24% increase from November of last year. Virtual service options will continue to enhance access to veterans and their families across the Commonwealth.

The V3 and V3 Transition Programs are working closely with the Virginia Chamber and have planned a robust Hire Vets Now (HVN) Networking Event calendar. There are 23 networking events scheduled on five different military installations. Each HVN event connects 20-25 V3 Certified Employers directly to transitioning service members and their families. V3 Transition Coordinators and V3 Regional Program Managers attend all events to ensure quality customer service to service members and military spouses, and our V3 Certified Employers.

V3 Transition (V3T) will continue to build on last year's success in servicing 3,135 Transitioning Service Members (TSMs), veterans, and military spouses. We reached over 78,000 in the military community through services like the Virginia Welcome Letter and the Transition Connection Newsletter.

V3 is building and deploying a core curriculum module for TSMs and their families highlighting all of the services, resources, and benefits that V3T provides. V3 Employer Connect is a virtual event series highlighting V3 Certified employers and connecting TSM and military family clients directly to those employers in a virtual webinar/Q&A setting.

The Military Education & Workforce Initiative (MEWI) partnered with the Veterans Services Foundation, Tech 4 Troops, and Altria Group to provide 50 refurbished laptops to Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The first delivery (30 computers) is scheduled for January 12. The remaining 20 laptops will be purchased and provided after July 1.

We are nearing completion of a \$5.2M expansion project at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) that will add over 3,000 pre-placed crypts. In conjunction with the community partners, all three state veterans cemeteries will hold special wreath laying events on December 18. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) approved two grant requests for additional columbaria at Amelia and Dublin. The grants total approximately \$1.85M and will provide enough additional niche spaces for about 10 years at each cemetery. A pre-award kick-off meeting is being scheduled for mid-January 2022 with construction expected to begin in late summer/early fall 2022.

VDVS Cemeteries Division is close to completing the transition from analog lines to VOIP soft phones with a toll-free number that will allow for centralized burial scheduling and eligibility determinations. The system is expected to be fully-operational by the end of February 2022 with the switch-over to a 100% VOIP system in early spring 2022.

We are preparing to launch renovation projects at both the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (Richmond) and the Virginia Veterans Care Center (Roanoke). Work continues to move forward on the Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center (Virginia Beach) and the Puller Veterans Care Center (Vint Hill, Fauquier County) as we count down to the planned Summer 2022 opening. Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center was recently ranked #2 among Virginia nursing homes by *Newsweek* magazine.

The 2022 Virginia Women Veteran summit is confirmed for June 15, 2022 at the Richmond Convention Center. The event theme is "*Empowered: Sisters in Arms Inspiring Generations*." The focus of effort in 2022 is to holistically connect women veterans to services, both internal to VDVS and to external community resources. We want to identify any gaps in services that we can target for enhancement in building partner resources.

The Military Spouse Liaison conducted outreach and advocacy on behalf of military spouses in the Commonwealth. Beginning September 10, 2021, the Liaison met 72 partners and resources at in-person events and virtual meetings. She attended regional Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone (MSEEZ) meetings and will assist with the *Advocacy* pillar for the Northern Virginia MSEEZ. The focus of effort in 2022 is to increase military spouse attendance at networking events to include the Hire Vets Now events.

We spent a majority of time in 2021 developing the agency's strategic priorities and identifying goals and objectives for achieving those priorities. We will now turn our focus on ensuring we have the right metrics by which we can continually measure our progress toward achievement of our strategic goals. We are grateful for our collaboration with BVS and we look forward to working with the Board in 2022.

Sincerely,



John Maxwell

ATTACHMENT 3

Veteran-related items in GOV Introduced Budget



Looking Ahead to the 2022 General Assembly Session *GOV Introduced Budget*

Claudia Flores
VDVS Director of Policy & Planning

Steven Combs
VDVS Chief Deputy Commissioner

Investment in Virginia's Veterans = Investment in the Commonwealth of Virginia

www.dvs.virginia.gov

Virginia Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs

Budget Items – New GF Initiatives

Total	FY23 \$	FY23 FTE	FY24 \$	FY24 FTE
Virginia Department of Veterans Services	\$9,967,815	15	\$8,431,783	15

Budget Items - VVFS

Item	FY23 \$	FY23 FTE	FY24 \$	FY24 FTE
Suicide Prevention Coordinator	\$145,833	1	\$175,000	1
Suicide and Opiate Prevention Program	\$5,000,000	0	\$5,000,000	0
Fredericksburg Resource Specialist	\$96,667	1	\$116,000	1
South Hill Resource Specialist	\$90,833	1	\$109,000	1
Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator	\$94,167	1	\$113,000	1

www.dvs.virginia.gov

3

Budget Items - Benefits

Item	FY23 \$	FY23 FTE	FY24 \$	FY24 FTE
Loudoun Veterans Service Representative (VSR)	\$90,833	0	\$109,000	0
Staunton/Harrisonburg VSR	\$88,333	1	\$106,000	1
Salem VSR	\$88,333	0	\$106,000	0
Two Appeals Attorneys	\$225,000	2	\$270,000	2
Appeals Attorneys - salary adjustments (current positions)	\$171,150	0	\$179,708	0
NoVa Salary Differential	\$451,500	0	\$474,075	0
Rent increases for five VDVS Benefits Offices	\$83,000	0	\$83,000	0

Budget Items – VETE

Item	FY23 \$	FY23 FTE	FY24 \$	FY24 FTE
Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) - positions and mgt system	\$870,833	3	\$415,000	3
V3 Transition Coordinators	\$367,500	3	\$441,000	3

www.dvs.virginia.gov

5

Budget Items – IT

Item	FY23 \$	FY23 FTE	FY24 \$	FY24 FTE	Fund Source
IT Security Officer	\$150,000	1	\$180,000	1	GF
IT Infrastructure for VDVS offices	\$120,000	0	\$120,000	0	GF
IT Identity and Access Management System	\$613,000	0	\$60,000	0	GF
Lead IT Engineer	\$145,833	1	\$175,000	1	GF
Agency Customer Relation Management System	\$1,075,000	0	\$200,000	0	GF

ATTACHMENT 4

Joint Leadership Council Report to JLC



101 N. 14TH ST., 17TH FLOOR
RICHMOND VA 23219

*Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United
States Army
Disabled American
Veterans
Fleet Reserve Association
Fifth Baptist Veterans
Ministry
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans
of America
Legion of Valor of the
U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the
Purple Heart
Military Officers Association
of America
Military Order of the
World Wars
Navy Mutual Aid Association
Navy Seabee Veterans of
America
Non-Commissioned
Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of
America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans
Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National
Guard Enlisted
Association
Virginia National Guard
Association
Women Marines Association*

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES December 16, 2021

Since our last meeting in September, the Governor appointed / reappointed 16 members to the Joint Leadership Council. We look forward to working with all our members to advocate on behalf of Virginia Veterans. I am also excited to announce that the Air Force Sergeants Association is approved as a member organization of the JLC. We look forward to this organization's contribution to our advocacy on behalf of veterans across the Commonwealth.

The Governor and the General Assembly have significantly supported the legislative and budget initiatives proposed by the JLC over the years. Every January, our members enjoy speaking with State Senators and Delegates about the merits of JLC-sponsored bills. We are actively planning our JLC Day for the upcoming General Assembly Session to advocate for our 2022 initiatives. We are considering a virtual session to allow our members to connect with legislators to promote initiatives and answer questions. Several of our members have been in contact with legislators and we will continue that effort. The adopted initiatives (as of September 9, 2021) are posted on the JLC webpage here: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>.

Our December meeting is scheduled to be in-person at the Richmond Times Dispatch. Since the meeting is scheduled for December 15, one day prior to the release of the Governor's introduced budget, VDVS will host a virtual session for JLC members on December 17 to provide the details of the budget. During our meeting on December 15, we will elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

I is my honor and privilege to serve as Acting Chair and I remain committed to advocating for matters of concern on behalf of Virginia's Veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Denice Williams
Acting Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5

VSF report to BVS



VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION Report to the Board of Veterans Services December 16, 2021

The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (VVSF) Board of Trustees held the final meeting for 2021 on December 9, 2021 at the offices of the Richmond Times Dispatch.

Secretary Jabs swore in Michael Coleman, who was recently appointed by the Governor to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Coleman brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation and will be an asset to the organization. Mr. Coleman will serve on the Finance Committee.

Work on various VVSF projects continues through the winter. The Procedures and Policies Committee and Finance Committee met jointly on November 16, 2021.

The P&P Committee Chair, Jack Lanier has been working closely with the committee and VVSF staff to update VVSF working documents and to finalize the FY22/23 Strategic Plan and the FY22 VSF-DVS MOU Annual Rider. Chair Lanier presented those documents to the full Board on December 9th and they were unanimously approved by the trustees.

The Finance Committee with the guidance of the Committee Chair, Walter Stosch worked with the committee to analyze various budget matters that the DVS CFO presented at the November Joint Meeting. Chair Stosch made a request to the full Board to consider and approve an additional \$75,000 for the FY22 budget to allow DVS programs the requested increased spending authority. The full Board unanimously approved the recommended FY22 \$75,000 budget adjustment.

The Development Committee Chair, Laura Schmiegel, has been working on a variety of corporate fundraising efforts and provided a detailed presentation to the Board. Capitol One, Sentara, and the Dominion Energy Charity Classic were highlighted along with a list of additional potential donors. With fundraising as a top priority, the Development Committee will have a busy year identifying the needed funding sources to support DVS programs.

A number of Community Fundraising events have taken place in FY22 and this is a very welcome return for VVSF. These events are essential for increasing funding and an excellent avenue for providing outreach opportunities throughout the Commonwealth. VVSF Chair, John Lesinski has been busy traveling to thank donors and receive event contributions, most recently to Fawn Lake Community in Spotsylvania and the George C. Marshall MOAA in Lexington.

In celebration of Veterans Day, there were a number of fundraising events in November. The Fawn Lake Community sponsored a golf tournament, D-BAT in Virginia Beach held a Memorial Wood Bat Championship tournament and Kendra Scott Jewelry in Charlottesville donated a percentage of their sales. The Foundation is very fortunate to have many dedicated and generous supporters. They invest a great deal of their time, and work hard to host fundraisers year after year.

VVSF Outreach opportunities in November included a live interview with the VVSF Chair, John Lesinski on the NBC12 midday news program. The VVSF Chair also served as the featured speaker for the Veterans Day Ceremony at John Tyler Community College. The filming of a videotape sponsored by Sentara Healthcare featuring John Lesinski and Jack Lanier detailing the work of VVSF took place. Members of the board also attended a Veteran Day Brunch hosted by Koontz Paint & Body Works in Richmond.

Commissioner Maxwell provided an update on the DVS programs and was available to answer questions. The Foundation greatly appreciates the willingness of the Commissioner and the DVS team to work together to provide support for Virginia veterans. Both organizations recognize that a strong collaboration will result in successfully identifying veterans along with providing the resources needed now and in the future.

On behalf of the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Board of trustees, I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

The next VVSF Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2022 at a time and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lesinski, Chairman
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation

ATTACHMENT 6

Virginia War Memorial Foundation Fall 2021 Newsletter



Fall 2021

Blue Star Families Hero Tree

NOW ON VIEW

An annual tradition proudly hosted at the Virginia War Memorial

★

The charitable tax incentives enacted by the CARES Act have been extended through 2021. As you consider your year-end contributions, be sure you activate these benefits.



You can trust us to provide a future for the past

The Virginia War Memorial collects and preserves objects related to veterans who are from or otherwise associated with Virginia. Our collection and archive continues to grow as new items are acquired through the generosity of individuals. We are actively collecting material relating to all branches of military service, from World War I to the present. Historical items of interest for our preservation effort include:

- Photographs, letters, diaries, and manuscripts
- Yearbooks and other military-related documents
- Uniforms, military equipment, and weaponry

We are particularly interested in securing personal items — photographs, letters, and other objects — of Virginians who were killed in action and are included on the walls of the Shrine of Memory. For more information on how to contribute to our collection and archive, please contact:

Jesse Smith, Curator
Virginia War Memorial
Jesse.Smith@dvm.virginia.gov
804.786.2067





WHO THEY WERE

Lives Worth Knowing

More than thirty names from the Shrine of Memory perfilled in stories of courage, service, and honor

EXHIBITION ON DISPLAY NOW









EXHIBITION MADE POSSIBLE BY

VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

TOWNE BANK

The Windsor Foundation Trust

NewMarket

The Peachtree House Foundation

And the generous support of friends like you





Hope for the future? You bet.



It was my privilege to be part of the team that reviewed the submissions for our annual Veterans Day student essay contest. Essays were evaluated for use of primary sources, for accuracy, writing mechanics, and adherence to the prompt: Write about a military veteran who served after 9/11/2001 who inspires you.

There was our largest response to far in the years we have been sponsoring the contest. In my short tenure at the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, I have seen these student challenges — the essay contest, art contest, and poetry



"Inspiring Veterans"
by David Bernick, (Cleveland)

discourse — attract a large, more geographically diverse group of students each year. But the most important thing is that these students are deeply appreciative of our veterans. Some of the young writers are military children, but most don't identify themselves as such. The recurring theme in the essays is gratitude that people make great personal sacrifices, even risking their lives, to keep us safe. Many students wrote about lost family time, precious moments that can't be recaptured. One especially moving essay was written to honor a history teacher who had served in combat, had lost courage into battle, had faced the enemy with courage, and was now teaching students the lessons of history through a particularly meaningful lens.

It is common to think that the younger generation is self-absorbed, reckless, oblivious to current events, and not as academically grounded as they should be. That might be true for some young people, just as it is true for some of us who are older. But based on what I've seen of today's students, I have great hope both in and for the next generation. I also think we, as older generations, deserve some credit for setting the stage for a concerned and compassionate young citizenry. We taught a lot of battles in our younger days. We learned Earth Day, and we learned a respect for the moon and back. I have a wonderful friend who says he lived through the 1960s so that his children wouldn't have to.

As a mother and a grandmother, I see back-to-back generations who are generous, tolerant, curious, kind, and hardworking. You can witness and read the student essays, see the art entries, experience the poetry. I think you will agree that we are in good hands.

Pam

Pamela R. Shaw
PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Joseph Wilson, a sixth grader from Fairfax County and Marie Thomas, a 10th grader from Prince George's County, both presented their winning essays during the Veterans Day ceremony.

2021 IN REVIEW

THE VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION is on a mission with defined objectives and strategies for achieving them. Your support is essential and always appreciated. Thanks to you, the Virginia War Memorial is recognized as the nation's leading state war memorial. We have never had a busier year.

Honoring Veterans

The Mighty Pen Project offers extensive writing classes for veterans at no cost.

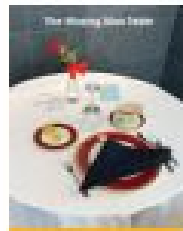
In partnership with Richmond's Forefront Theatre, we presented *War in Pieces*, a festival of four one-act plays written by Virginia veterans.

The Veterans' Art Gallery is a natural extension of our efforts to create a center for veterans' expression, free from judgment and censorship. Rotating exhibitions in 2021:

- *Sacred Spaces — American Parks and Battlefields: The Photography of Amanda Ransom and Frank Lee Ruggles*
- *From Wings to Waves: The Artwork of Maureen Stewart* (currently on view)
- *The Art of Claude Wilke Greiner*



We observe POW/MIA Day by placing a traditional "Missing Man Table" in the Anne Carter Robins and Walter R. Robins, Jr. Foundation Lobby. All of the elements of the table setting — the tablecloth, the place of honor, the salt on the formal plate, the



and others, and a red rose — are symbols of the different aspects of the grief endured by those who missed the missing. The Richmond Blue State Families Here Too, an annual tradition proudly hosted at the Virginia War Memorial, is on view.



And Inspiring Patriotism

- Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony
- *148 of Heroes* — Our annual display of 12,000 flags, symbolizing Virginians who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II, the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, and the Global War on Terrorism
- Commonwealth's 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony
- Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony
- Commonwealth's Proud Warrior Day Ceremony
- Marshall Memorial Scholarships for Virginia students enrolled in an engineering or dental in a Virginia College ROTC program
- ROTC recognition days
- Leadership in America: An Evening with Black Architects



Rep. Thomas Green offers his tribute on October 6, 2021.

- *Wreaths Across America Arlington Escort* — Again this December, the Virginia War Memorial will be an official stop for the Wreaths Across America as part of their annual Arlington National Cemetery.

Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors 2021

CHAIR

Ms. Linda V. Stevenson
10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

1ST VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

2ND VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

SECRETARY

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

TREASURER

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

1ST VICE-TREASURER

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

2ND VICE-TREASURER

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

3RD VICE-TREASURER

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

2ND VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

3RD VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

4TH VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

5TH VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

6TH VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

7TH VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

8TH VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

9TH VICE-CHAIR

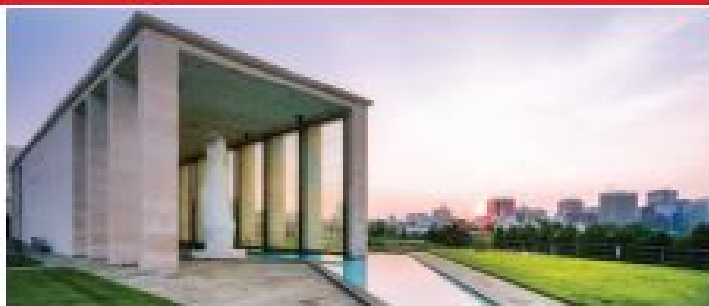
10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

10TH VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204

11TH VICE-CHAIR

10000 Falls R. Drive, #1
Arlington, VA 22204



Education

80
livestreams

20
student and
teacher programs

15
programs in
the community

22+
speakers
and partner
organizations

166
student entries
for the
Creative
Challenge



Speakers from
the 2021
Student Institute

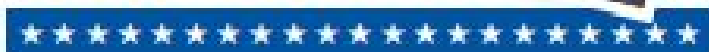


And Preservation

Who They Were: Lives Worth Knowing

THIS EXHIBIT profiles individuals whose names are engraved in our Shroud of Memory. We hope it will encourage not only visitors but also gifts of collections to the Memorial so that we can provide more background for other individuals remembered here.

THE DOCUMENTARY FILM by the same name features veterans and historians and interviews with surviving family members. It is a dramatic complement to the exhibit and will become the Memorial's orientation film to be shown in the VMH Alumni Hall of Honor.



The Walkway of Honor

There are heroes among us worthy of recognition. There are people we have lost who should be remembered. There are stories that should be commemorated. You can purchase a brick to be placed on our Walkway of Honor for any of these (or other) reasons. Your brick purchase directly benefits our commemorative programs.

To order a memorial brick, contact Annie Worman at aworman@va.war memorial.org or 804.786.1176.

FROM THE MEMORIAL DIRECTOR

Inspire Military Family of the Year



As the ceremony for my father's retirement from the US Army in 1980, he jokingly introduced my mother, my brother, and me as The Montcastle Moving Company. There is no shame in that, not because it was the business of jokes, but

because they knew the truth behind it. My family, like most military families, moved frequently throughout my dad's service, sometimes spending less than a year in a particular spot.

The frequent moves, the long deployments, and the uncertainty of the next future can certainly test us as a family. Strength often comes from adversity, however, and the military families that I have grown up with prove and remind.

At the Virginia War Memorial, we go to great lengths to remind people of the sacrifices that have been made for our freedoms by American men and women in uniform. We must also honor those families who have served alongside them and offered the love and support needed to get through the many challenges that moving in the US Armed Forces entails.

In keeping with the idea of honoring families, the Virginia War Memorial has initiated the Inspire Military Family of the Year program, which will recognize one military family from Virginia for exceptional service. The honored family will be introduced at our annual Veterans Day ceremony and a photo of the family will be proudly displayed in the Robert Lobby of the Memorial.

It is my pleasure to introduce the Capelli family as our inaugural Inspire Military Family of the Year for 2021.

The Capellis have served the US Army for generations, most recently in World War II, Cold War Germany, and the Global War on Terrorism.

John Capelli III is a longtime friend of the Memorial and is currently a Director on the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board. John and his wife Janet, along with John's parents, Jack and Patricia Capelli, are great supporters of our mission, and I could not be more honored to recognize their service to this nation.

We are tremendously proud of the Capellis and all of our military families. They are truly the strength and backbone of our country's armed forces.

John C. Montcastle

Dr. Clay Montcastle
DIRECTOR
MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM



The Capellis: The inaugural
Inspire Military Family of the Year



OUR MISSION

To honor veterans,
preserve history, educate youth,
and inspire patriotism in all.

OUR VISION

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.



The Mighty Pen Project

Now in its eighth year, the Mighty Pen Project provides creative writing instruction for veterans and their families. Students receive personalized feedback so they may exercise creative expression and develop their recollections into a complete written narrative. Since the program's inception, Virginia's Veterans from all different backgrounds, ages, and branches of service have tested their talents as creative writers, memoirists, poets, playwrights, and beyond. These beautifully crafted works help advance our mission of honoring veterans through preservation of Virginia's military history and by inspiring an appreciation for the sacrifice and dedication required to protect our nation's democracy. The Virginia War Memorial Foundation is proud to offer this outstanding and enduring program.

Registration is currently open for the Mighty Pen Project in 2022 and is open to all Virginia Veterans. In the new year, we will be offering three sessions to suit the needs of veterans across the Commonwealth, including in-person and virtual classes, all taught by VCU professor and author David L. Robbins. For more information or to apply for a class, visit www.vwmemorial.org or email our Engagement and Outreach Manager at dschmidt@vwmemorial.org.

Mighty Pen Project — Master Class 2022: January 5 – March 23, 2022
This course is open to previous graduates of the Mighty Pen Project. Students will go beyond entry-level writing techniques to further develop their memoirs and recollections. Classes will be held in-person at the Virginia War Memorial for 12 weeks, on Wednesdays at 6:20 p.m. in the Schumann Conference Room. A graduation ceremony will be held on March 20, 2022, at 6:20 p.m.

Mighty Pen Project — Virtual Semester 2022: April 13 – June 10, 2022
We are proud to offer a virtual semester of the Mighty Pen Project. Students are encouraged to join from anywhere in the Commonwealth of Virginia via Zoom for this 12-week semester. Classes are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., and a virtual graduation will be streamed on June 22, 2022.

Mighty Pen Project — In-Person Semester 2022: August 26 – November 9, 2022
This course is open to new and returning students of the Mighty Pen Project. No writing experience is required. Although free, space in this class is limited, with preference given to new Mighty Pen students. Classes will be held in-person at the Virginia War Memorial for 12 weeks, on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Schumann Conference Room. A graduation ceremony will be held on November 18, 2022.



Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store

We are making our shopping experience easier than ever with online purchasing. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a longtime supporter, the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store has something for everyone. Seasonal items have hit the shelves. View our selection of ornaments, children's gifts, and card-weather gear. For the veterans in your life, challenge coins and service hats make the perfect gift. From books and home goods to art from our Veterans Art Gallery, there's something special for every member of the family. All proceeds from purchases made through the Joseph A. Weinberg Memorial Store fund the continuing educational mission of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation.

Shop our entire inventory online at vwmstoreonline.org. Shipping and local pickup options are available.



Veteran Patients Week

We need your help. The National Salute to Veteran Patients will be observed Sunday, February 13, through Saturday, February 19, 2022. This special week is meant to recognize the actions of veterans across the nation seeking care in medical centers, outpatient clinics, long-term care facilities, and their homes. Last year, staff and volunteers wrote and hand-delivered over 100 Valentine's and cards, and this year we hope to write and send even more throughout Virginia. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to participate as a group (schools, church groups, etc.), please contact us at volunteer@vwmemorial.org.



Leave a Legacy and Shape the Future of the Memorial

Every day, our staff and volunteers work to inspire everyone to honor veterans and to appreciate the service and sacrifice necessary to protect our democracy. Donate gifts to the Foundation support care mission education, preservation, and patriotic programs. Since 1956, Memory has stood watch over the flame of patriotism. We make sure that we never forget our military heroes. You can be sure that your gift will be gratefully received and carefully honored. If you have already made plans to provide for the Foundation, please let us know so we can thank you soon.

If you are considering such a gift, please contact Pam Hargrove at 804-776-4876 or phargrove@vwmemorial.org.

ATTACHMENT 7

Approved BVS 2022 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan

General Assembly (begins January 12)

- Attend meetings of the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus
- Attend “JLC Day at the General Assembly” meetings – January 13

Meeting 1 (April 7):

- Annual review of BVS Bylaws
- POC Reports
- Working Group Reports
- Establish new working groups if applicable
- Post session report (budget and legislation)

Meeting 2 (June 23):

- POC Reports
- Working Group Reports
- VDVS Strategic Plan
- Initial review/discussion – legislation/budget needed to meet goals of Compact

Meeting 3 (August 25):

- Review JLC 2023 Initiatives and provide feedback
- POC Reports
- Final review/discussion – legislation/budget needed to meet goals of Compact

Meeting 4 (December 16):

- POC Reports
- Working Group Reports
- Budget / Legislation for 2023 General Assembly Session
- Adopt 2023 Meeting Schedule and Work Plan

ATTACHMENT 8

Proposed BVS 2021-2022 Points of Contact

POINTS OF CONTACT – AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2021 (PROPOSED)

*Michael Dick,
Chairman*

*Thuraya Kent,
Vice Chair*

*Victor Angry
David Ashe*

*Carl Bedell
Senator John Bell*

*Carl Bess
Paige Cherry*

*Jenny Dye
Mario Flores*

*Delegate Buddy Fowler
Delegate Dan Helmer*

*Joyce Henderson
James O. Icenhour, Jr.*

*John Lesinski
Senator Mamie Locke*

*Delegate Kathleen
Murphy*

*Kathy Owens
Senator Bryce Reeves*

*Susan Vervaeke Riveland
Delegate Marcus Simon*

*Melissa Watts
Denice Williams*

*Acting Chair, Joint
Leadership Council of
Veterans Service*

Organizations

*Jack Lanier
2nd Vice Chair, Veterans
Services Foundation*

*Linda Schreiner,
Chair, Virginia War
Memorial Foundation*

*John M. Maxwell,
Commissioner, Virginia
Department of
Veterans Services*

BVS MEMBERS	POC FOR	VDVS SERVICE LINE & DIRECTOR/PM	COMMISSIONER/DC POC
POC Reports @ April 7, 2022 meeting			
Carl Bedell, David Ashe	Benefits Services	Benefits, Donna Williams	Annie Walker
Carl Bess, Jenny Dye	Behavioral Health, Suicide Prevention & Rehabilitative Services	VVFS, Brandi Jancaitis	Annie Walker Steven Combs
James Icenhour, David Ashe	Veterans Cemeteries	Cemeteries, Michael Henshaw	Steven Combs
Joyce Henderson, Kathleen Murphy	Women Veterans	Women Veterans Program, Beverly VanTull	Annie Walker
Victor Angry, Mario Flores	Transition & Outreach Efforts (V3 Transitions, MMAC & HVN)	Transition & Employment, Phillip Trezza	Annie Walker
Thuraya Kent, John Bell	Veterans Care Centers	Robyn Jennings (SBVCC); Todd Barnes (VVCC)	Steven Combs
POC Reports @ June 23, 2022 meeting			
Kathy Owens, Buddy Fowler	Virginia War Memorial	VWM, Clay Mountcastle	Steven Combs
Susan Riveland, Dan Helmer	Veterans and the Arts	VVFS, Brandi Jancaitis; VWM Clay Mountcastle	Annie Walker, Steven Combs
Melissa Watts, Mamie Locke	Homelessness & Housing Services	VVFS, Brandi Jancaitis & Matt Leslie	Annie Walker
Thuraya Kent, Kathy Owens	Employment	Transition & Employment, Phillip Trezza	Annie Walker
Bryce Reeves, Paige Cherry	Justice-Involved Veterans & Veteran Treatment Dockets	VVFS, Brandi Jancaitis; Donna Harrison, Criminal Justice Director	Annie Walker
Michael Dick, Marcus Simon	Education	Education, Tramaine Carroll-Payne	Annie Walker
POC Reports @ August 25, 2022 meeting			
Jim Icenhour, Susan Riveland	Communications & Marketing, Outreach	Communications, Tina Parlett-Calhoun	Commissioner Maxwell
John Lesinski, Melissa Watts	Rural veterans (including broadband)	VVFS, Brandi Jancaitis and Leanna Craig; Benefits, Craig McCarty	Annie Walker
Michael Dick	Strategic Plans	Steven Combs, CDC and Claudia Flores, DP&P	Commissioner Maxwell
Michael Dick, Legislators	Legislative priorities, budget amendments & draft legislation	Steven Combs, CDC and Claudia Flores, DP&P	Commissioner Maxwell
POC Reports @ December 16, 2022 meeting			
TBD			

Alternate to the JLC – Carl Bess

Alternate to the VSF – Paige Cherry