



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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

Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United States Army
Disabled American Veterans
Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry
Fleet Reserve Association
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Korean War Veterans Association
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
National Association for Uniformed Services
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

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Position Paper 2017-02 Virginia War Memorial

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To ensure that the Virginia War Memorial (the Memorial) has the personnel and financial resources necessary to operate the premier state-level memorial in the nation and accomplish its Code-mandated mission.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - a. Per § 2.2-2001.3(B) of the Code of Virginia: “*The mission of the Virginia War Memorial shall be to honor patriotic Virginians who rendered faithful service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom and liberty for the Commonwealth and the nation in time of war, honor all of Virginia’s veterans, preserve their history, educate the public, and inspire patriotism in all Virginians.*”
 - b. The Memorial has developed and implemented new and/or expanded programs and services to accomplish this mission.
 - c. The number of visitors increased from 19,000 in 2010 to over 71,000 in 2015, and could grow to over 100,000 per year once the expansion is complete.
 - d. The Governor and General Assembly have approved the construction of a 19,500 square foot expansion of the Memorial, expected to be completed in late 2017, to house the expanded programs and services and to accommodate the increasing number of visitors.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - a. The Virginia War Memorial is the premier state-level memorial in the nation.
 - b. The Memorial has developed and implemented new and/or expanded programs and services to accomplish its Code-mandated mission. As a result, the numbers of visitors to the Memorial has grown and will continue to grow.
 - c. A 19,500 square foot addition will come on line in late 2017.
 - d. To continue to deliver effective programs and services, and to accommodate the growth in the number of visitors, additional resources are required for:
 - i. Increased operating and security costs; and
 - ii. Expanded programs and services.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$100,000 (GF) in FY18, to ensure the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary to accomplish its dual mission of honor and education.