

Ten Virginia Soldiers lost to enemy fire since Sept. 11, 2001

On page 2: D-Day sacrifices remembered

Fallen Virginians honored on Memorial Day

Virginia National Guard Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the ideals of freedom were remembered along with other fallen Virginians at the 2013 Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, 2013, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. The ceremony officially commemorates the national holiday to honor and remember Virginia's valiant men and women who gave their lives in service to America.

"We must remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we enjoy," said Governor Bob McDonnell. "Recognizing the sacrifice so many Virginians have made to protect us is a solemn reminder of the cost of freedom."

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, and his wife Diane placed a memorial wreath at the Eternal Flame in the Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial to honor fallen Virginia National Guard personnel.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/28/3781/>



Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr. and his wife Diane place a memorial wreath at the Eternal Flame in the Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial May 27, 2013.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

203rd RED HORSE performing humanitarian construction in Panama

Members of the Virginia National Guard's Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron are currently deployed to Panama for a 12-week humanitarian construction effort as part of Beyond the Horizon 2013 led by Joint Task Force Jaguar, Army Southern Command.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/06/06/3843/>

Va. Soldiers, Airmen and VDF assist with sheltering exercise

Virginia Guard Soldiers and Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force supported a state sheltering exercise May 22, 2013, at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington and at Christopher Newport University in Newport News.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/24/3787/>

Soldiers travel to Tajikistan to share military skills, experience

As part of the Virginia Guard State Partnership Program, a group of Soldiers from the Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team traveled to Tajikistan for a six-day information exchange.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/06/05/3847/>

34th CST trains alongside Hampton Roads-area firefighters

Soldiers and Airmen from the Virginia National Guard's Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team trained for an emergency response scenario alongside Hampton Roads-area firefighters June 5, 2013, at the Virginia Beach Fire & EMS Training Center.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/06/06/3857/>

Mark Your Calendars!

June 15 & 20: Change of Command Ceremonies

A change of command ceremony for the Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group will be held at 10 a.m. June 15 at the Camp Pendleton Parade Field and for the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at 11 a.m. June 20 at the Fort Pickett Stadium.

June 16: Promotion Ceremony

Col. Blake Ortnor will be promoted to brigadier general and assume responsibilities as the Virginia Guard land component commander at 11 a.m. at the 183rd RTI auditorium at Fort Pickett.

D-Day sacrifices remembered on 69th anniversary

Senior Virginia Guard leaders and Soldiers from the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team paid tribute to the valor, fidelity and sacrifice of D-Day participants at the observance of the 69th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy June 6, 2013, at Bedford Elementary School in Bedford, Va. Heavy rains forced a venue change from the National D-Day Memorial to the school.

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia and former 29th Infantry Division commander, and Maj. Gen. Charles W. Whittington, Jr., current commander of the 29th Infantry Division, laid memorial wreathes, and 1st Battalion Soldiers provided a color guard for the event and also assisted with the wreath presentations.

"I am honored to be a part of Company A and to be here with the veterans and honor this day means a lot," said Staff Sgt. John Stewart, a squad leader assigned to Bedford's Company A who volunteered to be part of the color guard. "I just wanted to come out and show my support."

Stewart has deployed four times in his military career, and he said the opportunity to talk with the D-Day veterans has been inspirational to him.

"This is the lineage and honors of the unit coming to life," said Lt. Col. Allan Carter, commander of 1st Battalion. "We can talk about it all day long, but when they come here and see the ceremony and meet the veterans, it gives greater meaning to the battle streamers on the flag and the unit citation the Soldiers wear on their uniform."

Like 11 other Virginia communities, Bedford provided Soldiers to serve in Company A, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division when the 116th was activated on Feb. 3, 1941. During the assault on Omaha Beach, 19 of the "Bedford Boys" of Company A died. Bedford's population in 1944 was about 3,200, and proportionally the Bedford community suffered the nation's most severe D-Day losses. Recognizing that Bedford represented both large and small communities whose citizen-Soldiers served on D-Day, Congress warranted the establishment of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, and this year's event marked the 12th anniversary of the historic site's dedication.

Whittington stressed the importance of talking about D-Day and telling the story of the courage and determination made by D-Day participants to sacrifice on behalf of something greater. "We owe it to our children, and our children's children, to teach them the stories of the men and women responsible for making us the greatest country in the world," he said. "We still have so much to learn from this greatest generation, and we can't sit back and assume someone else will tell their stories. That's our job. We will do future generations a huge disservice if we don't let them who are responsible for making us the greatest country in the world."

Long and Whittington laid memorial wreathes as part of the observance along with Col. Jacques Aragones, military attache to the Embassy of France, Lt. Col. Helen Bowman of the British Army, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and Pvt. Jeffrey



Soldiers from the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment provide a color guard for the observance of the 69th anniversary of D-Day June 6, 2013, in Bedford, Va.

Christian and Staff Sgt. Justin Owen from Company A.

"Today's remembrance is a very important and critical part of telling the story and helps preserve the legacy of this great generation," Long said as he called the D-Day veterans up to be recognized during the ceremony. "It also gives us the opportunity to pause and think about one of the greatest and most significant events that happened in the last century."

Dedicated by the President of the United States on June 6, 2001, the National D-Day Memorial exists in tribute to the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of the Allied Forces on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The National D-Day Memorial Foundation operates and maintains the Memorial, and its educational mission is to preserve the lessons and legacy of D-Day.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/06/06/3870/>

MORE ON THE WEB

2013 Memorial Day Message from Maj. Gen. Long

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/23/3686/>

Secretary of Public Safety visits 192nd Fighter Wing

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/31/3801/>

192nd Fighter Wing kids create "Raptor Jambalaya"

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/06/02/3831/>

192nd Fighter Wing holds second annual chili cook-off

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/21/3740/>

Photos: Aviation Soldiers train on thermal imaging system

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157633955452634/>

National D-Day Memorial Official Web Site

<http://www.dday.org>

192nd Fighter Wing on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/192DFW>

Virginia Defense Force on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialVDFPage>

Virginia National Guard on Twitter

<http://www.twitter.com/VaNationalGuard>

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