



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

900 EAST MAIN STREET  
RICHMOND, VA 23219

*Air Force Association  
American Legion  
AMVETS  
Association of the United States Army  
Disabled American Veterans  
Fleet Reserve Association  
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 2016-04 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 66,000 in 2014, is expected to top 70,000 in 2015, and could grow to over 100,000 per year.
  - 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. Full-year funding for the two new FTEs authorized for FY16;
    - ii. Funding and positions for three new FTEs and two wage positions necessary to maintain current service levels, prepare for the opening of the new addition, and operate the new addition;
    - iii. Increased operating and security costs; and
    - iv. Expanded programs and services.
- 4. Recommendation:** That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$509,985 (GF) in FY17 and \$800,235 (GF) in FY18, and authorize three additional positions, to ensure that the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary to accomplish its dual mission of honor and education.