

Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony honors the fallen

Service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country were honored at the Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, 2024, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin delivered the keynote address, and retired Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, and Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, also spoke. Youngkin and Crenshaw, along with Ring and his wife Rev. Leigh Anne Ring, placed memorial wreaths to honor the fallen.

Sgt. Carter Cooper, the Virginia National Guard Soldier of the Year, led the pledge of allegiance, and the 29th Infantry Division Band provided music for the ceremony. Members of the Virginia Defense Force volunteered their time to provide traffic management assistance for the event.

"What an honor it is to come together and remember freedom is not free," Youngkin said. "This is the day we come together to revere, remember the heroes whose faithfulness and dedication to our nation was fully revealed by their ultimate sacrifice."

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/29886>



Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and his wife Rev. Leigh Anne Ring place the Virginia National Guard memorial wreath to honor fallen VNG Soldiers and Airmen May 27, 2024, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

SMR employees honored at DMA luncheon

Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and retired Col. Everton E. Nevers, the Virginia Department of Military Affairs Chief Operations Officer, presented DMA state employees awards and recognitions May 22, 2024, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/29864>

VaARNG retirement briefing provides valuable information, resources

More than 30 Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers and their spouses attended a retirement briefing hosted by the VaARNG Retirement Services Office May 4, 2024, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/29866>

91st Cyber Brigade hosts students for "capture-the-flag" event

The Virginia National Guard's 91st Cyber Brigade and Recruiting and Retention Battalion hosted more than 30 students from across Virginia during the inaugural Cyber Fortress 2045 event May 4, 2024, in Fairfax, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/29865>

R&R NCO talks leadership, guiding the next generation

Sgt. 1st Class Nestor Cordova wasn't serving in the military when someone first thanked him for his service. It was 2011, and he was in the ROTC program at Old Dominion University, which required him to sometimes wear a military uniform.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/29867>

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For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

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<http://nationalguard.com/va>

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Va. Defense Force

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Join the Virginia National Guard Alumni Network

<https://go.usa.gov/xzGT3>

Aviation battalion ceremony welcomes 14 new NCOs

The Virginia National Guard's Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Infantry Division welcomed 14 Soldiers to the noncommissioned officer corps during an NCO Induction Ceremony held June 1, 2024, at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Sandston, Virginia. The ceremony honored those Soldiers promoted to the rank of sergeant over the last year.

"As NCOs you will need to be technical and tactical proficient," said Command Sgt. Maj. Laronda S. Williams, the 2nd Battalion command sergeant major, during her remarks at the ceremony.

"As an NCO, you're going to be faced with many challenges, you're going to have to make on the spot corrections, you're going to have to deliver good news, and bad news," Williams said. "And while doing all of this, you're going to have to remain professional."

Following her words of inspiration, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Martin, the host for the ceremony, provided a background of the history of the NCO Corps. He explained that to maintain and be the backbone of the Army, metamorphosis must happen, a follower must become the leader when becoming an NCO. The noncommissioned officer provides the essential link between the Army's commanders and its men and women.

After the historical overview of the NCO Corps, Command Sgt. Maj. Latane I. Gilliam, 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment command sergeant major, and Williams moved forward to light the symbolic candles while each of the three paragraphs of the NCO Creed.

The first lit was red, to represent "the blood, sweat and tears shed by the NCO Corps in every conflict from the Revolutionary War to our present-day war on terror."

Next was a white candle to represent the "corps' pure spirit and integrity," dedication to caring for Soldiers and their families, and the camaraderie and esprit de corps of the NCO Corps.



Candles represent the three paragraphs of the noncommissioned officer creed during an NCO Induction Ceremony held June 1, 2024, in Sandston, Virginia.



The Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment welcomes Soldiers to the noncommissioned officer corps during an NCO Induction Ceremony held June 1, 2024, in Sandston, Virginia.

The last candle lit was blue to represent the "strength and mettle of the corps, its moral courage, and its refusal to compromise on standards, integrity, loyalty and love of fair play."

While the newly inducted NCOs moved through the arch representing the symbolic transition from follower to leader, first sergeants proudly stood at attention and declared their approval of their Soldiers transition to Gilliam and Williams. Newly inducted NCOs then stood at attention with their right hand raised and were sworn in by Gilliam and Williams.

"As you move into your new position, remember to never stop learning and growing," reminded Gilliam.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/29885>

MORE ON THE WEB

29th ID commemorates 80th anniversary of D-Day

Photos on DVIDS at <https://ngpa.us/29875>

Top VNG Soldier's journey to regional recognition

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/29868>

Diddams takes command of the Virginia Defense Force

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/29823>

AG officially recognizes VDF 40th birthday

Photo on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/29833>

34th CERFP participates in collective training exercise

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/29834>



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