

Virginia's fallen remembered on Memorial Day

The Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony honored and remembered the military men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation May 26, 2025, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia. Governor Glenn Youngkin and First Lady Suzanne Youngkin, retired Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, as well as Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, with Chief Master Sgt. John F. Nye, the VNG Command Senior Enlisted Leader, and Spc. Nicholas Warren, the VNG Soldier of the Year, placed memorial wreaths to honor the fallen.

"To the families of the fallen, to those for whom every single day is Memorial Day, we cannot fully share in your sorrow or shoulder the immense sacrifice that you have born since the loss of your loved one," Youngkin said. "Today we stand with you. We stand with you to express our collective grief and to show our overwhelming gratitude for all that your loved ones did to defend liberty and to defend freedom."

Warren led the pledge of allegiance, and the 29th Infantry Division Band provided music for the ceremony.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/bdhfcw6v>



Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, Chief Master Sgt. John F. Nye and Spc. Nicholas Warren place a memorial wreath to honor the fallen during the Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony May 26, 2025, in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Bilateral affairs officers serve as vital connection with SPP partners

Virginia Air National Guard officers who live in Finland and Tajikistan and serve as bilateral affairs officers manage defense and security cooperation between Virginia and the host countries and are a vital connection to help ensure the success of the State Partnership Program.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/mrytf7uc>

Samulski to succeed DiNonno as 29th ID commanding general

Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Samulski has been selected to succeed Maj. Gen. Joseph A. DiNonno as the commanding general of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division, according to an announcement made June 3, 2025.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8h8dda>

VNG hosts combined arms marksmanship match

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took top honors at the 2025 Virginia National Guard Adjutant General's Marksmanship Match, held May 16 - 18, 2025, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2pdjjpjkl>

Commonwealth ChalleNGe Class 62 enjoys Family Day

Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy staff, cadets and their families enjoyed Class 62's Family Day May 17, 2025, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/mu33b5st>

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Ceremony marks start of 229th MP Company mobilization

Approximately 150 Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Hanover-based 229th Military Police Company mark the start of their federal active duty mobilization to the U.S. Central Command area of operations with a departure ceremony May 28, 2025, in Richmond, Virginia. Family, friends, fellow Soldiers and civilian and military leaders joined the event and watched the company command team furl the unit guidon to signify the official start of their deployment. The guidon will be unfurled when they officially take responsibility for the mission.

Retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and Brig. Gen. Tanya S. McGonegal, Commander of Joint Task Force Civil Support and former 229th MP commander, all delivered remarks thanking the Soldiers for their service and loved ones for their support.

"You have been asked again to get ready to deploy, and you have shown up," Crenshaw said. "On behalf of the governor, thank you. Thank you to the families. That's the beauty of being part of this organization, part of the military. It's not just you who serve, it is your family who serves. We support that no matter where you go."

He said knows the Soldiers will conduct their mission with pride and enthusiasm, and he knows they will do great things.

"You all are why we are here today," Ring said after asking the mobilizing Soldiers to stand and be recognized. "You are part of a Virginia tradition that predates our United States Army. How proud it is for us as Virginians that we date all the way back to May 14, 1607, and the founding of Jamestown. There has never been a time in this great commonwealth and nation that our Citizen-Soldiers haven't been serving on behalf of the common security and principles and freedom of our society."

Ring also asked family members and loved ones to stand and be recognized, thanked them for their support and reminded them of the resources available from the National Guard as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Thank you for your service," Ring told the Soldiers and their loved ones. "We can't uphold freedom and democracy without the willing service of each and every one of you."

McGonegal served in the 229th from June 1999 to August 2006, right after graduating Virginia Officer Candidate School.

"As a former member and commander of the 229th, I can attest to their unwavering commitment to excellence and their enduring sense of duty," she said. "I attribute much of my success today to what I learned early in my career as part of the 229th."

During the seven years she served with the 229th, the Soldiers conducted an overseas training rotation for three weeks in Vicenza, Italy in 2000, deployed to multiple locations in the U.S. in support of Operation Noble Eagle from 2001 to 2002, deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 in Iraq from 2003 to 2004 and responded to Hurricane Katrina in support of civil authorities in 2005.

"From providing security for convoys and bases, VIP escorts,



The 229th Military Police Company command team furl their unit guidon to symbolize the official start of their federal active duty mission May 28, 2025, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.

detainee operations, to conducting law enforcement operations and training foreign military forces, these Soldiers have consistently demonstrated their professionalism, courage, and dedication to the mission," McGonegal said. "They have faced danger and adversity with courage and resilience, always putting the needs of their fellow Soldiers and the mission above their own."

She said she has no doubt that the 229th Military Police Company will continue to uphold the highest standards of military service.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yc75fwk>

MORE ON THE WEB

VNG Endurance Team competes at Marathon Trials

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/4sn77zcf>

29th ID Soldiers conduct battle walk along Omaha Beach

~ Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/3fkc99ky>

DMA employees at Fort Barfoot recognized

~ Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/mrxzh3pd>

State tuition assistance application window open

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/3d2f228b>

Virginia National Guard Resiliency Resources

~ Read more at <https://va.ng.mil/Resiliency/>



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