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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

*Air Force Association
American Ex-Prisoners
of War
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 National Guard
Association
Women Marines
Association*

2011 POSITION PAPER Virginia War Memorial

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To ensure Virginians who have given their lives in battle, as well as all military veterans, are honored by optimizing the operations, maintenance, and program delivery at the Virginia War Memorial and its new Paul & Phyllis Galanti Education Center.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - The Virginia War Memorial (VWM) is a unique, highly visual “showcase” for Virginia, possessing national recognition as an impressive shrine to those who served in defense of our freedom. This makes it unique from many other state facilities in its operating, maintenance, and program delivery expenses.
 - The VWM is situated on over four acres, having significant lawn and related landscaping maintenance requirements. Other high maintenance-related features at the VWM include: a large reflecting pool, an eternal flame, ten flag poles, the Memory statue, an impressive 32-foot high glass and stone “Wall of Honor” engraved with over 17,000 names of Virginians who died in defense of our nation, and the new Education Center. The Memorial and its grounds require special attention to their appearance befitting such a shrine.
 - The opening of new Education Center will allow the VWM to play a major education role for veterans, teachers and students, out of state visitors, and all Virginians. New educational initiatives and programs will help visitors develop the leadership, values, and sense of responsibility needed in America’s citizens.
 - During the year, the VWM hosts a number of patriotic programs and an array of interesting speakers. The VWM also serves as a meeting place and spiritual home for Virginia’s veterans service organizations, and is a focus of activity, memory, and honor for the entire Commonwealth.
 - The highly visible programs and new Education Center place added service-delivery and maintenance demands on Virginia’s nationally-recognized VWM.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - It is essential to properly maintain the VWM’s operations and appearance and adequate funding to continue its role of serving Virginians, veterans and their families, students, and other national/international visitors in the image desired by the Commonwealth and its citizens.
 - Increased funding of \$122,000 is needed for operations and maintenance. Education and special events for the new Education Center require increased funding of \$133,000.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and the General Assembly provide an additional \$255,000 (GF) per fiscal year for the operation, maintenance, essential appearance needs, and education programs of the Virginia War Memorial.

September 28, 2010