

JLC Position Paper
Virginia War Memorial FFE Funds and Operating Funds

1. **ISSUE:** To prepare for the opening of the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center at the Virginia War Memorial by increasing the Memorial's on-going operating budget and by securing one-time funding for furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE).

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - Over the past twelve years, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees has overseen the renovation of the Memorial and the development and implementation of award-winning educational programs.
 - Since it was dedicated in 1956, the Memorial has become not just a shrine of memory to the brave Virginians killed in our nation's wars, but also a place to educate all Virginians on the service and sacrifice of our nation's warriors.
 - *Virginians at War*, the Memorial's award-winning documentary film series, is used by middle and high schools statewide. With regular patriotic events, student seminars during the school year, teacher institutes during the summer, and the acquisition of nationally sought-after artifact collections, the number of visitors to the Memorial has increased dramatically over the past several years.
 - The Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center at the Virginia War Memorial will provide the space, now sorely lacking, to conduct educational programs, exhibits, student seminars, teacher institutes, and other programs to support the Memorial's expanded mission.
 - The General Assembly has provided over \$7 million to construct the Galanti Center, and an additional \$2 million in private funds have been raised.
 - The Galanti Center will open in mid-2010

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - The Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center will be completed by mid-2010. A one-time appropriation of \$910,000 is required to purchase the furniture, fixtures, and equipment needed to support the mission of this \$9.1 million center honoring Virginia's military and their sacrifices to secure our freedoms.
 - In addition, an additional \$449,000 in operating funds (for a total annual operating budget \$693,313) will be required annually to meet the increased rent plan charges, deliver education programs, and staff the new center. For example, the Memorial's rent plan – money paid to the Department of General Services to maintain the Memorial – will increase by \$239,900 per year. This amount is equal to the Memorial's entire current operating budget.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate the necessary funding to outfit, open, and operate the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center at the Virginia War Memorial: \$910,000 (one-time) for FFE and \$693,313 per year (on-going) for operations