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WVI Newsletter

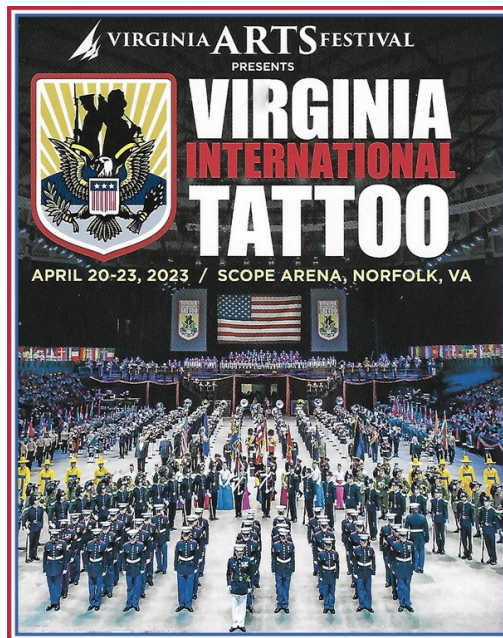
JUNE 2022



Virginia International Tattoo

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The term “tattoo” derives from the cries of the 17th and 18th century Low Country innkeepers who, as the fifes and drums of the local regiment signaled a return to quarters, would cry “Doe den tatoo!” (“Turn off the taps!”). The sound of the “taps” caused the innkeeper’s customers to depart and return to their barracks. Over time, the words of the cry evolved into the term “tattoo,” which now refers to what developed into a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands.

This year the tattoo was held April 28-May 1 and was titled “*March On! A Celebration of Resilience.*” This was like watching a two-hour NYC stage production that consisted

of bands, fife and drums, bagpipes, dancers and singers. Performing was the Jordanian Armed Forces Band, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Netherlands Mounted Arms Regiment and bands representing all branches of the United States military. The Netherlands Mounted Arms Regiment rode bicycles while playing. The tattoo had something for everyone. What an enjoyable evening!

The Virginia Arts Festival will present the next Virginia International Tattoo April 20-23, 2023.

The event is held in Norfolk, Virginia within walking distance of the water front. While in Norfolk there is the USS Wisconsin to tour and a two hour Navy cruise.

Picture provided by: Virginia Arts Festival

Something to think about ...

“Summer has a flavor like no other. Always fresh and simmered in sunshine”

Quote by Oprah Winfrey,
Talk Show Host, Actress & Author

American Forces Travel



“Veterans can now get exclusive travel deals and discounted rates through American Forces Travel.

As of July 2021, all Veterans with a discharge status of honorable or general under honorable conditions are eligible to shop for a wide selection of discounted rates on hotels, air fare, rental cars, vacation packages, cruises and much more on www.AmericanForcesTravel.com.

American Forces Travel is the Department of Defense’s official Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) platform offering bookings for leisure travel. A portion of all bookings go back to support military quality of life programs. Members can feel confident knowing that their purchases are helping to fund events and activities made just for them.

Structured by Priceline, AmericanForcesTravel.com offers deals up to 50% off hotels to eligible members. With flights from all major airlines and split ticket options, to rental car savings up to 35% and best price guarantee, AFT has travel options for any mode of travel. Customers can also save when booking two or more products together using the Packages feature for flights, rental cars, or hotels.

For more information, visit www.americanforcestravel.com/?refclickid=VABlog2022. Members can also follow www.facebook.com/AFTMWR to message the AFT Team about login and pre-booking questions.”

Veterans Benefit Newsletter May 2022

Logo provided by: American Forces Travel

Intimate Partner Violence

Every 68 seconds, a sexual assault occurs in the United States. More than one in three women and nearly one in four men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes.

For Sexual Assault Awareness Month, VA’s Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) is helping to raise awareness about VHA services available for those impacted by intimate partner violence (IPV). This may include sexual assault and violence. Sexual assault includes non consensual sex acts, abusive contact, and threats and harassment. In collaboration with the VHA Assault and Harassment Prevention Office, the VHA National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships (HAP), and the VHA National Social Work Program, VA has established a proactive, positive culture where all can feel safe and respected when they come for health care, resources for their well-being and supportive services.

VA also offers resources regarding military sexual trauma (MST)-related care, which refers to sexual assault or sexual harassment experienced during military service. Some individuals may experience MST from a person outside of their intimate-partner relationship, like a supervisor, peer or stranger.

IPVAP is committed to helping individuals impacted by IPV. To contact the local IPVAP Coordinator, visit <https://www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Index.asp>. You can also call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-4673 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 for assistance.

US Department of Veteran Affairs: Center for Women Veterans, May 2022

A Women Veterans Day

(06/12/2022)



Welcome Summer ...



Summer Veteran Picnic

The annual summer picnic, sponsored by United States Vets, Inc., is a free event for veterans and their family. The picnic will be held at Swan Creek on Sunday, August 21 from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Lunch will be served at noon. Door prizes. Reservations required. A flier will be forwarded at a later date.

Written by: Terri L. Souder, US Army MP Corps veteran

They have a day for that, he said...
it's in November and it's called Veterans Day,
But he never served

We don't distinguish between male and female here, he said...
if you served you're a veteran,
But he only saw women in office and medical jobs when he was in uniform

She puts on her veteran hat to go shopping with her veteran spouse and they are stopped by a random stranger her partner is thanked for his service while she is ignored, But she is supposed to 'soldier on'

She parks in a spot designated for veterans...
with a lift on the back of the car that clearly says "VETERAN,"
But she is told she shouldn't park there unless her spouse is actually in the car

She goes to the club for a service meeting...
and is approached by the district president for the auxiliary,
Because in a Veteran Service Organization, if you're a women you must be a spouse

She goes to the VA to check in for an appointment...
and the person at the desk never looks up, as they say "How can I help you, Sir"
Because if you're there for treatment, you must be a man

She goes to Arlington for an event at the Military Women's Memorial...
and sees a sign in the bathroom stall that,
Unlike all the other memorials, it isn't part of the National Park Service and is funded by donations

She periodically wonders why she ever put a uniform on...
to defend for the Constitution or the United States,
Against all enemies, foreign and domestic

She tries to remember why she raised her hand...
swore an oath and signed a blank check to the country,
To include giving her life, if necessary

Then it happens, it FINALLY happens...
while being interviewed for the historical archives at the MWM,
The man on the other end of the camera says "your story matters"

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