



WALKWAY OF HONOR

Memorial Day Ceremony & Reception

Sunday, May 26, 2019
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Welcome Remarks & Pledge of Allegiance

Rear Admiral John G. Hekman, USN (Ret.), Executive Director, VWMF

Keynote Address

LTC Joseph C. Barto, USA (Ret.), VWMF Board of Directors

Song

God Bless America, Songwriter: Irving Berlin

All, led by Mary Ann Wilson

God bless America, land that I love.

Stand beside her and guide her

Through the night with the light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies,

To the oceans, white with foam,

God bless America, my home sweet home!

God bless America, my home sweet home!

Closing Remarks

Rear Admiral John G. Hekman, USN (Ret.), Executive Director, VWMF

Reception to follow in the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center



The Walkway of Honor

As we host our weekend of Memorial Day commemorations, we thank you for your support of the Virginia War Memorial's Walkway of Honor. Each brick on this walkway is truly a testament to you and all our supporters who have contributed to grow this Memorial and preserve the memories of all who have served. The Walkway winds around the Shrine of Memory and overlooks the James River. It serves as a solemn place where visitors can come for a moment of respite and reflection.

With your help, we hope to continue to expand this walkway completely around the Shrine.

Lt. Col Joseph C. Barto, III, USA (Ret.)

Our keynote speaker today is retired Lieutenant Colonel Joseph C. Barto, III.

Colonel Barto has served on the Board of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation since 2015. He is the founder and president of Training Modernization Group, Inc., (TMG) headquartered in Spotsylvania, Virginia, and is internationally renowned as an expert on leadership, team building, and professional development.

During his service he was Chief of Current Operations for 24th Infantry Division during Operation Desert Shield and as Executive Officer of the 2nd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment during Operation Desert Storm. Also, prior to retirement from active duty, Joe was selected as a founding member of the Joint Warfighting Center and as the primary author of the 1996 Joint Training Manual.

Colonel Barto is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and earned his Masters of Public Administration in Organizational Theory and Leadership from James Madison University.

Last spring, Colonel Barto decided to secure four bricks on the Walkway of Honor to honor his family and all who have served.

Rear Admiral John G. Hekman, USN (Ret.)

Admiral Hekman has served as the Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation since July 2013. Prior to assuming this role, he served as a Trustee of the Virginia War Memorial and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation.

He was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Navy in 1962, served for 34 year in various posts throughout the world, and is a veteran of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. During his military career, Admiral Hekman commanded the Navy Information Systems Management Center, Arlington, VA.; the Defense Supply Center, Richmond, Va., the Navy Supply Center, Charleston, S.C., and served as Associate Comptroller of the Department of the Navy.

After retirement from active duty, Admiral Hekman served as Chief Financial Officer of Highway Express, Inc. and as Senior Vice President of Celadon International, Inc.

He is a graduate of Calvin College, the National War College, and Joint Flag and General Officer Capstone program. He holds an MBA from George Washington University.

Mary Ann Wilson

Mary Ann Wilson is a long-time supporter of the Virginia War Memorial and the Walkway of Honor, having secured an entire row of bricks to honor various members of her military family, including her late husband Navy veteran Lou Wilson. The Wilsons were sponsored the Virginia War Memorial Peace Garden on the western end of the Shrine, honoring their son, a Navy veteran, and all those who have served.

God Bless America

by Irving Berlin

"God Bless America" is an American patriotic song written by Irving Berlin during World War I while serving in the U.S. Army at Camp Upton in Yaphank, New York. He revised the song in the run up to World War II in 1938.