



# THE MOVING WALL

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

## OPENING CEREMONY

September 15, 2017

12:00 p.m.



Sponsored by

**THE BRAXTON-PERKINS POST 25  
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

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**THE VIRGINIA WAR MUSEUM**  
Huntington Park  
Newport News, Virginia



Master of Ceremonies .....	Sean V. Devlin <i>Commander, American Legion Post 25</i>
Presentation of Colors .....	USAF JROTC <i>Menchville High School</i>
National Anthem .....	Bria Kelly
Invocation .....	Bishop E.W. Jackson <i>Founder and President of S.T.A.N.D.</i>
POW/MIA Empty Chair .....	Iva Schroyer <i>2nd Vice Chairman, American Legion Post 25</i>
Pledge of Allegiance .....	Mike Nugent <i>American Legion Riders Adjutant</i>
Welcome and Introduction .....	Sean V. Devlin
Armed Forces Tribute	
Introduction of Guest Speaker ....	Sean V. Devlin
Guest Speaker .....	Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Gilpin <i>1st Maintenance Squadron Commander</i>
National POW/MIA Recognition Day Proclamation ....	State Representative
25th Anniversary Vietnam War Monument Proclamation .....	McKinley Price <i>Presented to Jimmie Carter, former President of the Virginia War Museum Foundation</i> <i>Mayor, Newport News</i>
Benediction .....	Bishop E.W. Jackson
Taps .....	Raymond D. Nations



## BRAXTON-PERKINS POST 25

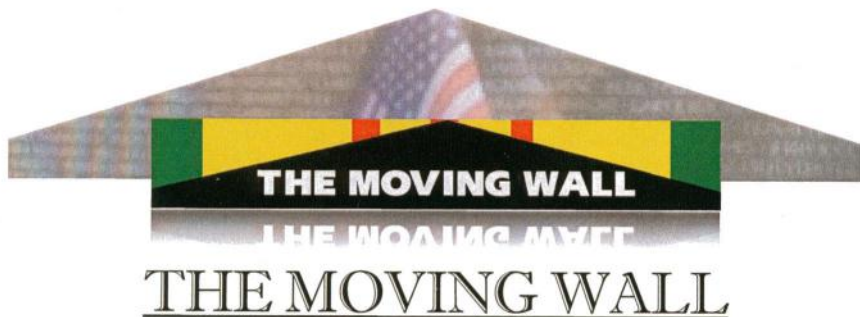
**After the end of World War I**, feelings of patriotism and camaraderie were strong among many returning servicemen, especially in the City of Newport News, which had played a pivotal role in the war. So in 1919, Fred Skinner, a civic-minded young lawyer who had served as an infantry captain, and several other servicemen, formed the *Braxton-Perkins Post 25* of the American Legion.

Named in honor of two local boys who died fighting “over there”, the *Post* began its first year of real activity in 1920, and has steadily grown in prestige and influence among the city’s civic organizations. Parades and other festivities in observance of Decoration Day, Fourth of July, and Armistice Day were organized by the *Post*, as well as many dances, bazaars, and “Smokers”.

One of the numerous lasting accomplishments of the *Post* was the planting of over fifteen hundred shade trees around the city in 1923. In addition to holding weekly dances and taking a prominent part in myriad municipal movements, the *Post* has done many notable works; financial aid was provided to many ex-servicemen until they could get on their feet again, and countless people were provided with food, clothing, fuel, and transportation. It also helped many find employment, aided the sick and war-wounded, and furnished a free children’s health clinic for the Associated Charities and the Red Cross. The *Post* arranges military funerals for *all* deceased ex-servicemen, whether Legion members or not, with floral tributes being sent for all members.

Today *Braxton-Perkins Post 25* continues its legacy of serving the community, and our brave servicemen and women, through the many events and activities that it sponsors.

**Join us and keep this history alive!**



**“The Moving Wall”** is a half-size replica of the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial* in Washington D.C. When John Devitt attended the dedication ceremony of the *Memorial* in 1982, he felt the positive power of “*The Wall*”, and decided to share that experience with those who were unable to visit the Washington memorial.

With help from Norris Shears, Gerry Haver, and other Vietnam veterans, John Devitt built what is now known as “The Moving Wall”. It made its debut in Tyler, Texas in October of 1984.

Today there are two replicas of the original *Vietnam Veterans Memorial*; they travel around the United States from April through November, spending about a week at each site.

## The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The idea for a memorial honoring Vietnam Veterans was conceived by Jan Scruggs, an infantry corporal (1969-70). A Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund was established, and in 1980 President Jimmie Carter signed legislature providing a site for the future memorial in the Constitution Gardens near the Lincoln Memorial.

*The Vietnam Veterans Memorial* was designed by architect Maya Ying Lin, an American designer and artist, who submitted her design while still an undergraduate at Yale University. The *Memorial* took 3.5 years to build, and is made from polished black granite. There are 58,272 names on it; approximately 1200 of those are MIA's, POW's, and others.

### **Key to symbols after the names:**

Pluses (crosses) mean that a person is missing.

Diamonds (created from the pluses) mean confirmed dead.

Circles (around the pluses) mean that a person has returned alive.

*To date, no circles appear.*



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