

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

Foundation marks Memorial Day Weekend with Free Admission for Veterans and Military Families, Commemorative Service



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (May 26, 2021) – Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from The Home Depot Foundation, active-duty military, reservists, retirees, veterans, National Guard members and their immediate dependents receive free admission to Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area and two world-class art museums May 28-31.

The Honoring Service to America program has distributed more than 30,000 tickets since 2014 and is part of The Home Depot Foundation’s philanthropic mission to improve the homes and lives of veterans and their families.

“The Home Depot Foundation is committed to serving and honoring our nation’s heroes,” said Erica Headlee, manager of programs and partnerships for The Home Depot Foundation. “We’re proud to support the Honoring Service to America program and provide veterans and military families with free Colonial Williamsburg admission during Memorial Day weekend.”

The Home Depot Foundation’s annual support for military families continues Colonial Williamsburg’s rich tradition of military outreach.

“Colonial Williamsburg has a long history of supporting military families, starting with the Rockefellers’ personal support for American troops during World War II,” said Earl Granger, chief development officer and vice president of Development for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. “We are honored to continue this important legacy and are grateful to The Home Depot Foundation for its continued support for the Honoring Service to America program.” Honoring Service to America weekend-long admission tickets are available at all onsite ticketing locations. Online ticketing options are not available for this special offer. Service members need

not be present for qualifying guests to receive the tickets, which are provided to dependent family members of currently deployed troops with appropriate identification. Veterans who separated before retirement can bring a copy of their honorable discharge paperwork, form DD 214, as identification of service.

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation honors the men and women of the United States military who sacrificed their lives in defense of our nation on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 10 a.m. with a traditional Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony on Palace Green. The day will conclude with “Salute to the Fallen” a bagpipe performance from roof deck of Governor’s Palace 4:40 p.m. Colonial Williamsburg will honor Sergeant Talmadge Horton Alphin, Jr. at a special virtual commemoration event airing May 31 at 11 a.m. on colonialwilliamsburg.org/memorialday. Alphin was the first bass drummer of the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums and was one of sixteen Green Berets killed in Vietnam on August 23, 1968. As part of this year’s Memorial Day commemoration, members of the Williamsburg community will gather at the site of Alphin’s recently restored grave marker at Williamsburg Memorial Park to honor the man, his military service and his legacy. Event highlights include a wreath-laying and military salute, with words of remembrance and appreciation from those whose lives this American hero has touched, including the current high school recipient of the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums most revered annual award, which is named for Sergeant Alphin. Special gratitude to the families of current Fifes & Drums members and the James Blair Class of 1961 for their successful fund-raising efforts to repair Sergeant Talmadge Alphin, Jr.’s grave marker.

In addition to discount admission for military families, Colonial Williamsburg is proud to offer military discounts on all Colonial Williamsburg hotels, dining, retail, conferences, golf and spa. Additional information on Colonial Williamsburg’s military outreach is available at www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/military.

For more information about the Honoring Service to America program and tickets visit colonialwilliamsburg.org/memorialday or call 855-296-6627. More information is also available by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

The health and safety of guests and staff is Colonial Williamsburg’s highest priority, and site operations and programming are subject to change to ensure compliance with state COVID-19 guidelines. Face coverings are required while inside Foundation-owned buildings and their use is encouraged outdoors as well. Guests also are asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines during their visit to Colonial Williamsburg sites, when walking along Duke of Gloucester Street and in other publicly accessible areas. Colonialwilliamsburg.org lists additional guest comfort and safety guidelines to provide the safest experience for guests, the general public and Colonial Williamsburg’s staff.

All Colonial Williamsburg employees have received special safety training to limit the risk of COVID-19 spread or infection. The training includes general and site-specific safety requirements such as basic sanitization procedures, use of face coverings where appropriate, and social distancing requirements to follow with colleagues and guests. Signs posted throughout the Historic Area, the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg and sites will remind guests of safety precautions to protect themselves and others from risks associated with COVID-19 exposure.

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About Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 500 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

About Giving back at The Home Depot

The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters. To date, the Foundation has invested more than \$375 million in support of veterans in need and improved more than \$50,000 veterans' homes and facilities in more than 5,000 cities. The Foundation has pledged to invest half a billion dollars in veteran causes by 2025. To learn more about The Home Depot Foundation, visit HomeDepotFoundation.org and follow us on Twitter @HomeDepotFoundation.