

# WILLIAM & MARY



## MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

### LETTER FROM THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Dear friends of W&M Military & Veteran Affairs,

Happy spring – Williamsburg is in full bloom with pollen, flowers, energy and excitement as we continue to race toward the end of the semester. Our military and veteran students and their families continue to be the focus of our on-campus efforts while we also lead, build and strengthen connections with alumni and our external military, corporate and non-profit partners.

We are a team in motion, fully engaged with W&M's Year of Civic Leadership, and the celebration of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup>. William & Mary hosted some of the first military and veteran students in our country and that legacy of responsibility and leadership propels our work.

We are proud that William & Mary was recognized as a Gold-Level Military Friendly<sup>®</sup> School, the highest designation. [Read more here](#)

I hope you will take time to explore this issue where we showcase some of our work with military connected communities and how it ties to national pre-eminence. From keynotes at the NASPA Military-Connected Symposium in Norfolk to international convenings with King's College in London to regular contact with government, industry and academic leaders across the United States as well as in Australia, we are building relationships and community. William & Mary hosted the Director of the Naval History and Heritage Command in March and is host for the Department of War VICEROY Symposium in April.

We are also excited to share that our team was recognized with university Inclusive Excellence Awards, highlighting the ways we advance access and opportunity for the more than 1600 military-connected students enrolled at the alma mater of the nation.

Looking ahead, we hope you will stay engaged:

April 29 – One Tribe One Day- [Give to MILVET](#)

May 2 – Military Appreciation Baseball Game, Plumeri Park, 3:00 p.m.

May 12 – Military Student Hail & Farewell, 9:00-11:00 a.m- <https://go.wm.edu/WMngzY>

May 28-31 – William & Mary Weekend, DC, visit <https://weekend.wm.edu/>

June 5 – Empowering Military Spouse Symposium (EMSS)

Thank you for your continued support of this community and our mission. If you'd like to learn more about getting involved, please reach out to me.

Go Tribe,

Kathleen

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# Highlights

## W&M is a Gold-Level Military Friendly® School

William & Mary has been recognized as a Gold-Level Military Friendly® School—the highest distinction awarded—affirming our unwavering commitment to those who serve and have served.

In addition, the Raymond A. Mason School of Business has been named the #1 graduate school in the nation in the 2026–2027 Military Friendly® Schools survey, marking a significant milestone in its continued leadership in supporting military and veteran students.

At William & Mary Military & Veteran Affairs, this recognition reflects both achievement and responsibility. We remain focused on strengthening partnerships, expanding opportunities, and ensuring we serve as a trusted academic partner to the military and defense community.

We are grateful to the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners who bring this mission to life every day.

Learn more: [Read more](#)



## W&M leaders featured at NASPA Military-Connected Student Symposium

On February 17, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Military-Connected Student Symposium was held in Norfolk, Virginia. The keynote address opened with remarks from Kathleen Jabs, Special Assistant to the President for Military & Veteran Affairs at William & Mary. The session featured a panel discussion with Angelique Echols, M.Ed. '27, OSVE Graduate Assistant, and Charlie Foster, M.Ed. '17, alongside J.D. Due, Executive Director of the Center for Military Transition at the Mason School of Business, focused on advancing support for military-connected students in higher education. They were joined in attendance by Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Public Safety Ginger Ambler '88, Ph.D. '06, and Associate Vice President Michael Patterson, Ed.D.



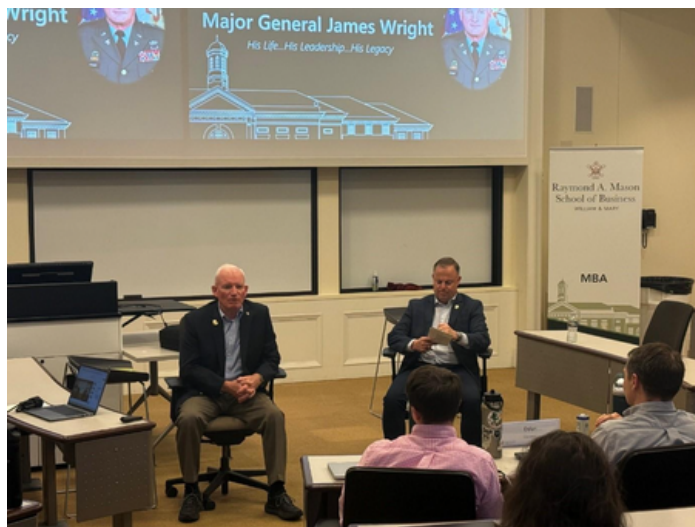
# Highlights

## Leadership Conversation with Wright Scholars and Military Leaders

On February 26, 2026, the Raymond A. Mason School of Business welcomed Army Colonel (Ret.) John Kuenzli and Major General (Ret.) Scott West for a leadership development session with staff, faculty, and the current cohort of Major General James Wright Scholars.

Colonel Kuenzli, who helped shape the original vision for the program while on active duty, spoke to the importance of creating pathways that provide high-potential officers with access to world-class business education while maintaining strong ties to operational service. Major General West, an early advocate of the program, reinforced the need to develop leaders capable of navigating both military and organizational environments.

The conversation also brought together members from across all cohorts of James Wright Scholars, who joined virtually for a wide-ranging discussion on leadership, legacy, and the enduring impact of the program inspired by Major General James “Jim” Wright.



## An Evening of Naval History and Leadership at Swem Library



On March 3, William & Mary’s Office of Military & Veteran Affairs (MILVET), in partnership with the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Strategic Cultural Partnerships, hosted a special evening of conversation, connection, and history at Swem Library.

The event featured a fireside chat with Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, moderated by W&M Midshipman 4/C Russell Karshmer '29

The discussion highlighted the enduring legacy of the U.S. Navy and the important connection between past service and future leadership.

Following the conversation, guests gathered for a reception featuring a curated display of rare Navy artifacts from Special Collections. Highlights included materials connected to the SS William and Mary Victory, historic Navy uniform illustrations, and early editions of Jane’s Fighting Ships. William & Mary archivists were on hand to provide context and insight into these unique collections.

The evening brought together students, faculty, alumni, and community members in a shared exploration of naval history, reinforcing William & Mary’s commitment to honoring service, advancing knowledge, and connecting generations of military leadership.

# Highlights

## WGC Book Talk on Orchestrating Power

On March 26, WGC welcomed historian and author Army Colonel Nathan K. Finney, Ph.D., back to campus to share insights from his most recent book, *Orchestrating Power: The American Associational State in the First World War*.

COL Finney also shared his expertise as an Army strategist with students in the GRI Global Scholars Program and reconnected with colleagues from his time as a W&M PIPS Program military fellow and senior mentor. For more information about Dr. Finney and his book, [click here](#).



## W&M Highlights AUKUS Opportunity at Statewide Economic Conference

At the Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) Spring 2026 Conference on March 27, William & Mary's Military & Veteran Affairs office participated in a panel titled "From Partnership to Prosperity: Virginia's AUKUS Opportunity."

Moderated by Meghan Welch of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the session convened more than 200 leaders from across Virginia's economic and workforce ecosystem. Representing William & Mary, Kathleen Jabs highlighted the university's role in preparing the "AUKUS generation" through education, strategic partnerships, and talent pipelines aligned with national security priorities.

In collaboration with the Whole of Government Center of Excellence, Military & Veteran Affairs is advancing efforts to establish an AUKUS Center of Excellence to lead, convene, and connect international research and academic partnerships.



# Highlights

## W&M Advances Global Defense Partnerships Through U.K. Engagement

William & Mary proudly joined the Hampton Roads Alliance Defense Tech Delegation in the United Kingdom, where the university also helped coordinate a visit and AUKUS-focused panel in partnership with King's College London in March.

Dr. Alyson Wilson, Vice Provost for Research, and Kathleen Jabs represented William & Mary alongside leaders from academia, industry, and government to strengthen collaboration in support of shared national security priorities.

As William & Mary continues to define its role as an AUKUS Center of Excellence, this engagement underscored the critical importance of people, partnerships, and shared purpose across the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia.



## MILVET Team Members Recognized as Inclusive Excellence Champions

Several members of the Military & Veteran Affairs (MILVET) team were recognized as Inclusive Excellence Champions, including Heidi LeMaster, Parin Finch, Lindsay Blount, Ed.D. '24, Charlie Foster, M.Ed. '17, JD Due, and Matt Newcomb.

Presented by the Office of Inclusive Excellence, this recognition honors individuals whose work strengthens community, belonging, and impact across William & Mary.

Honorees were celebrated at the Inclusive Excellence Champions Reception on Wednesday, April 1, where President Rowe and Provost Agouris joined nominators and supervisors in celebrating this year's recipients.



# W&M Whole of Government Center of Excellence

## Wargaming Lab Advances Space Strategy Simulation



On March 2, 2026, WGC's student-led Wargaming Lab brought its latest strategic simulation, Constellation, to Washington, D.C. Convening senior national security professionals at the W&M Washington Center, the Lab developed materials for high-quality gameplay and explored competition in the space domain between the U.S. and PRC. Participants assumed decision-making roles and navigated complex challenges involving resource allocation, technological development, diplomacy, and force employment in space. Using innovative, student-driven approaches to designing policy-relevant simulations, the Wargaming Lab reflects William & Mary's commitment to preparing future leaders to engage with complex global security challenges. Contact [wgc@wm.edu](mailto:wgc@wm.edu) to support the Lab or get involved!

## DoW VICEROY Symposium and Scholars at W&M



### 2026 Symposium

Empowering Mission-Ready Cyber-Spectrum Leaders

*You're Invited*

April 14-16, 2026

William & Mary | Williamsburg, Virginia



AFRL



GRIFFISS INSTITUTE

William & Mary is honored to host the 2026 DoW VICEROY "Empowering Mission-Ready Cyber-Spectrum Leaders" Symposium from April 14-16, 2026. Sponsored by the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering, in collaboration with the Air Force Research Laboratory and Griffiss Institute, the VICEROY Symposium brings together DoW leaders, educators, researchers, and scholars to strengthen cyber-spectrum talent pathways and mission readiness.

The agenda includes expert keynote speakers from DoW, panel discussions, networking experiences, and a student poster session. The Whole of Government Center of Excellence serves as the university contact for DoW's VICEROY Scholar Program and internship opportunities. "1693 Cyber," a team of W&M VICEROY scholars and other students from the School of Computing, Data Science, and Physics, recently qualified to compete in the final "Gilded Guardian" national VICEROY cyber competition taking place during the symposium.

For more information, visit [viceroysscholars.org/](http://viceroysscholars.org/) or contact [wgc@wm.edu](mailto:wgc@wm.edu).

## Chancellor Gates Engages ROTC Students in Fireside Conversation

On February 6, in the Wren Chapel, Chancellor Robert M. Gates '65, L.H.D. '98, sat down for a special fireside chat with Captain Matt Fraenzimmer, Commanding Officer of Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Consortium, joined by an audience of Army and Naval ROTC students.

During the conversation, students had the opportunity to ask Chancellor Gates questions on a range of topics, from advice for future service members to his perspectives on the Middle East and China, as well as lessons learned from senior military leaders.



## Army ROTC Cadets Gain Career Insight During Fort Lee Visit

On March 20 the Association of 1775 sponsored the fourth annual Revolutionary Guard Battalion (RGB) Army ROTC trip to Fort Lee. During the visit, cadets explored U.S. Army logistics branching opportunities and engaged in one-on-one conversations with junior officers, including two recent William & Mary graduates.

Following a mentor-led lunch, cadets toured the Army's Ordnance Training Support Facility, guided by another W&M alumnus. The experience provided valuable professional development while strengthening connections across the William & Mary community.



## W&M Military & Veteran Affairs Law School Featured in Virginia Lawyer Magazine



William & Mary Law School is featured on the cover of the April 2026 issue of Virginia Lawyer, the official publication of the Virginia State Bar, highlighting the impact of the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic and its role in serving veterans across the Commonwealth.

The cover features Professors Michael Dick, J.D. '06 and Zachary Outzen, J.D. '22, alongside student advisors Rylea Mougrabi, J.D. '27, Emma Guirlinger, J.D. '27 and Brooks Alderman, J.D. '26, reflecting the strength of William & Mary's hands-on, service-driven legal education.

Inside the issue, the Virginia State Bar details how the Puller Clinic equips students to work directly with real clients while delivering meaningful legal outcomes for veterans and their families.

As Professor Michael Dick explains, "This is the practical side of dealing with real people." He emphasizes that students gain experience not just in legal theory, but in client engagement and advocacy.

Zachary Outzen underscores the responsibility of this work, noting that these cases involve "very high moral stakes"—preparing students to navigate complex legal systems while advocating for those who have served.

The results are both tangible and transformative. According to the Virginia State Bar, the Puller Clinic has:

- Recovered over \$9 million in owed compensation benefits
- Secured over \$68 million in future lifetime benefits
- Helped generate more than \$110 million in expected lifetime benefits for clients
- Delivered more than \$5 million in pro bono legal services
- Returned approximately \$40 to veterans for every \$1 in taxpayer investment

This recognition reflects William & Mary's continued leadership in advancing military and veteran support—combining education, advocacy, and impact through programs like the Puller Clinic.

Read more: <https://virginialawyer.vsb.org/april-2026/page-16>

Puller Clinic learn more: <https://law.wm.edu/veterans/>

# Make Your Impact Count on April 29

## One Tribe One Day

This year, we're taking a trip back to the past while looking ahead to everything your generosity is making possible. Together, we are making history and moving one step closer to breaking records during One Tribe One Day.

Your support directly benefits more than 1,600 military-connected students at William & Mary—including active duty and veteran students, military spouses, and students raised in military families. Through your generosity, W&M Military & Veteran Affairs continues to provide a strong community and an impactful network for those who serve, those who have served, and for those who support our military at home.

Join us on April 29 for One Tribe One Day. Our goal is to reach 250 donors in a single day—unlocking a \$25,000 challenge gift that will further expand our impact and ensure continued support for our military-connected community.

Stop by the Carnival in the Sunken Garden from 1–4 PM, where MILVET and ROTC will be hosting pull-up and push-up challenges. Meet MILVET students and their families and see firsthand the community you are supporting. Every dollar raised goes directly and only to military-connected student programming.

Make your gift here on April 29: [go.wm.edu/kDbh7V](https://go.wm.edu/kDbh7V)

Thank you for being a part of something truly legendary.



# Save the Dates

## Military Appreciation Baseball Game: May 2



May 2 (Sat) / 3:00 PM

vs **Elon**

Military Appreciation Game / Postgame Autographs

Join us on May 2 as William & Mary Tribe Baseball takes on Elon Phoenix Baseball for a special Military Appreciation Game at Plumeri Park. First pitch is set for 3:00 p.m., and the day will honor the service and sacrifice of our military-connected community.

Fans are invited to come out in support of the more than 1,600 military-connected students at William & Mary, while enjoying a great afternoon of baseball, community, and recognition. The game will also feature postgame autographs, giving attendees a chance to meet the players and celebrate together.

## Hail & Farewell: May 12



A traditional military event, this Hail & Farewell recognizes not only the service of our nation's military veterans, but the remarkable accomplishments of our graduating William & Mary military and veteran students.

We are also excited to welcome newly admitted student veterans, who will join us for this special celebration and participate in a private campus tour following the event—offering an early opportunity to connect with the W&M community and experience campus firsthand.

Space is limited. Please register no later than May 1, with preference given to graduating military and veteran students and up to two guests.

The event will include a breakfast buffet, along with special recognition for our graduating students and those celebrating upcoming military promotions.

Register here: <https://go.wm.edu/WMngzY>

## W&M Weekend: May 28-31

Join the William & Mary community for a weekend filled with one-of-a-kind events, lively discussions, and insider perspectives on our nation's capital—all through a William & Mary lens.

Below are the Military & Veteran Affairs (MILVET)-specific events—we hope you'll join us and be part of the conversation and community:

- [Behind the Curtain: Intelligence, Illusion and the Art of Camouflage at the International Spy Museum](#)
- [Congressional Cemetery Tour with Charles Bowery Jr. '92](#)
- [W&M's Past, Present & Future at America's 250th](#)

For more information about W&M Weekend, visit <https://weekend.wm.edu/>



# Month of the Military Child

## Upcoming Events

4/1

11AM-1PM

**Kick-Off: Butcher block signing**

Sadler Atrium table

4/4

8 AM

**Wear Blue Walk/Run**

Meet-up at the Business School

\*\*Family/Friends/Pets welcome to join!

4/9

11AM-1PM

**Button Making**

Daily Grind

4/12

3 PM

**Pedal with Purpose**

Tyler Studio in Campus Rec. Center

<https://tinyurl.com/mryujvux>

4/15

10:30-11:30AM

**Lego Mindfulness**

Studio A in Wellness Center

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9kdb56>

4/24

11AM-1PM

**Pizza and Cookie Decorating**

The Daily Grind

4/29

1-4PM

**One Tribe One Day**

Sunken Gardens Carnival

# Save The Date!



## EMPOWERING MILITARY SPOUSES SYMPOSIUM

**JUNE 5, 2026 | WILLIAM & MARY**

*Embrace History. Empower Legacy.  
Elevate the Next 250 Years for Military Spouses.*



Registration Coming Soon!

# Announcements

## Association of 1775



If you are a military, veteran, or civil service W&M alum who wants to give back to the College and current students, consider joining the Association of 1775, the College's military, veteran, and civil service alumni affinity group. Our vision: Alumni Centered, Student Focused. We are seeking planning and event ideas as well as a Civil Service alumni volunteer to join our military service volunteer leads.

Ao 1775 will support several upcoming events including the Army ROTC Branch Celebration and Commissioning (May 2026), and W&M Weekend, Washington, D.C. (28-31 May 2026).

If you are interested in joining Ao 1775, supporting our growing community, or have questions, please contact [Brit Erslev '97](#)

## Wear Blue: Run to Remember Piestewa Challenge

On March 28, the William & Mary community came together for a meaningful run/walk that began with a Circle of Remembrance. The day also featured a special guest, Powhatan Owen of the Chickahominy, a Vietnam Veteran who serves at the Virginia War Memorial.

The Piestewa Challenge honors the service and sacrifice of SPC Lori Piestewa and all women who have died in service since 9/11.



## Follow us on LinkedIn and Instagram!



**Click the icons to follow and stay up to date on all things W&M Military & Veteran Affairs!**