

Great Falls CONNECTION

LTG (R) John R. "Bob" Wood,
keynote speaker, Andy Wilson,
president of the Friends of the
Great Falls Freedom Memorial and
MacPhearson Strassberg, piper

Gathering To Remember

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Friends Matter

A+ PAGE 2

Alex Rocks Elvis

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NEWS

9/11's 20th Anniversary at Great Falls Freedom Memorial

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On the benchmark day of the 20th anniversary of remembering 9/11, the people of Great Falls gather. They hear what has become a heartbreaking tradition, sounds of twenty years ago. An audio clip of several different recordings plays over the loudspeakers. "To bring back the memory," says Andy Wilson, president of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial.

The voices of multiple traffic controllers are heard. Mostly staying clear and calm, they transmit the final calls to assist aircraft in crisis. Sliced into the mix are the sounds of jet engines developing thrust. Cries in the cabins, words of fear, and words of hope play. "You are not going to die." Messages left on answering machines by passengers and crew, private comments to family members say, "I love you." The word hope is heard. The audio clip loops again and again.

Pastor Dave Zucuchelli (Ret.), Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in Great Falls, gives the Invocation. Like so many other invocations heard at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, it carries the same message but in other eloquent words. "Those who have died...will be those whose memories keep us moving forward. We pray for strength, and above all, we pray for love."

Scout Troop 55 presents the colors during the program and leads the Pledge of Allegiance. Those gathered remain standing as the Langley High School Madrigals, under the direction of Dr. Mac Lambert, Langley's choral director, sing the national anthem. Next, Wilson introduces Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34). And, finally, before keynote speaker LTG (R) John R. "Bob" Wood speaks, piper MacPhearson Strassberg plays



LTG (R) John R. "Bob" Wood, keynote speaker

**"United we stand,
divided we fall."
— LTG (R) John R. "Bob" Wood**

"Amazing Grace." According to Wilson, MacPhearson learned to play the bagpipes during the COVID shutdown.

WOOD'S DAUGHTER called him at the Pentagon, concerned about his safety after learning planes struck the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. He says, "With a father's patience and reassurance, I calmed her with mock bravado. 'Keep your head down,' I said. As

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Andy Wilson, president of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial.

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The Langley High School Madrigals, under the direction of Dr. Mac Lambert, Langley's choral director, sing the national anthem.



Scout Troop 55, supported by its chartering organization St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls, presents the colors during the program, and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.



(From front left) Kathleen Murphy (D-34th District) member of the Virginia House of Delegates, Pastor Dave Zucuchelli (Ret.), Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in Great Falls, LTG (R) John R. "Bob" Wood, keynote speaker, Andy Wilson, president of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial and MacPhearson Strassberg, piper



On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the community gathers for the program of events at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial 9/11 Ceremony held Sat., Sept. 11, 2021.

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ♦ SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2021 ♦ 3

Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Structure ID	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
AMELIA	1247	615	NAMOZINE RD	DEEP CREEK	8/27/2021
PATRICK	13246	103	DRY POND RD/ROUTE 103	BACK CREEK	8/26/2021
PATRICK	13245	103	DRY POND HY/ROUTE 103	SANDY CREEK	8/24/2021
MONTGOMERY	12292	663	WALTON ROAD/ROUTE 663	CRAB CREEK	8/19/2021
LYNCHBURG	20519	9	NINTH ST	KANAWHA	8/19/2021
PITTSYLVANIA	13623	686	MARKHAM RD	GEOGES CREEK	8/18/2021
WYTHE	19710	649	ATKINS MILL RD	SPILLER BRANCH	8/17/2021
GRAYSON	8910	732	LAUREL CREEK RD	LAUREL CREEK	8/16/2021
SCOTT	16635	611	LOWER GRASSY CREEK	GRASSY CREEK	8/15/2021
AMHERST	1451	631	STONEWALL CREEK RD	STONEHOUSE CREEK	8/10/2021
BLAND	3048	604	WALKERS CREEK RD	BIG WALKER CREEK #3	8/9/2021
WYTHE	19714	653	GREASY CREEK RD	STUFFLE RUN	8/5/2021
LEE	10768	421	ROUTE 421	STONE CREEK	8/3/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit www.virginiadot.org and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

It's time to add your flower to the fight.



JOIN US AT
ALZ.ORG/WALK



Additional Walks available. Find one near you at alz.org/walk

OCTOBER 9 THE NATIONAL MALL
OCTOBER 24 RESTON TOWN CENTER

2021 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSORS

Edward Jones CVS Health

Freedom Memorial

FROM PAGE 3

I hung up the phone, American flight 77 crushed my office." Black smoke filled his office and lungs; bright orange flames lapped at the windows, and his office door was jammed shut. With help, he gets out, and teamwork and training kicks in.

They rush out through old bus tunnels under the Pentagon to escape a possible second strike from a reported inbound airplane that was United flight 93.

"Little did we know, America's longest war had begun," he says.

Wood tells of a draft document, a strategic plan for the army called the Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review. "It's a report to Congress that compares the defense strategy with resourcing needs, a scorecard, and a game plan for defending our nation," he says.

"My two staff members who died in 9/11, it was their professional work, and the analysis I was reviewing was to be published 30 September, just several weeks after that. And in that draft document, it contained virtually nothing about the threat of terrorism to the homeland. A hasty fix was ordered," Wood says. "Peace demands strength, but it also de-



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
MacPhearson Strassberg, piper

mands unity," Wood says. "It's apparent our forefathers had it right. United we stand, divided we fall."

Wilson reads the Great Falls 9/11 Honor Roll. After each name, Sara Hilgartner rings the bell.

1st Lt. Richard P. Gabriel, USMC, Ret.

Lisa J. Raines
Diane M. Simmons
George W. Simmons
Ann C. Judge
Barbara K. Olson.

Michael Fox, bugler, and founder of Bugles Across America, concludes the 9/11 Ceremony, Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, sounding Taps.

BULLETIN BOARD

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TUESDAY/SEPT. 21

JLNV Recruiting Event. 6-6:45 p.m. Virtual event. The public is invited to join in a Zoom call to learn more about membership in the Junior League of Northern Virginia. Members will share their experiences and opportunities they've explored through the Junior League, and answer any questions you may have about becoming a member. They are currently accepting applications for the next member class. Website: <https://www.jlnv.org/sept-21st-jlnv-virtual-meet-and-greet/>

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 22

Car Free Day. All Day. Throughout D.C., Virginia, and Maryland. Car Free Day is a free event celebrated internationally every September 22, in which commuters are encouraged to take the free pledge to get around without driving alone in cars, and instead use transit, rideshare, bike, walk, scooter, or telework. Take the free pledge to use transit, rideshare, bike, walk, scooter, or telework. Register and pledge at <https://www.car-freemetrodc.org> to receive special promotions and be entered into a free raffle for a chance to win great prizes. Call 800-745-7433.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 23

Join Scouting Night. 6:30-7:30 p.m. At Forestville Elementary School, 1085 Utterback Store Road, Great

Falls. Children in grades K-5: bring your parents to learn about the adventure of Cub Scouts and be part of Pack 55! Cub Scouts is a year-round family program. Visit the website: <https://www.gfvscouts.com/>

THURSDAY/SEPT. 23

Childproofing our Communities from Trafficking. 7:30 p.m. Online event. RSVP at www.PreventHT.org/events/. The full name of this event is "Let's Talk Back To School Basics: Childproofing Our Communities from Human Trafficking." Attend this free online webinar to learn how to keep your kids confident and safe from threats of human trafficking as they go back into schools and new real-world hangouts. Free. Those interested in participating can register by visiting www.PreventHT.org/ or going to the RSVP page directly at: https://webinar.ringcentral.com/webinar/register/4516298175247/WN_hKAPioWSTaOo2l-3nQjRwg

LIBRARY REOPENS IN FALLS CHURCH

Mary Riley Styles Public Library, a staple of the Falls Church, community since 1957, reopened its doors this week following a nearly 18-month renovation and expansion designed by design firm BKV Group. The updated library includes a two-story, 6,849-square-foot addition that

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