



Patriot Record

Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation

PATRIOT RECORD

SUMMER 2018

Tribute to William E. (Bill) Ward



Pictured above left to right:
The Honorable E. Preston Grissom,
The Honorable William E. (Bill) Ward, &
The Honorable Harry Blevins.

President Emeritus William E. (Bill) Ward was more than our Foundation's president. Bill was one of the initial Directors of the Foundation that formed on December 9, 1999. He and other community leaders saw the need to preserve and protect this crucial part of our American history. Knowing it would be a mission that would take years to properly research, fundraise, promote and plan, a leader of vision and compassion was necessary for success; Bill Ward was appointed.

Under his leadership, the Foundation, the City of Chesapeake and the Army Corps of Engineers were able to work together to make this dream a reality. It is because of his love for teaching, that we will be able to teach generations to come the many stories of the Village of Great Bridge during our nation's fight for independence.

As the driving force of our Foundation, he led by example. At our groundbreaking last year, he acknowledged 24 of our earlier founding board members who passed before we began construction, and sadly, shortly after our groundbreaking, we also lost the Honorable Harry Blevins. Now Bill has followed them making it 26 board members.

He will be always in our hearts and minds and missed each and every day by staff, board, friends and family. His life of service will remain a lesson of love to us all. May he rest in peace.

Scholarship Program

The Foundation proudly announces a new scholarship program to begin in the fall of 2018 to honor E. Preston Grissom and the late Elizabeth Hanbury and William E Ward. To make a donation to this new program, or for additional information, please contact the Foundation office.

Upcoming Events

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays
April through September
Food Trucks
"On The Square"
Courtyard Square Park**

**December 8, 2018
Tentative Soft Opening
of Building**

**December 8, 2018
DAR Wreath Laying &
SAR Commemoration of
the Battle of Great Bridge
Historic Battlefield Park**

**December 8 & 9, 2018
24th Annual Battle of
Great Bridge Reenactment
Battlefield Park South**

**May 3, 2019
Tentative Grand Opening
of Museum**

A Weekend to Celebrate History

Save the dates for a weekend full of celebration and the projected soft opening ceremony for the Museum and Visitor Center, December 7-9, 2018! Saturday, December 8, 2018, at 11 AM is the DAR Wreath Laying and SAR Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge at Historic Battlefield & Waterways Park.

Also starting on December 8th is the 24th Annual Battle of Great Bridge Re-enactment. This two-day event is held at Battlefield Park South which is located just south of the Great Bridge Bridge. It is the original site of the battle fought December 9, 1775. Step back in time with us and experience Re-enactments of the Battle of Great Bridge. The event also highlights Revolutionary War encampments, demonstrations, character portrayals, camp life, historical displays and lectures, skilled artisans demonstrating early American trades and children's crafts and activities. Times: Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM and Sunday, 10 AM - 2 PM. For more information, call Chesapeake Parks, Recreation and Tourism at 757-382-6411.

Construction Progress... We now have a Cupola!

The addition of the cupola brings building construction to over fifty percent complete. The installation was a collaborative effort - thank you Dar's Welding and Munns Manufacturing, Inc.; Precon Marine; Coastal Virginia Crane; and P.G. Harris Construction Co.! The museum will be an educational and community resource for years to come. A soft opening is slated for December with the museum grand opening scheduled for spring 2019.



Tentative Dates for Soft Opening and Grand Opening

We are excited to announce the tentatively planned dates for the Soft Opening of the Building and the Grand Opening of the Museum!

**Soft Opening of the Building:
Saturday, December 8, 2018**

**Grand Opening of the Museum:
Friday, May 3, 2019**

Board Members Garnett Lane and Donna Brown have agreed to co-chair the "Grand Opening" Committee. Please contact the Foundation office if you would like to be part of this historic event.

Foundation Website

Please visit the Foundation's new and improved website at GBBattlefield.org. There's much to see. So, take your time, look around, and learn all there is to know about us. We hope you enjoy our site and take a moment to drop us a line.

Renew or Upgrade Your Membership Today

Join Us In Making History Here In Chesapeake!

On behalf of the Foundation, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your membership and support! Memberships make a difference and are crucial during this exciting time! Memberships and Annual Fund donations help support the day-to-day operational costs of the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation; these operating funds are vital to the progress of this project and to the Foundation as a whole. Please take a moment to review our new membership structure and consider renewing or upgrading your membership today. Thank you!

1775 Society (\$1,775)

Free admission for all members living in one household for lifetime
15% discount in gift shop
e-newsletter
e-mail notification of all Foundation events
10% Discount on tickets to all Foundation events
10 admission passes to give to friends/guests
*Our special thank you of a Lucite block with original piece of causeway!

Family membership (\$75)

Free admission for all members living in one household for a full year from date of purchase
10% discount in gift shop
e-newsletter
e-mail notification on all Foundation events

Lifetime membership (\$1,000)

Free admission for all members living in one household for lifetime
15% discount in gift shop
e-newsletter
e-mail notification of all Foundation events
10% Discount on tickets to all Foundation events
8 admission passes to give to friends/guests

Individual membership (\$35)

Free admission for one person for a full year from date of purchase
10% discount in gift shop
e-newsletter
e-mail notification on all Foundation events

Consider Leaving a Legacy

Be a part of the continued success for generations to come. Naming rights are now available for our Museum's Historic Interpretive Storyline or consider giving an endowment gift or leave a bequest. Please contact the Foundation office for more information.

Become a 1775 Society Member

With a one-time contribution of \$1,775, you will receive:

- ❖ Free admission for all members living in one household for lifetime
 - ❖ 15% discount in Museum Gift Shop
 - ❖ E-newsletter
 - ❖ E-mail notification of all Foundation events
 - ❖ 10% discount on tickets to all Foundation events
 - ❖ 10 admission passes to give to friends/guests
- *Our special thank you of a Lucite block with original piece of causeway!

The Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the historical significance of the Battle of Great Bridge, the Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal, and the Dismal Swamp Canal.



Great Bridge Battlefield &
Waterways History Foundation
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Find us on Facebook



Make a Difference Today

Time is running short! With construction underway on Phase I of the GBB&WHF Museum / Visitor Center, your support is crucial at this time.

■ Capital Donation ■ Membership ■ Endowment ■ Volunteer

Leave a Legacy



To make your contribution online, please visit www.gbbattlefield.org. If you would like to offer in-kind support as numerous donors have already graciously done, please call our office at 757-482-4480.

Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation

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