



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



September at Fort Monroe Over Three Centuries

The month of September has an interesting history of notable events that took place at Fort Monroe during three different centuries.

September 8, 1918: The Coast Artillery Training Center began operations under the leadership of Brigadier General Frank Fergusson, with headquarters at Fort Monroe. It consisted of three subordinate commands: the Coast Defenses of Chesapeake Bay, the Coast Artillery School, and the recently established Camp Eustis in Warwick County. The Coast Artillery Training Center was intended as a wartime measure, but it continued long after Armistice Day on November 11, 1918. In fact, it was replaced by the Third Coast Artillery District, also headquartered at Fort Monroe, on May 15, 1923.



September 9, 1849: Poet, literary critic, and short story author Edgar Allan Poe stopped at Old Point Comfort on his way to deliver several lectures in Norfolk. At the Hygeia Hotel (the current Chamberlin Hotel) he was recognized and agreed to recite some poems on the hotel veranda, including his most famous one, "The Raven." Poe undoubtedly recalled the time twenty years earlier when he had served at Fort Monroe as a young artilleryman under the name of Edgar A. Perry. A month after this visit, Poe was found in a Baltimore tavern in a delirious condition and possibly the victim of foul play. He was taken to a local hospital, where he died on October 7, at the age of forty.

September 18, 2003: Hurricane Isabel caused severe flooding and extensive damage at Fort Monroe, but fortunately there were no casualties. At the Casemate Museum, staff members and volunteers worked for several days before the storm to place artifacts and archives out of harm's way. At the time Isabel was ranked as Virginia's costliest natural disaster.



SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 7TH 2026

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Continental Park at Fort Monroe

VETERANS HONOR CEREMONY AT 11:00AM

Featuring the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Honor Guard, Special Guest Speakers General George Washington, Deborah Sampson and James Armistead Lafayette, and Flag Planting for the Fallen.



CELEBRATION FEATURING

- ★ VMFA Artmobile
 - 14 artworks in *Virginia as America* exhibit
- ★ Live Entertainment
 - Doorways Singers
Salutes, USO Show
 - William & Mary
Cornet Brass Band
- ★ Veteran Support Organizations
- ★ Museum Exhibitors
- ★ Living History Interpreters
 - Rev War to WWII
 - Puppet Play-*The Aeronauts: Civil War Balloon Corp*
 - Maritime Ropemaking
 - Civil War Surgery
 - Army Drills
- ★ Veteran Owned/Operated Vendors
- ★ Food Trucks

And So Much More!



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