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Virginia Public Safety Foundation Launches Fundraising Campaign to Build Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial

~ Five Prominent Virginians Named to Fundraising Committee ~

RICHMOND - The Virginia Public Safety Foundation (VPSF) announced today the public kick-off for a \$2 million fundraising campaign to build the Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial, for which VPSF serves as official administrator. This monument to public safety officers killed in the line of duty will be built at Darden Memorial Garden (at the entrance to the General Assembly Building) at Virginia's Capitol Square.

"Today we begin with earnest a statewide, grassroots fundraising campaign that is the homestretch of a long journey to the much-deserved memorial to officers who have given their lives in service to their communities," said VPSF President Hadden Culp. "We will engage Virginia's public safety community to help us build this Memorial to their former colleagues, as well as members of the public who support their important work."

The VPSF also announced the appointment of five respected Virginians to serve on the fundraising committee charged with securing funding for construction of the monument to heroes:

- Jerry Kilgore, former Virginia Attorney General and Senior Advisor, McGuireWoods
- Julien G. Patterson, former VPSF President and Chairman, OMNIPLEX World Services
- Gerald Massengill, former superintendent, Virginia State Police
- Terry McAuliffe, Chairman, GreenTech Automotive
- Jeff Mitchell, former VPSF President and partner, LeClairRyan

"I'm proud to announce the appointment of five highly respected Virginians to lead our fundraising effort," Culp said. "Each has shown his dedication to Virginia's public safety community throughout his career and once again has accepted the call to serve on behalf of Virginia's 165,000 public safety officers."

"In building this Memorial, which will be a source of pride for Virginia's 165,000 public safety officers and their families, we are reliant on the financial generosity of the countless individuals and organizations from

around Virginia who will help make this dream a reality,” said Kilgore. “This Memorial will serve as a place where all Virginians can remember the contributions of the men and women of the public safety community who died in the line of duty and give thanks for their service.”

“This monument will serve an important educational purpose,” said Patterson. “For the thousands of annual visitors to Capitol Square, it will be a reminder of the human cost of security and of the sacrifice and service of our public safety officers and their families, who often bear the burdens of their service.”

“I know from experience the importance of this Memorial to Virginia’s law enforcement officers and fire fighters,” Massengill said. “While organizations like the state police have memorials honoring their own officers, Virginia has lagged behind in recognizing the loss of life at the state level.”

“As a former VPSF President, I have a longstanding relationship with Virginia’s public safety families,” said Mitchell. “For them, this Memorial is long overdue and I’m privileged to play a leading role in its completion. Virginia is one of only six states in the nation lacking a state-level memorial to public safety officers, a dubious distinction.”

“I can think of no purpose more worthy of the support of all Virginians,” said McAuliffe. “Every day, thousands of public safety officers risk their lives for our safety and security. The construction of this long-overdue Memorial demonstrates our support for their important work.”

For more information on the Virginia Public Safety Foundation, including ways in which you can make a tax-deductible contribution to the Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial, visit our website at <http://www.vpsf.org>.

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About the Virginia Public Safety Foundation:

The Virginia Public Safety Foundation (VPSF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, has existed for more than 15 years and is led by a distinguished board of directors made up of all former Virginia Governors as well as leaders in business and public safety. VPSF provides supportive services to the families of public safety officers -- including police officers, volunteer and paid firefighters, volunteer and paid emergency medical technicians and corrections officers -- killed in the line of duty, including grants to cover immediate expenses at the time of death and educational scholarships for surviving family members.