

Washington at VALLEY FORGE



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK OF ABINGDON

Veterans Day

**11 November 2026
11:00 a.m.**

GUEST SPEAKER



Walter Jenny

Walter Jenny is in his seventh year as president of the Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia. He also serves as vice president of the Virginia Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail, Inc., and co-chair of the history committee of the Virginia Highlands Festival.

Mr. Jenny is a graduate of the University of Washington and Oklahoma City University School of Law. His legal practice included sixteen years with the State of Oklahoma, eleven of which were as an Assistant Attorney General.

He and his wife of thirty six years, Rose Ann, live in Washington County.

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Procession	Appalachian Highlanders Pipes & Drums, Sons of the American Revolution Overmountain Victory Trail Assn. Daughters of the American Revolution
Posting of Colors	Washington County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard
Invocation	Mike Rush <i>Vice Chairman, Veterans Memorial Park Board</i>
"National Anthem"	Nick Dennis
Pledge of Allegiance	Dwyane Anderson <i>Mayor, Abingdon</i>

Welcome & Opening Remarks David Matlock
by Master of Ceremonies U.S. Marine Corps, Veteran
Executive Director, SWVA Higher Ed. Center

Introduction of Guest Speaker David Matlock

Memorial Tree Dedications David Matlock

“Amazing Grace” Muster Grounds Musick
Michael Henningsen
U.S. Navy, Veteran
Brian K. Rieck
U.S. Navy, Veteran

**Observance of Moment of Silence & Gun Salute
in Remembrance of Our Fallen War Heroes**
Sons of the American Revolution / Overmountain Victory Trail Association

“Taps” Michael Henningsen
Brian K. Rieck

Retirement of Colors Washington County Sheriff’s Department
Honor Guard

Concluding Remarks David Matlock

“God Bless America” Nick Dennis



WASHINGTON AT VALLEY FORGE

General George Washington, Commander of the Continental Army, confronted desperate conditions that threatened his troops at their encampment at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78.

His army of 12,000 soldiers suffered from frigid weather, insufficient habitation, hunger, and lack of adequate footwear, blankets and coats.

Moreover, diseases such as dysentery, typhoid fever, influenza and pneumonia ran rampant. Nearly 2,000 soldiers would succumb to the extreme hardships imposed by non-battle related causes.

Yet those surviving Americans emerged as a stronger, unified army under Washington's leadership. The story of Valley Forge underscores the growing resilience of the Continental soldier to persevere despite adversity.

The spirit of Valley Forge is one that has been commemorated by our Armed Forces for nearly 250 years. It is especially apt for our Veterans Day ceremony this year.



Veterans Memorial Park Foundation
of Abingdon/Washington County, Virginia, Inc.

P. O. Box 571
 Abingdon, VA 24212