

Byrd Dedicates Veterans' Memorial
By Roslyn Ryan
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Though Goochland's Byrd Presbyterian Church on Dogtown Rd. is not particularly large as church's go—it currently boasts a congregation of about 80 or so—it does have a large number of members with ties to our nation's military.

So it was no surprise when a recent effort to create a Veterans' Memorial outside of the church drew plenty of support from church members, who purchased over 70 bricks in memory of someone who had served. What many might find surprising, however, are a few of the heroes honored on those bricks.

According to Linda Uloth, who spearheaded the project in honor of her late husband Larry, who passed away on Dec. 30, 2014, the memorial includes the name of famed politician and orator Patrick Henry, whose direct descendant is a member at Byrd, as well as the name of a patriot who served in the Continental Congress. Also included on the list are Silver and Bronze star recipients, members of the Army Air Corp, and the name of a soldier who was declared Missing in Action during the Vietnam War.

"I just think it is the most awesome thing, that we have all of those names here at our little church," Uloth said, pointing out that women and men from all of the branches are represented, some living and some deceased.

Uloth explained that after her husband died, she had requested that a flagpole be put up in his honor. It seemed the perfect tribute to Larry, she said, a noted patriot who had served in the Army Security Agency from 1959 to 1965 and was known to keep a copy of the United States Constitution in his shirt pocket.

After an anonymous donor supplied the flag pole, it soon became known informally as the church's Veteran's Memorial. But it wasn't until another Byrd member, Jonni Farish, lost her husband John last May, that the idea for a full-fledged memorial began to take shape.

Farish requested that, in lieu of flowers, gifts be made to the Byrd Presbyterian Church Veterans Memorial.

"And so the idea grew and we knew we wanted to do more to honor our veterans," Farish said.

After a year of careful planning, the new Byrd Presbyterian Veterans Memorial was dedicated during a special ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 13.

Uloth said they plan to expand it in the future, adding more bricks and eventually a meditation bench.

"It's really been an honor to do it, and it was such a wonderful thing we could do for all of our veterans," she said. "And I know my husband would be so happy."