

# VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Audit, Finance, and Planning Committee

**FROM:** BG Dallas B. Clark

**SUBJECT:** ANC Monument Update

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### Background

The Commonwealth of Virginia has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of the Army (Army) on the transfer of the Confederate Memorial (also referred to as the New South Monument and Reconciliation Monument) from Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth desires to transfer the monument to VMI for installation at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park (NMBSP) a museum operated by VMI located in New Market, VA.

The monument, previously located in Section 16 of ANC, was removed in December 2023 and relocated to a federal storage facility.

### Updates

#### *MOU between the Commonwealth of Virginia and ANC*

The Commonwealth of Virginia and the US Army finalized the MOU on 2 August 2024 granting ownership of the monument to the Commonwealth.

#### *Pre-Planning Study*

With the use of private funds donated to VMI through the VMI Alumni Agencies, VMI commissioned a pre-planning study with the architecture and engineering firm Wiley|Wilson. The scope of services includes exploration of site selection, concept development, and consultation with a historical specialist on reinstallation of the monument. The results of the study will include a cost estimate to complete the project.

#### *Acceptance of Monument*

The Board of Visitors in September 2023 adopted a resolution to accept the monument for placement at NMBSP.

#### *Funding*

Securing private funds for the completion of design and construction remains an ongoing discussion item including private donors and other interested organizations.

**Next Steps**

VMI and the Commonwealth are holding scheduled monthly progress meetings. Additional meetings and/or site visits will be scheduled as needed to support efforts at NMBSHP. In addition, the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) will organize a site visit to the monument in storage with specialty consultants. VMI and the Commonwealth will also continue coordination for the official turnover of the monument from the Commonwealth to VMI.

The desired completion date of the project is the fall/winter of 2025.