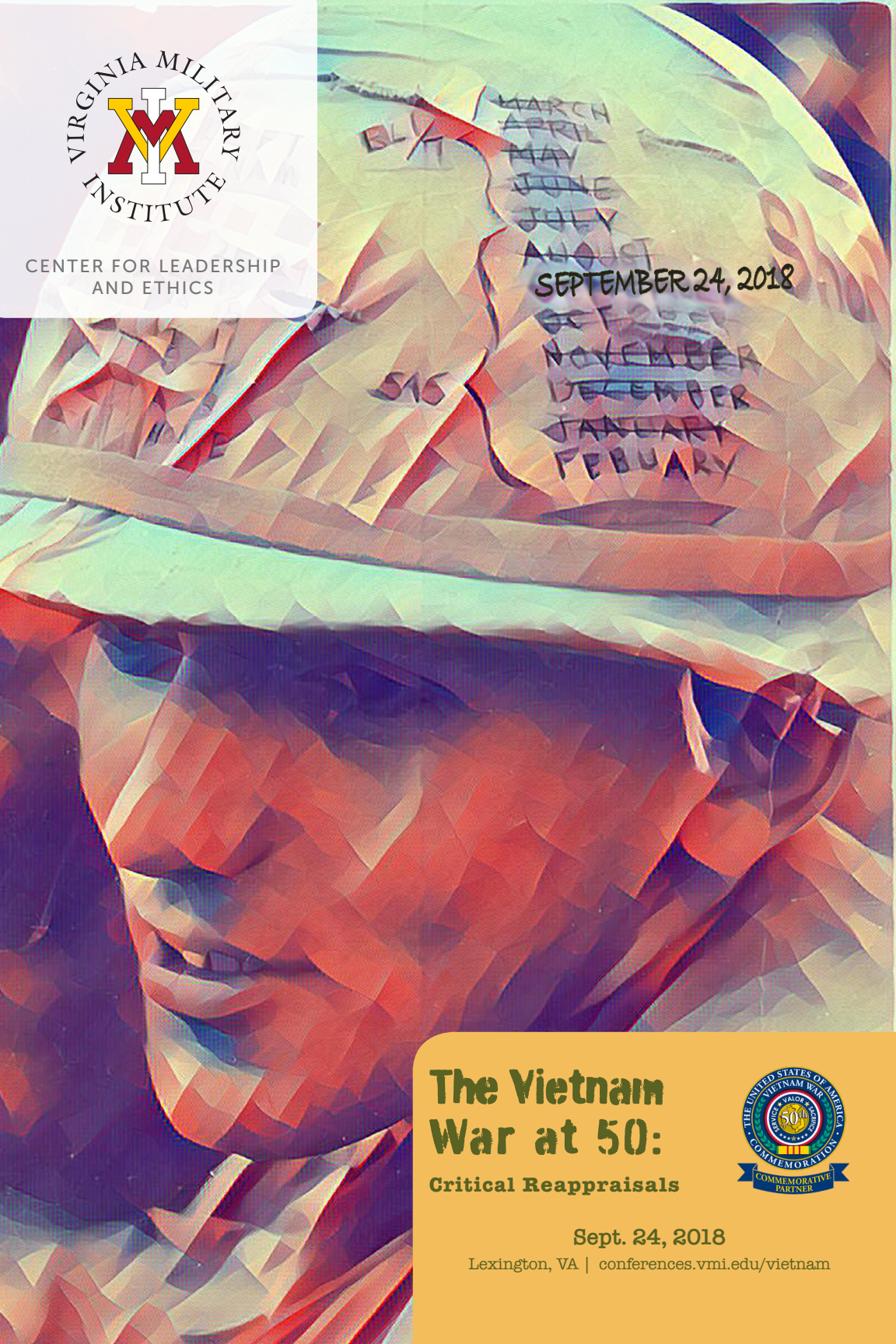


VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS

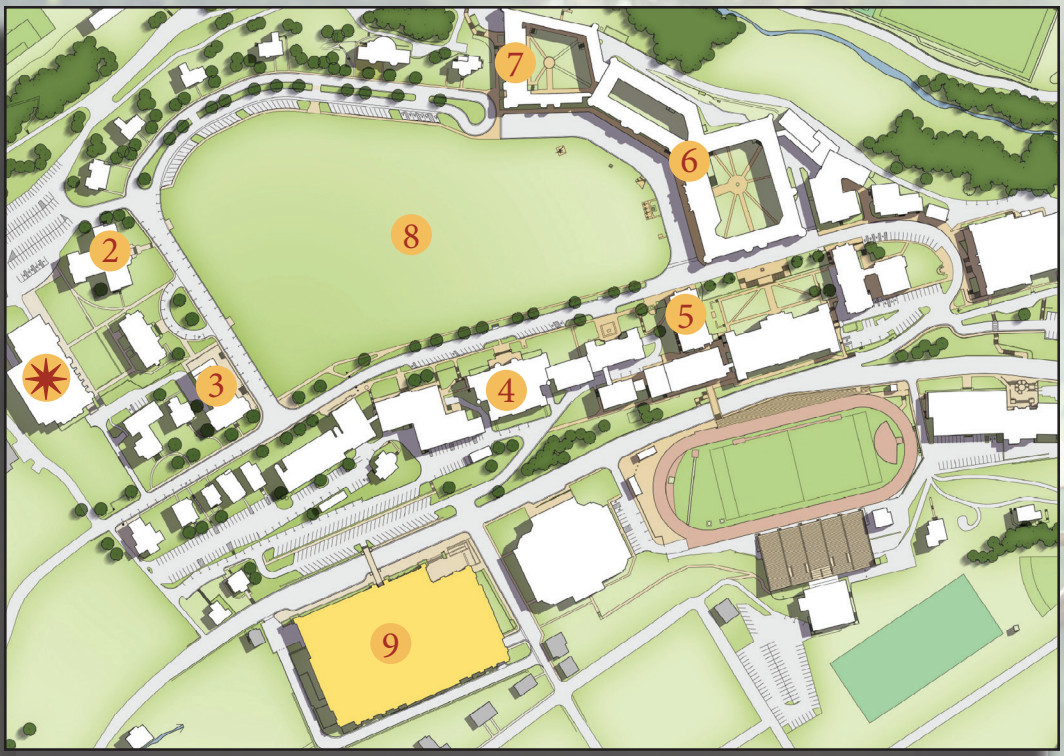
The Vietnam War at 50:

Critical Reappraisals

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR 50th COMMEMORATION COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER

Sept. 24, 2018

Lexington, VA | conferences.vmi.edu/vietnam



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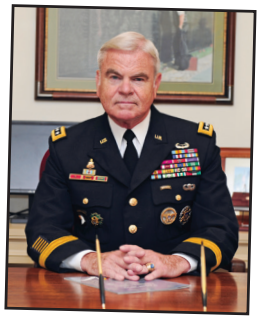
We greatly appreciate the generosity of Gerald P. Kaminsky and Martin I. Kaminsky in support of this commemorative conference on the Vietnam War.

Superintendent
Virginia Military Institute



On behalf of the Faculty, Staff, and Corps of Cadets of the Virginia Military Institute, I welcome you to our Academic Year 2018 Vietnam Symposium, The Vietnam War at 50: Critical Reappraisals. The Vietnam War continues to reverberate in our society and has affected political, strategic, operational, and tactical decision making ever since. This symposium takes advantage of 50 years of perspective and will examine a few of the major themes of the war, including military strategy, small unit leadership, the POW experience, and the expanded impact of the media on public perceptions of the war. The staff of our Center for Leadership and Ethics has brought together some of the nation's top experts on the Vietnam War as well as many veterans to share their knowledge with you.

We think it is important for younger and older generations to come together and hear first-person accounts as well as thoughtful scholarship on the Vietnam War. Many of you attending this symposium have personal experiences of the war as veterans, as reporters, and scholars…or have memories of living through that era. It is our hope that you will share in your experiences, provide insight and lessons learned strategically and otherwise for the future.

We are pleased to have you here and wish you a warm welcome and a wonderful visit to Lexington and the Shenandoah Valley.

Sincerely,

J.H. Binford Peay III
General, U.S. Army (Retired)
Superintendent

SCHEDULE

Monday, September 24

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Registration & Coffee - *Gallery / Hall of Valor*

8:00 a.m. Welcoming Ceremony - *Gillis Theater*

8:15 - 9:00 a.m. **Opening Keynote:** "Thoughts on Vietnam, Fifty Years Later"

- **James Webb** - *Gillis Theater*

9:15 - 10:30 a.m. **PANEL:** "Fighting a Multi-Faceted War: American Perspectives on Strategy and Its Execution" - *Gillis Theater*

- **Greg Daddis, Mark Moyar, and Jacqueline Whitt**

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **PANEL:** "Fighting a Multi-Faceted War: The Vietnamese Perspective" - *Hall of Valor*

- **Pierre Asselin and Andrew Wiest**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch Buffet - *Hall of Valor*

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. **PANEL:** "Courage and Loyalty: Leading Citizen Soldiers in Combat" - *Gillis Theater*

- **Phil Gioia '67, Barrett Graham '67, and Ron Milam**

2:45 - 4:15 p.m. **PANEL:** "The Media and Reporting during the Vietnam War" - *Hall of Valor*

- **Joe Galloway, "Dave" Greenway, and Jim Sterba**

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Post Tours / Refreshments / Free Time

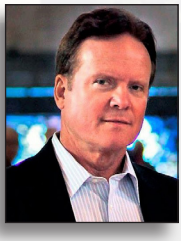
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner - *Hall of Valor*

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Closing Keynote:** "Duty, Honor, and Country: Surviving Captivity in North Vietnam"

- **Hal Kushner** - *Gillis Theater*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOS

The Honorable James Webb, Opening Keynote Speaker



The Honorable James H. Webb, Jr., has been a combat Marine, full committee counsel in Congress, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, U.S. Senator from Virginia, Emmy-award winning journalist, filmmaker and is the author of 10 books.

Webb graduated from the Naval Academy in 1968, and is one of the most highly decorated Marines in the Vietnam War. As a rifle platoon and company commander in Vietnam, he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals with combat "V" and two Purple Hearts.

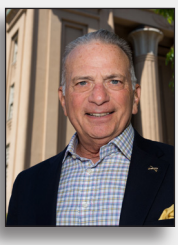
Webb graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 1975, receiving the Horan Award for excellence in legal writing. He was the first Vietnam veteran to serve as a full committee counsel in the US Congress, serving from 1977 to 1981 as minority counsel to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. In 1982, he led the fight to include an African-American soldier in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1984 , Webb became the first-ever Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs and then, in 1987, the first Naval Academy graduate in history to serve in the military and then become Secretary of the Navy. At the Pentagon, he also was a member of the Armed Forces Policy Council and the Defense Resources Board.

Elected to the Senate in 2006, Webb served on the Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Joint Economic committees, including four years as Chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel, and of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Webb is the author of ten books, including six best-selling novels, notably *Fields of Fire*, widely recognized as the classic novel of the Vietnam War. His extensive experience in Hollywood includes writing the story and executive producing "*Rules of Engagement*," which held the top slot in U.S. box offices in April 2000.

Hal Kushner, Dinner Keynote Speaker



Harold Kushner, M.D., F.A.C.S., Col. Medical Corps, U.S. Army (Ret.); received his B.A. degree in chemistry with highest honors, from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1961, and attended graduate school in chemistry there for one year. He received his M.D. degree from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond in 1966.

Dr. Kushner entered the Army while a medical student in 1965, and received aviation medical training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and Pensacola, Florida before deploying to Vietnam in August 1967 as an Army Flight Surgeon. Dr. Kushner served with the 1st Squadron, 9th US Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. He was captured on December 2, 1967, west of Tam Ky, South Vietnam, and was released to American Control in Hanoi on March 16, 1973.

His military experience includes active duty in the United States Army from 1965 to 1977, and duty as an Army reserve officer from 1977 to 1985 when he retired with the rank of Colonel. Dr. Kushner's military awards include the Silver Star, the Soldiers' Medal, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, 3rd award, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, and other awards and badges including the Combat Medic Badge and the Senior Flight Surgeon's Badge.

Since 2001, he has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame; and from 2009-2016, was Chairman of that Board. He is a member of the National Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War. He is a member of the Vietnamese Helicopter Pilots Association, The Silver Sabre Society, The Order of Military Medical Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross Society (Honorary Flight Surgeon), an honorary life member of the River Rats (Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association), and was awarded the Order of St Michael Gold Medal in 2016.

PANELS & SPEAKERS

Fighting a Multi-Faceted War: The American Perspective

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Gillis Theater

Greg Daddis, Ph.D. and Author

Gregory Daddis is an associate professor of history and director of Chapman University's MA Program in War and Society. A retired U.S. Army colonel, he has served in both Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. He has authored four books, including *Westmoreland's War: Reassessing American Strategy in Vietnam* (2014).

Mark Moyar, Ph.D. and Author

Mark Moyar is the Director of the Office for Civilian-Military Cooperation at USAID. He has held several instructing positions at such institutions as the Joint Special Operations University and the U.S. Marine Corps University. He has also worked as a consultant for the senior leadership of the Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan, U.S. Special Operations Command, U.S. Central Command, and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Dr. Moyar is the author of six books, several of which cover special operations forces, national security strategy, counterinsurgency, and the Vietnam War.

Jacqueline Whitt, Ph.D. and Author

Jacqueline E. Whitt is an associate professor of strategy at the U.S. Army War College in the Department of National Security and Strategy. She is the author of *Bringing God to Men: American Military Chaplains, Religion, and the Vietnam War* which won the Richard W. Leopold Prize for the best work on foreign policy, military affairs, and historical activities of the federal government written by a federal employee.

PANELS & SPEAKERS

Fighting a Multi-Faceted War: The Vietnamese Perspective

10:45a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Hall of Valor

Pierre Asselin, Ph.D. and Author

Pierre Asselin is Professor of History and Dwight E. Stanford Chair in US Foreign Relations at San Diego State University. He is the author of several books on the Vietnam War, including: *A Bitter Peace: Washington, Hanoi, and the Making of the Paris Agreement*; *Hanoi's Road to the Vietnam War 1954-1965*; and *Vietnam's American War: A History*.

Andrew Wiest, Ph.D. and Author

Andrew Wiest is University Distinguished Professor of History and the founding director of the Dale Center for the Study of War & Society at the University of Southern Mississippi. Wiest is the author of several titles, including *Vietnam's Forgotten Army: Heroism and Betrayal in the ARVN*, which won the Society for Military History's Distinguished Book Award and *The Boys of '67*, which was the basis for the Emmy nominated *National Geographic Channel* documentary *Brothers in War.*

Notes

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PANELS & SPEAKERS

Courage and Loyalty: Leading Citizen-Soldiers in Combat

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Gillis Theater

Phil Gioia VMI '67, Vietnam Veteran, U.S. Army

Philip Gioia, VMI Class of '67 and ten-year U.S. Army veteran, including two infantry combat command assignments in Vietnam, is a writer and lecturer on topics of military history, and has been published in various military periodicals. He has appeared as a TV commentator on military and technology on the *History Channel* and the *Military Channel.* He appears in the Ken Burns/ Lynn Novick's *PBS* documentary *The Vietnam War.*

Barrett Graham VMI '67, Vietnam Veteran, USMC

Barrett Graham is an alumnus of VMI's Class of '67 and a practicing attorney with a law degree from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Upon graduation from VMI, he commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. In August 1968, he deployed to the Republic of Vietnam as a rifle platoon commander and company executive officer before moving to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division. He left active duty in 1970.

Ron Milam, Ph.D., Author, and Vietnam Veteran, U.S. Army

Dr. Ron Milam is an Associate Professor of Military History, who specializes in the Vietnam War and is the Executive Director of the Institute for Peace & Conflict, which includes the world renowned Vietnam Center & Archive. He is the author of *Not a Gentleman's War: An Inside View of Junior Officers in the Vietnam War* and *The Vietnam War in Popular Culture: The influence of America's Most Controversial War on Everyday Life*.

PANELS & SPEAKERS

The Media and Reporting during the Vietnam War

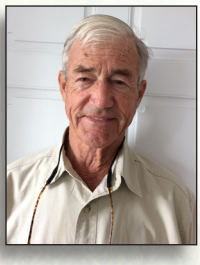
2:45 - 4:15 p.m.

Hall of Valor

Joe Galloway, War and Foreign Correspondent, and Author

Joseph L. Galloway has been one of America's premier war and foreign correspondents for half a century. He spent 22 years as a foreign and war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International and 20 years as a senior editor and senior writer for *U.S. News & World Report*. Galloway served four tours as a war correspondent in Vietnam and received the Bronze Star Medal with V for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire in the la Drang Valley, in November 1965. He serves as a special consultant to the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration project and was a permanent consultant to Ken Burns/Lynn Novick's PBS documentary titled *The Vietnam War.* He is the co-author of *We Were Soldiers Once... and Young*, which was turned into a hit movie.

H.D.S. Greenway, War and Foreign Correspondent, and Author



H. D. S. "Dave" Greenway joined the *Washington Post* in 1972 and was stationed in Washington, Saigon, Hong Kong and Jerusalem. He covered the fighting in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia from 1967-1975 until the evacuation of Saigon on April 29th, 1975. Whilst covering the Tet Offensive in 1968, during the battle for Hue, he was wounded trying to rescue a wounded Marine and was subsequently awarded a bronze star with a combat V. He is the author of *Foreign Correspondent: a Memoir*.

Jim Sterba, War and Foreign Correspondent, and Author

Jim Sterba has been a foreign correspondent, war correspondent and national correspondent for more than four decades, first for *The New York Times* and then for *The Wall Street Journal*. He has covered the Vietnam War, including coverage of returning American POWs. He also reported the 1971 India-Pakistan war, guerrilla wars in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, and famine in Afghanistan; the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia. Remaining in the region, he became bureau chief in Hong Kong and China where he covered the Chinese student demonstrations and the subsequent military crackdown on them in Beijing's Tienanmen Square.

NOTES & CONTACTS

OUR PARTNERS

VMI is a proud partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!

The Commemorative Partner Program is an organizationally based, hometown-centric, veteran-focused program designed for federal, state and local organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families where they live and work.

vietnamwar50th.com

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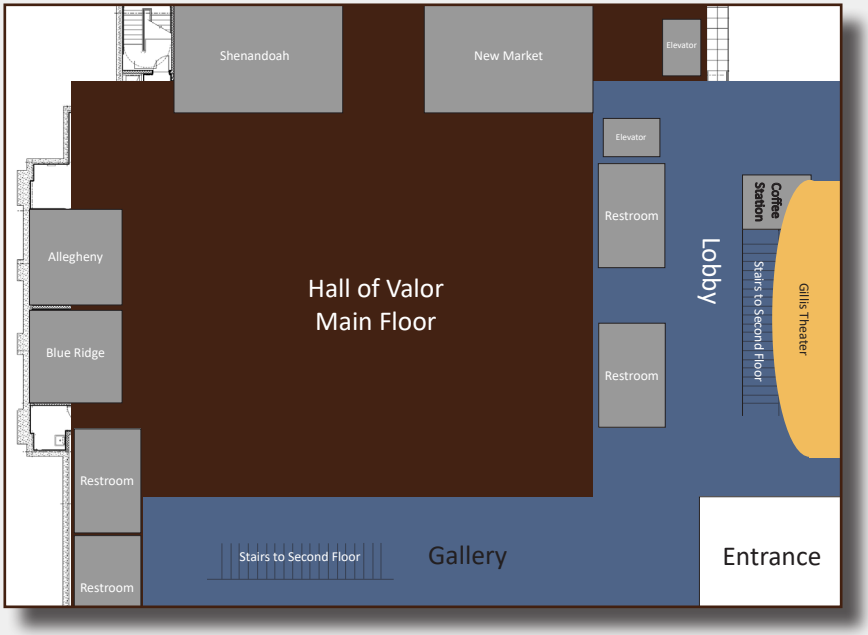
CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP & ETHICS

The Center enhances the understanding of ethical leadership by educating, engaging, and inspiring both internal and external audiences. This year's programmatic theme is **"Courageous Leadership."** This theme will tie together key portions of the Center's speaker, conference, and leader development programs.

Center-sponsored co-curricular programs include the Leadership Enrichment Opportunities program, which sponsors select cadets for attendance at external conferences; the Intercollegiate Ethics Team, the Leadership Book Club, and the Cadet Superintendent's Advisory Board. Additionally, our Center hosts five-to-six major conferences and several distinguished speakers annually.

To underscore an important aspect of this year's theme, the Center's 9th Annual Leadership and Ethics Conference will examine **"GRIT and the American Character"** on October 29-30th. Speakers from a variety of backgrounds will share their stories and insights. The conference will include several interactive, hands-on sessions to encourage self-reflection and to provide practical take-aways for personal growth. Registration is open to the general public. Read more about our Center and its programs at our website http://www.vmi.edu/cle.



OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT YOU

VMI's Center for Leadership & Ethics develops future leaders who think critically, solve problems, and make ethical decisions.

Established in 2009, the Center for Leadership & Ethics enhances and advances the understanding, practice, and integration of leadership and character development.

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VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP & ETHICS

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP & ETHICS

2018-19 Conference Schedule

MARSHALL HALL
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SINCE 2009

- **7th Annual STEM Education Conference**
  October 2-3, 2018
  Inspiring Teachers

- **9th Annual Leadership & Ethics Conference**
  October 29-30, 2018
  Grit and the American Character
  - Part of our programming on '*Courageous Leadership*'

- **3rd Annual Cyber Fusion & Virginia Cyber Cup Competition**
  Invitation-Only for Centers of Academic Excellence
  February 22-23, 2019

- **30th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium**
  March 26-28, 2019
  Where Leaders Meet

- **Business Leadership Innovation Summit**
  April 12-13, 2019
  - In partnership with the VMI Economics & Business Department for VMI undergraduates and select alumni

http://conferences.vmi.edu/