

*Office of Representative James E. Vallee*  
State House, Room 238

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**VALLEE SUPPORTS BILL TO HELP FUND NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM**

*Proposal allots \$2 per Massachusetts veteran for construction costs*

**BOSTON, Mass.** – State Representative James E. Vallee (D-Franklin) yesterday joined retired Brigadier General Creighton W. Abrams at the State House to co-sponsor a bill mandating that \$2 per veteran, a total of \$453, 280, be appropriated from the state’s General Fund to the National Army Museum Fund to build a museum at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

“Massachusetts is the birthplace of the army,” Vallee said. “I fully support preserving the history and heritage of the American soldier, particularly because the army’s legacy began right here in Massachusetts.”

The U.S. Army emerged in 1775 when the Continental Congress united three Massachusetts Militia units that had been fighting the British. Now the Massachusetts Army National Guard, the original Massachusetts Militia dates back to 1636 when it formed to protect the Mass Bay Colony.

A Virginia-based non-profit organization, the Army Historical Foundation, has set off a nationwide campaign for state involvement in the fundraising process and this bill gets Massachusetts on board with the initiative.

The National Army Museum will honor the service of U.S. soldiers for the past 232 years by presenting a comprehensive history of the Army from colonial times to the present.

In addition to donating the land for the museum complex, the U.S. Department of the Army will fund the museum’s design and development and will pay for most of the annual operating expenses. The museum’s \$200 million construction costs will be funded through a capital campaign with donations from corporations, states, national philanthropists, veterans groups and the American public-at-large.

The National World War II Memorial, the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during the war, was funded primarily through private contributions and a \$2-per-veteran donation from all 50 states, similar to the effort launched for the National Army Museum.

For more information, visit [www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org).

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