

## 2018 Virginia International Tattoo

### April 26 – 29 at Scope Arena, Norfolk VA

*A Spectacle of Music and Might, with hundreds of performers from around the world!*

#### Just announced: 2018 Theme and Cast

NORFOLK, VA. – One of the largest and most spectacular shows in the world, the Virginia International Tattoo has announced new details on its spring 2018 performances.

Each year's Tattoo is different, with new performers from across the globe and new themes of honor and patriotism. 2018 will showcase an extraordinary cast of hundreds of performers from 8 nations — including audience favorites such as Norway's Band and Drill Team of His Majesty the King's Guard, the brilliantly costumed dancers and drummers of the Republic of Korea Traditional Army Band, with instruments and costumes reflecting centuries of tradition.

#### What is the Tattoo?

"Imagine if Hollywood decided to create an old-fashioned epic motion picture with a patriotic theme and you had a chance to see it performed live," said Scott Jackson, Producer of the Virginia International Tattoo. "A huge cast, stunning costumes, intricate choreography, a dramatic musical soundtrack, moments of sheer spectacle, stirring pride and patriotism, something to make you laugh, something to make you cry, and 2 hours that fly by way too fast. That's the Virginia International Tattoo."

Presented annually as part of the Virginia Arts Festival, The term Tattoo evolved from a European tradition dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century when Low Country innkeepers would cry "Doe den tap toe!" – "Turn off the taps!" as the fifes and drums of the local regiment signaled a return to quarters.

The word Tattoo refers to a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands today. Each Tattoo is influenced by the culture of the country they represent. Fans of these massed spectacles of music and might flock to the world's great Tattoos: the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland, the Basel Tattoo in Switzerland, and the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Canada. But the greatest Tattoo in the United States, and rivaling the largest in the world, is the **Virginia International Tattoo**.

2018 Theme: Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

In 2018, this April, the Tattoo turns a spotlight on a select group of veterans: recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

For the past 241 years, the men and women of the U.S. military have demonstrated an unmatched courage. Among countless patriots, a select few stand alone, whose brave actions in the most dire of circumstances went above and beyond the call of duty. These are the men and women who have received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the U.S. Armed Services. The most revered and select fellowship that the nation has ever known, the list includes 71 living recipients.

This April 26-29, the Virginia International Tattoo will partner with the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation to pay homage to those who served and tell their stories of selflessness, courage, friendship, and faithfulness against all odds. Words alone are not enough, but with music, song, historic photos and video, and special appearances by living Medal of Honor recipients, the Tattoo will remind us that as Americans, we all live in the company of heroes.

Living recipients in attendance will include:

**Walter Joseph Marm, Jr.**, a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Army for over 30 years. First Lieutenant Marm was awarded the Medal of Honor for his intrepid actions as his unit battled, were outnumbered and attacked from all sides.

**Bruce Crandall**, a Vietnam veteran who was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. Major Crandall flew his helicopter into the heat of battle, and while taking fire rescued the wounded, completing an astonishing 22 battlefield flights in a single day.

**Harvey C. "Barney" Barnum, Jr.**, a Vietnam veteran whose initiative, calm and heroic conduct reflected great credit upon himself as he gave aid to the wounded, acting with complete disregard for his own safety. First Lieutenant Barnum served in the Marine Corps with distinction for nearly 28 years.

**Mike Thornton**, a Vietnam veteran directly responsible for saving the life of his superior officer and enabling the safe extraction of all patrol members, thereby upholding the highest traditions of the United States Navy.

Returning to the Tattoo this year is **Joe Galloway**, co-author of *We Were Soldiers Once...And Young*, a first-hand account of the Vietnam War that was made into a critically acclaimed film. Galloway was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire in Vietnam. Galloway was a special consultant to Ken Burns' production of *A Documentary History of the Vietnam War*, broadcast locally in Norfolk on WHRO.

Additional living recipients in attendance will be announced in the coming months.

### **Attending the Virginia International Tattoo**

When: Thursday, April 26, 7:30 pm  
Friday, April 27, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, April 28, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, April 29, 2:30 pm

Where: Scope Arena, 201 E. Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia

Tickets and Information: [VAFEST.ORG](http://VAFEST.ORG) or call (757) 282-2822

### **2018 Virginia International Tattoo Cast**

#### **BELGIUM**

Royal Band of the Belgian Air Force

#### **CANADA**

Canadian Forces Base Trenton 8 Wing Pipes and Drums  
Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

**NEW ZEALAND**

New Zealand Academy of Highland & National Dancing

**NORWAY**

His Majesty the King's Guard Band and Drill Team

**REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

New Ross & District Pipe Band

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Republic of Korea Traditional Army Band

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

U.S. Army 3d Infantry Caisson and Tomb Guard Platoons

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band

U.S. Marine Corps Band, Quantico

U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company

U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band

Virginia Children's Chorus

Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Old Dominion University Concert Choir

**MULTI-NATIONAL**

Headquarters Supreme Allied Command Transformation Multi-National Ceremonial Detail, NATO

And many more!

\*Cast is subject to changes and additions.

**Tattoo Weekend Events****Tattoo Hullabaloo**

Happy hour Tattoo style! Three hours of pipers, dancers, drill teams, drum lines, and DrumLine Battle™ is back! Expect performances by international military bands, dancers, drill teams and some favorite local dancers and musicians. The Hullabaloo is a perfect opportunity to shake hands with an active duty member of the armed forces or take a selfie with a highland dancer. Admission is free for this outdoor event.

**April 27-28, 4:30 PM**

**April 29, 11:30 AM**

**Scope Plaza**

**DrumLine Battle™**

A Hullabaloo favorite, DrumLine Battle™ showcases marching percussion ensembles, spotlighting their unique talents and creativity in a high-energy face-to-face competition.

### **Virginia International Tattoo American Pipe Band Championship**

The Virginia International Tattoo will host the Third Annual Virginia International Tattoo American Pipe Band Championship on Scope Plaza featuring hundreds of bagpipers and drummers. Vendors will be on-site with a variety of food and drink for purchase.

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**Competition 12:00 PM-5:00 PM**

**Massed Band Performance and Awards 6:00 PM**

**Scope Plaza**

### **Highland Heavy Athletics**

For the second year, the Virginia International Tattoo is partnering with Brute Strength Gym for a Heavy Athletic Championship, Highland-style, with a caber toss, keg toss and more.

**Sunday, April 29, 2018, 10 AM**

**Virginia Arts Festival Greenspace, Corner of Charlotte & Bank Streets, Norfolk**

**Free and Open to the Public**

### **About the Virginia Arts Festival**

Since 1997, the Virginia Arts Festival has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting great performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic, recreation-rich region a cultural destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world. The Festival has presented numerous U.S. and regional premieres, and regularly commissions new works of music, dance, and theater from some of today's most influential composers, choreographers, and playwrights. The Festival's arts education programs reach tens of thousands of area schoolchildren each year through student matinees, in-school performances, artists' residencies, master classes and demonstrations.

### **About the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation**

The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation was founded by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, which consists exclusively of the living recipients of the Medal of Honor. The Foundation is dedicated to educating and inspiring Americans about the values embodied in the Medal of Honor: courage and sacrifice, commitment and integrity, citizenship and patriotism.

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