Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Policy on Adding Names to the Virginia Tech Memorial Pylons

No. 1002

Policy Effective Date:
11/5/2018

Last Revision Date:
6/12/2023

Policy Owner:
Frances Keene

Policy Author: *(Contact Person)*
Major General Randal Fullhart

Affected Parties:
Undergraduate
Graduate
Faculty
Staff
Other

1.0 Purpose

This policy establishes criteria and procedures for the addition of individual names to be etched on the Virginia Tech War Memorial Pylons. The Pylons are a memorial to Virginia Tech alumni who lived out the University's motto, "Ut Prosim" – That I May Serve, preserving in stone the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in military service to the United States.

2.0 Policy

The university will recognize and honor Virginia Tech alumni who are killed in the line of duty while serving in the United States military during war or during an official state of conflict through the commemorative addition of the individual's name to the Virginia Tech War Memorial Pylons. This policy reaffirms the university's commitment to remember and respect the sacrifice of those who died and those affected by their loss. To be considered for this honor, the service member must meet certain eligibility criteria. The Virginia Tech Commandant of Cadets is responsible for administering this policy, as well as for maintaining detailed procedures for both the implementation and management of the process of adding the names to the Pylons.

2.1 The Memorial Pylons

Each Memorial Pylon represents one of the eight core values of Virginia Tech as well as a specific war or state of conflict. At present, each core value is associated with the following war or conflict:

a. UT PROSIM: WWII (1941-45), Desert Storm (1991) and Afghanistan/Iraq (2003-current)
b. DUTY: WWII (1941-45)
c. LOYALTY: WWII (1941-45)
d. SERVICE: WWII (1941-45)
e. BROTHERHOOD: WWI (1917-18) AND KOREA (1950-53)
f. HONOR: WWII (1941-45) AND VIETNAM (1962-73)
g. LEADERSHIP: WWII (1941-45)
h. SACRIFICE: WWII (1941-45)

2.2 Eligibility

In order to be considered for the honor of having one's name inscribed on the Pylons, an individual must meet all of the following criteria:

a. Have been a graduate or a former student of Virginia Tech who was enrolled and attended classes for at least one year (two semesters or three quarters);

    b.   Have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the line of duty for the United States military active duty, guard, or reserves. This includes individuals serving in both combat and training, in domestic or overseas environments; and

    c.   Have given their life while the United States was involved in a war or official state of conflict, as designated by the United States Congress. Exceptions may be granted by the Commandant of Cadets for terrorist attacks or other incidents that occur outside of declared conflicts.

Once the Commandant of Cadets is notified that an individual is deceased, the Commandant's staff is responsible for confirming the person's eligibility.

Any changes proposed to the eligibility criteria must be approved by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

3.0 Procedures

The Commandant of the Corps of Cadets is responsible for maintaining all processes and procedures for the addition of a name to the Virginia Tech Memorial Pylons. Upon approval, the Commandant and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets staff will work with the appropriate Virginia Tech entities, to include the Senior Vice President for Advancement and the Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer, to coordinate the etching of the name as well as the dedication ceremony.

Significant changes to any process or procedure related to this policy will be authorized by the University President.

4.0 Definitions

5.0 References

6.0 Approval and Revisions

Approved by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Board of Visitors on November 5, 2018. Approved by the President, Timothy D. Sands on November 5, 2018.

- Revision 1
  Technical updates to position titles in Section 3.0.

  Approved June 12, 2023 by Vice President for Policy and Governance, Kim O'Rourke.