

Sept. 11 Ceremony Offered Honor, Hope, Healing

September 11, 2002 began overcast, even hinting of possible showers, as approximately 3,000 people gathered at the State Capitol to join **Governor Bob Wise**, his guests, and participants in a ceremony of prayer and remembrance for the victims, survivors, and heroes of the terrorist attacks suffered one year earlier.



Governor Bob Wise pays tribute to Staff Sergeants Gene Vance and Anissa Shero. Pictured with Wise are members of the Vance (R) and Shero (L) families.

The ceremony began at 8:30 A.M. and was filled with music, messages of comfort, times of silence and reflection, and ceremonial tribute. The colors were posted by the **West Virginia State Police** and *The Star Spangled Banner*

was played by the **249th Army Band** out of Morgantown. The crowd sang the words as the band played, and then recited our nation's **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Governor Wise conducted separate moments of silence at the times of each attack, and as tribute to **Sgts. Gene Vance and Anissa Shero**, State natives who died in Afghanistan. In a series of remarks made throughout the event, he spoke of remembering the innocents, giving thanks and honor to those who serve and protect us, and gaining strength and oneness from each other. "We gather in sadness, we gather in resolve, we gather in prayer, and we gather in unity," Wise began. Later, he said, "This is exactly opposite what those who brought death and destruction last year intended. They don't want us to be here ... " And in his final address, Wise offered

encouragement. "We have learned that in a diverse nation, we can gain strength from one another ... We shall never forget ... We are the power of one ... We are the United States of America."

Intermingled with the Governor's remarks were 14 prayers and messages delivered by **area clergy and religious leaders, Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin, and House Speaker Bob Kiss**. Also included was a Native American offering – a reading called *All One People*, read

The September 11 Patriotic Ceremony of Prayer and Remembrance was recorded by the West Virginia Library Commission. See this issue's *Pencil In* column (page 4) if you'd like to purchase a copy.

by **Suzanne Tewawina** and accompanied by Aztec flutist **Rick Rivard** and drummer **Darla Spencer**.

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Our American flag – long may she wave.



West Virginia Air National Guard planes fly over the State Capitol at the conclusion of the Remembrance and Prayer Ceremony.



AMBER Alert System Now in WV

Nine-year-old Amber Hagerman of Arlington, Texas was kidnapped and murdered in 1996. Outrage over her death prompted regional law-enforcement agencies and the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Radio Managers to develop an fresh, unique emergency alert plan to help recover abducted children. Communities all across America have embraced and implemented procedures for the plan – named the **AMBER Plan** – and now, West Virginia has an established process in place in the event the plan is needed.

The AMBER Alert System is a voluntary partnership between the West Virginia State Police, West Virginia Broadcasters, the West Virginia Emergency Alert System Committee, and the National Weather Service to send out emergency messages that will alert the public when a child age 17 or younger has been abducted and is believed to be in grave danger. Once an alert has been issued, the information will be broadcast over television and radio channels for a 3-hour period. During the first hour, broadcasts will be made every 15 minutes; during the last 2 hours, broadcasts will occur every half hour. *The system will not be used for runaways or most parental abduction cases unless life-threatening circumstances exist.*

The West Virginia State Police is the designated agency for activation of the AMBER Plan, and only a law enforcement agency can request that an AMBER Alert be issued. Strict criteria for issuance of an alert have been established. If the State Police receives a request for an alert, every effort will be made to see that the criteria is met and all necessary precautions to authenticate the information will be taken before the alert is issued. This is important, since overutilization or providing false information could potentially damage the program's effectiveness.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Statistics from the United States Department of Justice show that the first 3 hours after a child abduction are critical. The AMBER Plan works because it immediately puts the community in a position to assist with the search for the child and the abductor. The cooperation between the media and law enforcement allows for maximum public participation, and when these 3 sectors work together, the chances of recovering the child are definitely improved.

Anytime you hear an AMBER Alert, listen closely to the information provided. Make notes, including the telephone number to call if you have information. Keep a watchful eye – on the road, in the mall, at the gas station or convenience store, at the fast-food drive-thru. Immediately call the telephone number provided in the alert. If you don't have it handy, call any law enforcement agency or 911. If you can send a second person to make the call while you are observing, do so.

Jot down any information you can, especially additional physical descriptions/characteristics, vehicle description and, if possible, a license number. Write it all down - **even partial numbers are helpful.**

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*Let's remain alert ...
for them ...*

Lottery Receives GFOA Award

For the 5th consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the West Virginia Lottery. The award recognizes the Lottery's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. State Lottery Director John Musgrave said its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

GFOA spokesman Stephen Gauthier said the CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program. He said those standards include demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate an agency's financial story and to motivate potential users to read the CAFR.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a non-profit professional association with offices in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. It serves approximately 14,000 government finance professionals.

Congratulations for this noteworthy accomplishment!

It's Autumn ...

and that means it's

Flu Shot Season

**Call your doctor or
local health department
and take
the shot!**

The Modern License Plate ‘Wasn’t Built in a Day’

Adapted from information provided by Frank Costa of the Division of Motor Vehicles, with thanks also to Steve Dale of the Division of Motor Vehicles and Michael C. Wiener, author of “Whose Idea Was It Anyway?”.

License plates have been around for a very long time, but do you know exactly how long and where they originated? If you guessed here

Which Would You Choose for Our Capital City?

After moving the State capital twice between Wheeling and Charleston, the Legislature decided to allow the permanent location to be decided by the people. The original list of 12 possible cities was narrowed to 3: Charleston, Clarksburg, and Martinsburg. On August 6, 1877, voters overwhelmingly chose Charleston.

The Division of Culture and History wants to know how you would vote if the referendum were held today. Visit their website and vote:

www.wvculture.org/museum/capitalvote.html

You can choose between the 3 original choices or write in the name of your choice. We suggest you keep your selection to a West Virginia city, although a few out-of-state nominations like Akron, OH, Las Vegas, NV, and New York City do appear in the results posted to-date.



in the United States you’re absolute – wrong. License plates actually came about during the Roman Empire. Each chariot had it’s own number!

The plates themselves have changed over the years, from shape, to information, to materials. Before the issuance of tags by states, it was a common custom for many municipalities to issue them. In West Virginia, communities like Clarksburg, Fairmont, Parkersburg, and Weston were known to have city plates. During the 1940s, some plates (for instance, those issued by the state of Louisiana) were made from materials such as sugarcane or soybeans, so it was possible that you could truly say, “Honest officer, my goat ate my license plate!”

So where were the first plates as we know them made? In Philadelphia. Philadelphia’s Fairmont Park issued license plates for pleasure vehicles beginning in May, 1855. Pittsburgh was the second city to implement tags. California was actually the first state to offer license plates to its citizens in March, 1901; however, the regulation didn’t make vehicle registration a requirement. A month and a half later, New York passed a bill requiring motorists to register with that state’s Secretary of State. All registrants were required to have their initials displayed on their modes of transportation. Could this have been the first form of personalized license plates?

West Virginia issued its first license plate in March, 1905, and the first sets were distributed by the State Auditor’s Office. They were small, tin plates and showed the year as 1906 because they were good for one year; therefore, expired in March, 1906. Sometime later, responsibility for issuance was shifted to the former State Road Commission. Then in 1947, the Division of Motor Vehicles became the overseeing agency for distribution.

The first slogan to appear on a West Virginia tag was in 1963. It read: **1863 CENTENNIAL 1963**. From 1965-76, the words **“MOUNTAIN STATE”** appeared across the top of the plates. The **“WILD, WONDERFUL”** motto, which remains today, appeared in 1976, which is the same year the gold lettering outlined in blue began. The border hung around until 1982 when it was determined that it interfered with the plates’ readability.

Today, State citizens can choose from 50+ different designs aside from the standard issue plate. We sure have come a long way!

Congratulations

Dept. of Agriculture Softball Team!



Congratulations to the Dept. of Agriculture Softball Team for winning the State Softball League tournament in August. They defeated a worthy Treasurer’s Office team by a score of 19-10.

Pictured are: (Front Row L-R) Bill Bissett, Buddy Davidson, Agriculture Comm. Gus Douglass, and J. R. Ledsome (Back Row L-R) Sabrina Morgan, Greg Cook, Teresa Hammonds, Rob Sayre, Chad Carpenter, Terry Lauchart, Herb Brooks, John Brown, and Beth Bills.

Photo provided by Beth Bills.

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Guests included many **service personnel and emergency workers** from around the State. In tribute to them, 2-3 representatives for each group of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency service workers, and military personnel walked solemnly from the stage to the U.S.S. West Virginia bell. Each set of representatives rang the bell one time in honor of their respective groups. Two representatives then walked to the bell and placed wreaths in honor of our veterans, including Sgts. Vance and Shero.

Lifting the audience and participants in song were 13-year-old **Nicole Yonkosky** and the **Appalachian Children's Choir** (under the direction of **Selina Midkiff**).



Norf Nelson of the Veterans of Foreign Wars carries one of 2 wreaths to be laid in honor of our West Virginia veterans.



Nicole Yonkosky sings "God Bless America" at the September 11 ceremony

Almost as if on cue, as the colors were being retrieved to begin the final part of the ceremony, the overcast skies cleared to bright sunshine. The close was marked when the Army Band played *God Bless the U.S.A.* Against a crystal blue sky only dotted with clouds, the symbol of our strength and dignity, our American flag – a 50 x 60 foot American flag – was raised from behind the speakers' tent. And at the end, to seal our respect, our pride, our commitment, and our unison, 2 Hercules C-130 planes from the **West Virginia Air National Guard** flew over the crowd, from west to east.

Division of Corrections employee **Bryant Cramer** summed up the day. "We were all together last year when it happened ... we're all together here today remembering. We are in unity again."

Additional photographs from September 11 will be posted with this issue on the Division of Personnel's website at: <http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/Stline/default.htm>



**Oct. 27 is an important day!
Set your clocks back an hour
to resume Eastern Standard Time.**

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Provide as much detail as possible. Although you do not have to do so, you are urged to leave your name and contact information so that you can be reached in case you are needed for clarifications or to make identifications.

Let's all work together to keep our children safe. If you witness what you believe to be a child abduction, don't hesitate to report it. Time is crucial. Even 5 minutes can make the difference. **For questions about the AMBER Alert System in West Virginia, call the State Police at 746-2133.**

Pencil In ...



The September 11 Patriotic Ceremony of Prayer and Remembrance


was recorded by the West Virginia Library Commission. To order a copy, leave a voicemail message at 558-3950, ext. 207 or email jfouty@gwmail.state.wv.us with your name and contact information no later than November 8, 2002. Cost will be determined by the number of videos ordered, but will be no more than \$13 per copy. You will be notified after November 8 of the cost and payment instructions. **NOTE: Technical audio difficulties were experienced in a few parts, but the overall tape is very good.**



Public Service Recognition Week 2002

was a tremendous success. Details will be highlighted in a separate publication. Congratulations and thanks to all who helped make it a great week of celebration.



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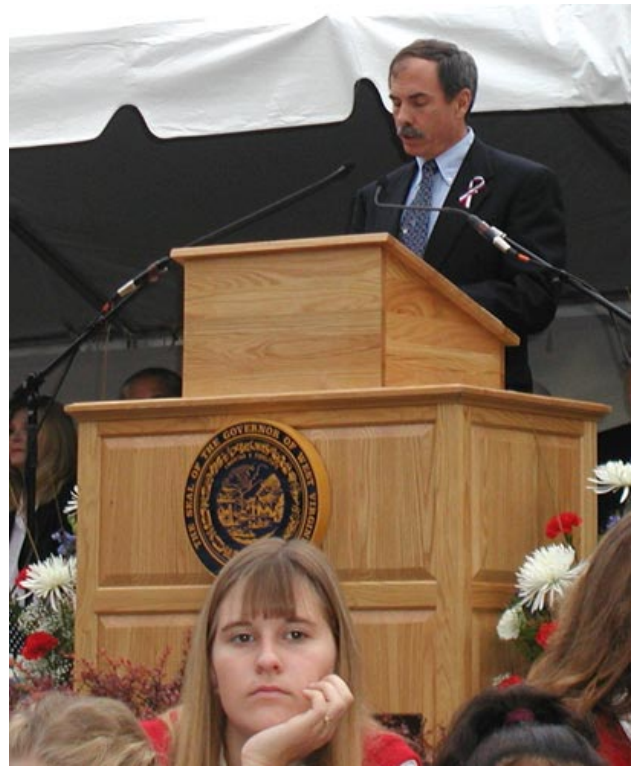
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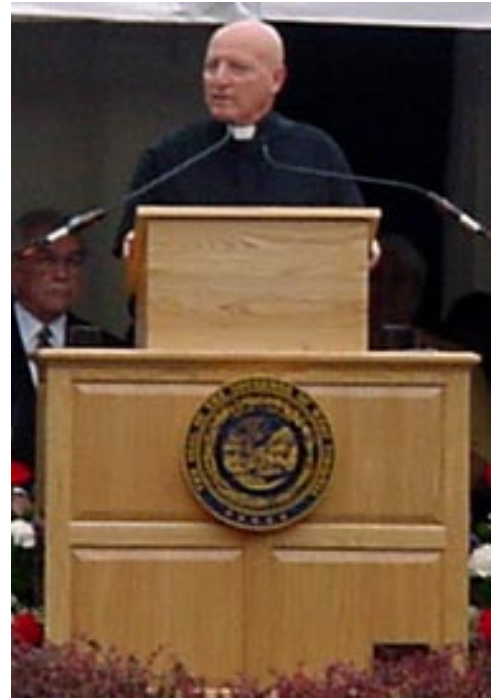


*The 249th Army Band
from Morgantown, WV,
under the direction of
Band Master Thomas Goff*



*A band member sings
God Bless the U.S.A.
at the close of the
Remembrance Ceremony.*







The Appalachian Children's Choir from Charleston, WV, under the direction of Selina Midkiff and accompanied by Branita Holbrook



Individual Soloist Nicole Yonkosky







ABOVE: Deatrea Wilt provides sign language interpretation of the ceremony events.



RIGHT: Native American offering by (L-R) Darla Spencer, Rick Rivard, and Suzanne Tewawina



Crisp Precision: The West Virginia State Police Color Guard.



A rifle salute was provided by the West Virginia Army National Guard



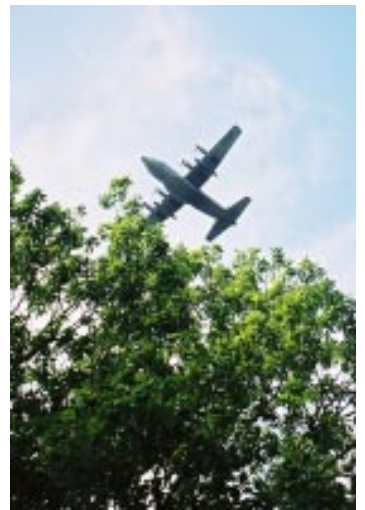








We Are



*The
United States of America*

