



MACARTHUR'S RELIEF AT 75

PERSPECTIVES ON CHARACTER, CONSCIENCE,
AND CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS

MACARTHUR
MEMORIAL

APRIL 11, 2026

FREE EVENT

9:00 AM



WWW.MACARTHURMEMORIAL.ORG

The Event

MACARTHUR MEMORIAL

NORFOLK, VA

Saturday, April 11, 2025

9:00 AM - 11:45 PM EST

***TRUMAN RELIEVES MACARTHUR OF ALL HIS POSTS;
FINDS HIM UNABLE TO BACK U. S.-U. N. POLICIES;
RIDGWAY NAMED TO FAR EASTERN COMMANDS***

Seventy-five years ago, on April 11, 1951, President Harry S. Truman relieved General Douglas MacArthur of his commands during the Korean War. The celebrated World War II hero had publicly disagreed with administration policy by advocating escalation against China and challenging efforts to limit the conflict.

Debates persist over the merits of Truman's and MacArthur's opposing views of the proper way to conduct the war, but Truman's decision firmly upheld the constitutional principle of civilian control of the military: elected leaders, not generals, set national policy—even amid wartime pressures and with a hugely popular commander.

Controversial then, the relief's legacy endures, informing ongoing discussions on character, conscience, and the balance between military and civilian authority.

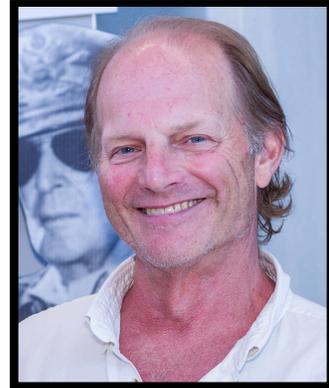
To mark the 75th anniversary, the MacArthur Memorial is hosting a half-day symposium that will examine the relief from both Truman's and MacArthur's perspectives, situate it in the context of broader American military history, and explore its ongoing legacy. Speakers include Mark Adams (Director, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum), Dr. Tim Orr (Associate Professor of Military History, Old Dominion University), and Jim Zobel (Archivist, MacArthur Memorial).

Sponsored by:

The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation

Featured Speakers

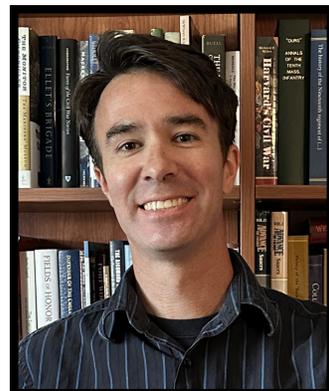
James Zobel is the archivist of the MacArthur Memorial, where he has served since 1993, managing extensive collections of General Douglas MacArthur's papers, photographs, and artifacts. He is recognized as a leading expert on MacArthur and is the author of *MacArthur: The Supreme Commander at War in the Pacific*. His work supports researchers and the public, as well as the preservation of MacArthur's history and its relevance to modern geopolitical issues



Mark Adams has worked at the Truman Library for 29 years and was announced as its new director in January 2025. During his tenure at the Truman Library, Mark has transformed the visitor experience and educational programming. He established nationally recognized initiatives that continue to shape how students and educators engage with presidential history. In 2001, Mark developed the White House Decision Center, creating the library's flagship educational program, immersing students in presidential decision-making.



Dr. Timothy J. Orr is Associate Professor of Military History at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He is the co-author of the national bestseller *Never Call Me a Hero: A Legendary American Dive-Bomber Pilot Remembers the Battle of Midway* (2017). His current book project is entitled, *No Routine Flights: U.S. Navy Dive-Bomber Pilot Donald Kirkpatrick, Jr. and the Pacific War*. He has also appeared on several television shows: *Battle of Midway: The True Story*, *The Greatest Events of World War II in Colour*, and *Attack on Pearl Harbor: Minute by Minute*.



Schedule of Events

Welcome Remarks

***The Korean War, Policy, and the
Relief of General MacArthur***

Jim Zobel

***President Truman and the
Firing of MacArthur***

Mark Adams

Short Break

***"He Wouldn't Respect
the Authority of the President":
Truman, MacArthur, and America's Legacy
of Civilian Control of the Military***

Dr. Timothy Orr

Closing

FAQs

How do I register?

The event is free, but registration is encouraged. Register to attend:

<https://tinyurl.com/59dadpfy>

I will not be in Norfolk, VA that day. Can I attend virtually?

Yes! This event will be livestreamed. To gain access to the livestream, which will allow you to also participate in the Q&A sessions, please register here:

<https://streamyard.com/watch/gE9pZan9C8Fc>

Where is the event?

This event will take place in the MacArthur Memorial Visitor Center theater located at 150 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA.

Where can I park?

Parking tickets from the South Deck of MacArthur Center Mall can be validated for up to three hours for event attendees. Parking rates apply after three hours. Bring your ticket to the Visitor Center desk for validation. The museum is also located across the street from the Tide Light Rail and the City Hall & Bank HRT Bus Stop.

Is the building accessible?

All MacArthur Memorial buildings are accessible.

When do doors open?

Doors open at 8:00AM. There will be coffee and tea in the Visitors Center Great Hall throughout the event.

I love these free programs! How do I learn more about supporting the MacArthur Memorial?

We invite you to join the MacArthur Committee of the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation! The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation is a 501c3 which provides support for MacArthur Memorial public programming, exhibits, education programs, and collection conservation.

Learn more about the MacArthur Committee:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/macarthurmembershipcommittee>.



About The MacArthur Memorial

The MacArthur Memorial was founded in 1964 as a museum and library dedicated to the life and times of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Today the MacArthur Memorial is an internationally recognized center for the study of military history, leadership, peace and diplomacy. The City of Norfolk operates the Memorial in close partnership with the nonprofit General Douglas MacArthur Foundation. The MacArthur Memorial serves 140,000+ people annually and is open free of charge. For more information, please visit www.macarthurmemorial.org.

About The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation

The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation, a 501c3, was founded in 1962 to commemorate the life and achievements of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, particularly as they relate to his credo “Duty, Honor, country” and its relevance to future generations. The Foundation provides support for the MacArthur Memorial and recognizes and awards JROTC, ROTC and US Army young leaders with the MacArthur Awards. For more information, please visit: <https://www.generalmacarthurfoundation.com>.