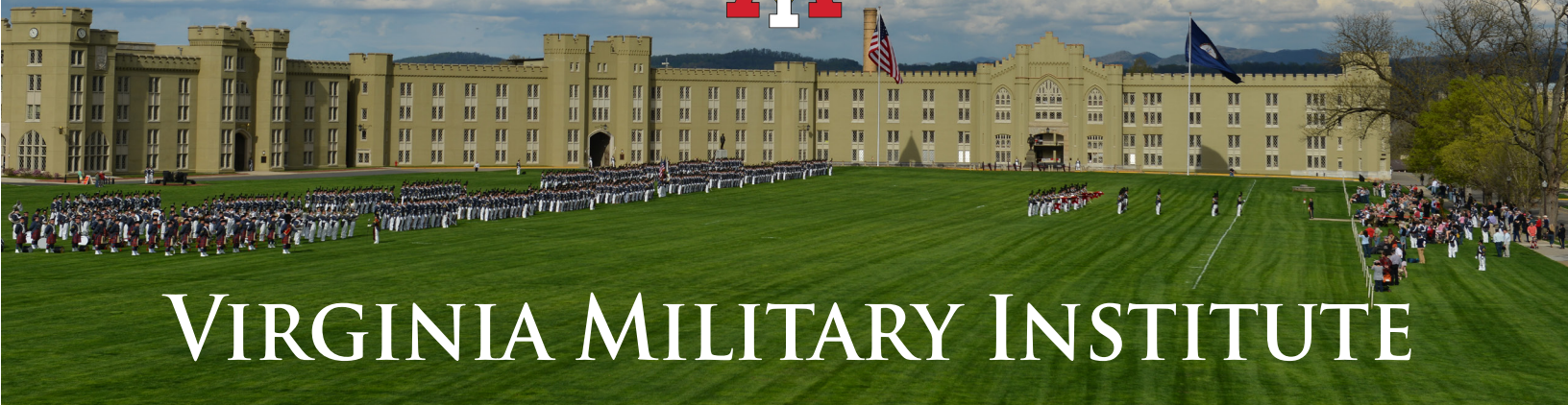


NO ORDINARY COLLEGE. NO ORDINARY LIFE.



VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

Founded in 1839, Virginia Military Institute is the nation's first state-supported military college.

U.S. News & World Report has ranked VMI among the nation's top undergraduate public liberal arts colleges since 2001. VMI's engineering program is ranked 25th among all engineering schools whose highest degree is a bachelor's or master's degree.

VMI is part of the state-supported system of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Governor appoints the Board of Visitors, the Institute's governing body. The Superintendent is the chief executive officer.

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April 2017

JONATHAN M. DANIELS, VMI CLASS OF 1961

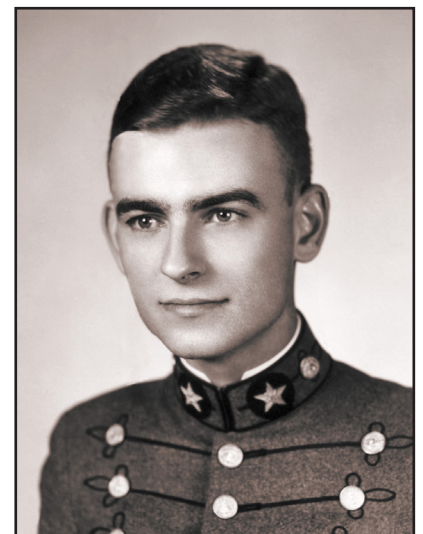
Jonathan Daniels, valedictorian of the VMI Class of 1961, was a seminarian at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., in 1965 when he answered the call of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for clergy to assist with civil rights and voter registration efforts in the South. On Aug. 20, 1965, he made the ultimate sacrifice: giving his life for that of another.

Daniels, Richard Morrisroe, a Catholic priest from Chicago, and black teenagers Ruby Sales and Joyce Bailey approached Varner's Cash Store in Hayneville, Ala., to buy sodas. Tom Coleman, a part-time deputy sheriff, appeared in the doorway of the store holding a shotgun. As Coleman lowered his gun at Sales, Daniels pushed her to the ground just before the first blast killed him, almost instantly. Father Morrisroe then shoved Bailey behind a parked car before the second blast hit him. He was critically injured and spent six months in the hospital recovering.

When he heard of the tragedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "One of the most heroic Christian deeds of which I have heard in my entire ministry was performed by Jonathan Daniels. Certainly there are no incidents more beautiful in the annals of church history, and though we are grieved at this time, our grief should give way to a sense of Christian honor and nobility."

Over the years, Jonathan Daniels' selfless act often has been recognized. Two books have been written about him, and in the summer of 1994 the Episcopal Church added the date of his death to its Calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, an honor bordering on sainthood or martyrdom. Daniels' name is inscribed in Canterbury Cathedral's Chapel of Saints and Martyrs of our Times as one of 15 modern day martyrs honored by the Anglican Church.

In 1995, VMI held a two-day Jonathan Daniels symposium on Post, attended by Father Morrisroe, Sales, and Dr. Charles Eagles, author of *"Outside Agitator, Jon Daniels and the Civil Rights Movement in*



Continued on next page

Alabama.” Two years later Cabell Brand ’44 sponsored the dedication of a memorial plaque to Jonathan Daniels, which was unveiled in a ceremony in the town-square of Hayneville.

In February 1999, “*Here Am I Send Me: The Journey of Jonathan Daniels*” was narrated by Sam Waterston and aired nationally on the Odyssey Channel. The film is viewed by each entering class of the Institute.

In March 2004, the Reston Chorale presented the world premier of composer Julius P. Williams’ musical composition, “A Journey to Freedom, Honor and Glory, A Tribute to Jonathan Myrick Daniels” to a packed auditorium in Alexandria, Va.

The VMI Board of Visitors established the Jonathan M. Daniels ’61 Humanitarian Award in December 1997 to emphasize the virtue of humanitarian public service and to recognize individuals who have made significant personal sacrifices to protect or improve the lives of others. The scope of nominees is on a national level.

The External Development Committee of the VMI Board of Visitors and a separate task force established criteria and guidelines for the award. These committees worked closely with VMI’s Promaji Club, an organization of VMI cadets that promotes positive relations among all races and ethnic groups in the Corps of Cadets. The Promaji Club initi-

ated a Jonathan Daniels Award in 1992, and its leadership graciously agreed to give the Institute exclusive use of the name for the new Jonathan Daniels Humanitarian Award.

Though a recipient of the Jonathan Daniels Award may not necessarily be selected each year, an annual ceremony is held each March on or near Jonathan Daniels’ birthday (March 20). Its purpose is to afford cadets a continuing reminder that it is possible to embody and display heroic qualities of honor, loyalty and devotion at any age and in any circumstances. The External Relations Committee oversees this annual ceremony and the bestowing of the award upon selection.

In February 1998, a ceremony establishing the Daniels Humanitarian Award was held at VMI; and during the annual memorial event in March 2000 it was announced that President Carter would be the first recipient. On hand to speak at both events was The Very Reverend John A. Simpson, Dean of England’s Canterbury Cathedral. In March 2004, the Institute dedicated the Jonathan Daniels Courtyard and archway at VMI. Ambassador Andrew Young was presented the second Daniels Humanitarian Award in March 2006. Dr. Paul V. Hebert, VMI Class of 1968, was presented the third Daniels Humanitarian Award in 2011. The Honorable John Lewis, U.S. Representative – Georgia 5th District, received the award in 2015.

Non-discrimination Statement

The Virginia Military Institute is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination based on race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, genetic information, against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities, or based on any other status protected by law. Every VMI staff member, faculty member and cadet has the right to work and study in an environment free from discrimination and should be treated with dignity and respect. VMI complaint and grievance procedures provide employees and cadets with the means for resolving complaints when this Statement has been violated. VMI is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination or the application of Title IX regulations should contact Title IX Coordinator, 212 Carroll Hall, VMI, Lexington, Va. 24450, (540) 464-7072. Any cadet or prospective cadet having questions about disability services for students should contact the Director of the Center for Cadet Counseling and Disability Services, 448 Institute Hill, 2nd floor, Post Infirmary, Lexington, Va. 24450, (540) 464-7667. For employment-related disability services, contact the Employee Disability Services Coordinator in the VMI Human Resources Office, Lexington, Va. 24450, (540) 464-7322.