

Maritime Day 46 October 7, 2010 57 degrees F, Sunny

After breakfast in the campers, we drove to Lexington, Virginia to tour the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and the George C. Marshall Museum. Bill is wearing shorts in anticipation of warm weather! After touring the VMI Museum we were quite impressed with the 171 year old university. A female cadet conducted a tour of the campus's main building surrounding the grassy quadrangle. We learned about the history and traditions of VMI. It was encouraging to know there are still young people who respect discipline and learning along with serving their country. About 50% of the graduates go on to careers in the military. They have an Endowment Fund of over \$325 million! Graduates include: Stonewall Jackson, George Patton (and his father and grandfather), George C. Marshall, just to name a few. Females were admitted in 1996 and number about 4% of the 1,500 cadets. The weather was warm and sunny as we toured!

Next, we visited the George C. Marshall Museum on the VMI campus. He was quite a soldier (a five star general), leader and statesman. He was Chief of Staff & General of the Army during WW II. He was the only soldier to ever receive the Nobel Peace Prize (in 1953). He earned this because of the Marshall Plan—a plan to provide US assistance and relief to war-torn Europe & Japan to rebuild following WW II. The visit was very informative and inspirational.

Off we drove at 2:00 to head towards North Carolina. Cracker Barrel was an easy lunch stop. Traffic tie-ups for construction lead Bill and me to detour into the Blue Ridge Mountain area and stop at Mountain Man's Country Market where we purchased fresh picked apples, a red pepper, cabbage and tomatoes. Wayne and Lorene stuck to the expressway. We arrived at the Statesville, NC KOA after dark at 8:00. We have our windows open for the first time in weeks! Tea and carrot cake from Cracker Barrel closed out our day.