

## Independence Day at the VA State Capitol

### Survey Results

#### What did you like best?

- The overall quality of the program from music to speakers.
- Drone Lightshow plus great speakers
- The music and songs sung over there
- The drone “quiet fireworks” and the two vocalists
- This was our first July 4th celebration as new immigrants in this country. We were moved by the speeches, especially the magnificent drone show.
- Drone show and music
- Musical Performances
- The logistics for the square fair were well planned even though it was a rain out. VA250 staff and volunteers were very engaged and concerned with ensuring the safety of the fair vendors when we had to shelter in place and they were also very good about passing out bottle water.
- Music and history. Overall, I liked the grand ceremony.
- Governor & Mrs. Youngkin always offer hospitality & a fine welcome to We The People. I enjoyed a moment at the mansion & proved to all that noble Governor & Mrs. Youngkin do not differentiate in those who are welcome. I escorted 1 of the homeless crew to view the festivities, appreciate cold bottled water from Estes & shake Mrs. Youngkin's hand. He then carried that story with him back to church where we all have dinner. Estes providing the ice cold water was a wonderful and simple joy to all. Everyone loved the light show & this was a favorite for me! The Fair was quite interesting & the only downside was many couldn't visit the delightful & well created tables due to a burst of short lived storms.
- The music performances. It would have been nice to hear more from each group. They come all that way and only perform a few minutes.
- Love the positive messages from all of the speakers. Love the diversity from the performances and audiences. The drone was the big hit !!! Love love love it.
- Venue
- The entire event!
- Exalting Jesus and praying and lot of goodies were given

**How did you find out about this event?**

- I found it in a listing/email I received from Richmond Regional Tourism on July 3rd.
- email from VA250
- Interesting
- Wife works at PHB
- Online.
- Newspaper
- VA250 Social Media
- Being on a VA250 local committee.
- Online
- Patriots
- VA Museum Association
- It popped up on my Facebook.
- Va250 emails
- Email
- Google

### **What are the opportunities for improvement? What was missing?**

- I found the website and flyer incomplete. Even the FAQ was incomplete. I am not disabled but getting up from a seated position on the ground is a struggle and with rain, I was not willing to sit on wet grass. I never saw that limited seating was to be available until I read every piece I could on the event. I grew up attending July 4th celebrations in DC and we were always able to have chairs for the older members or physically challenged. At the age of 55, I feel like bringing your chair to an outdoor celebration should be an organizer's must-have on their list. With the rain dampening the mood we did enjoy the live stream and would encourage VA250 to arrange with TV stations to have them broadcast events as a public service as the live stream did have some quality issues.
- Suggest involving some or youth representation on program.
- None/nothing
- None. Everything was perfectly planned.
- Diversity.
- "Don't separate the elected and musicians from the audience. They were too far up above the stairs. Seeing the musicians play and also looking at the elected brings more excitement and the joy of knowing these people. I was happy to see the Governor in person, but he was too far away. We The People like to relate to our officials and be close to them.
- The drone lighting didn't excite me much. I would prefer the fireworks."
- I'd have loved to hear the reading of The Declaration of Independence but didn't know it was being staged in the Capitol. Might want to set out a simply small billboard at the Capitol with itinerary for all who arrive..
- Not so many political speakers. Have the governor, speaker of the house then stop.
- We didn't attend the first half of the event due to heavy rain. However the second half (in State Capitol) were great.
- N/A
- Drone show was on a corner.

**Please share any additional feedback, suggestions, or comments**

- "Please encourage more publicity. I know it is hard but send the flyers electronically to local governments as they have electronic newsletters residents subscribe to for weekly or monthly publication. I would also like to be put on the distribution list for press releases and such as I am happy to share with my local organizations that I am a member, bernicornelius@gmail.com
- Thank you!"
- Fantastic program! Remarks speaker interconnected the entire program together.
- I expected more on drone show but it was too short the moment I realized show started and came to end
- Well done event!
- Free parking off street was decisive for me. Please continue to offer free parking at upcoming events. It made me to relax, not worry about my car being towed, and I was able to enjoy the event more.
- I had a grand time and am always providing direction at Capitol grounds & city to guests arriving for tours & often driving from out of state. I speak on bills that protect & ensure our safety/welfare ahead during yearly session. Familiarity with the General Assembly Building & Capitol along with grounds services all. 🙌👏😊
- It was too bad the drone show was hidden by the Capital. We had to move to see the full effect. Loved seeing a drone show though. It would be great to have had more music and less talking.
- If the law enforcement would be less intimidating, although i know they meant well. But it was a bit too much in my opinion.
- More communication with parking and other details. Capital police had no info about this.