

Sponsors:

American Legion Post 130

The Cram Family

Boy Scout Troop #349

Boy Scout Troop #895

Falls Church Bike Club

Falls Church Lions Club

Falls Church Police Department

Falls Church Recreation
and Parks Department

Friends of the W&OD Trail

Northern Virginia
Regional Park Authority

Sislars Stone

W&OD Trail Patrol

Walter L. Mess Plaza Dedication

Sunday, March 25, 2012

3:00 p.m.



Northern Virginia
Regional Park Authority



Walter Mess Plaza W&OD Trail

400 N. Oak Street (next to American Legion)

Falls Church, Virginia

Sunday March 25, 2012 Program

Walter L. Mess - Professional Career:

Walter Mess, long-time Falls Church city resident, local businessman, and community activist, played an instrumental role in the founding of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), working with fellow Northern Virginians to generate community and legislative support. He served on its Board of Directors for 46 years, and as its second Chairman, before stepping down at his 90th birthday. While serving as chairman, Walter conceived and designed the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Trail (W&OD).

Walter L. Mess - WWII Office of Strategic Services (OSS – predecessor to CIA):

Recently, Walter received the OSS distinguished Service Award for his WWII service in India, Burma and Thailand which were then part of Japanese controlled territory. Among other duties, Walter commanded Patrol Boat #564, which had speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour. This boat and its crew rescued over 200 downed Allied aviators and generally played havoc with the Japanese Forces. Commanding this 85 foot long boat was part of his duties to manage the OSS maritime operations in the Indian Ocean. He received numerous awards for bravery in the face of the enemy including a Purple Heart for being wounded.

Musical Selections	Falls Church Concert Band
Opening Remarks	Roger Neighborgall, President Friends of the W&OD Trail
Posting of Colors	American Legion Post 130
National Anthem	Falls Church Concert Band
Welcome	Nader Baroukh, Mayor City of Falls Church
Remarks	The Honorable Jim Moran US House of Representatives 8 th Congressional Dist. Of Va.
Remarks	Brian Knapp, Chariman Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
Dedication	Roger Neighborgall
Acceptance	Walter L. Mess
Retrieval of Colors	American Legion Post 130

Special Thanks to the Falls Church Concert Band, under the leadership of David Wacyh and Dave Conway; Boy Scout Troops 895 and 349; and Major Mary Gavin, Deputy Chief of Police, City of Falls Church and Director of Safety.

4:00 pm - Start, W&OD 5K Race