

Fun Facts About Norfolk

- Norfolk Virginia is a city of some 245,000 residents and encompasses 66 square miles. It has seven miles of Chesapeake Bay beachfront and a total of 144 miles of shoreline along our lakes, rivers, and the Bay. Much of this land is located in residential neighborhoods.
- Norfolk is home to the world's largest naval base and the North American Headquarters for NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).
- Norfolk is one of the top 10 markets for business relocation and expansion, according to Expansion Management Magazine. USA Today called Norfolk one of the Top 10 booming downtowns, recognizing a decades-long housing, retail and financial boom in Norfolk.
- Norfolk International Terminal has completed a 300-acre expansion, making it the largest intermodal center in the U.S.
- Norfolk is home of the USS Wisconsin battleship and a vibrant harbor. Ocean-going cruise vessels of up to 3,000 passengers regularly stop at the cruise terminal downtown.
- Norfolk is home to the Virginia Opera, the Virginia Stage Company, the Virginia Symphony, the Virginia Arts Festival, Chrysler Hall, Chrysler Museum of Art, the Douglas MacArthur Memorial, and Nauticus, the National Maritime Center.
- Norfolk has been recognized as a Tree City and its neighborhoods have extensive trees and flowers. It is home to the Norfolk Botanical Garden.
- Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University and a new downtown campus of Tidewater Community College are located in Norfolk and Wesleyan College is located on the border between Norfolk and Virginia Beach.
- Eastern Virginia Medical School and its four internationally recognized research institutes are located in Norfolk, as is Sentara Health System, DePaul Medical Center-Bon Secours and Virginia's only free-standing, full-service pediatric hospital, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters.



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The Norfolk Mace

On April 1, 1754, the same Robert Dinwiddie, now Royal Lt. Governor of Virginia, presented Norfolk with a silver ceremonial mace. Originally maces were weapons made of heavy metals used to protect nobility. Although still a symbol of authority, Norfolk's mace is completely ceremonial. Over its lengthy history the mace has been hidden, lost and found again.



Timeline

- **April 1, 1754** - The silver ceremonial mace is presented to the Norfolk Common Council by Royal Lt. Governor Robert Dinwiddie.
- **January 1, 1776** - Norfolk burned on New Year's Day, the mace lay safely buried at Kemps Landing for its protection.
- 1790 - The mace was returned to Norfolk's Clerk of Court.
- **May 1862** - When Union forces occupied Norfolk, Mayor William Lamb hid the mace under a hearth in his home at 420 Bute Street. Union troops occupied the home, but the mace was never discovered.
- **1881 through 1885** - It was kept at the Exchange Bank of Norfolk. The bank foreclosed and the mace disappeared.
- **1894** - Police Chief C. Iredell discovered the mace among litter in the Norfolk Police station. The mace was given to the Norfolk National Bank for safekeeping. It was later put on display.
- **February 16, 1989** - City Clerk, Breck Daughtrey, escorted by armed police officers, delivered the mace to the Chrysler Museum of Art where it remains on public display.
- **April 1, 2004** - Marked the 250th anniversary of the presentation of the mace to what was then the Borough of Norfolk. To promote awareness of our city's history, the Honorable Paul D. Fraim and members of City Council requested the mace and its connection to the city be recognized and celebrated.
- **Today** - The mace, a colonial-era symbol of authority bestowed by English royalty, is a precious reminder of and witness to much of Norfolk's nearly 400 year history. The [original](#) is on display in the Chrysler Museum of Art; a replica is kept in the mayor's office and displayed at ceremonial functions.