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Savor the Sweetness of National Donut Day with The Salvation Army of Central Virginia
The Memorable History Connecting Veterans and Donuts

[RICHMOND, VIRGINIA] (June 6, 2025) — Every year, on the first Friday of June, America satisfies its sweet tooth by celebrating National Donut Day. This year, the sugary tradition will take place June 6, offering The Salvation Army a moment to highlight its founding role and the true history behind the holiday.

During World War I, brave women volunteering with The Salvation Army traveled to France, setting up field bases near the front lines. In makeshift huts, they provided soldiers with vital supplies, spiritual and emotional support, and, of course, freshly fried donuts. These sweet treats became a symbol of comfort and a morale booster amid the war. Known as the “Donut Lassies,” these women are often credited with popularizing the donut in the United States when the troops returned home.

In 1938, the first-ever National Donut Day was celebrated in Chicago to both honor the legacy of the Donut Lassies and act as a fundraiser to assist those struggling during the Great Depression.

Now, 87 years later, The Salvation Army continues to provide essential services and programs to vulnerable communities in nearly every ZIP code. In Central Virginia, more than 9,000 lives are positively impacted in a significant way by The Salvation Army each year through Angel Tree, afterschool and youth camps, and social services like financial, food, rent and utility assistance.

“National Donut Day is a meaningful holiday for us, serving as an important reminder of the impactful work we do daily to support our neighbors,” said Area Commander Major Samuel Kim. “We take pride in being part of the nation’s largest nongovernmental provider of social services and serving Central Virginia. Today, we not only celebrate a beloved treat but also our ongoing commitment to serve as a positive light in people’s lives.”

Join The Salvation Army Central Virginia this Friday, June 6, and stop by our canteen parked at Sam’s Club (9440 W. Broad Street), from 9 to 11 AM, in honor of National Donut Day. Local Krispy Kreme and Williams Bakery locations will also be offering a free donut, no purchase necessary. A special thank you to Williams Bakery, which will generously be providing donuts at our canteen and local youth and shelter programs.

For more information about National Donut Day or to download the Donut Lassies' original donut recipe, visit our [Central Virginia Donut Day Event Page](#) or our website at www.salvationarmycentralva.org

About The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army annually helps more than 25 million Americans overcome poverty, addiction and economic hardships through a range of social services and youth programs and is #DoingTheMostGood at 7,600 centers around the country. Since 1885, The Salvation Army has been serving the Richmond area, and today, The Salvation Army Central Virginia Area Command meets needs across 16 localities through the Men and Families Housing First Shelter, Inclement Weather Shelter, food assistance, canteen ministry, rent and utility assistance, Red Shield Youth Center and the Corps/Church. For more information, visit salvationarmycentralva.org. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn @SalArmyRVA and #DoingTheMostGood.