



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**POLICE**  
DEPARTMENT

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## HPD to honor life of Lt. Leon Byrd with headstone dedication

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The Harrisonburg Police Department is inviting the community to join them in honoring the memory of a former lieutenant credited with changing the life of a community member through his actions.

HPD will host a ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m. to dedicate a headstone at the grave of Lieutenant Leon S. Byrd. His gravesite is located on Lambert Town Road in the Briery Branch area of Rockingham County.

An individual connected with HPD in June 2020 with information about how a conversation with Lt. Byrd changed her life in 1989. The two maintained a connection ever since that day, and following Lt. Byrd's death in 2007, she would visit his gravesite in a small forgotten cemetery in Rockingham County. However, the cemetery became neglected in 2011, and undergrowth took over the plot of land to the point it was unreachable.

After the individual alerted HPD to the issue, officers began to clear the cemetery in 2021 and purchased a proper headstone in the summer of 2022. This headstone will be unveiled with a brief dedication ceremony on Wednesday morning, and the public is invited to attend the event.

HPD asks anyone with questions to contact Lt. Charles Grubbs at (540) 437-2635.

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to 51,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).



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