

**VIRGINIA VAGABONDS
SALUDA, VIRGINIA
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
MAY 1 THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2021
5/10 KILOMETERS**

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Find the Love
Virginia Counties - Middlesex County
Walking with America's Veterans
Walking the USA - A to Z - "S" for Saluda

Walk Registration:

Please use the online start box provided by the American Volkssport Association website (my.ava.org). The directions and insert cards are PDFs that you can download and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods. The entire online process should take less than 10 minutes for a first time user

Walk Completion and Walk Credit:

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account and select the "Maps /Finish" tab. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may later choose to print out.

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START POINT: Farmers Market Parking Lot, Woodland Heights Lane and General Puller Highway, Saluda, Virginia GPS Coordinates: N 37° 36' 4.1688', W 76° 35' 8.3328".

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From Hampton and points South, follow US 17 North across the York River Bridge (toll \$2). Continue on US 17 North through Gloucester County to Business 17 North at Saluda (approximately 28 miles north of the York River Bridge). Turn right on Business US 17 North (Gloucester Road). At the traffic signal, turn right on General Puller Highway. (You will see the Farmers Market shelter on the left.) After the highway becomes divided, turn left at the first crossover onto Woodland Heights Lane. After a very short distance, turn left into the Farmers Market Parking Lot. Park near the shelter.

From Richmond and Points West and North, take I-64 East to Exit 220 (Route 33). Follow Route 33 through West Point to the traffic signal at US 17 North. Turn left on US 17 North for approximately 2 miles to Business US 17 North. At the traffic signal, turn right on General Puller Highway. (You will see the Farmers Market shelter on the left.) After the highway becomes divided, turn left at the first crossover onto Woodland Heights Lane. After a very short distance, turn left into the Farmers Market Parking Lot. Park near the shelter.

RESTROOMS:

There are no restrooms at the start point, so stop at the Hardee's Restaurant on the left after you turn on Business US 17 North at Saluda for a restroom start.

Restroom available at the service station on the trail.

Historical Information:

Saluda is the county seat of Middlesex County. It is a small town. The trail will go by the Middlesex County Courthouse which was built between 1850 and 1874.

The Middlesex County Museum & Historical Society (closed temporarily due to Covid-19) is a journey through everyday life going back through the 19th century — and beyond. Get up close with artifacts that include prehistoric whale bones and shark teeth and Native American arrow points. Celebrate the county's military heritage with exhibits featuring soldiers going back to the Civil War as well as Lt. Gen. Chesty Puller, the most decorated Marine in Corps history.

The highly decorated Marine, veteran of the Banana Wars, World War II, and the Korean War, Lieutenant General Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller was raised in Saluda. The trail will also go by his house.



1. Leave the start point and walk through the parking to lot to the main road (General Puller Highway - no sign).

2. Carefully, turn right and carefully walk down the right shoulder of General Puller Highway.

3. Turn right on C. F. Edwards Lane.

4. At the blue VDOT sign, turn left on Bowden Street.

5. At the stop sign, turn left on Oakes Landing Road. **1 km**

Veterans Memorials located in the Courthouse lawn to the left. This includes a memorial to a Medal of Honor recipient from Middlesex County.

6. At the traffic sign, turn right on General Puller Highway.

The Middlesex County Museum is located on the right just after you turn on General Puller Highway.

The LOVE sign is located on the right on the grounds of the museum. It displays the Middlesex County Colonial History, Agriculture, Boating, Oysters.

7. Turn right on Forrer Street.

8. Continue on Forrer Street

9. At the stop sign (T-intersection), turn left on Watson Landing.

10. At the stop sign (T-intersection), cross General Puller Highway and turn right. **2 km**

11. At the second driveway for the Middlesex High School on your left, reverse your direction on General Puller Highway, staying on the sidewalk. **3 km at the Middlesex County Museum on the left**

12. At the traffic signal, turn right on Gloucester Road.

13. At The Lane to Oakenham (first paved street to the right – across from Riverside Convalescent Center), reverse your direction on Gloucester Road.

On the right at 732 Gloucester Road is the retirement home of General Chester Puller

Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller (June 26, 1898 – October 11, 1971) served as a United States Marine Corps officer. Beginning his career fighting guerillas in Haiti and Nicaragua as part of the Banana Wars, he later served with distinction in World War II and the Korean War as a senior officer. By the time of his retirement in 1955, he had reached the rank of lieutenant general.

Puller is the most decorated Marine in American history. He is one of two United States servicemen to be awarded five Navy Crosses and one Army Distinguished Service Cross. Puller's six crosses are next in number to the seven times Eddie Rickenbacker received the nation's second-highest military award for valor.^[1]

Puller retired from the Marine Corps in 1955, after 37 years of service. He lived in Virginia and died in 1971, at age 73.

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14. At the traffic signal, turn right on Route 13 East (General Puller Highway). **4 km** just before the traffic signal

15. At the end of the sidewalk, carefully, cross General Puller Highway and turn right.

16. Continue on the left side of General Puller Highway until you reach the parking lot for the Farmers Market. **5 k**

17. DECISION TIME: **5-KILOMETER WALKERS** are finished. **10-KILOMETER WALKERS** will walk the trail a second time.

Saluda Driving Map



<https://www.plotaroute.com/printroutepreview/462675>

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Map for 5-Kilometer Walk:

