Russ Mitchell to Host Syndicated Program Highlighting Jamestown’s 400th Anniversary

National Interest in Program Focusing on Queen’s Visit, Anniversary Weekend is Strong

Williamsburg, VA -- Jamestown 2007 today announced CBS news anchor Russ Mitchell will host an hour-long nationally syndicated program honoring the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, America’s first permanent English settlement. Mitchell is news anchor of The Early Show and anchor of the Sunday Evening News.

The program will focus on two international events in May highlighting the anniversary: The visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Jamestown and America’s Anniversary Weekend, the centerpiece of an 18-month series of events focusing on Jamestown’s legacies of democracy, free enterprise and a culturally diverse society. Anniversary Weekend will feature appearances by national dignitaries such as Sandra Day O’Connor and performances by entertainers such as Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers and Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder. President George W. Bush has been invited to participate, but his attendance has not been confirmed.

Jeanne Zeidler, executive director Jamestown 2007, said, "We are very pleased to have one of America’s leading broadcast journalists participate in this program. His presence will further highlight the ‘new’ Jamestown story being told through the commemoration. Recent archaeological discoveries and compelling new research are allowing us to bring the people, politics and importance of Jamestown into focus as never before."

Mitchell has been co-anchor of the Saturday Early Show since its debut in August 1997 as CBS News Saturday Morning. He has served as one of two rotating anchors of the CBS Evening News' Saturday edition since November 1999. Mitchell was named a correspondent for CBS Sunday Morning in July 2002.
The program is being syndicated by a consortium of CBS affiliates that includes WTVR in Richmond, WTKR in Hampton Roads, WUSA in Washington and WDBJ in Roanoke. The program is being offered to individual affiliates of CBS and other networks, as well as cable channels and other potential distribution outlets. Currently stations broadcasting to more than 60% of the nation’s households have agreed to air the program. The broadcast window for participating affiliates is Memorial Day weekend through the Fourth of July weekend.

Peter Maroney, vice president and general manager of WTVR, said, “It is not surprising that we are finding tremendous interest in a program highlighting this landmark American moment. We are proud that leadership by Virginia’s CBS affiliates will contribute to the success of the commemoration as a whole.”

*Jamestown 2007*, a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is coordinating efforts to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, Va., the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. The nation’s first representative government, free enterprise system and culturally diverse society began at Jamestown. State, national, and international commemorative events to salute these legacies began in May 2006 and continue into 2008. Major corporate sponsors of America’s 400th Anniversary include Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC), Verizon (NYSE: VZ) and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Other supporters include Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. (NYSE: BUD), AirTran Airways (NYSE: AAI), Consol Energy and CNX Gas Corporation, Dominion, James City County, Lockheed-Martin, McGuireWood LLP, Philip Morris USA, SunTrust, TowneBank and Wolseley PLC/Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. Contributors include the City of Poquoson and Rutherfoord Insurance. More information about the commemoration is available at [www.Americas400thAnniversary.com](http://www.Americas400thAnniversary.com).