



# AMERICA'S 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*The Journey That Changed the World*

*Sandra Day O'Connor, Honorary Chair*

For Immediate Release

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## **Anniversary Weekend a Major Success for Virginia, America**

### **Three-Day Weekend Spurs Worldwide Interest in Jamestown History**

Williamsburg, Va. (May 17, 2007) — The organizers of America's Anniversary Weekend today called the May 11-13 event a resounding success. Tens of thousands of visitors flocked to Jamestown Settlement, Historic Jamestowne and Anniversary Park over the weekend to participate in the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, Va., America's first permanent English Settlement.

The event launched a "new" Jamestown story made possible by compelling new research and recent archaeological discoveries. It also showcased the new world-class museums and exhibits built at the Jamestown sites to increase understanding of Jamestown's pivotal role in the development of the nation. Jamestown's legacies include the defining characteristics of modern America: a culturally diverse society, representative government and free enterprise.

America's Anniversary Weekend was also the most inclusive Jamestown commemoration since they first began in 1807, with programs and events highlighting the accomplishments and perseverance of the Virginia Indian, European and African-American cultures. America's culturally diverse heritage was represented through music, lectures and performances on stages and galleries throughout the three sites.

President Bush was one of the many dignitaries who participated in this landmark American milestone. Other participants included Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, honorary chair of the commemoration, as well as Sen. John Warner, Sen. Jim Webb, members of the Virginia congressional delegation, tribal leaders of Virginia's Indian tribes and African-American leaders.

"The story of Jamestown will always have a special place in American history. It's the story of a great migration from the 'Old World' to the 'New.' It is a story of hardship overcome by resolve. It's a story of the Tidewater settlement that laid the foundation of our great democracy," said President Bush while speaking during his Anniversary Weekend address to an audience of thousands.

Jeanne Zeidler, executive director of Jamestown 2007, said, "Anniversary Weekend truly exceeded our expectations. The enthusiasm and excitement of visitors was tangible. With the help of the dedicated staff, volunteers and organizations who came together to produce this wonderful event, it was truly the once-in-a-lifetime experience we always thought it would be."

Anniversary Weekend was the centerpiece of an 18-month commemoration that began in May 2006 and continues through 2007. Four signature events remain, including three that will explore cultural roots of Virginia Indians, Europeans and African-Americans, as well as an international forum on representative government that will examine the development of modern democracies around the world.

*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, McGuireWoods LLP, Philip Morris USA, SunTrust, TowneBank and Wolseley PLC/Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. Contributors include the City of Poquoson and Rutherford Insurance. More information about the commemoration is available at [www.Americas400thAnniversary.com](http://www.Americas400thAnniversary.com).*