



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

*The Journey That Changed the World*

*Sandra Day O'Connor, Honorary Chair*

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## **Queen Elizabeth II Announces U.S. Visit for America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** *British Monarch To Participate In Her Second Major Commemoration Of England's First Permanent Settlement In The Americas*

Williamsburg, Va. – This morning's announcement that Queen Elizabeth II will visit the United States in May to participate in the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown, Va., caps 10 years of planning by Jamestown 2007 and the federal Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission and again places Jamestown in the international spotlight. The Queen will be accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh.

Queen Elizabeth II and his Royal Highness Prince Philip participated in the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown, her first visit to the U.S. as monarch. Her participation in America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will focus international attention on Jamestown's legacies – the introduction of democratic government, free enterprise and a culturally diverse society – and the three cultures that converged at Jamestown – Europeans, Virginia Indians and Africans.

Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine said, "Her Majesty's first visit to the United States in 1957 coincided with the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing at Jamestown. I am proud that the Commonwealth will once again have the high honor and privilege of hosting Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this pivotal moment in our history. Our Jamestown 2007 events will be elevated by the prominence of Her Majesty, and we look forward to celebrating the deep historical and cultural connections between Virginia and the United Kingdom."

Virginia State Senator Tommy Norment, chairman of the Jamestown 2007 Management Committee, said, "We are thrilled that Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be here in May of 2007. Her return visit is an acknowledgement of the enduring legacy of British influence on the American continent and the strong ties between the United States and Great Britain. Her presence also will bring national as well as international attention on the year-long events and programs planned throughout 2007." Sen. Norment also serves as co-chairman of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees.

Frank B. Atkinson, chairman of the federal Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission, said, "The visit by the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh is a tribute to the English settlers whose courage and sacrifice helped to establish Jamestown as the beginning of modern America, giving birth to a tradition that includes representative government, free enterprise, cultural diversity, and the rule of law. Her visit will truly be one of the most memorable moments in the 18-month-long national observance of America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."

Colin Campbell, president and chairman of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, said, "We are honored that Her Majesty and His Royal Highness are returning to the Historic Triangle 50 years after her visit here in 1957 to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown. It will be a particular privilege and pleasure to welcome her." Colonial Williamsburg is a major sponsor of America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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Events commemorating America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary began in May 2006 with the launch of a replica of the *Godspeed* on tour of major East Coast ports. The commemoration spans 18 months and includes more than a dozen Signature Events focusing on Jamestown's legacies. Visit [www.Americas400thAnniversary.com](http://www.Americas400thAnniversary.com) for detailed information about the commemoration.

*Jamestown 2007, a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is coordinating efforts to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> 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 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary include Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC), Verizon (NYSE: VZ) and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Other supporters include Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. (BUD), AirTran Airways (NYSE: AAI), Dominion, James City County, Northrop Grumman, Philip Morris, 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).*

*The federal Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission was created by Congress (Public Law 106-565) to work with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee in planning and executing an anniversary commemoration of national and international scope. The Commission is comprised of a chairman and fifteen members who were appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in spring 2003. For additional information, visit [www.JamestownJourney.org](http://www.JamestownJourney.org).*

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