



AMERICA'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY

The Journey That Changed the World

Sandra Day O'Connor, Honorary Chair

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Contact:

Kevin Crossett/Jamestown 2007

kevin.crossett@jvf.virginia.gov

757.253.4534

Robin Crawford/Ruder Finn

crawfordr@jvf.virginia.gov

202.974.5025

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY HONORS ROOTS OF AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

**America's 400th Anniversary provides platform to highlight Jamestown's role as the site of
America's first Representative Assembly**

Williamsburg, VA—When Vice President Dick Cheney addresses the General Assembly of Virginia in Historic Jamestowne's Memorial Church on Jan. 10, he will do so on the same spot where the western hemisphere's first representative body was formed nearly 400 years ago.

Virginia's General Assembly, the nation's oldest English speaking continuously meeting legislative body, first began meeting in Jamestown's tiny church in 1619. The General Assembly is holding a special commemorative session at Jamestown to honor the settlement's founding in 1607 and the democratic ideals that began there during America's formative years.

Governor Timothy Kaine also will honor Jamestown role in history by presenting his annual State of the Commonwealth address at nearby Jamestown Settlement later in the evening.

Both events are being televised and streamed via the Internet at <http://sov.state.va.us/streaming.htm>. Check local listings for broadcast times and stations.

Wednesday's ceremony is the first event in 2007 honoring America's 400th Anniversary, a year-long international commemoration that tells the story of the American Indian, English and African people who built the foundations of America.

As noted by James Horn, vice president of research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and author of *Land As God Made It: Jamestown and the Birth of America*, a representative assembly for ordering local affairs was among the basic requirements for successful colonization.

“Representative government would blossom into a vibrant political culture and spread throughout the British colonies, leading in time to a new republican credo expressed in the founding of the United States,” Horn wrote.

Jamestown 2007 • 410 W. Francis Street • Williamsburg, Virginia 23185-4046

Phone: (757) 253-4659 Fax: (757) 253-4950 Web Site: www.americas400thanniversary.com E-mail: jamestown2007@jvf.virginia.gov
Jamestown 2007 is a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia

America's democratic traditions—as well as Jamestown's legacies of free enterprise and cultural diversity—continue to shape American society today. Taken together, these legacies secure the position of Jamestown, America's first permanent English settlement, as the beginning of modern America.

As part of Wednesday's ceremony, the Vice President will present a set of commemorative coins marking Jamestown's role in America's development to General Assembly leaders. The U.S. Mint is producing up to 100,000 commemorative \$5 gold coins and up to 500,000 silver dollars honoring America's 400th Anniversary. Coins will be available for purchase by the public starting Jan. 11 following a brief 10 a.m. ceremony at nearby Jamestown Settlement, Virginia's 17th-century living-history museum.

The 400th anniversary of Jamestown is being commemorated throughout 2007 with international events and programs. The highlight of America's 400th Anniversary commemoration—America's Anniversary Weekend—takes place May 11-13 at the Jamestown sites with ceremonies, cultural presentations, educational programs and entertainment spectacles. Details about all the events and programs that make up the commemoration can be found at www.Americas400thAnniversary.com.

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), Dominion, James City County, 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.

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