



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 18, 2020

Contact: Yuri R. Milligan 757/728-5328
yuri.milligan@hamptoncvb.com

Phyllis Terrell 757/251-2754
pterrell@fortmonroe.org

Experience the virtual 2020 Commemoration of the First African Landing

Hampton, Virginia - Join the Fort Monroe Authority, National Park Service, Project 1619 and the City of Hampton on Saturday, August 22, at 10 a.m. for the [2020 Commemoration of the First African Landing](#) special virtual program. Also, at 2 pm tune in for the Lift Your Voice: 1619 and the Power of Collaboration [Town Hall](#). This year's programs can be viewed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). The addresses and discussions will focus on the theme, "Reflect on the Past, Embrace Change and Engage for the Future."

At 10 am, Governor Ralph Northam, Congresswoman Elaine Luria, and Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck will give special remarks at the 2020 Commemoration of the First African Landing program. The program, hosted by Kelli Lemon, the owner of Urban Hang Suite Social Cafe in Richmond, Virginia and Host of "Coffee with Strangers" podcast; will also include drum and dance performances, interviews, interactive community conversations, virtual quilting, and a wreath laying ceremony.

Also, The recently released Voices of Service music video "Let Me Raise My Voice" from their debut EP "Rise" will be aired during the African Landing program. VOS is a vocal quartet comprising two retired and two active members of the U.S. Army: Caleb Green, Ron Henry, Christal Rheams, and Jason Hanna, respectively.

1919 Commerce Drive, Suite 290 | Hampton, Virginia 23666
757.722.1222 | 800.487.8778 | fax 757.896.4600 | www.hamptoncvb.com

At 2 p.m., the public is also invited to participate in the virtual town hall Lift Your Voice: 1619 and the Power of Collaboration. The town hall is hosted by Vedet Coleman-Robinson, Executive Director of the Association of African American Museums; and the panelists include Eola Dance, Acting Superintendent Fort Monroe National Monument; Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Dean of College of Liberal Arts at Norfolk State University; Glenn Oder, Executive Director of Fort Monroe Authority; and Calvin Pearson, Founder and President of Project 1619.

The first African landing in English North America occurred in 1619 when a vessel carrying “20 and odd” enslaved Africans arrived at Point Comfort (present-day Fort Monroe) in late August. In August 2019, the 400th Commemoration included three days full of activities including public discussion panels, historical exhibitions, musical performances, and more.

###

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.