



1919 Commerce  
Drive  
Suite 290  
Hampton, VA 23666

757-722-1222  
800-487-4600  
fax:  
757-896-4600

**News Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: June 5, 2023**

Contact: Mahogany Waldon, 757/728-5316

[mahogany.waldon@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:mahogany.waldon@hamptoncvb.com)

Chadra Pittman, 757/317-0001

[thesankofaprojects@gmail.com](mailto:thesankofaprojects@gmail.com)

**12th Annual Day of Remembrance returns to Fort Monroe June 10**

Free and open to the public, registration required

**Hampton, VA** - The Sankofa Projects will host its 12th Annual Day of Remembrance ceremony on Saturday, June 10 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fort Monroe's Outlook Beach. Join The Sankofa Projects and community members as they educate and celebrate the richness and diversity of the African diaspora while bringing awareness to this tragic chapter in American and global history. This event is free and open to the public and registration is required. To register, send an email to [thesankofaprojects@gmail.com](mailto:thesankofaprojects@gmail.com) with the names and email addresses of attendees.

This spiritual ceremony honors the millions of African men, women, and children who perished during the Middle Passage of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. According to the United Nations, the Transatlantic Slave Trade is considered to be "the largest forced migration in history and undeniably one of the most inhumane."

In 2012, The Sankofa Project's Founder and Executive Director Chadra Pittman brought Day of Remembrance to Hampton, a tradition initiated in 1989 by activist and scholar Toni Cade Bambara. The event formerly took place at Buckroe Beach to honor the legacy of Hampton's Bay Shore Beach and Resort. The event is now held at Fort Monroe, a United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Slave Route's Site of Memory. Fort Monroe represents the historic grounds where slavery began in English North America in 1619, and where thousands of self-emancipators were liberated during the Civil War and became known as the Contraband.

This year's event will feature traditional African cultural elements of song and dance, an ancestral drum call, educational presentations, tributes dedicated to Native Americans/Indigenous peoples and Bay Shore Beach, a ceremonial walk around the "Tree of Remembrance," poetry, a communal libation that will occur simultaneously with Day of Remembrance ceremonies internationally and more.

"Every year is significant, however this year is symbolic. It was an estimated 5-12 week journey that these Africans suffered in transport on the Middle Passage. These 12.5 million Africans, though some suggest that number was higher, were brutally taken out of Africa, forcibly loaded onto the enslavement ships, shackled and would never walk off those ships alive. It's important that we continue to honor their existence," said Pittman.

Traditional African attire and/or white clothing is encouraged. Please bring beach chairs as well as fresh flowers for the ancestral offering. Additionally, guests are asked to please remember to respect the sacredness of the ceremony and the historic grounds at Fort Monroe. To register send an email to [thesankofaprojects@gmail.com](mailto:thesankofaprojects@gmail.com), on-site registration will also be available. For more information, visit [thesankofaprojects.blogspot.com](http://thesankofaprojects.blogspot.com)

###

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 Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.