

**News Release**  
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[thesankofaprojects@gmail.com](mailto:thesankofaprojects@gmail.com)**Hundreds gather to honor the ancestors on Day of Remembrance at Fort Monroe**

**Hampton, VA** - The sun was shining during the ancestral flower offering at the water's edge during the 12th Annual Day of Remembrance ceremony on June 10 at Fort Monroe's Outlook Beach. This healing and reflective event allowed the Sankofa Projects and community members to educate and celebrate the richness and diversity of the African diaspora while bringing awareness to a tragic chapter in American and global history. This year's Remembrance theme was "Let the healing at the water begin."

"The water of the Atlantic Ocean is what consumed the lives of millions of African men, women, and children who drowned during the Transatlantic Enslavement Trade," said Chadra Pittman, founder and executive director of The Sankofa Projects. "Remembrance is the funeral they never received. For the past 12 years, at Remembrance, we heal through collective memory for in the belly of the ships these Africans experienced a collective suffering and trauma. Through Remembrance, we aspire to transform that trauma into healing."

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."

About 300 people of all ages attended the ceremony led by Pittman. The ceremony also included a drum call, blessing from the elders, libation ceremony and remarks by U.S. Congressman Bobby Scott and Hampton Councilwoman Hope Harper.

The program also honored the ancestors with traditional African cultural elements of song and dance, educational presentations, tributes dedicated to Native Americans/Indigenous peoples and Bay Shore Beach and a ceremonial walk around the "Tree of Remembrance."

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**[Photo library](#)**

Remembrance 1 - Attendees gathered at Fort Monroe's Outlook Beach.

Remembrance 2 - Attendees gathered with flowers for ancestral offering.  
Remembrance 3 - Mother and daughter with flowers for ancestral offering.

Photo credit: Marsha Thompson

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.