



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

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Hampton History Museum Offers Free Military & NASA Admission Through Labor Day

--The Hampton History Museum is one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer--

Hampton, VA - The Hampton History Museum is participating in the Ninth annual Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer **free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day**. A list of participating museums nationwide is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums. As they have done in the past, the Hampton History Museum will extend free admission to NASA Langley staff and families for the summer as well.

Visitors can explore over 400 years of the city's past in the Hampton History Galleries,

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and view displays chronicling Hampton's experiences during the American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, WW I & WWII and other conflicts, along with the special displays "NASA: Hampton Takes Flight," celebrating the city's role in aeronautical development and space exploration, and "When the Computer Wore a Skirt: NASA's Human Computers" that tells the story behind the hit film and best-selling book "Hidden Figures."

Also on display on the museum's second floor is the travelling exhibit "Pirates, Privateers and Buccaneers." In commemoration of the 300th anniversary the death of the notorious Blackbeard this exhibit on loan from the South Carolina State Museum, tells the story of Blackbeard, who blockaded Charleston Harbor in 1718 prior to his death in North Carolina, along with the stories of many other pirates.

The exhibit will thrill those who have always been fascinated by these desperadoes of the seas. It will dispel a number of popular myths about pirates, such as that they made their victims walk the plank, and used phrases such as 'arrrgh,' and 'matey,' which are fictions of Hollywood. This exhibit will also address the problem of modern piracy dispelling another popular myth that pirates disappeared a long time ago.

When approached by North Carolina merchants seeking help in breaking up piracy along the Outer Banks, Virginia Governor Alexander Spotswood sent the Royal Navy, under the command of Lieutenant Robert Maynard, to capture Blackbeard. After the pirate was killed in a battle off the coast of North Carolina on November 22, 1718, Lieutenant Maynard had his head removed and hung from the bowsprit of his sloop. Oral tradition holds that on arrival in Virginia, the head was hung from a pole at the mouth of the Hampton River as a warning to others who might be tempted by piracy. The head remained for some time and the site continues to be known as Blackbeard's Point today.

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The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in downtown Hampton. There is plenty of free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information, dial 757/727-1610.

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.

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