



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PULASKI COUNTY CELEBRATES VIRGINIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICA

~ Board of Supervisors Supports Committee to Commemorate the 400th Anniversary of Historical Events in Virginia that helped to Shape and Influence America Today ~

(Pulaski, Virginia) – November 21, 2018, the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors appointed and are supporting a new committee to work alongside the Commonwealth, notable Virginia institutions and national partners to launch a series of educational programs, signature events and legacy projects of national and international significance to build awareness of Virginia's role in the creation of the United States and to reinforce Virginia's leadership in education, tourism and economic development.

“Virginia is laden with so much of the nation's history, including Jamestown, the first permanent settlement and the capital of the original Thirteen Colonies - It's where the first representative government of the new world met in 1619,” stated Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator. “It is incumbent of us to understand what that rich history means to the United States and appreciate how Virginia helped shape our government and this blessed nation.”

The appointed committee entitled, the Pulaski County American Evolution 2019 Committee, will be representing Pulaski County's interest in helping tell the historical significance of key historical events that continue to influence America. The 400th anniversary of the events of 1619 will highlight how Virginia was instrumental in shaping the nation.

“Our committee has been planning and gearing up for a series of programs and events that will reinforce the themes of democracy, diversity and opportunity,” stated Carol Smith, Chair of the Pulaski County American Evolution Committee. “Pulaski County has a lot to offer the community and our visitors by participating in this commemoration, and we plan to host various activities and displays throughout the year.”

The Committee has already publically kicked off their efforts at a Board of Supervisors' meeting on July 23, 2018, by leading the community in the downloading of the Virginia History Trails app and followed that up with a program at the Wilderness Road Regional Museum, entitled 'Ingles Ferry to Newbern – Traveling the Wilderness Road', followed by traditional folk music. The Wilderness Road Museum was selected as one of just 200 historical sites to be included on the Virginia History Trail app.

“One of the neatest assignments the Committee is undertaking is the ‘Pulaski County is...Thankful’ project,” stated Andy McCready, Chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. “The Board is so proud of the Committee’s creativity and the work they are doing to not only promote Virginia history, but to bring us together as a community to give thanks for the great country and county we are blessed to live in.”

The ‘Pulaski County is...Thankful’ project has a goal for 2019 of placing on every table in Pulaski County, a candle with the words – ‘Pulaski County is...Thankful’ and for them all to be collectively lit at each of our Thanksgiving dinner tables. The C.E. Richardson Foundation has graciously approved a \$3,000.00 grant to assist with this community engagement initiative.

The candles will all be made locally by Korona Candles Inc., in Dublin, Virginia. Korona is a Polish company and a global market leader in candle production. Its U.S. based operations are led by President and CEO, Agnieszka Fafara. The Committee is currently seeking additional corporate and individual donations to make this project possible. Carol Smith is the lead on this project and can be contacted for more information at: 540-994-2453 or chsmith@pclibs.org.

“We can use this statewide recognition to better elucidate some of the finer points of Virginia’s history and how it shaped the New World, such as hosting the first official observance of the English Thanksgiving in North America, and how we continue to do so,” stated Peggy White, Executive Director of the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce. “Interestingly, Virginia was first to recruit English women in significant numbers and is the rightful birthplace of the American entrepreneurial and innovative spirit - Perhaps this is what makes working with an entrepreneurial female CEO from Europe on our Thanksgiving candle project even more special.”

Pulaski County 2019 American Evolution Committee members include Peggy White, Carol Smith, Shannon Anisley, Nancy Burchett, Elinor Farmer, Mary Catherine Stout, Michael Solomon, Carolyn Matthews, Rhonda Whitehurst and Lisa Webb.

The American Evolution commemorates the 400th anniversary of key historical events that occurred in Virginia in the year 1619. The mission of the Pulaski County 2019 American Evolution Committee is to showcase Pulaski County’s rich history by planning a series of educational programs, special events, and displays that will reinforce and emphasize the themes of democracy, diversity, and opportunity. Our sincere hope and intent is to inspire, encourage, educate, unify, and motivate Pulaski County citizens to become more involved in our community, thereby making Pulaski County an even greater place to live, work, play and call home.

Stay tuned for more information to come on many exciting educational programs, special events and displays that will be commemorating the 400th anniversary of key historical events that occurred in Virginia in the year 1619.

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