



**Media Release**

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**July 21, 2009**

**Hampton Bay Days Announces Former City Manager Jesse Wallace  
As 2009 Commodore**

**Hampton, VA-** Hampton Bay Days, the city's largest annual festival, is pleased to announce prominent Hampton citizen and former City Manager Jesse Wallace as 2009 Commodore.

"It's an honor to serve as the Commodore of the 27th Annual Hampton Bay Days festival. Built on a rich heritage and the support of community-minded people, Hampton Bay Days is a signature event for the City. It was a privilege to be selected for the position and I'm proud to serve," said Jesse Wallace.

Wallace has spent over thirty years with the city of Hampton, holding such positions as Director of Revenue Enhancement, Director of Productivity Programs, Budget Director, and Director of Program and Policy Analysis. He served as Assistant City Manager from January 2004 until June 2005, when he was appointed City Manager. Wallace held the position of Hampton City Manager for four years.

"I am delighted that Jesse Wallace will serve as our Commodore for the 2009 Hampton Bay Days Festival. He has dedicated many years to the well-being of the citizens of Hampton and the surrounding area. It is only fitting that we have the opportunity to honor him for his many years of public service," said Jim Goodbody, Hampton Bay Days Board President.

As 2009 commodore, Wallace will officially open the Hampton Bay Days festival on Wednesday, September 9 at the Hampton Bay Days Commodore's Gala. The gala is invitation only.

In 1982, Hampton Bay Days was created as a unique outlet to educate the public on the importance of the Chesapeake Bay in the Hampton Roads region, as well as the rest of Virginia and Maryland. The goal of the festival is to provide an entertaining atmosphere while ultimately serving a greater purpose, highlighting aspects of the bay and promoting its upkeep and preservation.

This year, the festival will take place September 11-13, 2009. About 200,000 people are expected to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in downtown Hampton. Activities include live musical entertainment, over 100 merchandise and craft vendors, a 30-minute fireworks display, bay education area, and more.

The Hampton Bay Days schedule is as follows:

**Friday, September 11- Noon - 11:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 12- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 13- Noon - 6:00 p.m.**

More information on the 27th annual Hampton Bay Days can be obtained by calling 757/ 727-1641 or by visiting [www.baydays.com](http://www.baydays.com). Additional information can be obtained by calling the Hampton Visitor Center at 757/727-1102 or 800/487-8778.

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