



**Media Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Ryan LaFata, 757/728-5328  
[ryan@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:ryan@hamptoncvb.com)  
Shelly Ezanno, 757/727-1641  
[shelly@baydays.com](mailto:shelly@baydays.com)

**March 9, 2010**

**Hampton Bay Days Announces Current City Councilman and Former Mayor Ross A. Kearney, II as 2010 Commodore**

**Hampton, VA-** Hampton Bay Days, the city's largest annual festival, is pleased to announce prominent Hampton citizen and city councilman, Ross A. Kearney, II as 2010 Commodore.

"I'm excited to serve as the Commodore of the 28th Annual Hampton Bay Days festival, especially in the year of the City's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," said Ross A. Kearney, II. "I have served as chairman in the past, and in doing so, have gained a great appreciation of the event. The focus on conservation of the Bay and the organization's education programs, which are offered free and open to the public, are a shining example of the organization's commitment to the community and to the environment."

Ross A. Kearney, II has been a member of the Hampton City Council since July of 1992 and has held several prominent positions in the City of Hampton, such as mayor (2004-2008) and vice mayor (1996-1998). In addition, Kearney has also held several leadership

roles on numerous regional governance bodies, including the Hampton Roads Tunnel Authority, Hampton Roads Regional Jail Authority, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, and Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance.

Councilman Kearney is a lifelong resident of Hampton. He taught social studies in the Hampton School System for forty years and has also served as an Adjunct Professor at both Old Dominion University and Hampton University.

“We are delighted that Hampton City Councilman Ross A. Kearney II will serve as our 2010 Hampton Bay Days Commodore” said the Hampton Bay Days Board of Directors. “Councilman Kearney is a lifelong resident of Hampton and a great ambassador for our city. We couldn’t think of a better person to represent the festival, especially this year, during Hampton’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.”

“I truly appreciate the efforts that nationally and internationally renowned personalities like Wyland, Guy Harvey, Bruce Hornsby, and many others have made in order to help Hampton Bay Days grow and prosper,” said Kearney. “I’m truly looking forward to a fantastic 2010 festival and being this year’s commodore.”

As 2010 Commodore, Kearney will officially open the Hampton Bay Days festival on Wednesday, September 8 at the Hampton Bay Days Commodore’s Gala.

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 10-12, 2010. About 200,000 people are expected to attend the 28<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 10- Noon - 11:00 p.m.**

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

**Sunday, September 12- Noon - 6:00 p.m.**

More information on the 28th 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.

###