



Media Release

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GODSPEED Sails Into 28th Annual Hampton Bay Days *--Vessel to highlight Hampton's 400th Anniversary during September festival--*

Hampton, VA- Hampton Bay Days is excited to announce that Jamestown Settlement's *GODSPEED*, a re-creation of one of the three ships that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia, will dock in downtown Hampton during the 28th annual festival, September 10-12, 2010. The vessel will highlight Hampton's history as a colonial seaport and fishing village, with a strong educational focus on man's interaction with the ecology of the Bay.

"Having the signature vessel *GODSPEED* dockside in downtown Hampton during the 28th annual Hampton Bay Days will help raise awareness of Hampton's special relationship with the water that began 400 years ago," said Hampton Bay Days Executive Director Shelly Ezanno. "Hampton Bay Days also plans to highlight the merchant side of Olde Port Hampton with a dockside replica customs house, re-enactors, and Hampton History Museum programs."

The *GODSPEED*, designated as one of the "official fleet of the Commonwealth" by the Virginia General Assembly, will arrive in downtown Hampton on September 10, 2010. The vessel will be open to the public for the duration of the festival. Visitors should expect a wide variety of

living history programs along the docks, as well as interactive ecology programs in the Chesapeake Bay Education Area and throughout the festival grounds.

“The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation is honored to have *GODSPEED* participate in Hampton’s 400th anniversary celebrations during the 2010 Hampton Bay Days,” said Eric Speth, Maritime Program Manager for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. “We look forward to welcoming visitors aboard *GODSPEED* to learn about 17th century seafaring and early Virginia history.”

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 was, and still is, to provide a fun and entertaining family-friendly event for the community, while ultimately serving a greater purpose, highlighting the conservation of the Bay and its natural resources.

The 28th annual Hampton Bay Days schedule is as follows:

Friday, September 10, 2010- Noon - 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 11, 2010- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 12, 2010- 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.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center, is located in the center of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center and Riverside IMAX ® Theater, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, Fort Monroe, award-winning Hampton Coliseum, The American Theatre, among others. Hampton turns 400 years-old this year.

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