



# Hampton Bay Days

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2, 2007

Contact: Ryan LaFata 757/728-5328

[ryan@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:ryan@hamptoncvb.com)

Shelly Ezanno 757/727-1132

[shelly@baydays.com](mailto:shelly@baydays.com)

Keisha Ford-Jenrette 757/727-1641

[keisha@baydays.com](mailto:keisha@baydays.com)

**Two Times the Cash is Two Times the Fun!**

*--Hampton Bay Days announces Hardy Cash as 2007 Commodore--*

**Hampton, VA-** Hampton Bay Days, the city's largest and most popular annual festival, is pleased to announce prominent Hampton citizen and City Ombudsman, Hardy Cash as 2007 Commodore. This marks the second time Cash has been selected for such an honor, previously holding the title in 1986.

“As one of the founders of Hampton Bay Days, Hardy (Cash) is the perfect choice as Commodore for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary,” said Shelly Ezanno, Hampton Bay Days Executive Director. “Without Mr. Cash, Bay Days wouldn't exist as it does today. For over 60 years, he has served the community, and thankfully a significant part of that service was and has been supporting the initiatives of the Hampton Bay Days Foundation. He truly exemplifies what it means to be a ‘Hamptonian’ and a promoter of the Chesapeake Bay. We are extremely excited that he will represent us this year.”

In 1982, Cash worked with local merchants to transform Hampton Fair Day and Chesapeake Bay Day into what is now Hampton Bay Days. Cash served as president for

the first three years of the festival's existence, and was appointed as president emeritus the following year. He has been employed by the City of Hampton for over 60 years.

**"I am extremely honored to be chosen to serve as the Hampton Bay Days Commodore for the second time," said Cash. "Bay Days is one of our city's finest and most cherished events. I am happy to be a part of it."**

As 2007 Commodore, Cash will officially open the Hampton Bay Days festival on Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at the Hampton Bay Days Commodore's Gala & Silent Auction. The event will take place 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Virginia Air & Space Center. 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 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.

This year, the festival will take place September 7-9, 2007. More than 250,000 people are expected to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in downtown Hampton. Activities include live musical entertainment, over 100 merchandise and craft vendors, a 30-minute fireworks display, a Kid's Play & Learn About the Bay entertainment area, a Rockin' Sock Hop Car Show, and a Family Carnival.

The Hampton Bay Days schedule is as follows:

**Friday, September 7- Noon - 11:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 8- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 9- Noon - 6:00 p.m.**

More information on the 25th 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. For hotel and package information, check out [www.hamptoncvb.com](http://www.hamptoncvb.com).

Hampton's new 344,000 sq ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center is located in the center of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area which is partially bordered by Hampton Roads harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. Hampton is nicknamed "Crab Town" because it is home to the first canned crab industry in America, it is the site of America's first harbor and it is the oldest continuous English-speaking settlement in America. It is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center and Riverside IMAX ® Theater, the Cousteau Society, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, Fort Monroe, award-winning Hampton Coliseum, The American Theatre, among others. Hampton was twice-named All-America City, the nation's oldest and most prominent community recognition award.

###