

For immediate release

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Richmond -- LEE MEMORIAL COMMISSION PRESS CONFERENCE

Delegate Benjamin A. Cline and Senator Emmett W. Hanger Jr., co-chairmen of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Commission of the Commonwealth, will celebrate Robert E. Lee's 199th birthday with a press conference to be held on Thursday, January 19, 2006 at the Lee House on 707 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219 at 3:30 p.m. The press conference will announce plans that are underway in the Commonwealth to commemorate and celebrate Lee's 200th birthday.

The plans for the 200th birthday celebration include a variety of educational efforts and activities that will last throughout 2007. The goals of the Commission are to develop and support educational efforts about all facets of Lee's life and his legacy in the Commonwealth, and to support and promote tourism in the Commonwealth with a variety of activities, events, and programs that will highlight locations around the state that were touched by or shaped by Robert E. Lee .

The Lee Memorial Commission was established by House Joint Resolution 710 and Senate Joint Resolution 382 by the 2005 General Assembly to plan and coordinate the celebration of Robert E. Lee's 200th birthday on January 19, 2007. The press conference will be held on Lee's 199th birthday.

Other members of the Lee Memorial Commission include Delegate Robert Hurt, Delegate Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr., Delegate Thomas C. Wright, Jr., Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr., and representatives of Washington and Lee University, the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association, the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, the Virginia Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Virginia Division of United Daughters of the Confederacy, as well as the Director of the Department of Historic Resources, the Director of the Virginia Tourism Corporation, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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