



CONTACT
Sarah Mars Bowie
2019 Commemoration
Sarah.marsbowie@finnpartners.com
PH: (202) 466-7800

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 Commemoration, American Evolution Laud Passage of the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017
Bill Extends Federal Recognition to Six Virginia Indian Tribes

Jamestown, VA (January 16, 2018) – When English settlers arrived in present-day Virginia, there were about 30 tribes that inhabited the area including among them, the Chickahominy, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock, the Monacan and the Nansemond tribes. Because these tribes, along with the Pamunkey tribe, negotiated treaties with the English government, they have been without U.S. federal recognition for over 240 years. Last week, the U.S. Senate passed legislation that finally recognizes these tribes, providing protections and benefits to their members that are received by other Native tribes across the country.

“The 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution focuses on a pivotal time in the Virginia Colony which laid the groundwork for our diverse, democratic nation. The Virginia tribes are a key part of this history and we will continue to amplify their stories. Federal recognition for these tribes is long overdue and we applaud the passage of this momentous legislation,” said Kathy Spangler, executive director of the 2019 Commemoration.

American Evolution commemorates the 400th anniversary of several pivotal events that took place in 1619 Virginia, which have had an enduring impact on Virginia and America’s history. These events include; the First Representative Legislative Assembly in the New World, the arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America, the recruitment of English Women in significant numbers to the Virginia colony, the first official English Thanksgiving in North America, and the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of the Virginia Colony.

About the 2019 Commemoration

The 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution highlights events that occurred in Virginia in 1619 that continue to influence America today. Featured programs, events and legacy projects will position Virginia as a leader in education, tourism and economic development. American Evolution commemorates the

ongoing journey toward the key ideals of democracy, diversity and opportunity. Dominion Resources is an AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ Founding Partner and Altria Group is a Virginia Colony Partner.

###