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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VIRGINIA'S 2019 COMMEMORATION, AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ EXHIBITING AT  
U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION'S IPW 2017**

*Visit Booth 2708 to Learn About The 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Seminal 1619 Events That Set Virginia  
And America on a Course Towards the Ideals of Democracy, Diversity and Opportunity*

**WASHINGTON, DC** (June 5, 2017) – This week, Virginia's 2019 Commemoration, AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ is participating in the U.S. Travel Association's IPW 2017 and sharing details about significant signature events, legacy programs and educational initiatives that commemorate the 400th anniversary of several formative 1619 Virginia events. Over the next two years the 2019 Commemoration will engage travelers of all ages in an appreciation of Virginia and American history, while fostering greater participation in representative democracy, inclusion and the entrepreneurial spirit of America.

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. Upcoming AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ programs include:

- Commemoration of The First Legislative Assembly
- "Guardians of Jamestown" Children's Educational Video
- Virginia Thanksgiving Festival
- Pocahontas Reframed: Native American Storytellers
- AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ Tour
- African Arrival Day And Dedication of The Fort Monroe Visitor and Education Center
- Virginia Arts Festival
- Tom Tom Founder's Festival

"The 2019 Commemoration offers something for every type of traveler and IPW offers a wonderful venue to engage the travel industry in AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ signature events, legacy projects and educational programs that will be taking place across Virginia and throughout the Eastern seaboard in the coming months," said Kathy Spangler, Executive Director of the 2019 Commemoration. "Virginia has long been recognized as the birthplace of our nation and each of

the pivotal 1619 events that took place in there have been influential in shaping our ideals of democracy, diversity and opportunity, and can still be connected to audiences today.”

AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ is a multi-year initiative that explores the 400 years of history and issues that faced the 1619 English colonists, Africans and Virginia Indians, which are still relevant today. Visit [www.AmericanEvolution2019.com](http://www.AmericanEvolution2019.com) for more information.

### **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. The 2019 Commemoration is a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

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