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NEW DOCUMENTARY, “EVOLUTION OF AMERICA: 1619 TO TODAY,” EXAMINES 400th ANNIVERSARY OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

Documentary features interviews with Virginia and national leaders discussing how events that occurred in 1619 Virginia are reflected in contemporary American society

Jamestown, VA (January 10, 2019) – Virginia’s 2019 Commemoration, Cinebar Productions, Inc., and Maryland Public Television recently released *Evolution of America: 1619 to Today*, a one-hour documentary that explores four pivotal events of 1619 Virginia and examines, in depth, their effect on the growth and development of the United States and how they resonate today. The documentary is currently airing across the country, and showcases the 1619 formative events including the First Representative Legislative Assembly in the New World, the arrival of the first recorded Africans in English North America, the recruitment of English women in significant numbers to the Virginia colony, and the first official English Thanksgiving in North America.

The documentary is supported by approximately 16 minutes of narration, and the majority of the show features interviews with Virginia and national leaders discussing how 1619 Virginia events are reflected in modern-day American society. A sample of featured interviewees include former Virginia Governor George Allen; Dr. Ashley Atkins-Spivey, Director, Pamunkey Indian Resource Center; Virginia Senator Tim Kaine; Dr. James Horn, President and Chief Officer, Jamestown Rediscovery Project at Historic Jamestowne; and former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder. The trailer for *Evolution of America: 1619 to Today* can be viewed [here](#).

“Evolution of America: 1619 to Today seeks to examine the long-term results of pivotal events that took place in 1619 Virginia and explores how these events helped define and shape the United States,” said Kathy Spangler, Executive Director of Virginia’s 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution. *“These formative events, like the arrival of the first Africans to English North America, have remained an integral part of the political and social life in the United States.”*

“Evolution of America: 1619 to Today” is a Legacy Project of the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution. The 2019 Commemoration has partnered with notable Virginia institutions and national partners to inspire local, national and international engagement in the themes of democracy, diversity and opportunity, and reinforce Virginia’s leadership in education, tourism, and economic development. The 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution explores formative events that occurred in 1619 Virginia that include the First Representative Legislative Assembly in the New World, the arrival of the first recorded Africans in 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. Over the next year, the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution will host more than 20 events, programs and educational initiatives commemorating the 400th anniversary of these formative 1619 Virginia events. A full schedule of American Evolution

programming, upcoming events, and educational initiatives can be found at:
[https://www.americanevolution2019.com/events/.](https://www.americanevolution2019.com/events/)

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 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 and TowneBank are Virginia Colony Partners.

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