



***Commonwealth of Virginia***  
***Office of Governor Bob McDonnell***

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**Governor McDonnell Announces Funding for New  
Yorktown Victory Center**

*Part of Governor's Ongoing Effort to Promote Tourism; In 2009, Tourism in  
Virginia: Generated \$17.7 billion in Revenue, Supported 204,500 Jobs, Provided \$1.24  
billion in state and local taxes*

\*\*80% of Visitors to Center Come From Outside State; New Museum Expected to Generate \$47  
Million In Annual Expenditures in Region\*\*

**Governor McDonnell: "This is a smart investment in Virginia's past *and* future."**

**YORKTOWN** – In a continuation of his ongoing effort to boost the job-creating tourism industry in the Commonwealth, Governor Bob McDonnell announced today \$41 million in funding for construction of a new Yorktown Victory Center through the sale of Virginia Public Building Authority bonds. Planning has been under way since 2007 for replacement of the museum, which chronicles the American Revolution. The project includes a new 80,000-square-foot structure that will encompass expanded exhibition galleries, classrooms and support functions, and reorganization of the 22-acre site. The announcement of the funding was first made at the semi-annual meeting of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees held today.

Speaking from Beijing, where he is currently traveling on an 11-day job-creation and economic development marketing mission, the Governor noted, "We have an extraordinary opportunity in building this new generation of the Yorktown Victory Center. Virginia is where the Revolutionary War was won and a young nation's independence was secured. Yorktown should be the first place tourists from all across the globe come to learn about a War that forever changed the world. The new Victory Center will go far to enhance its status as the nation's only living-history museum dedicated to telling the entire story of the American Revolution, and will result in a significant investment in the economy of the Jamestown-Williamsburg-Yorktown Historic Triangle. This project aligns with my ongoing initiative to grow Virginia's tourism industry. Increased tourism means good jobs and more revenue, which positively impacts all of Virginia. About 80 percent of the Yorktown Victory Center's individual visitors come from outside Virginia, and the new museum is expected to generate an

estimated \$47 million annually in expenditures in the Historic Triangle. This is a smart investment in Virginia's past *and* future."

"I'm pleased that the Commonwealth has been able to find a way to help support construction of the Yorktown Victory Center," said Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling. "The new museum will showcase one of Virginia's premier historical destinations. This project is an outstanding investment in the future of the Historic Triangle, and we expect the new Yorktown Victory Center will be an important magnet for new and repeat visitors from across the nation and will have a significant impact on the Virginia economy. Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown all played a pivotal role in the history of our nation, and this new museum will help us share that history with people from all around the world for many years to come."

The Yorktown Victory Center and Jamestown Settlement are operated by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, which provides curriculum-based educational programming at both museums and in classrooms throughout Virginia and is accredited by the American Association of Museums, a distinction earned by 5 percent of museums nationwide.

"We are grateful for the exceptional support from the Governor's Office and General Assembly," said Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Chairman H. Benson Dendy III. "The Yorktown Victory Center has an essential role, along with Colonial Williamsburg, the National Park Service and other partners, in interpreting events that transformed 13 British colonies into the United States of America. The Commonwealth's support is critical to realizing our vision for the future and helps galvanize efforts of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., to seek private donations to fund components of gallery and outdoor exhibits and educational resources."

The Yorktown Victory Center opened in 1976 as one of three Virginia centers for the national Bicentennial. In 35 years of continuous operation, the museum has hosted five million visitors and has served more than 800,000 students with curriculum-based structured educational programs. In the early 1990s, the museum's focus was broadened to encompass events that led to the Revolutionary War and the subsequent formation of a new national government and to interpret the Revolution from diverse points of view and experiences. Critical short-term exhibit renovations were completed in 2006 in time for major commemorations in which the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation had a key role – the 225th anniversary of the decisive American victory at Yorktown and 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, America's first permanent English colony and birthplace of the nation.

In 2007 the Foundation board adopted a master plan to address long-term exhibit, building and operation issues. The Virginia General Assembly authorized funding the following year, including \$1.6 million from Foundation-generated revenues, for environmental studies and architectural and exhibit design planning.

The new museum building will be positioned on the site with an entrance that will serve as a focal point for arriving visitors. Featuring state-of-the-art museum galleries with immersive learning environments, interactive exhibits and period artifacts, the structure also will house classroom and event space, visitor services, gift shop and support functions and will provide improved access to the museum's outdoor re-created Continental Army encampment and Revolutionary-period farm. The Yorktown Victory Center will remain in operation during construction.

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