

**VIRGINIA**  **250**  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*A Common Cause  
To All*

***A Convening of States***

*on the*

***250th Anniversary***

*of the call for*

***Committees of Correspondence***

A Signature Event of the  
Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
March 10 - 12, 2023



# Agenda

## FRIDAY, MARCH 10

5:00 pm **Welcome to Virginia Reception and Dinner**  
Location: Virginia Room Foyer

6:00 pm **Dinner Bell Rings**  
Location: Virginia Room; Attire: Business Casual

Greetings from The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
*Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia*

The Honorable Terry L. Austin  
*Chair, VA250 Commission*  
*Virginia House of Delegates*

Cliff Fleet  
*President and CEO*  
*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

Carly Fiorina  
*Chair, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

## SATURDAY, MARCH 11

8:00 am **Continental Breakfast**  
Location: Virginia Room Foyer

8:30 am **Welcome**  
Jamie Bosket  
*President and CEO*  
*Virginia Museum of History & Culture*

**Opportunities of the Semiquincentennial**  
John Dichtl  
*President and CEO*  
*American Association of State and Local History (AASLH)*

9:30 am **Americans, Our History, and the 250th**  
Susie Wilkening  
*President*  
*Wilkening Consulting*

# Agenda

10:45 am

Break

11:00 am

## **More in Common: Navigating the Perceived Political Divide**

**Matt Williams**

*Managing Director and Chief Growth Officer  
Brand Federation*

12:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm

## **Panel Discussion: Creating a Meaningful Commemoration for all Americans**

Introduction: The Honorable Mamie E. Locke  
*Vice-Chair, VA250 Commission  
Senate of Virginia*

Moderator: Barbara Hamm Lee

*Executive Producer and Host  
WHRO-TV*

Christy Coleman

*Executive Director  
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation*

Valerie Paley

*Senior Vice President and Sue Ann Weinberg Director  
Patricia D. Klingstein Library, New York Historical Society*

Nat Sheidley

*President and CEO  
Revolutionary Spaces*

Scott Stephenson

*President and CEO  
Museum of the American Revolution*

Noelle Trent

*Director of Interpretation, Collections, and Education  
National Civil Rights Museum*



# Agenda

2:30 pm

Depart for walking tours or explore the Historic Triangle of Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg on your own  
*Sign up for tours at the VA250 information desk*

Colonial Williamsburg guided tours include:

**Newest Discoveries: Walk and Visit the Williamsburg Bray School and First Baptist Church** (capacity 60)

**Walking Tour: Legacies of Indigenous Peoples** (capacity 60)

**Walking Tour: History and Restoration in Williamsburg** (capacity 100)

**Conservation Lab Tour** (capacity 45)

**John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library Special Collections Tour** (capacity 10)

Free Colonial Williamsburg admission tickets are available at the VA250 information desk.

Free admission is offered at **Jamestown Settlement** and the **American Revolution Museum at Yorktown** on Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12 to attendees. (Please present your conference badge upon arrival).

5:30 pm

**States Dinner at the Governor's Palace**  
Procession departs from Arrival Hall, Williamsburg Lodge\*

Meet in Arrival Hall at **5:15 pm** to process to the Governor's Palace for dinner and a very special evening event.

\*This is an outdoor tented event.

Attendees will process from the Williamsburg Lodge to the Governor's Palace. Comfortable shoes are recommended. Please plan for the weather accordingly.

# Agenda

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment  
*Senate of Virginia*

Stacy Schiff  
*Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian  
"The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams"*

Stephen R. Adkins  
*Chief  
Chickahominy Indian Tribe*

Bill Whitaker  
*"60 Minutes" correspondent and  
award-winning journalist*

## SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time begins 2:00 am

- 8:00 am Continental Breakfast  
Location: Virginia Room
- 9:00 am **Welcome and Introduction**  
**The Pursuit of Happiness: Twelve Ancient Virtues that  
Inspired the Founders' Quest for the Good Life**  
Jeff Rosen  
*President & CEO  
National Constitution Center*
- 9:30 am **"Revolutionary Road Trips with Darley"**  
Darley Newman  
*Emmy award-winning television host*
- 10:00 am **250th Across the Nation** (State delegates)  
Location: Alleghany Room
- Lightning round check-in of plans by state  
Small group discussions

# Agenda

## 250th Across Virginia (Virginia delegates)

Location: Piedmont Room

### VA250 Overview, Plans and Support to Local Committees

Cheryl Wilson

*VA250 Executive Director*

### Grants Available to Local Committees

Staci Martin

*Grants Director*

*Virginia Tourism Corporation*

### Road to Revolution Trail Interpretive Markers

Drew Gruber

*Executive Director*

*Civil War Trails, Inc.*

12:00 pm

Lunch

**Justice Anthony Kennedy**

**Lafayette's 1824 Reflections on the Revolution**

Mark Schneider as Marquis de Lafayette

1:30 pm

Guests are encouraged to make their way to the **Courthouse on Duke of Gloucester Street** for processional to Raleigh Tavern  
Comfortable walking shoes are recommended

1:45 pm

**Closing Ceremony**

Dave Catanese as Richard Henry Lee

**Virginia Committee of Correspondence Resolution (March 12, 1773)**

Kurt Smith as Thomas Jefferson

**Our Common Cause Resolution**

*"A Common Cause" State Representatives*

Join colleagues from each state for a special closing ceremony at the Raleigh Tavern, where Virginia's Committee of Correspondence met on March 12, 1773.

After a reading of the 1773 Committee of Correspondence resolution, state representatives will affirm a resolution of mutual support, collaboration, and partnership, signaling the beginning of the nation's semiquincentennial.

# Guest Speakers



## Carly Fiorina

**Chair of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**

Carly has served on the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's board of trustees since 2017 and in 2020, she was elected the Chair. Carly has extensive experience in both the corporate and nonprofit worlds. Beginning her business career as a receptionist in a nine-person real-estate firm, she would rise to become the first woman to lead a Fortune 50 company when she was appointed the chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard in 1999. Leading through the worst technology recession in 25 years, 9/11, as well as SARS, she led HP to become the 11th-largest company in the U.S. and among the world's leading innovators.

In addition to being a business leader, Carly is a philanthropist who has made significant contributions to the social sector throughout her career. In 2007, Carly founded the One Woman Initiative, a non-profit organization that aims to empower women around the world through access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Carly has also served on the board of directors for a number of non-profit organizations, including Good360, which connects corporations with non-profits to facilitate donations of goods and services, and Opportunity International, which provides microfinance services to people in poverty around the world.

In 2017, Carly founded the Unlocking Potential Foundation with a mission to build the leadership capacity of non-profit organizations and their teams by providing those leaders with the tools and resources to strengthen their problem-solving skills. Most recently, Carly established the public charity, Pathway to Promise. Pathway to Promise connects justice-involved youth with the caring adults and community-based services they need to positively impact their daily lives, sense of possibility, and perspective about their own future so they can change their world.



*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*



# Guest Speakers

## Pulitzer Prize-winning author & historian **Stacy Schiff**

Schiff is the author of *The Witches: Salem, 1692*, which the *New York Times* hailed as "an almost novelistic, thriller-like narrative." Schiff's previous book, *Cleopatra: A Life*, was published to great acclaim in 2010. Writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, Brad Gooch has called her "perhaps the most seductive writer of nonfiction prose in America in our time." *Cleopatra* appeared on most year-end best books lists, including the *New York Times*' Top Ten Books of 2010, and won the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for biography. Also a #1 bestseller, *Cleopatra* was translated into 30 languages.



Photo by Elena Seibert

Schiff is also the author of *Véra (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize; *Saint-Exupéry*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; and *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*, winner of the George Washington Book Prize, the Ambassador Award in American Studies, and the Gilbert Chinard Prize of the Institut Français d'Amérique. All three were *New York Times* Notable Books; the *Los Angeles Times* Book Review, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *The Economist* also named *A Great Improvisation* a Best Book of the Year. Michael Douglas is set to star in an Apple TV series based on *A Great Improvisation*, to be written by Emmy Award-winner Kirk Ellis and directed by Emmy-award winner Tim Van Patten. Schiff has provided on-camera commentary for various documentaries, including Ken Burns' *Benjamin Franklin*. Hailed as a "tour de force," her most recent book, *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*, was named one of *The Wall Street Journal*'s Best 10 Books of 2022 and also figured on President Obama's list of Best 10 Books of 2022.

Schiff has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities and was a Director's Fellow at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. Among other honors, she was named a 2011 Library Lion by the New York Public Library, a Boston Public Library Literary Light in 2016, and in 2017 received the Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography from the New England Historic Genealogical Society. She received the 2019 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. In 2018 she was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. Awarded a 2006 Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she was inducted into the Academy in 2019. Schiff has written for *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *Los Angeles Times*, among many other publications. She lives in New York City.

# Guest Speakers



## Bill Whitaker

Whitaker has covered major news stories domestically and across the globe for CBS News over four decades. He is the 2018 winner of the RTDNA's highest honor, the Paul White Award for career achievement. He was named a *60 Minutes* correspondent in March 2014; the 2022-23 season is his ninth on the broadcast. Whitaker's *60 Minutes* reporting has taken him to Asia, Africa, Europe, Mexico and the Middle East in his four seasons, including a timely investigation of the vetting process Syrian refugees undergo before coming to the U.S. and an interview with the highest-ranking North Korean official to defect in decades.

Before joining *60 Minutes*, Whitaker covered virtually all of the major news stories in the West since he was posted to Los Angeles in 1992, reporting regularly for the *CBS Evening News* and other CBS News broadcasts. He also has worked for *Sunday Morning*, turning out feature stories and thoughtful profiles, including on Barbra Streisand, Norman Lear and Gladys Knight. One of his most memorable *Sunday Morning* profiles was of ex-boxer Mike Tyson. He has interviewed First Lady Michelle Obama and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto.

Whitaker frequently reported from overseas as well, covering the funeral of Nelson Mandela from South Africa. He also did pieces from Japan on the Fukushima nuclear disaster and from Haiti after the tragic earthquake there. He reported from Kabul during the early stages of the war in Afghanistan.

In 2008, he covered Mitt Romney's presidential campaign. He was CBS News' lead reporter on the 2000 presidential campaign of George W. Bush. Prior to his assignment to Los Angeles, Whitaker served as CBS News' Tokyo correspondent (1989-92). There, he covered stories throughout Asia, including the pro-democracy uprising in Tiananmen Square, military coup attempts in the Philippines and the enthronement of Japan's Emperor Akihito. He was in Baghdad for the build-up to Desert Storm.

Before that, Whitaker was based in Atlanta (1985-88), where he won an Emmy for his reports on the collapse of Jim and Tammy Bakker's television ministry and covered the 1988 presidential campaign of Michael Dukakis. Whitaker joined CBS News as a reporter in November 1984. Whitaker was born in Philadelphia on August 26, 1951; he was graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges with a B.A. degree in American history and from Boston University with a master's degree in African-American studies. Whitaker also holds a master's degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. He was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 1997.

# About VA250

Established by the General Assembly in 2020, the **Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250)** serves to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the independence of the United States in the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of the former colonies and future states, where much of this history took place.

Virginia's history is America's story: complex, diverse, and promising. It is a multicultural story that in the Revolutionary era was Native American, European, African and American, both Patriot and Loyalist. Focusing on Revolutionary events in 1775 and 1776, the Virginia semiquincentennial will embrace this inclusive history that marked the origins of a revolutionary new nation.

A primary goal of the Commission is to convene and facilitate a Commonwealth-wide commemoration and celebration, multi-faceted and inclusive of hundreds of partners and representatives of the wide array of histories, sites, stories, and communities that define Virginia.



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# VA250 Members & Staff

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The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Hyland (Buddy) Fowler  
The Honorable Tommy Norment  
The Honorable Kenneth Plum

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# Acknowledgements



*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

AASLH

Capital Chips

George Mason's Gunston Hall

Library of Virginia

Monticello

Newport News Tourism

Office Historic Alexandria

Stratford Hall

Virginia Diner

Virginia Living Magazine

Virginia Tourism Corporation

Williamsburg Chapter, DAR



# Thank You!

## Please join us in Virginia as we celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary

With your support, the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) will bring impactful and thoughtful exhibitions, events, and programs that focus on Virginia's key role in the founding of our nation. Together, we can make a lasting impact by:

- ★ Expanding Virginia's enduring educational assets
- ★ Offering enhanced learning opportunities to students and teachers across Virginia
- ★ Expanding Virginia's economic impact and provide more employment opportunities
- ★ Ensuring the unique stories and contributions from all Virginia's communities are highlighted and recognized



Thank you for your support to honor the nation's 250th anniversary!

For more information, please contact:

**Cheryl Wilson**  
**Executive Director**  
**[cwilson@va250.org](mailto:cwilson@va250.org)**  
**757-936-2009**

Virginia Commemorations, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit (Tax ID: 81-0703911) honoring Virginia's role in the founding of the United States 250 years ago creating a lasting impact to education, tourism, and economic development.









**VIRGINIA**  **250**  
A REVOLUTION OF IDEAS

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