

VA★250



*A Common Cause  
to All*

A Convening of the States

*Colonial  
Williamsburg*

Williamsburg, Virginia

March 24 - 26, 2025



# ***A Common Cause to All***

is presented by the

**The Colonial Williamsburg  
Foundation**

and

**American Revolution  
250 Commission (VA250)**

in partnership with

**The Virginia Museum of History & Culture**

and

**The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation**

# Agenda

Unless otherwise noted, all activities take place in the  
**Virginia Room of The Williamsburg Lodge** (lower level)

## MONDAY, MARCH 24

- 2:00 pm **Registration Opens**
- 4:45 pm **Welcome to Virginia Reception & Dinner**  
(Virginia Room Foyer)
- 5:30 pm **Call to Dinner**
- 5:45 pm **Special Presentation: *Of Liberty and Death***  
*Featuring Patrick Henry*
- 6:00 pm **Welcome**  
*Cliff Fleet, President & CEO, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*
- Remarks**  
*The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor of Virginia*
- Keynote Remarks**  
*Pete Williams, Emmy Award-Winning Journalist*

## TUESDAY, MARCH 25

- 7:00 am **Breakfast Buffet**  
(Virginia Room Foyer and Piedmont Room)
- 8:30 am **The Impact of the Declaration of Independence**  
*The Honorable Douglas Ginsburg, Senior Judge, United States Court of Appeals and Professor of Law at the Antonin Scalia Law School of George Mason University*
- 9:15 am **Keynote Remarks**  
*Alan Taylor, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian*
- 10:00 am **An Interview with Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author**  
*Interviewed by Douglas Bradburn, President and CEO, George Washington's Mount Vernon*
- 10:45 am **Renewing American Democracy**  
*John Bridgeland, Former White House Domestic Policy Director & CEO, More Perfect (Moderator)*  
*Dale Anglin, Director, Press Forward*  
*Brian Hooks, Chairman & CEO, Stand Together & President, Charles Koch Foundation*  
*Jane Kamensky, President and CEO, Thomas Jefferson Foundation*  
*Cecilia Muñoz, Former White House Domestic Policy Council Director*

# Agenda

11:45 am

## **Lunch Buffet**

1:00 pm

## **An Interview with Ken Burns, Award-Winning Documentary Filmmaker**

*Interviewed by Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO, National Constitution Center*

1:45 pm

## **I, Too, Am America**

*Christy Coleman, Executive Director, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (Moderator)*

*Emily August, Chief Public Engagement Officer, Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History*

*Cainan Townsend, Executive Director, The Moton Museum*

*Jorge Zamanillo, Founding Director, National Museum of the American Latino*

2:40 pm

## **250th Legacy: Collaborations at the Regional, State, and National Levels**

*Jamie Bosket, President and CEO, Virginia Museum of History & Culture (Moderator)*

*Amy Braden, Director of Programs, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies*

*Institute and the USC Mellon Humanities in a Digital World Program*

*Mia Nagawiecki, Vice President for Education Strategy & Civic Engagement,*

*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

3:30 pm

## **Educational Resource Fair**

*(Tidewater Room)*

*Attendees are invited to discover valuable resources from national organizations that support 250th programs, events, and outreach.*

5:30 pm

## **States Dinner**

*(Virginia Room)*

## **Welcome**

*The Honorable Mamie Locke, Vice Chair, American Revolution 250 Commission*

## **Keynote**

*Carly Fiorina, VA250 National Honorary Chair and Chair,*

*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees*

7:30 pm

## **Gather in Arrival Hall for a Processional to the Governor's Palace led by the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums**

8:00 pm

## **Preview of Ken Burns's Upcoming Film, *The American Revolution***

*(Palace Green)*

*Join Ken Burns and co-directors, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt, as they speak to his latest project prior to a special preview of the film on an outdoor screen.*

*(Chairs will be provided for conference attendees. Please dress for the weather.)*



# Agenda

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

7:00 am

### **Breakfast Buffet**

### **Networking Breakfasts**

*Meet with fellow commemoration planners to exchange information and opportunities to collaborate. Feel free to bring your breakfast!*

*State 250th Planners (Colony Room)*

*VA250 Committees (Alleghany Room)*

9:15 am

### **Youth250: Making the 250th Matter to Younger Generations**

*Caroline Klibanoff, Executive Director, Made By Us*

10:00 am

### **Indigenous Perspectives on the 250th**

*Scott Stephenson, President and CEO, Museum of the American Revolution (Moderator)*

*Kitcki Carroll, Executive Director, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.*

*The Honorable Stephen Adkins, Chief of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe*

11:00 am

### **From Start to the Finish, Lessons from the States**

*John Dichtl, President & CEO, American Association for State and Local History (Moderator)*

*Jason Hanson, Chief Creative Officer and Director of Interpretation and Research, History Colorado and Commissioner, America 250 - Colorado 150*

*Margaret Koch, Director, Bullock Texas State History Museum and Chair, Texas America250 Commission*

*Cheryl Wilson, Executive Director, American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250)*

11:45 am

### **Lunch Buffet**

1:00 pm

### **Closing Keynote**

*The Honorable John Charles Thomas, Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia (retired) Member, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees*

2:00 pm

### **Closing Event in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area**

*The Declaration of Independence united many voices into one Common Cause. Join us for this one-time event as we align with partners across the nation in our shared march towards 2026.*

*Tables with information on upcoming anniversary programs are located on the Mezzanine*

# Guest Speakers



## **Carly Fiorina**

**VA250 National Honorary Chair**

**Chair of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**

Carly Fiorina began her career as a secretary for a nine-person real estate firm. She climbed the corporate ladder at AT&T and Lucent Technologies through a willingness to tackle tough problems, a relentless focus on producing results and accepting accountability, and a passion for leveraging the talents of others and building high-performance teams. She was recruited to Hewlett-Packard with a mission to transform the company from a laggard to a leader, becoming the first woman to lead a Fortune 50 company. During her tenure as chair and CEO, Hewlett-Packard became the largest technology company in the world, innovation tripled, cash flow quadrupled, and revenue and profit growth accelerated.

Both government and the private sector have sought out her vast problem-solving, team building, and leadership experience. She has advised the U.S. Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, State Department, and Department of Homeland Security. She founded Carly Fiorina Enterprises to bring her expertise to private sector teams, and the Unlocking Potential Foundation to allow those in the social sector to benefit from her experience. She is the author of three best-selling books on leadership for general audiences, as well as a weekly LinkedIn newsletter with over 500,000 subscribers. A frequent speaker to teams and executives of many industries all over the world, Carly believes that citizens and leaders in civil society have an important role and an enormous opportunity to drive positive change. In 2015, Carly launched a campaign for president. Americans came to know Carly as a clear-eyed, direct leader capable of solving problems and delivering results.

Carly is a member of the newly formed American Bar Association Task Force for American Democracy, which is focused on those actions necessary to improve citizens' confidence in American elections. She serves as the founding visionary and executive chair of The Williamsburg Institute, where history-makers meet, and also serves on the Board of Visitors for James Madison University.

# Guest Speakers

## Ken Burns

### Award-Winning Filmmaker

Ken Burns has been making documentary films for almost 50 years. Since the Academy Award-nominated *Brooklyn Bridge* in 1981, Ken has gone on to direct and produce some of the most acclaimed historical documentaries ever made. A December 2002 poll conducted by *Real Screen Magazine* listed *The Civil War* as second only to Robert Flaherty's *Nanook of the North* as the "most influential documentary of all time," and named Ken Burns and Robert Flaherty as the "most influential documentary makers" of all time.



In March 2009, David Zurawik of *The Baltimore Sun* said, "... Burns is not only the greatest documentarian of the day, but also the most influential filmmaker period. That includes feature filmmakers like George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. I say that because Burns not only turned millions of persons onto history with his films, he showed us a new way of looking at our collective past and ourselves." The late historian Stephen Ambrose said of his films, "More Americans get their history from Ken Burns than any other source." And Wynton Marsalis has called Ken "a master of timing, and of knowing the sweet spot of a story, of how to ask questions to get to the basic human feeling and to draw out the true spirit of a given subject." Ken's films have been honored with dozens of major awards, including 17 Emmy Awards, two Grammy Awards and two Oscar nominations. In September of 2008, at the News & Documentary Emmy Awards, Ken was honored by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences with a Lifetime Achievement Award. In November of 2022, Ken was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame.

Ken has been the recipient of more than thirty honorary degrees and has delivered many treasured commencement addresses. He is a sought-after public speaker, appearing at colleges, civic organizations, and business group events throughout the country.

Ken was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1953. He graduated from Hampshire College in 1975 and is one of the co-founders of Florentine Films.



# Guest Speakers



## **Rick Atkinson**

### **Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author**

A winner of Pulitzer Prizes for history and journalism, Rick Atkinson has produced a remarkable oeuvre of bestselling history that includes the *Liberation Trilogy* (the first volume, *An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942–1943*, received the Pulitzer for history), *The Long Gray Line*, *Crusade, In the Company of Soldiers*, and, most recently, *The British Are Coming*,

the critically acclaimed first volume of his eagerly anticipated *Revolution Trilogy*. A multi-week *New York Times* bestseller, *The British Are Coming* won the George Washington Prize (awarded by Mount Vernon and its partners), the New-York Historical Society's Barbara and David Zalaznick Book Prize, the Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in American History Book Award, and the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award.



## **Sarah Botstein**

### **Award-Winning Producer & Filmmaker**

Sarah Botstein has produced some of the most popular and acclaimed documentaries on PBS. Her work with Ken Burns and Lyn Novick includes *Jazz*, *The War*, *Prohibition*, *The Vietnam War*, *College Behind Bars*, and *Hemingway*. *The U.S. and the Holocaust* marked Botstein's debut as a co-director. The series tells the story of how the American people grappled with one of

the greatest humanitarian tragedies in history. Botstein is an original contributor to Ken Burns' UNUM, a web-based platform that highlights historical themes across the Florentine Films body of work. Botstein works closely with *PBS Learning Media* and *WETA-TV* to develop educational content for programming as part of the Ken Burns Classroom. She served as a co-director and producer of *The American Revolution* and a three-part series about Lyndon B. Johnson.



# Guest Speakers

## **Kitcki Carroll**

**Executive Director, United South and Eastern Tribes**

Kitcki A. Carroll is an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and a descendant of Cheyenne Peace Chief, Chief Black Kettle. Since 2010, he has proudly served as the Executive Director for United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF), a non-profit and inter-tribal organization representing thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations (first contact Tribal Nations) from the Northeastern Woodlands, down the Atlantic coast to the Everglades, and across the Gulf of Mexico. Established in 1969, USET and USET SPF collectively advocate on behalf of its thirty-three-member Tribal Nations at the regional and national level. In his capacity as Executive Director, Mr. Carroll works to protect and promote the sovereignty rights of USET/USET SPF members. He is a strong advocate for all Native people and actively works to ensure that the United States recognizes, honors, and fulfills its sacred trust and treaty responsibilities and obligations to Indian Country. He has held various Executive/Senior leadership positions in the tribal government and not-for-profit justice and advocacy sector for the past 23 years and has served/serves on various workgroups, panels, task forces, boards, and advisory groups.



## **The Honorable Douglas Ginsburg**

**Senior Judge, United States Court of Appeals**

Circuit Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1986; he served as Chief Judge from 2001 to 2008. After receiving his BS from Cornell University in 1970, and his JD from the University of Chicago Law School in 1973, he clerked on the D.C. Circuit and for Justice Thurgood Marshall on the United States Supreme Court. Thereafter, until joining the court, Judge Ginsburg was a professor at the Harvard Law School and the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. For the last several years Judge Ginsburg has been developing materials for civic education, including documentary programs for public television on the Constitution ("*A More or Less Perfect Union*") and on the Declaration of Independence ("*We Hold These Truths*"). His Civics Fundamentals ([civicsfundamentals.org](http://civicsfundamentals.org)) comprises 100 two- to three-minute videos addressing the questions on the U.S. citizenship test and explaining the history and reasons behind the answers. It is available free of charge, as are curriculum plans and other supporting materials for teachers



# Guest Speakers

## Caroline Klibanoff

**CEO, Made By Us**

Caroline Klibanoff works at the intersection of civic engagement, history, and culture. She leads Made By Us, an unprecedented nationwide collaboration to ignite and inform Millennial and Gen Z civic participation as we approach the United States' 250th anniversary in 2026. Through efforts like My Wish For U.S., the Civic Season, and digital, social, and local initiatives, Made By Us



brings historical expertise to meet young adults where they are, to inform and inspire conversations about America's future. Previously, she project managed exhibitions for MIT Museum and worked in digital strategy for the Bridge Alliance, running the Civvys Awards, and working on the inaugural National Week of Conversation. She began her career in strategic communications at the Pew Research Center and the Frameworks Institute and has worked for cultural organizations including Longfellow House – George Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site; Northern Light Productions; HistoryCambridge; and Northeastern University's Digital Scholarship Group. She holds a B.A. in American studies and film and media studies from Georgetown University, and an M.A. in public history and digital humanities from Northeastern University.

## David Schmidt

**Producer & Director**

David Schmidt is the producer and co-director, along with Ken Burns and Sarah Botstein, of *The American Revolution*, a six-part, 12-hour series premiering on PBS in the fall of 2025.

Schmidt began working with Florentine Films as a researcher and apprentice editor for *The Roosevelts* (2014), while also supervising the documentary's seven-episode script. His research on *The Vietnam War* (2017) won him the Jane Mercer Footage Researcher of the Year Award, and he also worked closely on that project with writer Geoffrey C. Ward and helped coordinate postproduction. With Burns, Schmidt also produced the two-part biography *Benjamin Franklin* (2022) for PBS.





# Guest Speakers



## **Alan Taylor**

### **Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian**

A graduate of Colby College (1977), Alan Taylor received his doctorate in American History from Brandeis University in 1986. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Early American History and Culture (Williamsburg, Virginia) 1985 - 1987, he taught at Boston University, 1987-1994; the University of California at Davis, 1994-2014; and the University of

Virginia, where he held the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Chair, 2014-2024. In 2016-2017 he served as the Harmsworth Professor at Queens College, Oxford University.

Taylor has published eleven books. For a dozen years, Taylor served as the faculty advisor for the California State Social Science and History Project, which provides curriculum support and professional development for K-12 teachers in history and social studies. In 2002, he won the University of California at Davis Award for Teaching and Scholarly Achievement and the Phi Beta Kappa, Northern California Association, Teaching Excellence Award.

In 2016 he won membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 2020 received membership in the American Philosophical Society.



## **The Honorable John Charles Thomas Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia (retired)**

John Charles Thomas graduated from The University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts in American Government in 1972. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia Law School in 1975. Thomas joined the law firm Hunton & Williams and became a partner in April 1982. In 1983, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Virginia as the first African American, and at 32, the youngest person to serve there.

Following his retirement from the Supreme Court of Virginia in 1989, Thomas practiced law in Richmond, Virginia as part of the Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP firm. In 1995, he received the NAACP's Lifetime Image Award. In 2005, Thomas was named a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, based in Lausanne, Switzerland, which hears cases arising from world-class sporting competitions and has global jurisdiction. In 2006, Thomas was appointed to the Board of Visitors of William & Mary, a position to which he was reappointed in 2009. He joined The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Board of Trustees in November 2023.



# Guest Speakers

## **Pete Williams**

### **Emmy Award-Winning Journalist**

Pete Williams covered the U.S. Supreme Court and Departments of Justice and Homeland Security for NBC News for 29 years as a correspondent based in Washington, DC. *The Atlantic* called him the “media hero of the Boston bombing coverage” for his “clear, careful, accurate reporting in a sea of media confusion.” Regarding his live account of the Supreme Court’s decision ending the 2000 presidential election dispute, former President George W. Bush wrote, “I probably became the first person to learn he had won the presidency while lying in bed with his wife watching TV.”



Williams is the recipient of four national news Emmy Awards, two Edward R. Murrow Awards, and the John F. Hogan Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association. He is now a member of the board of directors of *WyoFile*, a non-profit news organization in Wyoming. Prior to joining *NBC News*, Williams was an aide in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. In 1986, he joined the staff of then-Congressman Dick Cheney as press secretary and legislative assistant. In 1989, when Cheney became Secretary of Defense, Williams was confirmed by the Senate as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

A native of Casper, Wyoming and a 1974 graduate of Stanford University, Williams was a reporter and news director at *KTWO-TV and Radio* in Casper from 1974 to 1985. He successfully lobbied the Wyoming Supreme Court to permit broadcast coverage of its proceedings and twice sued Wyoming judges over pre-trial exclusion of reporters from the courtroom. For these efforts, he received a First Amendment Award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

# Panelists & Moderators

**The Honorable Stephen Adkins**, *Chief of the Chickahominy Tribe*

**Dale Anglin**, *Director, Press Forward*

**Emily August**, *Chief Public Engagement Officer, Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History*

**Jamie Bosket**, *President and CEO, Virginia Museum of History & Culture*

**Douglas Bradburn**, *President and CEO, George Washington's Mount Vernon*

**Amy Braden**, *Director of Programs, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute and the USC Mellon Humanities in a Digital World Program*

**John Bridgeland**, *Former White House Domestic Policy Director*

**Kitcki Carroll**, *Executive Director, United South and Eastern Tribes*

**Christy Coleman**, *Executive Director, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation*

**John Dichtl**, *President and CEO, American Association for State and Local History*

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

**The Honorable Aimee Guidera**, *Secretary of Education, Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin*

**Jason Hanson**, *Chief Creative Officer and Director of Interpretation and Research, History Colorado and Commissioner, America 250 – Colorado 150*

**Brian Hooks**, *Chairman and CEO, Stand Together and President, Charles Koch Foundation*

**Jane Kamensky**, *President and CEO, Thomas Jefferson Foundation*

**Margaret Koch**, *Director, Bullock Texas State History Museum and Chair, Texas America250 Commission*

**Cecilia Muñoz**, *Former White House Domestic Policy Council Director*

**Mia Nagawiecki**, *Vice President for Education Strategy & Civic Engagement, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

**Jeffrey Rosen**, *President and CEO, National Constitution Center*

**Scott Stephenson**, *President and CEO, Museum of the American Revolution*

**Cainan Townsend**, *Executive Director, The Moton Museum*

**Cheryl Wilson**, *Executive Director, Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250)*

**Jorge Zamanillo**, *Founding Director, National Museum of the American Latino*

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### VA250 Commemoration Society



# *American Revolution 250 Commission*

The Honorable Terry L. Austin, *Chair*  
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, *Vice Chair*  
Carly Fiorina, *National Honorary Chair*

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The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.  
The Honorable Kenneth R. Plum

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Dr. Katherine Rowe  
*William & Mary*

Jackie Stone  
*McGuire Woods LLP*

Cheryl Wilson  
*Executive Director*

# Mobile Museum Experience

OUT OF MANY  
**ONE**

From the ideas that inspired the founding of a nation, to the battlefields that secured those freedoms, to the invitation to reconnect with your country in the place that made it possible, visit the Mobile Museum for an immersive and interactive experience.

**Colonial Williamsburg Merchants Square  
Duke of Gloucester Street  
at Nassau Street and Boundary Street**

**Monday, March 24 - Wednesday, March 26  
Hours: 10 am - 6 pm**





A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars in the upper left corner and red and white stripes flowing diagonally across the page. The word "Notes" is written in a black, elegant script font in the upper right area.

# *Notes*



*I*nspired by the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, we gather here, resolved to commemorate our shared American story, recognizing its fullness and complexity, its achievements and shortcomings, and honoring the many voices that together forge one nation.

We pledge ourselves to a new common cause — for all Americans to unite in reflection, celebration, and aspiration as we continue our national journey together.

Resolved, unanimously,

*A Common Cause to All*  
Williamsburg, Virginia

Thank you for gathering in our shared mission. We look forward to what we will achieve together!

**VA★250.ORG**