



News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 13, 2025

Contact: Yuri Milligan, 757-726-7574
yuri.milligan@hamptoncvb.com

Phyllis Terrell 757-251-2754
pterrell@fortmonroe.org

Historic African Landing Day Commemoration to feature International Bell Ringing Ceremony

Event will feature special guest speaker Djimon Hounsou, actor and founder of the Djimon Hounsou Foundation

Hampton, VA - On a hot summer day in August 1619, a moment of profound consequence unfolded on the shores of what's now Hampton, Virginia. It was here that the first enslaved Africans from present day Angola were brought to English North America, marking the beginning of a harrowing chapter in history. On August 23-24 commemoration events will be held to honor the first Africans brought here in 1619 and to highlight their legacy of culture, identity, resistance and triumph.

Project 1619, Inc. and partners, the Fort Monroe Authority, National Park Service and the City of Hampton, invite the public to the 2025 African Landing Day Commemoration. This significant event will take place on **Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Continental Park, Fort Monroe**. The Commemoration will feature remarks by Djimon Hounsou, a two-time Oscar nominee and founder of the Djimon Hounsou Foundation. There will also be an International Bell Ringing Ceremony, where bells will toll to honor the first enslaved Africans who arrived at Point Comfort, now Fort Monroe, in August 1619. These events will be simultaneously conducted and live-streamed on the Project 1619, Inc. YouTube Channel.

African Landing Day Commemoration Events:

[The William Tucker 1624 Society's Annual African Landing Event](#)

Saturday, August 23, 2025, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Continental Park, Fort Monroe

This event marks 406 years of African/African American contributions and resilience in America. Senator Mamie Locke, representing Virginia State Senate District 23, will deliver the keynote address.

[African Landing Day Commemoration and International Ringing of the Bells Ceremony](#)

Saturday, August 23, 2025, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Continental Park, Fort Monroe

Commemorate and recognize the landing of the first enslaved Africans on the shores at Point Comfort. This ceremony will include a parade of flags, dance and drum performances, a bell ringing ceremony, and more. A special guest speaker Djimon Hounsou, a two-time Oscar nominee and founder of the Djimon Hounsou Foundation will make remarks at the ceremony.

On December 2, 2019, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, Hounsou announced the formation of the Djimon Hounsou Foundation (DHF) at the United Nations in New York City. Hounsou's nonprofit, which organizes [Run Richmond 16.19](#), aims to reconnect the African Diaspora with the motherland and combat modern-day slavery & human trafficking.

[The Healing and Cleansing Ceremony](#)

Sunday, August 24, 2025, 6 a.m.

Outlook Beach, Fort Monroe

This Day of Healing offers attendees a unique opportunity for spiritual cleansing and renewal. Participants are encouraged to wear all white for this ceremony.

###

[Image attached](#) : Djimon-Press-Photo.jpg - Djimon Hounsou, actor and founder of the Djimon Hounsou Foundation

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.