

**First Enslaved African Landing Day Commemoration
Fort Monroe Gazebo and Lawn
Saturday, August 23, 2025
Run of Show**

7:00am – 8:30am	Set up tent and table and ensure setup of Commemoration site
9:00am – 10:00am	Tucker Family Reflection & Commemoration

**First Enslaved African Landing Day Commemoration
10am – 1pm**

Opening program –	Introduction of our <i>Mistress of Ceremony – Dr. Yemaja Jubilee</i> by Ms. Venita Benitez , Vice President of Project 1619, Inc.
10:05am – 10:10am	Invocation - Chief Red Hawk Brown , Choreonhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe
10:10am – 10:25am	Parade of Flags - led by the Day Program Drummers and Dancers , with students from Hampton University, and members of Project 1619, Inc. around the Fort Monroe Gazebo and program area
10:25am – 10:35am	Drum Call – Kam and the Day Program Drummers and Dancers
10:35am – 10:40am	Libation – The Institute of Whole Life Healing, Inc.
10:40am – 10:45am	Welcome - Mayor Jimmy Gray, City of Hampton, VA
10:45am – 10:55am	Dr. Wanda Tucker , William Tucker 1624 Society and Dr. Margaret Bristow , Former Hampton University Professor &

member of the Association for the Study of African American Life & History

- 10:55am – 11:05am** **Mr. Scott Martin**, CEO of the Fort Monroe Authority & **Ms. Jaci Wells**, Superintendent of Fort Monroe National Monument, National Park Service
- 11:05am – 11:15am** **The Akoma De Gado Dance and Drum Performance Ensemble**
- 11:15am – 11:35am** Special Guest Speaker – *Mr. Djimon Hounsou*, 2-Time Oscar-nominated & 2-Time NAACP Image Award winner, Actor, & Founder of the Djimon Hounsou Foundation
- 11:35am – 11:45am** Special Presentation by **Senator Mamie E. Locke**, Senator of District 23 in Virginia and **Ms. Addie Richburg**, Co-Founder and President of the National Alliance of Faith and Justice – Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission and 400 Years of African American History Commission
- 11:45am – 11:50am** **Dr. Rebertha Pope-Matthews**, Emmy-nominated Director, Actor at Style 2 Empower, Historian, & Educator
- 11:50am – 12:00pm** Set up for Bell Ringing Ceremony; **the Akoma De Gado Dance and Drum Performance Ensemble**
- 12:00pm – 12:10pm** ***Bell Ringing Ceremony – Bells Heard Around the World*** – together with the Black Business Men International, the Sons & Daughters of Alkebulan, and the Caravan Guardians. Additionally, the African countries of Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Germany and Holland, and in the US – Baltimore, MD, Texas and the cities of the Mississippi Delta: Mound Bayou, Shelby, Cleveland and Itta Bena – the home of Mississippi Valley State University

12:10pm – 12:15pm	Mr. Steve Williams , President of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation
12:15pm – 12:30pm	Clear Vision Edutainment
12:30pm – 12:40pm	Keynote Speaker – Mr. Ric Murphy , President General of the Society of the First African Families of English America
12:40pm – 12:50pm	Special Acknowledgments – Presentations by Ms. Melinda Steele , President and Chairman of the Board of Project 1619, Inc. and Ms. Venita Benitez , Vice President of Project 1619, Inc.
12:50pm – 1:00pm	Flower Petal Ceremony – Led by Minister Larry Gibson in unison with the Day Program Drummers and Dancers
1:00pm	Program ends/Breakdown
1:30pm	Bus Tour of Hampton City Historical Sites
3:00pm	Bus Tour of Hampton City Historical Sites
3:30pm – 5:30pm	Dr. Rebertha Pope Matthews Brown's Documentary Presentation – Hampton Roads Convention Center
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Pearson Family Reception (TBD)