

The James Monroe Memorial Foundation

George William Thomas, Jr.
President

Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.
Vice President
901 E. Cary Street, Suite 1800
Richmond, VA 23219
pbroadbent@cblaw.com

February 23, 2023

Dear Lineage/Patriotic Society Leader/James Monroe supporter,

I am writing to ask that you pass along to your officers and members the following information regarding the activities in April to celebrate President James Monroe's 265th birthday.

We hope that you are able to participate in both ceremonies for President Monroe – in Richmond (at Hollywood Cemetery) and in Westmoreland County (at the Monroe Birthplace farm south of Colonial Beach). As always, these events are free and open to the public, so we hope that you will encourage your family and friends to join you.

We welcome lineage societies as partners in honoring the accomplishments of Founding Father James Monroe.

Westmoreland County Ceremony – Saturday, April 22

Starting at **10:00 a.m.**, at the Birthplace, the 265th anniversary ceremonies are expected to include local and state elected officials. The formal ceremony will commence at **10:30 a.m.** Come to see both the Birthplace House and the exhibits at the Visitor Center.

Many of you were able to join us in October 2021 for the grand opening ceremony of the Birthplace House, and again in April 2022. Whether you could make it then or not, we hope that you will come back on April 22 to see the Birthplace House again. We had approximately fifty lineage societies and other groups presenting wreaths at the grand opening ceremony. We hope to repeat that this spring. The ceremony will be in front of the Birthplace House again, rather than in front of the Visitor Center.

See www.monroefoundation.org for the Birthplace location at 4460 James Monroe Highway (State Rt. 205) just outside of Colonial Beach.

Hollywood Cemetery Ceremony – Friday, April 28

This year our annual wreath-laying ceremony at President Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond will be at **11:00 a.m.** Friday morning (subject to any changes in the start time by the Army, which schedules the ceremony). April 28 is President Monroe's actual birthday, and the White House military protocol rules require that the ceremony be held on that day. The Army's portion of the ceremony normally consists of a speech on behalf of the President delivered by an Army general,

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the Fort Lee color guard and band, and a wreath presented on behalf of the President. Our Foundation, and a large number of lineage societies, then present our wreaths and offer comments. **If a different start time is set by the Army, we will let you know promptly.**

We invite your participation and hope that attendance and participation at the annual Monroe birthday events will become a regular goal for all Virginia lineage societies which seek to honor our history.

Please remember that President Monroe was the only President besides George Washington to have actively served in the regular army during the Revolutionary War, participating in six major battles (as well as wintering at Valley Forge, crossing the Delaware with George Washington, being seriously wounded at Trenton and cited for conspicuous bravery) and subsequently served simultaneously as Secretary of War and Secretary of State (during the War of 1812, when he helped coordinate American defenses against the British). He was also an active participant in our first American lineage society, the Society of the Cincinnati.

We hope that you and members of your society will attend these events (this year and in the future). Please RSVP to me (pbroadbent@cblaw.com, 804-697-4109) if you are planning to present a wreath at either event. You will need to RSVP by Tuesday, April 18 to be included in any printed programs for either event.

We hope that you will be able to participate with us in these commemorations to emphasize the role of this great Virginian and Founding Father in establishing our country, and its system of government and values.

Thank you for the many ways you have helped us over the years. We appreciate your steadfast support, more than we are able to tell you.

Please pass this letter along to any of your current state or local Society representatives and members who may be able to attend.

Sincerely,



G. William Thomas, Jr.
President



Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.
Vice President