

The James Monroe Memorial Foundation

901 E. Cary Street, Suite 1800, Richmond, VA 23219

George William Thomas, Jr.
President

Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.
Vice President

August 20, 2026

Dear Lineage/Patriotic Society Leader/James Monroe supporter,

It was terrific seeing so many of you (over 250 attendees!) at the Hollywood Cemetery ceremony in April. We hope that you are able to also participate in this fall's October 4 ceremony for President Monroe in Westmoreland County (at the James Monroe Birthplace farm south of Colonial Beach).

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

Westmoreland County Ceremony – Sunday, October 4

Starting at **2:00 p.m.** at the Birthplace, the 268th anniversary ceremonies are expected to include local and state elected officials. Come to see both the Birthplace House and the exhibits at the Visitor Center. The Birthplace team will have other educational and entertainment activities for the public commencing at 12:00 p.m. that will close off when the ceremony begins.

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 roughly 1 mile outside of Colonial Beach.

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

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.

When James Monroe and other patriots seized the Virginia Governor's Palace on June 24, 1775, and distributed its armory of muskets, pistols, and swords to the Williamsburg militia, that act began the Revolutionary War in Virginia. Let's celebrate that 250th anniversary by honoring James Monroe in proper fashion!

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We hope that you and members of your society will be able to attend these events (this year and in the future). Please RSVP to Shelby Chandler (schandler@monroefoundation.org, 540-603-6675) if you are planning to present a wreath. You will need to RSVP by **Sunday, September 27** to be included in the printed program.

We hope that you will be able to participate with us in this commemoration 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,

Shelby Lee Chandler



Mr. Shelby L. Chandler

JAMES MONROE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Monroe Historian | Board of Trustees

Masonic Relations | Birthplace Superintendent

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*The James Monroe
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Commonwealth of Virginia - Board of Regents of the James Monroe Museum & Memorial Library

The purpose of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation is to preserve and honor the life, ideals, works and memory of the fifth President of the United States of America, James Monroe, through a variety of means; to educate the American public about the continued relevance of the Monroe Doctrine of 1823; to create a living memorial for President James Monroe which shall have both a physical manifestation and also shall be an active and influential voice of advocacy for sound American diplomacy and governmental values; to create an organizational structure and a plan to raise funds to support these worthy objectives; to create a plan of action to implement these objectives, and then to act upon this plan to fully execute them. A primary focus of ours is his extensive public service and his advocacy of sound international policies.