

## Media Coverage August—October 2015

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-monument-progress-20150820-story.html>

### **National Park Service to receive portions of Fort Monroe**

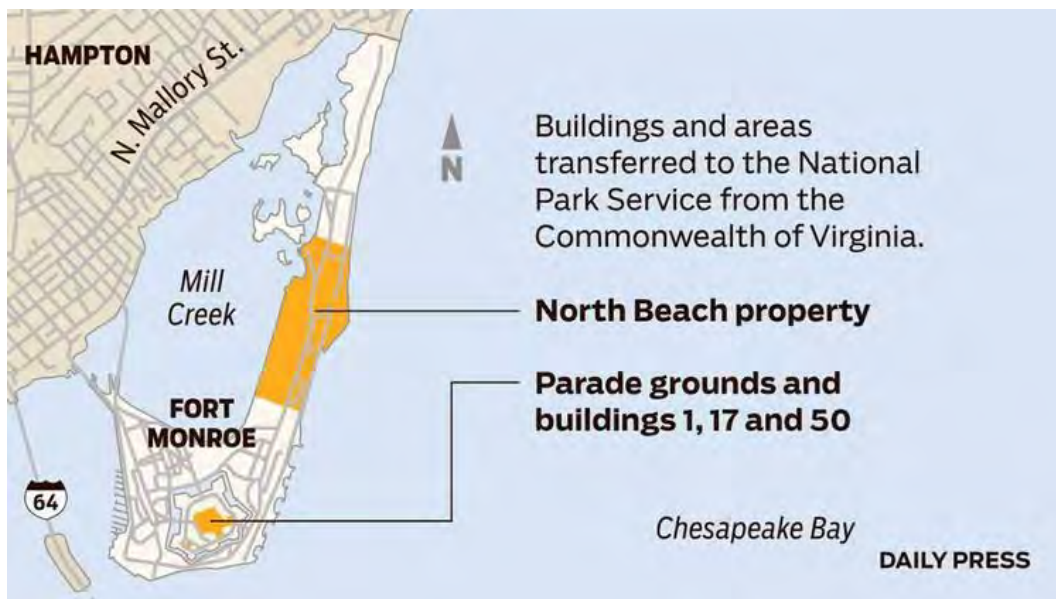
By [Robert Brauchler](#), brauchle@dailypress.com

What will Gov. Terry McAuliffe be doing on Fort Monroe on Tuesday?

The state plans to transfer more than 100 acres of Fort Monroe to the National Park Service, a decision that comes nearly four years after President Barack Obama designated portions of the property as a national monument.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe is expected to finalize the transfer in a ceremony Tuesday morning at the stone fort's main gate.

The agreement will transfer 112 acres of the North Beach area as well as the Parade Grounds, Old Quarters 1, Lee's Quarters and Engineer's Quarters. The properties are a portion of the entire park service monument.



The National Park Service also announced Thursday it has cleared a key step that dictates how the monument will be run. The news comes as the fort also commemorates the first landing of Africans in English-occupied North America.

The role of slavery — from its origins to its end — will be key themes of the national monument, according to the foundation document completed in July by the National Park Service.

## HAMPTON

Pictures: Fort Monroe in Hampton, Va.

The national monument's creation "is just like building a house," Park Superintendent Kirsten Talken-Spaulding said. "The foundation needs to be strong to build a quality home on it."

The 80-page report will serve as a touchstone for programs, exhibits and events that take place within the national monument areas.

Still, the foundational document lists more than a dozen reports, plans and studies that need to be completed and executed in the background while park rangers perform day-to-day duties.

Topics such as sea-level rise, transportation and resource management are high priorities that need resolving, according to the document.



**CAPTION**African Landing Day new historical marker

Rob Ostermaier / Daily Press

Carol Tucker and Andrea Bynum take photos of the newly unveiled historical marker commemorating the arrival of the first Africans in the New World in 1619.

**CAPTION**African Landing Day new historical marker

Rob Ostermaier / Daily Press

Baba Silki and Orimolade Ogunjimi play drums after a ceremony to unveil a historical marker commemorating the 1619 arrival of the first Africans at Fort Monroe then called Point Comfort.

The National Park Service monument includes varying levels of ownership of the moat, stone casemate, parade grounds inside the moat and a 235-acre swath of North Beach area beginning near Battery DeRussy and stretching north.

The Army has said an area known as Dog Beach may not transfer to the park service in the foreseeable future because contamination is being researched and removed.

On Thursday, officials from Hampton, the state and the National Park Service rededicated a Virginia Department of Historic Resources marker to note the 1619 landing of a Dutch ship carrying "20 and odd" Africans who were traded for provisions and supplies.

The National Park Service, state agencies and local historians now believe the Africans landed first in Hampton and not Jamestown.

Thursday afternoon, local and state officials were joined by representatives from Angola, Cameroon, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Benin during the ceremony near the fort's Engineer Wharf.

"This is not just significant here, but it's significant across the world," Project 1619 organizer Calvin Pearson said. "Today is a day of prayer and reconciliation and healing."



Virginia changing marker denoting where first Africans arrived in 1619

Pearson and 1619 lobbied the state to change markers at Fort Monroe and Jamestown to show Old Point Comfort as the location where nearly two dozen Africans first set foot on English-occupied North America.

"It's been a 20-year fight to get make sure history was told properly," he said.

*Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-846-4361.*

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-african-landing-commemoration-20150819-story.html>

## **Virginia changing marker denoting where first Africans arrived in 1619**

[Robert Brauchle](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com), rbrauchle@dailypress.com

Where did the first Africans land in English-occupied North America?

Representatives from five African nations are expected to attend a ceremony on Thursday marking the landing site of more than a dozen Africans in 1619 on present day Fort Monroe.



### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Pictures: Look Back: Hampton Landing Day

The ceremony is the first of a series of events marking the anniversary.

The August 1619 landing of a Dutch ship carrying "20 and odd" Africans who were traded for provisions and supplies was the first documented landing of indentured or enslaved Africans in English-occupied North America.



African Landing Day commemorated in Hampton

Thursday afternoon, local and state officials will be joined by representatives from Angola, Cameroon, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Benin during a re-dedication ceremony of a Virginia Department of Historic Resources marker at the site near the fort's Engineer Wharf.

The marker was changed by the state to show it is the landing site of those Africans.

The National Park Service, state agencies and local historians now believe the Africans landed first in Hampton and not Jamestown.

"There cannot be two first landing sites," wrote Project 1619 organizer Calvin Pearson in an email. "After a thorough review by Virginia and Jamestown scholars and historians it was confirmed that the first Africans landed at Point Comfort in Hampton and they were later dispersed to plantations including Jamestown."

The Jamestown marker will also be edited to reflect the change.

The event is among two days of events taking place in Hampton that commemorate African Landing Day.

The first Africans brought to Virginia were captured from the village of Ndongo in Angola, according to Pearson.



Slavery took hold on the York River

The Project 1619 organizer said Cameroonian tribal leader King Sinkam Konchipe Sylvestre is expected to attend Thursday's event.

For more info, visit [www.project1619.org](http://www.project1619.org).

*Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-247-2827.*

African Landing Day Commemoration

Thursday, Aug. 20

**Day of Reconciliation & Healing from the Legacy of Enslavement prayer service**

Where: Continental Park, Fort Monroe

When: Noon

Cost: Free

**Virginia Historic Resources Department marker re-dedication**

Where: near Engineer Wharf, Fort Monroe

When: 5 p.m.

Cost: Free

**African Landing Day Commemoration event (includes drumming and dancers)**

Where: Continental Park, Fort Monroe

When: 6 p.m.

Cost: Free

Friday, Aug. 21

**Project 1619 African Diaspora Film Festival**

Where: The American Theatre, 125. E. Mellen St., Hampton.

When: 7 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$10, Children under 16 \$5.



<http://wavy.com/2015/08/20/1st-africans-in-va-recognized-by-fort-monroe-marker/>

## 1st Africans in Va. recognized by Fort Monroe marker

AP Published: August 20, 2015, 6:33 am Updated: August 20, 2015, 9:25 am



HAMPTON, Va. (AP) — A state historical marker is being rededicated at Fort Monroe to recognize the arrival of the first Africans in Virginia.

Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam will join Hampton Mayor George Wallace for the ceremony Thursday. The marker will recognize the first Africans to arrive in Virginia on an English privateer. The 20 or so Africans had been captured from a Portuguese slave ship.

The new marker corrects some of the narrative in the original marker.

As part of the rededication, the descendants of the first known child of African ancestry to be born in Virginia will lay a memorial wreath at the marker's location. African drummers and dancers will also lead a procession after the rededication.



<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hpt-notebook-0819-20150818-story.html>

## **Hampton youth employment program trains 43**

By [Robert Brauchler](#), brauchle@dailypress.com

Hampton's efforts to curb youth violence are also providing job skills at city-run facilities and departments as well as businesses throughout the community.

The summer employment program included 43 students this year, according to a presentation given to the City Council on Aug. 12.

The city created a smaller version of the program in 2014, and increased its size.

The city combines the youth employment program with grass roots prevention mini-grants and data collection to help slow the seasonal rise in youth violence that comes during summer break.

Information is being collected from Hampton schools, Hampton police, human services, the court system, Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Hampton Health District to help shape services for youths.

Laron Tonkins worked at the Buckroe Fishing Pier throughout the summer.

"(My manager) was straightforward and didn't treat me like a child," he said. "She treated me like an employee."

"I hope you take what you learned and put it to good use," said Councilwoman Chris Snead, who participated in a youth employment program. "If someone would have told me I would be sitting on City Council when I was your age I would have shook my head."

## **Fort Monroe tide gauge**

The U.S. Geological Survey has installed a tide gauge station at Fort Monroe.

Tide gauges provide real-time water levels and local meteorology data in areas susceptible to storm-related flooding.

The information collected by the gauge is used by numerous federal agencies – such as the National Weather Service, Navy and Coast Guard – for a variety of purposes.

In the past year, a tide gauge was also installed along the Hampton River.

"Regional predictions will be improved through the addition of this (Fort Monroe) sensor to the overall network," said George Harlow, acting director of the USGS Virginia-West Virginia Water Science Center, in a news release.

The gauge will be installed at the former Navy Pier at Fort Monroe. The equipment will be funded by federal money made available in response to Hurricane Sandy. The 2012 hurricane affected localities along the Eastern seaboard.

A map of tide gauges can be found at <http://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/index.html>.

### **Aberdeen Road cleanup**

Volunteers are being invited to clean up litter along Aberdeen Road and Wingfield Drive from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21.

The event is hosted by the Hampton Clean City Commission.

For more information, or to sign up, call 757-727-1199.

*Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-846-4361 or [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com). Follow him on Twitter, @dp\_brauchle and on Facebook, facebook.com/hamptonnews.*

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/dp-fort-monroe-dedication-park-service-presentation-scheduled-aug-20-20150819-htmstory.html>

## **Fort Monroe dedication, park service presentation scheduled Aug. 20**

By [Robert Brauchle](#)

August 19, 2015 9:19 a.m.

The National Park Service has spent nearly four years creating a foundation document that will serve as the guide for park rangers.

The ultimate goal is telling visitors what is important about Fort Monroe.

National monument superintendent Kirsten Talken-Spaulling is scheduled to discuss an overview of the document during the Fort Monroe Authority's Aug. 20 meeting.

The meeting will take place at 1 p.m. at the Fort Monroe Theatre, 41 Tidball Road.

Following the meeting, at 5 p.m., officials are expected to dedicate a Department of Historic Resources highway marker highlighting the landing site of the first Africans to English-occupied America.

The event will take place near Engineer Warf along Fenwick Road.

For more information, visit [www.fmauthority.com](http://www.fmauthority.com).

<http://fullframe.dailypress.com/2015/08/25/fort-monroe-transferred-to-national-park-service/>

**FORT MONROE TRANSFERED TO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



Gov. Terry McAuliffe signs the deed to transfer land to the National Park Service during a ceremony Tuesday at Fort Monroe. (Photos by Kaitlin McKeown / Daily Press) For more photos, [click here](#). For video, [click here](#).

<http://augustafreepress.com/governor-mcauliffe-signs-deed-to-transfer-fort-monroe-land-to-national-park-service/>

## **Governor McAuliffe signs deed to transfer Fort Monroe land to National Park Service**

***Published Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015, 7:46 pm***

Governor Terry McAuliffe on Tuesday signed a deed that transfers land at Fort Monroe from the Commonwealth of Virginia to the National Park Service, solidifying Virginia's commitment to turning the fort into a national monument for the enjoyment of tourists and history-buffs from all over the Commonwealth and country.

The deed was signed in a public ceremony at the Main Gate of the Fort by Governor McAuliffe and Peggy O'Dell, the Deputy Director of the National Park Service. The document formally and legally finalizes the transfer of land at Fort Monroe from the Commonwealth of Virginia to the National Park Service.

"Fort Monroe is a rich historical site that helps tell the story of our Commonwealth and our country," **said Governor McAuliffe.** "By transferring this land to the National Park Service, we are creating the opportunity to enhance this great asset so that we can preserve our history and leverage it to draw greater tourism revenue and economic activity to the Peninsula. I am thrilled to sign this deed and help begin the next chapter in the history of Fort Monroe."

The land transfer preserves a group of significant landmarks at Fort Monroe that highlight some of our nation's most important events. Robert E. Lee lived at the Fort and helped design and construct the stone fortification. Jefferson Davis was imprisoned in a Fort casemate. Harriet Tubman spent time at the Fort after the Civil War, and Edgar Allen Poe was stationed there as a young soldier.

The Fort also tells the significant story of the beginning and the end of slavery in the United States. One such story includes three brave men — Frank Baker, James Townsend and Sheppard Mallory — who escaped enslavement and rowed a skiff to Old Point Comfort to seek asylum. General Benjamin Butler declared these men "contraband of war." This inspired tens of thousands of African Americans throughout the South to seek self-emancipation across Union lines. This monument provides a unique opportunity to share this story with visitors from around the world.

The deed signing marks the culmination of years of hard work by state leaders, the City of Hampton, the National Park Service, the historic preservation community, the National Park Conservation Association and the Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park.

To learn more about Fort Monroe, visit [www.nps.gov/fomr/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fomr/index.htm).

<http://hamptonroads.com/food/760575/2015/08/new-oozlefinch-brewery-coming-fort-monroe>

## **New Oozlefinch brewery coming to Fort Monroe**

By: Katherine Hafner

The Virginian-Pilot

August 25, 2015

HAMPTON

A new brewery is coming to McNair Drive at Fort Monroe.

The Oozlefinch Craft Brewery has signed a 4,000-square-foot lease with the Fort Monroe Authority, according to a director's report to its Board of Trustees.

The lease is for five years with a five-year option to renew.



<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-monroe-land-transfer-20150825-story.html>

## McAuliffe hands over Fort Monroe land to Park Service

By Ryan Murphy, [rmurphy@dailypress.com](mailto:rmurphy@dailypress.com)

State officially signs over more than 120 acres to National Parks Service at Fort Monroe

HAMPTON — With the stroke of Gov. Terry McAuliffe's pen, many people visiting Fort Monroe around 10:30 a.m. Tuesday were suddenly standing on National Park Service property.

McAuliffe signed about 121 acres of state land over to the Park Service, completing a years-long effort to finally transfer the Fort Monroe National Monument to the federal agency.

McAuliffe said Tuesday he hopes the move will bolster the landmark's profile.



**CAPTION** Pictures: Deed signing transfers Fort Monroe land to National Park Service

Kaitlin McKeown / Daily Press

Gov. Terry McAuliffe greets Fort Monroe resident Marguerite Stankus prior to a deed signing ceremony for the transfer of lands to the National Park Service on Tuesday at Fort Monroe. Stankus said she was pleased to see the area receive recognition. "If it's a joint effort to preserve this place for a long time, then we've accomplished what we need to accomplish," she

said. "It's a remarkable place if you just take the time to look at it--there's no other place in the whole world like it."

**CAPTION**Pictures: Deed signing transfers Fort Monroe land to National Park Service

Kaitlin McKeown / Daily Press

From left, former U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, Gov. Terry McAuliffe and National Park Service Deputy Director Margaret O'Dell sign the deed for the transfer of lands to the National Park Service during a ceremony on Tuesday at Fort Monroe.

"The goal is to make people aware of this place" and promote it as a tourism destination and economic driver, McAuliffe said Tuesday outside the old fort's stone gate. "We haven't done a very good job of making use of these assets."

He said the history of the site puts it on a level with great landmarks around the world.

Fort Monroe served as a Union stronghold during the Civil War and is notable for a landmark decision by a Union general in 1861 to give asylum to three escaped slaves as contraband of war, setting legal precedent and paving the way for the Emancipation Proclamation.

Related



**HAMPTON**

Pictures: African Landing Day commemorated on Fort Monroe

President Barack Obama signed an order creating Fort Monroe National Monument in 2011, after the closure of the U.S. Army base there. Since then, efforts have been underway involving the Army, the state, the National Park Service and the authority set up to oversee Fort Monroe.

The deed signing was the culmination of years of work to untangle the issues tied up with the kind of land transfer. Several things made the transfer more complicated than setting up most

new national parks, Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder said, including the fact that people live there day-to-day.



"It was a little bit like trying to get a square peg in a round hole," Oder said.

For instance, he said, because there is one utility system serving all of Fort Monroe, getting the easements in place to ensure the maintenance and improvement of those utilities was one of the speedbumps.

For the National Park Service, this means they can take a more active role in administration of the land and funnel in more federal money, said Deputy Director Peggy O'Dell, who was on hand for the signing.

"We actually have authority over some of this property, so now we can think more about improving and staffing these properties," O'Dell said. She said the Park Service doesn't have specific plans for improvement of any of the Fort Monroe sites just yet.

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, the National Park Service superintendent for the Fort Monroe National Monument, said the general public won't notice a difference right away, but the

service plans to revive some of the things that were more or less shut down during the BRAC closure process in 2011.



Gov. Terry McAuliffe signs the deed to transfer land to the National Park Service during a ceremony Tuesday at Fort Monroe.

Talken-Spaulding and the National Park Service recently unveiled the foundation document, a guide to what makes a site significant and what the Park Service will highlight for visitors.

One question still up in the air Tuesday is whether the park will ever become a single, continuous property. Tuesday's land transfer gave the Park Service control of a 112 acre swath known as North Beach, 8.6 acres known as the parade field on the interior of the old stone fort, and a small nearby plot housing Buildings 1, 17 and 50.

Between the old stone fort and North Beach is a largely residential area known as Wherry Quarter. McAuliffe has said that his administration is working with the federal government on expanding the monument. Asked about it on Tuesday, McAuliffe deferred to former Hampton mayor Molly Ward, who is now his secretary of natural resources.

Ward said only that negotiations were continuing.

Other areas of the property are still under the control of the U.S. Army. McAuliffe said he met with U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter on Monday and discussed the fate of Army land at Fort Monroe, hinting that he hoped to make an announcement about that sometime soon.

*Murphy can be reached by phone at 757-247-4760.*

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<http://governor.virginia.gov/about-the-governor/governors-calendar/governor-mcauliffe-to-sign-fort-monroe-deed-and-deliver-remarks/>

Governor McAuliffe to sign Fort Monroe deed and deliver remarks

August 25

10:00 AM

Fort Monroe

151 Bernard Road

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

<http://hamptonroads.com/2015/08/mcauliffe-sign-deed-fort-monroe-today>

## **Gov. McAuliffe signs deed transferring Fort Monroe land to Park Service**

By Katherine Hafner

The Virginian-Pilot

© August 26, 2015

HAMPTON

At a ceremony Tuesday, Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed a deed transferring state land within Fort Monroe to the National Park Service.

About 50 citizens, staffers and officials, including Park Service Deputy Director Margaret O'Dell and U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman, attended the gathering, framed by the fort's historic main entrance and flanked by American flag bunting. Tuesday also was the 99th anniversary of the Park Service.

"I have explored the fort from land, sea and air... and I would put Fort Monroe up against any of the great sites around the world," McAuliffe said at the ceremony. "I have great visions for Fort Monroe."

The Park Service has been operating at the fort since President Barack Obama declared it a national monument in 2011.

The signed deed makes the service's involvement official. The area, almost 120 acres, will be run jointly by the Park Service and the Fort Monroe Authority.

McAuliffe and other officials emphasized the importance of the fort's role, specifically in black history.

"I don't think anyone understands the first slaves came to Virginia in 1619.... (General Benjamin) Butler declared slaves contraband here," McAuliffe said. "The goal of all this is to teach people about that."

Hampton Mayor George Wallace agreed that the fort's black history is particularly salient.

"This is a major day for the state of Virginia and the city of Hampton, especially for African American people," Wallace said. "Their story has not been told well.... (The monument) is helping to bring the history up front."

Fort Monroe was established in 1609. Following the War of 1812, it was built in earnest, becoming the largest stone fort in the U.S.

Robert E. Lee lived there; his office is now home to Park Service administration. Jefferson Davis was imprisoned there. Harriet Tubman spent time at the fort. The Battle of the Ironclads during the Civil War took place just off its shores.

McAuliffe said it's the first national monument on the Chesapeake Bay.



A large area not included in the deed is still owned by the Army. The governor said he recently met with Pentagon officials and that an announcement could likely come soon about a transfer of that land, as well.

McAuliffe added that he hopes the national monument can help increase the state's \$22.3 billion tourism industry.

The deed transfer will not change much for visitors, aside from possibly seeing more programming and activities, said Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, superintendent of the Fort Monroe National Monument.

There is no charge to enter the fort.

*Katherine Hafner, 757-446-2705, [katherine.hafner@pilotonline.com](mailto:katherine.hafner@pilotonline.com).*

<http://wavy.com/2015/08/25/gov-mcauliffe-signs-deed-transferring-fort-monroe/>

## Gov. McAuliffe signs deed transferring Fort Monroe

By Jane Wertz

Published: August 25, 2015, 11:13 am Updated: August 25, 2015, 6:49 pm



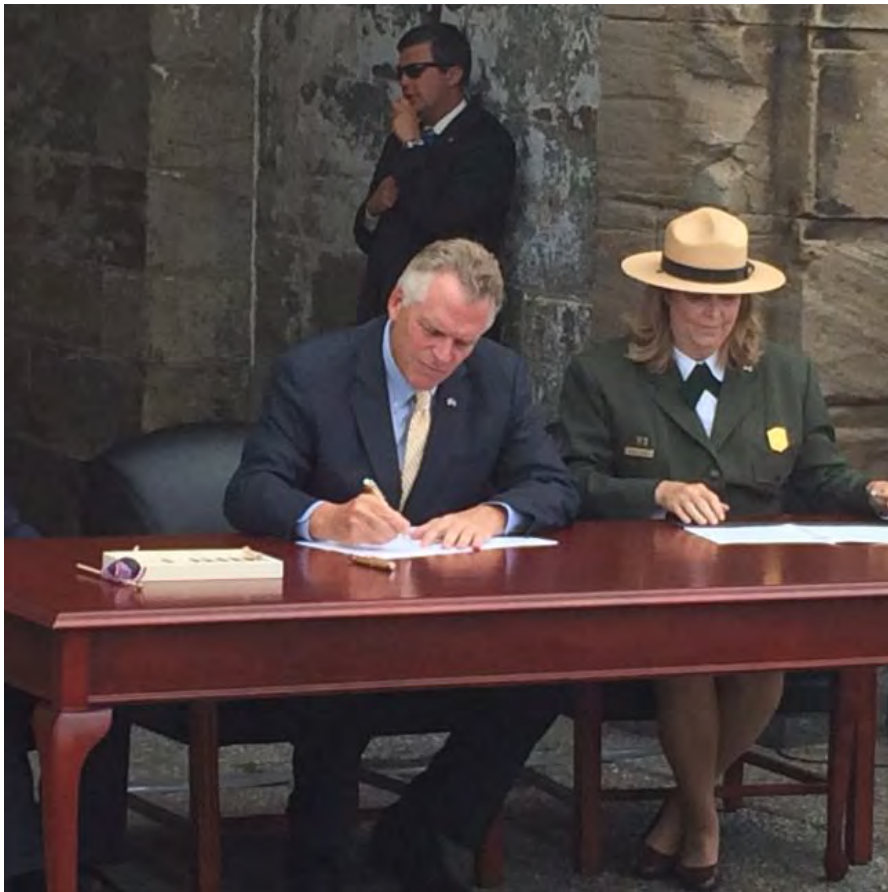
Governor Terry McAuliffe signed a deed on August 25, 2015 that transfers land at Fort Monroe from the Commonwealth of Virginia to the National Park Service, solidifying Virginia's commitment to turning the fort into a national monument

FORT MONROE, Va. (WAVY) – Tuesday morning, Fort Monroe took a big step toward becoming a national monument.

During a public ceremony, Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed a deed to transfer the land at Fort Monroe from the Commonwealth of Virginia over to the National Park Service.

**Photos: Fort Monroe transfer signing**

“Fort Monroe is a rich historical site that helps tell the story of our Commonwealth and our country,” said Governor McAuliffe. “By transferring this land to the National Park Service, we are creating the opportunity to enhance this great asset so that we can preserve our history and leverage it to draw greater tourism revenue and economic activity to the Peninsula. I am thrilled to sign this deed and help begin the next chapter in the history of Fort Monroe.”





To learn more about Fort Monroe, visit <http://www.nps.gov/fomr/index.htm>.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2015/08/preserve-more-fort-monroe>

## **Preserve more of Fort Monroe**

The Virginian-Pilot

© August 30, 2015

With Gov. Terry McAuliffe's signature on the deed last week, 120 acres of state land at Fort Monroe officially transferred to the National Park Service.

The signature, a formality long in the making, is as significant for what it represents as for what it doesn't.

As The Pilot's Katherine Hafner reported, visitors won't see much difference at the historic former Army post, at least not immediately. The Park Service already is involved there, having worked alongside the state-created Fort Monroe Authority since 2011, when President Barack Obama signed a proclamation declaring 325 acres at the fort a national monument. Its use as an active military installation ended after the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended shutting it.

The national monument designation carries profound implications for a site inextricably tied to this nation's earliest days. As colonists established a settlement at Jamestown, they also explored the Chesapeake Bay and fortified what they called Old Point Comfort. The first African slaves known to arrive in North America landed at the peninsula; the unraveling of institutional slavery in this country began there more than two centuries later, amid the Civil War, when a general at the Union stronghold declared three runaway slaves as contraband after they sought safe haven. Those actions led thousands more to make their way to "Freedom's Fortress," and provoked Confederates to burn neighboring Hampton.

Too few outside this area know about that history, even if they are familiar with Jamestown, Yorktown or Colonial Williamsburg. The Park Service's involvement increases the likelihood that will change, that more Americans will learn about the fort's significant role in those events and that it will develop greater stature in efforts to draw visitors to "America's First Region."

It also will help magnify the fort's connection to early settlers, such as Captain John Smith, and other important historical figures: Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory and James Townsend, the first three runaway slaves; Benjamin Butler, the Union general who took them in; Robert E. Lee, the Confederate general who lived there three decades before the Civil War; and Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president imprisoned there after the war ended.

"I don't think anyone understands the first slaves came to Virginia in 1619," Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said Tuesday at the deed-signing ceremony, as Hafner reported.

"The goal of all this," the governor said, "is to teach people about that."

The acreage transferred to the National Park Service, however, is only a start. As it stands, the national monument at Fort Monroe is bifurcated, with two distinct sections of property separated by a strip of land at risk for residential development.

Advocates of such development have argued it's necessary in order to generate revenue to help maintain and improve the property, and to make Virginia's portion of the land self-sustaining. But, as we've noted before, that would diminish visitors' experience, creating an outcome that carries significant - albeit incalculable - cost. An historic site loses its greatest lure - its sense of place - when its land is surrendered for incompatible development.

That's precisely what's at stake on the land known as the Wherry Quarter. Development would occur between the southern and northern parts of the national monument.

"At the northern end of the North Beach area," according to the president's proclamation, "lies the only undeveloped shoreline remaining on Old Point Comfort, providing modern-day visitors a sense of what earlier people saw when they arrived in the New World. The North Beach area also includes coastal defensive batteries, including Batteries DeRussy and Church, which were used from the 19th Century to World War II."

If houses or condominiums are built there, tourists and school groups hoping for a sense of the site's history will see a stretch of low-lying, bayfront land with 21st-century homes as they attempt to gaze from the moated fortress toward that undeveloped beach.

Development along the Wherry Quarter makes little practical sense, given that it already is prone to flooding. Incremental sea-level rise is likely to worsen that situation in the future.

That argues, instead, for the preservation of most, if not all, of that land as open space to unify the Fort Monroe National Monument's two sections.

The historical value of Fort Monroe is only starting to be realized, and the opportunities to promote the monument - and the region - are legion. It would be a shame to squander those opportunities by pursuing development that jeopardizes the monument's purpose.

Posted to: **Editorials** **Opinion**

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letssun-0920-20150919-story.html>

**Sept. 20 Letters: Welcome Cities, Buckroe boardwalk**

**Humane obligations**

Re: "Embrace empathy," Sept. 16.

Kudos to the writer for her wonderful letter in support of the Welcoming Cities Initiative. Other reactions to the proposal show good people applying the wrong values.

Yes, we have "people we need to help find jobs and homes here already," as one Newport News City Council member said. And yes, refugees can bring "economic growth and strengthen the social fabric of our community," as another letter writer said in favor of the proposal.

But as this writer points out, we are part of humanity and we have a responsibility to one another that reaches beyond self-interest.

Newport News and surrounding communities on the Peninsula, especially community churches, should support this initiative.

**Fort Monroe, for example, has plenty of empty buildings that could house refugees.**

Richard J. Rinaldo  
Newport News



<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/arts/dp-fea-david-0920-20150920-column.html>

## **Hampton Roads Philharmonic opens its 2015-16 season**

*David Nicholson*

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DAILY PRESS

September 20, 2015

Young pianist Rebecca Willett will solo when the Hampton Roads Philharmonic opens its 2015-2016 season. The performance will take place at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at The American Theatre in the Phoebus section of Hampton.

Willett, who grew up in Virginia Beach and studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music, according to her website, will perform Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto in G Minor.

Conductor Steven Brindle will open the concert with "Bright Light" by Jeremy Ribando, an accomplished tenor and composer who currently teaches music at Northwest Florida State College. Rimsky-Korsakov's First Symphony will close the program.

Tickets are \$20 regular, \$18 seniors, \$12 students ages 17 and under, available through Ticketmaster.

Other performances in the coming season will take place Dec. 13 and May 22, 2016, at the Fort Monroe Post Theater and March 6, 2016, at The American Theatre.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letsfri-0918-20150917-story.html>

**Sept. 18 Letters: Fort Monroe**

Re: "Hampton City Council weighs 'place-making' to attract millennial workforce," Sept. 9.

The advice of the market research firm hired by Hampton is clear and unequivocal. If the city wants to grow its population and its economy, it must "focus on developing areas where young people can work, live and play." Young professionals, it turns out, value quality of life over business opportunities. Create "activity centers" with walking and biking trails, and they will come.

Fortunately for Hampton, it has a nearby ready-made activity center: Fort Monroe National Monument. Also fortunately for Hampton, Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Joseph Ward are working to enhance the recreational appeal of the monument by adding to it the 80-acre Wherry Quarter.

A beautiful, unified, millennial-friendly monument could be the key to Hampton's future prosperity.

*H. Scott Butler  
Board Member, Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park  
Newport News*

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<http://www.pressreader.com/usa/richmond-times-dispatch/20150916/281865822259926/TextView>

## **Fort Monroe will make a magnificent park**

Richmond Times-Dispatch

16 Sep 2015

EDITOR, TIMES-DISPATCH:

The organizations and members behind Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park would like to extend our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Gov. Terry McAuliffe for his recent transfer of the first 121 acres to the National Park Service at Fort Monroe National Monument. This is a huge step forward for the national park and the many benefits it will provide the Hampton Roads region, the commonwealth and the nation.

It is important to recognize that this step would not have been possible without a prior decision by the governor to move the timetable forward for Virginia land transfers to the national monument. That well considered decision accelerated the realization of the economic and other benefits of a fully functioning Fort Monroe by at least several years.

Fort Monroe National Monument, in conjunction with the state-managed lands at Fort Monroe, promises to be a historical, cultural, natural and recreational treasure of the first order, in the heart of Hampton Roads on the Chesapeake Bay. We thank McAuliffe for his leadership and dedication in making this vision for Fort Monroe a reality.

We look forward with great anticipation to further land transfers by the Army to both the commonwealth and the national monument, respectively, and by the commonwealth to the National Park Service, thus completing the groundwork for a magnificent tourism and educational engine of international significance for Virginia and the nation.

MARK PERREAULT, PRESIDENT, CITIZENS FOR A FORT MONROE NATIONAL PARK.

NORFOLK. PAMELA GODDARD, CHESAPEAKE AND VIRGINIA

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION.

WASHINGTON.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/military/dp-gerald-ford-sailor-dies-after-collapsing-during-run-at-fort-monroe-20150915-story.html>

## **Gerald Ford sailor dies after collapsing during run at Fort Monroe**

By [Ali Rockett](#)

September 15, 2015

A sailor died Tuesday morning after collapsing at the beginning of a short run at Fort Monroe.

The sailor was a chief petty officer selectee assigned to a pre-commissioning unit on the Gerald R. Ford, which is currently under construction at Newport News Shipbuilding.

The run was scheduled to be only 1.5 miles - the Navy's standard fitness testing distance, according to Cmdr. Mike Kafka, a spokesman for Naval Air Force Atlantic.

A Navy hospital corpsmen treated the sailor on the scene and the sailor was then taken by ambulance to Sentara Hospital in Hampton, where the sailor died.

The Navy won't identify the sailor until 24 hours after the families has been notified, Kafka said.

An investigation is underway.

Kafka said the run was part of the second phase of the CPO 365, a year-round training program prepares first class petty officers to become chiefs. The phase began on June 22, when the selection board convened and was scheduled to end Wednesday, when the new chiefs will pin on their anchors.

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<http://www.13newsnow.com/story/news/military/2015/09/15/sailor-dies-after-run-at-fort-monroe/72333992/>

### **Sailor dies after run at Fort Monroe**

HAMPTON, Va. (WVEC) -- A sailor died after participating in a run at Fort Monroe Tuesday.

A Chief Petty Officer selectee assigned to Pre Commissioning Unit Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) died at Sentara CarePlex Hospital.

The sailor collapsed at the beginning of a CPO 365 Phase 2 run at Fort Monroe.

Navy Hospital Corpsmen treated the sailor immediately on the scene and he was then taken by ambulance to the hospital.

An investigation is underway.

Gerald R. Ford is under construction at Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipyard.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/weather/stormguide/dp-nws-saturday-weather-flooding-0927-20150927-story.html>

September 27, 2015

**UDPATE: Flood advisory continues through midweek, chance of rain everyday**



Fishing continues on Engineer's Wharf at Fort Monroe Saturday as high winds and rain settle in on the area.

(Rob Ostermaier / Daily Press)

Daily Press

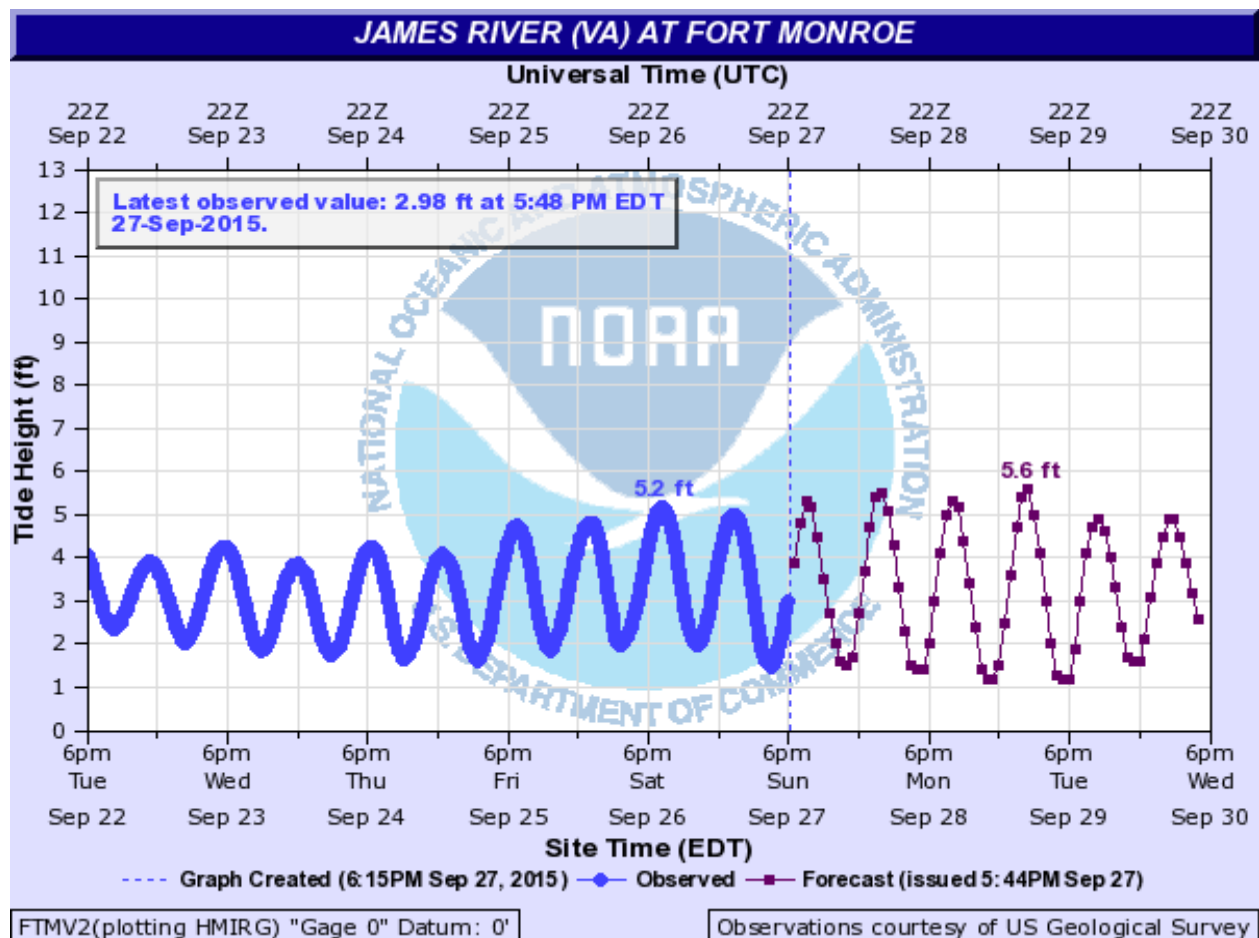
<http://www.weather.gov/akq/FtMonroe>

**Wakefield, VA**  
Weather Forecast Office

**Ft. Monroe Water Level Forecasts**  
[Weather.gov](#) > [Wakefield, VA](#) > Ft. Monroe Water Level Forecasts

(Numbers in Parentheses denote minor, moderate and severe coastal flood thresholds)

**Fort Monroe VA NWS Wakefield Forecast (4.5, 5.5, 6.5 - preliminary)**



<http://www.oddthingsiveseen.com/2015/09/if-these-walls-could-bark-fort-monroe.html>

If These Walls Could Bark: Fort Monroe Pet Cemetery



**September 30, 2015** — It was a Black Friday. I was in a 180-year-old fort in Virginia trying to find a mannequin dressed as Edgar Allan Poe. I climbed to the top of the fort wall, looked down, and realized I was stepping on dead animals.

If I had any bravado whatsoever, I'd leave the article at that. But here's the long explanation.





I was traveling for my book [Poe-Land](#), visiting Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, because Poe was stationed there for a few months during his two-year stint in the military. It's a massive fort. The largest stone one in America, in fact. Inside its walls is an entire town—office buildings, parks, residences. The place had only just been decommissioned in 2011. And so much had happened here over the course of its military service.

Inside one of its walls is the long, meandering, subterranean-feeling Casement Museum, which tracks all that history from back when it was the site of a wooden fort called Algernourne in 1609 all the way through to when Jefferson Davis was held prisoner there after the Civil War and on to the shiny-gun-metal of present day. It also has a corner exhibit on Poe's time at the base, which consisted of a mannequin at a desk and a large placard. I adored it.

But, like you're inclined to do at a historic coastal fort, I wanted to see the vantage point from the walls, so I ascended a set of steps near the entrance of the museum. At the top, I expected a few replica cannons, maybe some flags, perhaps a view of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.



Instead I found graves. Pet graves.



The grassy top of the rampart was lined with stones inscribed with names like Tippy and Dusty and Tinkie and Toodles and Dutchie, Goldie and Blacky and Red and Mitzy and all the condescending stuff we usually do to these once-wolves and -lions. At least, they were either pet graves or Virginia went through a real dark time in its maternity wards.

So there I was, on a Poe mission, inadvertently finding cats in walls.



The tombstones were in a line on the wall as far as I could see, like they were defending it. The styles varied, and I saw some that dated to the 1930s. I followed the line, treating them like paving stones. Every once in a while they wended across the remnants of batteries.





Eventually, after getting to the point where I was wondering if they'd circle the entire wall, they stopped. I found the nearest set of stairs down and headed back to my car to catch the tail end of all the holiday sales. It wouldn't be until later that I learned exactly what I had explored.

It was, in fact, the pet cemetery for the fort, as well as some of the surrounding residential areas. Like I said, the walls encompassed an entire town. Lives were spent there, both human and animal. They say more than 400 animals ended up in those walls, with the oldest marker dating to 1936, although it's surmised that interments go further back than that. The current fort structure goes back to 1834, after all.



It officially stopped being an active pet cemetery in 1988, about six years after Stephen King made those things creepy. However, the presence of some 21st century markers indicates that people still sneak their dead pets up there.

As long as they don't try to come back for them, I guess.







<http://www.postindependent.com/news/18406667-113/vet-group-lends-voice-to-thompson-divide-issues>

## **Vet group lends voice to Thompson Divide issues**

A group that encourages Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans to lend their voice to important issues that affect them back home is turning its attention to the embattled Thompson Divide region west of Carbondale.

Garett Reppenhagen, a Colorado native and U.S. Army veteran, is the Rocky Mountain regional coordinator for the nonprofit Vet Voice Foundation.

The organization empowers veterans to speak out on issues such as jobs, health care and housing.

Conservation is also a topic near and dear to veterans' hearts, he said, citing recent polls that show a majority of veterans want to protect natural resources and public lands.

"It comes back to why we wanted to serve our country and make that sacrifice in the first place," Reppenhagen said.

"Conservation of these places is important so future generations have something to explore, and where they can be inspired," he said.

A sniper in Iraq, Reppenhagen said he found healing in Colorado's public lands when he returned home, which helped him relearn how to be a civilian.

Last weekend, he led an overnight camping trip for three of his fellow military veterans, Matt Stys, Brian Huston and Grant Wideman, into the Lake Ridge area of the Thompson Divide where several undeveloped natural gas leases are at issue.

The outing was part therapy, incorporating elements similar to the Aspen-based Huts for Vets outdoor experience program, said Reppenhagen, who has participated in the hut trips and found them helpful.

"The farther we got away from the vehicle, the farther away we were from the war," he said of the latest trip. "The discussions that most therapy groups try to get you to have come naturally around the campfire."

The distinction is that Vet Voices encourages veterans to take an advocacy role and to get involved in conservation policy for the different areas they explore.



“We are hoping to extend that effort into the Thompson Divide by ensuring the current drilling leases are removed and they don’t return,” Reppenhagen said.

“We all enjoy the outdoors,” he said. “For veterans, it has amazing healing properties and offers an opportunity for families and friends to reconnect after deployment. That is the reason why we wish to protect these areas.”

Vet Voices has already been involved with the recent designation of Chimney Rock and Browns Canyon national monuments, and the Hermosa Wilderness in southwest Colorado.

Elsewhere, it helped to establish two decommissioned military bases, Fort Ord in California and Fort Monroe in Virginia, as national monuments.

Participants in the outings Reppenhagen organizes are encouraged to write opinion pieces, visit decision makers and speak publicly about their experiences.

“We hope this hike is one of many to get veterans exposed to the incredible Thompson Divide area and help get them passionate to conserve it,” he said.

During the campout, they talked about the risk to 15 different watersheds should large-scale drilling occur, Reppenhagen said.

“We were excited to hear that there is work to try to transfer some of those leases,” he said of a proposal by two lease holders in the region to exchange leases in the Thompson Divide for new leases closer to established oil and gas activity.

About two dozen of the leases that have been extended beyond the normal 10-year lease period are also under review by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to determine if they should continue.

**Storm Coverage—Images from the Daily Press staff photographers**

Sunday, October 4, 2015

Video link of high surf pounding the seawall <http://www.dailypress.com/visuals/video/dp-high-surf-at-fort-monroe-on-sunda-20151004-embeddedvideo.html>





Friday, October 2, 2015



Veolia North America—Fort Monroe team closing the floodgate at Engineer Wharf and leaving sandbags for resident pickup.







Thursday, October 1, 2015—Youth Sailing Virginia getting their boats from Mill Creek



