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OpSail 2012 Virginia Announces Seven Award Winning Authors Participating in OpSail 2012 Virginia 1812 Bicentennial Speaker Series

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA – From November 2011 to May 2012, OpSail 2012 Virginia will host world renowned authors for a series of lectures on the War of 1812. In partnership with the U.S. Navy, OpSail 2012 Virginia is a bicentennial commemoration event for the War of 1812 and the writing of the Star Spangled Banner. The lectures will kick off OpSail 2012 Virginia activities, culminating in June 2012 when the Port of Virginia will once again host an impressive fleet of tall ships, navy and military war ships representing the world. The OpSail 2012 Virginia 1812 Bicentennial Speaker Series will host seven acclaimed historians who will discuss Virginia's role during the War of 1812 as well as major themes of the conflict.

- November 8, 2011: Ian Toll, "Six Frigates and the Founding of the U.S. Navy"
- January 19, 2012: Spencer Tucker and David Healey, "Chesapeake-Leopard Affair" and "Heroes and Villains of the War of 1812"
- February 16, 2012: Brian Lavery, "In Nelson's Shadow: The Royal Navy in 1812"
- March 15, 2012: Donald R. Hickey, "Myths of the War of 1812"
- April 19, 2012: Catherine Allgor, "Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation"
- May 17, 2012: Walter R. Borneman, "Forging a Nation: Why the War of 1812 Matters"

Each lecture will begin with a 45 minute discussion by the author followed by 15-20 minutes for questions and audience participation. Following the lecture, there will be a reception and the opportunity to meet the authors. There will also be a drawing at each event for a one-of-a-kind gift set of autographed books from all seven featured historians. Interested parties can reserve their place for any of the six lectures at <http://www.opsail2012virginia.com/1812-Bicentennial-Speaker-Series> or email opsail2012virginia@festevents.org a minimum of one week before the lecture. All events are free and open to the public; however, space is limited and reservations are required.

OpSail 2012 Virginia is partnering with six community organizations to offer lectures at a variety of venues. Preceding the lecture, each venue will offer a preview of their 2011-2012 programs as well as information about OpSail 2012 Virginia. Partners include the Chrysler Museum, Hampton Roads Naval Museum, NAUTICUS, Norfolk Botanical Garden, Tidewater Community College's Roper Theater, and the Virginia Arts Festival.

During the War of 1812, Virginia saw hundreds of small skirmishes and several important battles. The legacies of famous Virginians, including James Madison, General Winfield Scott,

and William Henry Harrison, were shaped during this time. Currently, this is the only lecture series offered in Virginia with the breadth of viewpoints on War of 1812 topics. Please find below the complete description of authors and lecture titles.

OpSail 2012 Virginia 1812 Bicentennial Speaker Series

Ian Toll, “Six Frigates and the Founding of the U.S. Navy” on Tuesday November 8, 2011, 7pm, NAUTICUS Theater: Ian Toll will discuss his award-winning book and the beginnings of our nation’s navy. Considered one of the foremost and widely read historians on naval history, Mr. Toll captured the nation with his history of fighting tall ships, heroic naval officers, and battles off the shores of a nascent United States. *The Economist* reviewed *Six Frigates* stating “his (Ian Toll’s) factual story is as exciting as any of Patrick O’Brian’s fictional seafaring tales.”

Spencer C. Tucker and David Healey, “Chesapeake-Leopard Affair” and “Heroes and Villains of the War of 1812” on Thursday January 19, 2012, 7 pm, Virginia Arts Festival Theater: Spencer C. Tucker and David Healey will present two lectures centered on Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay. Spencer C. Tucker will present the “Chesapeake-Leopard Affair”, a discussion of the disastrous encounter between a British and American frigate off the coast of Norfolk. David Healey, author of 1812: Rediscovering Chesapeake Bay’s Forgotten War, will present the “Heroes and Villains of the War of 1812”, a look at those who played a role—for better or worse—in the outcome of the war on the Chesapeake Bay, including several larger-than-life personalities such as Admiral Cockburn, Joshua Barney and flagmaker Mary Pickersgill.

Brian Lavery, “In Nelson’s Shadow: The Royal Navy in 1812” on Thursday, February 16, 2012, 7 pm, George M. & Linda H. Kaufman Theatre at the Chrysler Museum: Brian Lavery, one of the world’s leading authorities on the sailing fighting ship, will visit Virginia from Greenwich, United Kingdom to present “In Nelson’s Shadow: The Royal Navy in 1812”. Mr. Lavery was the historical consultant for the construction of Jamestown Settlement’s SUSAN CONSTANT as well as the popular film *Master and Commander*. His discussion of the War of 1812 from the perspective of the Royal Navy, considered at the time the most powerful navy in the world, promises to be compelling and informative.

Donald R. Hickey, “Myths of the War of 1812” on Thursday March 15, 2012, 7pm, Virginia Arts Festival Theater: Donald R. Hickey, a leading scholar on the War of 1812, will present an exploration of the myths surrounding the people and battles of this time period. ALA Booklist reviewed Donald Hickey’s The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict as “a penetrating analysis of prewar society.” Professor Hickey was also recently featured as an historical expert in PBS’s “The War of 1812”.

Catherine Allgor, “Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation” on Thursday, April 19 2012, 7pm, Norfolk Botanical Garden’s Rose Garden Hall: Catherine Allgor will present a discussion of how this vibrant, bold First Lady came to symbolize the strength of the new American nation and its diplomacy. Ms. Allgor is the author of A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation, of which Publisher’s Weekly wrote that “the erudition and charm of this biography are rivaled only by that of its subject.”



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Walter R. Borneman, “Forging a Nation: Why the War of 1812 Matters” on Thursday May 17, 2012, 7pm, Tidewater Community College’s Roper Performing Arts Center: Acclaimed historian Walter Borneman will explore how the War of 1812 shaped the American nation. Robert V. Remini, author of The Life of Andrew Jackson, stated that Walter Borneman’s 1812: The War That Forged a Nation is “without question the best popular account of the last war fought between the United States and Great Britain.”

For more information, please visit our website at www.opsail2012virginia.com or contact Joella Adams, Manager of Programs, at AdamsJ@festevents.org or (757) 441-2345, ext. 3020.

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About Operation Sail, Inc.

Operation Sail, Inc. is a non-profit organization established in 1961 with the endorsement of President John F. Kennedy. Backed by a Joint Congressional Resolution, its mission is to advance sail training and promote goodwill among nations. To date, it has held five international sailing events—in 1964, 1976, 1986, 1992 and 2000—each tied to a landmark historical event and each culminating in a traditional Parade of Sail in New York Harbor. For more information, please visit www.opsail.org.

About the United States Navy

The U. S. Navy is the sea-service branch of the U. S. Armed Forces. The mission of the Navy is to maintain, train and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas. The United States Navy – A Global Force For Good, www.navy.mil, www.history.navy.mil

About Norfolk Festevents, Ltd.

Norfolk Festevents, Ltd. is a private not-for-profit organization dedicated to producing city celebrations including premier concerts, festivals, ship visits, and special events for the residents and guests of Hampton Roads. Celebrating its 28th season, Norfolk Festevents has garnered international acclaim for its outstanding quality of programming. Norfolk Festevents is the official event marketing and production agency for the City of Norfolk.