

The James Monroe Memorial Foundation

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*George William Thomas, Jr.
President*

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Dear Lineage/Patriotic Society Leader,

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 257th birthday.

This year, the actual birthday (April 28) ceremonies for President Monroe in Richmond (at Hollywood Cemetery) and in Westmoreland County (at the Monroe birthplace farm south of Colonial Beach) will occur on a different schedule, but we hope you can attend both events.

Westmoreland County Ceremony – Saturday, April 25

Starting at **10:00 a.m.**, at the Birthplace, the 257th anniversary ceremonies are expected to include local and state elected officials and federal officials. The formal ceremony will commence at **10:30 a.m.** Lunch will be provided afterward at the Moose Lodge nearby. Come to see the latest exhibits at the Visitor Center and learn the latest update on the Foundation's plans to rebuild the Birthplace house. There will be an opportunity for lineage societies to present wreaths. See www.monroefoundation.org for the Birthplace location.

Hollywood Cemetery Ceremony – Tuesday, 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.** (subject to any changes by the Army, which conducts the ceremony). This is an impressive ceremony, with a speech on behalf of the President delivered by an Army general, a proclamation by the Governor, the Fort Lee color guard and band, and wreaths presented by the President, our Foundation, and various lineage societies.

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 the only cabinet officer ever to have 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 Monday, April 20 to be included in any printed programs for either event.

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

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

Sincerely,



G. William Thomas, Jr.
President



Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.
Vice President

