



Division of Capitol Police News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Capitol Police birthday fete set

RICHMOND – The yearlong celebration marking four centuries of service by the Virginia Capitol Police reaches a peak on Tuesday, Nov. 13, with a ceremony at the Executive Mansion featuring Gov. Ralph S. Northam and First Lady Pamela Northam.

The event begins at 10 a.m. on the Executive Mansion’s front drive, where the governor will sign a proclamation declaring Sunday, Nov. 18, as Virginia Capitol Police Day in the state, marking the date the agency formally recognizes as its birthday in 1618.

Former First Lady Susan Allen, board chair of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, will present the organization’s annual holiday tree ornament to Pamela Northam. The seventh in an annual series of collectible ornaments, the 2018 ornament – designed and produced in Virginia -- celebrates the Capitol Police and the agency’s landmark anniversary.

Tuesday’s celebration will conclude with the cutting and serving of two birthday cakes – one featuring the Capitol Foundation 2018 holiday ornament and the other adorned with the Capitol Police 400th anniversary badge.

“The Virginia Capitol Police has a long and distinguished history, first in Jamestown and then in Williamsburg, before eventually moving to Richmond,” said Col. Anthony S. Pike, the agency’s chief. “We are committed to providing progressive law enforcement to the seat of Virginia’s government, and it is humbling to us to have Governor Northam and the first lady make time to recognize those efforts and our proud history.”

The agency, which first appeared as a security force to protect the governor at the first permanent English settlement in Jamestown, has been feted several times in its 400th anniversary year, including a resolution by the General Assembly, a congressional resolution, one from the office of Virginia’s lieutenant governor and one

from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. In addition, an exhibit focusing on the 400-year history of the Capitol Police opened in the Virginia Capitol Annex in August and will remain until January.

There will be information available on site Tuesday regarding the purchase of 2018 ornaments.

Media preset is at 9:45 a.m., and in case of inclement weather, the celebration will be moved to the East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building.

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