



Presented by

the

City of Hampton, Virginia

City of Hampton
Virginia

Proclamation

PROCLAIMING MARCH 25, 2009

AS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND

THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

IN THE CITY OF HAMPTON

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2008, International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was launched by the United Nations (UN); and

WHEREAS, International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was agreed upon globally as a day in commemorating the lives and deaths of millions of enslaved Africans and their descendants who were central to the rise of Britain and the United States as an industrial power; and

WHEREAS, slavery and the slave trade are among the worst violations of human rights in the history of humanity; and

WHEREAS, the transatlantic slave trade was unique within the entire history of slavery due to its duration of four hundred years, its scale of approximately 17 million people excluding those who died during transport, and the legitimization accorded to it, including under laws of the time; and

WHEREAS, the first Africans from the transatlantic slave trade to arrive in North America, landed in present day Hampton, Virginia during the later part of August 1619; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 1861, run-a-way slaves sought refuge at Fort Monroe, and became contraband of war, ending hundreds of years of slavery in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that Hampton, Virginia join the United Nations in recognizing International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2009, as

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in the City of Hampton and call upon all citizens to extend special recognition of Slavery Remembrance Day for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Trade.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hampton, Virginia to be affixed, this Twenty-Fifth Day of March, Two Thousand and Nine.



Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor

