



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

March 6, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: House Joint Resolution 797, Designating March 14, in 2015 and in Each Succeeding Year, as a Day of Honor for the Marquis de Lafayette in Virginia

I am pleased to bring to your attention House Joint Resolution 797, passed during the 2015 session of the Virginia General Assembly to designate March 14, 2015, as a Day of Honor for the Marquis de Lafayette in Virginia. HJR 797 can be found at <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?151+ful+HJ797>.

On March 14, 1781, 23-year-old Major General Marquis de Lafayette returned to Virginia to resume a campaign against the British that would culminate in their defeat six months later. Additional information on Lafayette and the Virginia Campaign is available at <http://www.nps.gov/yonb/learn/historyculture/lafayette-and-the-virginia-campaign-1781.htm>.

In the summer of 2015, Lafayette's transatlantic journey will be re-enacted by an exact historic reproduction of *L'Hermione*, the French frigate, which will visit 12 ports in North America. The *L'Hermione* ship will be in Yorktown, Virginia, from June 5 to June 7, 2015, and in Alexandria, Virginia, from June 10 to 11, 2015. As the *L'Hermione* moves up the Eastern seaboard, it will be accompanied by a range of pierside activities. The *Hermione Voyage 2015* is part of an expansive outreach program with cultural events, exhibitions, and educational programs that celebrate the trip and mark its progress. For more information on the *Hermione Voyage 2015*, please visit <http://www.hermione2015.com/index.html>.

For more information about House Joint Resolution 797, please contact Betsy Barton, specialist for history and social science, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3454.

SRS/BSB/vdg