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Virginia Historical Society presents *A Material World: Photographs of the 1980s from the Richmond Times-Dispatch*, and a Totally Rad '80s Costume Party and Concert

Richmond, VA — It is time to pull out your legwarmers and shoulder pads as the Virginia Historical Society presents *A Material World: Photographs of the 1980s from the Richmond Times-Dispatch*. See portraits of Americans like Oprah Winfrey, Ronald Reagan, and L. Douglas Wilder from the neon decade that brought us the 24-hour news cycle, Music Television (MTV), and the first Macintosh computer. The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, November 18, 2017, and admission is free. A 1980s-themed costume event and concert will kick-off the exhibition. After being on display through March 4, 2018, at VHS, the exhibition will travel to museums nationwide.

Bookended by the Reagan Revolution and the end of the Cold War, the 1980s brought fundamental changes to American society and our nation's geopolitical role. Featuring forty-three iconic images from the archives of the Richmond Times-Dispatch and accompanied by historical objects like fragments of the Berlin Wall, pieces of the Pershing IA INF Missile, and a tambourine and gloves used by Prince in *Purple Rain*, this exhibition highlights political and social issues as well as pop culture and fashion trends as they were experienced by Virginians.

"The children who grew up in the 1980s are increasingly becoming today's leaders and carry with them the memories of that formative time in their lives," said VHS president and CEO Jamie O. Bosket. "This collection of photographs paired with artifacts from the period reach beyond nostalgia and offer powerful remembrances of the social, political, and cultural issues of that pivotal decade."

In addition, the VHS will host the special event, "Back to the '80s: A Concert & Exhibit Opening." An '80s tribute band, "Kids In America" will take the stage inside the VHS on Saturday, November 18, at 8:30 p.m. and perform until 10:00 p.m. During the concert all galleries will be open and a cash bar is available. Wear your boldest '80s outfit and accessories for a chance to win our "Totally '80s Costume Contest." All ticket holders will be entered for a chance to win a ride around the block in a real DeLorean. All ticket holders receive free admission to all museum galleries and exhibitions, including *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s*. Tickets to *Toys* are not transferrable and must be redeemed during the event. At 7:00 p.m. there will be a VIP viewing of the exhibit with '80s-inspired *hors d'oeuvres* and a special '80s-themed cocktail created by local mixologists Mattias Hägglund and Thomas Leggett of The Jasper.

Advance tickets are on sale for VHS members through October 9. Tickets will go on sale to the public October 10. General admission tickets purchased before October 31 are \$29 per person. VIP tickets for *Back to the '80s* purchased by October 31 are \$49 per person. Ticket prices increase after October 31 to \$55/VIP and \$35/general admission. Must be 21 years old to attend.

This exhibition was produced in partnership with the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Founded in 1831, the Virginia Historical Society is the oldest cultural organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. Located in the Museum District of Richmond, Virginia, the VHS houses its collection of nearly 9 million items and serves as the state history museum with permanent and special exhibitions as well as a vibrant portfolio of public programs. The VHS is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the library. For more information about the VHS call (804) 358-4901, visit vahistorical.org, or connect with the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.

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