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## **District 5 Winners to Compete with Hundreds of Students “Taking A Stand In History” on Virginia History Day at the Virginia Historical Society**

Richmond, VA — First and second place winners from the Virginia District 5 National History Day contest in Fairfax will go on to compete with hundreds of Virginia students on Virginia History Day at the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) on April 22, 2017, in Richmond. This massive history competition for students in grades six through twelve is directed in conjunction with the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest. Winners hailed from Loudoun Country Day School, Lorton Station Elementary School, Walt Whitman Middle School, Canterbury Woods Elementary School, George Washington Middle School, Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, Mary G. Porter Elementary School, Langley High School, Centreville High School, West Springfield High School, Wakefield High School, McLean High School, Colgan High School, and T. C. Williams High School.

“We are honored to host Virginia History Day, and excited to provide a permanent home in Richmond for this statewide program.” said VHS President and CEO, Jamie O. Bosket. “Encouraging students of the Commonwealth to learn and appreciate our shared history is at the very heart of our mission.”

Founded in 1974, the National History Day Contest was created to inspire students to conduct original historical research. Since its creation, the contest has grown into an international competition with more than half a million participants and thousands of dollars in scholarship awards and prizes annually.

“The competitors at this contest are some of the brightest students of their generation,” said National History Day Executive Director, Dr. Cathy Gorn. “The work they produce is astounding in its breadth and scope of historical research.”

To qualify for the state competition, students must place first or second in their category and age division at one of eight district-level competitions held throughout Virginia. In each division, students may compete in any one of nine categories either as an individual or in a group: documentaries, exhibits, papers (individual only), performances, and websites. The top two entries in each category and age division at the state level will compete at the National History Day finals at the University Maryland, College Park, June 11–15, 2017.

The theme of this year’s competition is “Taking A Stand In History.” Students are encouraged to examine their topic’s influence on history and draw conclusions about the ways in which their topic had an impact on the course of events and on individuals, communities, nations, or the world.

The Virginia Historical Society (VHS)—a privately funded nonprofit organization—collects, preserves, and interprets the Commonwealth’s history, linking past with present to inspire future generations. 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](http://vahistorical.org), or connect with the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.

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