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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Sesquicentennial Finale Concert Concludes Seven-year Statewide Commemoration**

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission will present a Sesquicentennial Finale Concert that combines music, songs, images, and narration in a profound reflection on the Civil War and emancipation. The outdoor concert will be held on the South Portico of the Virginia State Capitol on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested at [www.VirginiaCivilWar.org/concert](http://www.VirginiaCivilWar.org/concert).

Narrated by award-winning historian Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., and featuring the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, the Sesquicentennial Finale Concert will explore the strong emotions and dramatic patterns of the Civil War, which gave rise to more music than any other event in American history. As the Civil War began, enthusiastic melodies and romantic songs provided early motivation for soldiers; in later years, songs of praise and gospel spirituals brought guarded hope to 3.5 million enslaved people. The war ended, freedom was secured, the nation became whole, and inspirational songs such as “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” became a permanent part of our shared national heritage.

The Capitol will close to the public at 2:00 p.m. on Memorial Day, but a number of special outdoor programs are being planned in connection with the Sesquicentennial Finale Concert. National Park Service Ranger Mike Gorman will offer a special walking tour, “Capitol Square in the Civil War,” at 5:00 p.m., before the concert. The tour with Ranger Gorman will depart from the Washington equestrian statue in Capitol Square.

In addition, the nationally recognized Civil War 150 HistoryMobile will be located at the Bank Street entrance of the Capitol and will be available for tours from 3:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The HistoryMobile crosses the state visiting museums, schools, and special events and has welcomed more than 145,000 visitors.

Seating for the Sesquicentennial Finale Concert is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Free parking for the concert and related events will be available on Monday, May 25, from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the parking deck at 14<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets.

For more on the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Sesquicentennial Finale Concert, visit [www.VirginiaCivilWar.org](http://www.VirginiaCivilWar.org).

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**High-resolution images of the HistoryMobile and sesquicentennial programs can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.virginiacivilwar.org/press/imagelibrary.php>**