



The MUSEUM of the CONFEDERACY

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Press Release

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Jefferson Davis: Patriot and Paradox

The Museum of the Confederacy Marks 200th Birthday of the President of the C.S.A.

Richmond, VA: The Museum of the Confederacy is celebrating 2008 as the 200th birthday of Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederate States of America. Many only know Davis as the political leader of the South during the Civil War. His commission to West Point by President Andrew Jackson, his tenure with the U.S. Army, and his time spent in the U.S. politics all contribute to the depth of Davis's life and patriotic career. To celebrate the Davis bicentennial, the Museum of the Confederacy has designed our programs and events in 2008 around his interests, his family and the different roles that he represented as a husband, a father, Commander in Chief, a southerner and an American.

The year's highlight will be the 200th birthday party held free in the garden of the Museum on June 3, 2008. Special Davis events include the 2008 Symposium co-sponsored with the Library of Virginia and entitled *Jefferson Davis: A Man in Full*, walking tours of Davis's Richmond, children and family programs about Davis's home life, and war games focusing on Davis's involvement with the military and battle strategies. On June 3, 2008, Davis's 200th birthday will be commemorated by free admission to the Museum and a party in the White House garden. For a complete schedule of Jefferson Davis events please visit the museum website at

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<http://www.moc.org/>.

Throughout 2008, the Museum will be working on restoration projects to the White House of the Confederacy, Davis's Richmond executive mansion. These projects include replacing worn carpets, installing draperies, interior paint and UV filters, and making repairs to the front porch. The White House will be closed during the months of January and February 2008 to allow for completion of some of these projects.

Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky in 1808. The youngest of ten children, he was educated at West Point and served in the U.S. Military, fought in the Mexican War, was a U.S. Congressman and Senator from Mississippi, and served as Secretary of War for President Franklin Pierce. On February 9, 1861, Davis was elected president of the Confederate States of America and served until the end of the war in 1865. He retired to Beauvoir Plantation in Biloxi, Mississippi, where he wrote his memoirs. Davis died in 1889 in New Orleans and his body was moved to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond in 1893.

The Museum of the Confederacy is a private, nonprofit educational institution. The Museum and White House are located in downtown Richmond in the historic Court End neighborhood. Free parking is available in the MCV/VCU Hospitals Visitor/Patient parking deck adjacent to the Museum.

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