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MEDIA ADVISORY

June 11, 2012

Parade of Sail up the Chesapeake

Naval Vessels and Tall Ships to depart Norfolk on Tuesday morning, June 12

WHAT: A new event for OpSail 2012 Virginia™! On Tuesday morning, June 12, the city of Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region will bid farewell to the visiting fleet of naval vessels and tall ships.

Schedule: **6 a.m. – Naval vessels begin departing** (Downtown Norfolk Waterfront)

In order as follows:

USS FORT MCHENRY, HDMS ESBERN SNARE, BAP VILLAVISENCIO

RFA ARGUS, FGS HESSEN, BNS INDEPENDENCIA, USS SHAMAL,

USS MONSOON, USNA YPS, HMCS GOOSE BAY, HMCS MONCTON

7 a.m. – Blessing of the Fleet (Mercury Landing, Town Point Park)

Officiated by Rev. David LaSalle (Retired, Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Norfolk)

8 a.m. – Tall Ships begin departing (Downtown Norfolk Waterfront)

In order as follows:

VIRGINIA, PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II, DEWARUCI,

GAZELA, CISNE BRANCO, BOUNTY, PICTON CASTLE,

A.J. MEERWALD, CUAUHEMOC, GUAYAS, SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE

As the fleet of tall ships depart, they will proceed in formation out of the Elizabeth River, past Fort Monroe in Hampton and turn northward in the Chesapeake Bay towards their next port of call in Baltimore, MD.

Once out at sea, the fleet will maintain a speed of six knots, passing Smith Point at the mouth of the Potomac River around sunset (about 9 p.m.) on Tuesday, June 12, 2012. Recreational boaters, yacht clubs and charter vessels are encouraged to participate in the farewell parade by sailing alongside the fleet as they make their way northward. This will offer a unique opportunity to see the tall ships in their natural environment - at sea. For viewing locations in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck, and the Eastern Shore, go to <http://www.opsail2012virginia.com/>.

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