

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
P.O. Box 1776
Williamsburg, Va. 23187-1776
colonialwilliamsburg.org

Colonial Williamsburg Remembers Colin Campbell



Colin and Nancy Campbell received the Churchill Bell at a reception and dinner in their honor, held at the Williamsburg Lodge on Nov. 22, 2014. Image courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Download high-resolution image [here](#).

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (June 21, 2024) – The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation mourns the passing of Colin G. Campbell, president and CEO of the Foundation from 2000-2014. Campbell was a dauntless advocate for the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. His tenure at the Foundation was marked by strong leadership amid economic instability, new construction projects in the Historic Area, expanded educational programming and new institutional relationships.

“Colin’s steady hand made an indelible imprint on Colonial Williamsburg, ensuring its survival as a national treasure and charting a course focused on preservation, education and civic engagement that the institution is following today,” said Cliff Fleet, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. “He will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him as a wise and compassionate leader and a dear, dear friend.”

Campbell joined the Foundation’s Board of Trustees in 1989 and for a period, served simultaneously as the organization’s leader as well as its board chairman. It was not long after he took over the helm as president in 2000 that the nation was rocked by the Sept. 11, 2001,

terrorist attacks that ushered in a period of prolonged economic instability, worsened by the Great Recession of 2008. Despite the challenging economic landscape, Campbell worked to strengthen relationships with donors and partners alike. From 2000 through the end of 2013, the Foundation raised a total of \$687 million from 1.7 million individual donors. Total planned gift expectations tripled from \$93 million to \$298 million. The first Campaign for Colonial Williamsburg, begun in 1995 and launched in its public phase in 2001, surpassed its goal of \$500 million at its completion four months ahead of schedule in August of 2006.

Under Campbell's leadership, the Historic Area benefited from a spate of construction projects including the reconstruction of Charlton's Coffeeshop, the construction of Anderson's Blacksmith Shop and Public Armoury, and the construction of the Market House. In his retirement, Campbell worked to fund the 65,000-square-foot expansion of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, which broke ground in 2017 and was unveiled in 2020. The Colin G. and Nancy N. Campbell Archaeology Center, currently under construction and slated to open in 2026, was named by lead funder Forrest E. Mars Jr. in honor of Campbell and his wife, Nancy, who was widely credited as an active partner in leading the institution.

"Colin's legacy endures not only in the spirit of the Foundation, but in its physical landscape as well," said Carly Fiorina, chair of Colonial Williamsburg's Board of Trustees. "From the coffeeshop to the art museums, the Armoury to the new archaeology center – all of these buildings are testament to Colin's commitment to this institution, and generations upon generations of visitors will reap the benefits of projects that owe their origin stories to him."

Campbell's tenure also saw the expansion of programming focused on the period leading up to and during the American Revolution. The programs highlighted the diverse population and perspectives of Williamsburg residents including enslaved and free Black people, women, and people of different classes.

Key to Campbell's leadership success were the partnerships he developed with organizations throughout the region and nation to advance shared goals. Partner organizations included Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, William & Mary's Reves Center for International Studies, Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation and the Chautauqua Institution. Campbell served on William & Mary's Board of Visitors and on the boards of Hampton Roads PBS affiliate WHRO and the Fort Monroe Authority.

Before coming to Williamsburg, Campbell was president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund from 1988-2000 and president of Wesleyan University from 1970 to 1988. He went to Wesleyan in 1967 after having been vice president of the American Stock Exchange.

Campbell was a graduate of Cornell University and of the Columbia University School of Law, class of 1960. He received awards from the New-York Historical Society, WHRO (Public Broadcasting), the Chautauqua Institution, Preservation Virginia, William & Mary and was the 12th recipient of Colonial Williamsburg's Churchill Bell, given to both Campbells in 2014.

"Colin was a man who valued individuals for who they were, not for what they could do for him," said Ronald L. Hurst, the Foundation's chief mission officer and senior vice president of education and historic resources. "As a result, he encouraged everyone who worked alongside him to be the very best versions of themselves which, more often than not, provided the greatest benefit to everyone involved. He will be greatly missed by this institution and by all who were privileged enough to work alongside him."

Media contact: Ellen Morgan Peltz
Colonial Williamsburg
epeltz@cwf.org
757-220-7287

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers and 18th-century inspired culinary options from historic taverns situated along historic Duke of Gloucester Street. Colonial Williamsburg Resorts complement the experience, offering guests five unique hotel properties including the iconic Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star, AAA Five Diamond Williamsburg Inn, newly renovated Williamsburg Lodge-Autograph Collection, Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites, the Griffin Hotel, and authentic 18th-century Colonial Houses. The resort offers a range of events and amenities including four historic taverns, 15 food and beverage outlets providing exquisite culinary experiences from casual to elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a world-class full-service spa and fitness center, pools, meeting and flexible event spaces, and scenic gardens providing the perfect venue for weddings and special events. Merchants Square, built alongside the Historic Area in 1935 as one of the first planned shopping districts in the United States, features more than 40 specialty boutiques with products ranging from apparel to fine jewelry, art, specialty foods and gifts. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

– CWF –

If you no longer wish to receive news releases from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, please reply to this message with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Thank you.