

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

www.vbfun.com

ph (757) 385-4700

fx (757) 437-4747

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ron Kuhlman Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau | 757.385.4700

Jessica Kraft BCF | 757.497.4811 | jkraft@boomyourbrand.com

Virginia Beach: Did you know??

- Virginia Beach is the **34th largest city in the U.S. and Virginia's most populous city?** With more than 432,000 residents and 310 sq. miles, the city attracts approximately 3 million overnight visitors annually.
- **The first permanent English settlers landed at Cape Henry** in Virginia Beach in 1607 before continuing north to settle Jamestown?
- The **Virginia Beach boardwalk is nearly three miles long and the beach is wider than a football field?** Originally built in 1888, Virginia Beach's boardwalk is a concrete thoroughfare stretching from Rudee Inlet to 40th Street, a perfect place for biking, jogging, blading, strolling or people-watching.
- The **\$202.5 million Virginia Beach Convention Center** is certified by *Virginia Green* and is currently in pursuit of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification? The facility boasts more than 500,000 gross sq. ft. of space, with unique features including 2,230 free parking spaces, a 150,000 sq. ft. of *column-free* exhibit space, and a 31,000 sq. ft. ballroom with programmable LED lighting.
- Virginia Beach was **Virginia's first city to be designated as a Virginia Green destination** with 100 green hospitality businesses including hotels, restaurants, events and the Virginia Aquarium. *Virginia Green* promotes environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of the Virginia tourism and hospitality industry.
- The **Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center**, one of the most-visited aquariums, recently opened the **new \$25 million Restless Planet exhibit** featuring 6,000 new animals and 367 new species including Komodo dragons. The Aquarium houses more than 800,000 gallons of aquariums and a 3D IMAX® theater.
- The **mid-Atlantic's largest population of bottlenose dolphins spend summer in Virginia Beach?** More than 650 bottlenose dolphins have been cataloged by the Virginia Aquarium through photo ID programs.
- The **East Coast Surfing Championship** held each year in Virginia Beach is **North America's oldest running surfing competition** and second oldest continuously-run surfing contest in the world?
- The **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel** is one of the seven engineering wonders of the modern world? This 17.6-mile man-made phenomenon connects Virginia's Eastern Shore to Virginia Beach and saves motorists 95 miles on their trip from points north.
- The late psychic **Edgar Cayce selected Virginia Beach as the headquarters for his research because he believed it to be a safe haven from storms?** The Association for Research and Enlightenment in Virginia Beach draws thousands of visitors from around the world who peruse its metaphysical library, one of the world's largest such libraries, second only to the Vatican.
- The **The Old Coast Guard Station** museum, is housed in a former U.S. Life Saving Station that dates to 1903 and features the history of the life-saving service and shipwrecks that occurred off the Virginia coast?

Virginia Beach entices visitors to "Live the Life" year-round! Located in the southeastern corner of the state, Virginia Beach is four hours southeast of D.C. by car and within a day's drive or less from two-thirds of the U.S. population. For visitor information, call 1-800-VA-BEACH (800/822-3224) or visit www.vbfun.com for online trip planning. For media information and digital images, click on www.vbpressroom.com. Please follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/vabeachcob> and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Beach-Live-The-Life>.

###