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**The Hermitage Announces 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala**  
**The Honorable Fred D. Thompson and the Honorable Winfield C. Dunn**  
**to be honored at the April 19 event**

April 8, 2013 – The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, has announced the details of its 16<sup>th</sup> annual gala. The gala, which is The Hermitage’s biggest annual fundraising event, will be held at the Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt on April 19, 2013.

The annual black tie affair benefits the ongoing preservation of the National Historic Landmark, including its educational programming, preservation of its grounds and buildings, and conservation of extensive collections.

The Hermitage Gala honors individuals with a history of impactful public service to Tennessee. This year’s event will recognize the Honorable Fred D. Thompson and the Honorable Winfield C. Dunn with two of their highest honors: The Jackson Award and The Donelson Award.

The Honorable Fred D. Thompson will be presented The Jackson Award, named after President Andrew Jackson, for Thompson’s Jacksonian leadership and decisive action in his practice of law and in political office. Thompson served as a U.S. Senator from 1994 to 2003 and has been a respected member of national security and foreign relations boards and committees. He also played a key role in the Senate Watergate Committee.

The Honorable Winfield C. Dunn will be presented The Donelson Award in recognition of his service to the citizens of Tennessee. As Governor, Dunn took many steps to lessen historical tension between the three “Grand Divisions,” including signing an executive order which changed state billboards from reading “Welcome to the Three States of Tennessee,” to “Welcome to the Great State of Tennessee.”

“We are excited to be honoring the contributions and legacies of these two great men,” said Howard J. Kittell, President and CEO of The Hermitage. “The Hermitage is a Tennessee treasure, and we have chosen two men whose bold politics and leadership have truly helped shape our great state.”

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Hermitage Gala is co-chaired by Lee Ann Anderson and Ann Buchanan. Honorary chairs are Mary Lynne and Steve Hewlett. Jackson National Life Insurance is the Presidential Level sponsor of the event.

The event will include dinner and a silent auction with artwork, entertainment packages and experiences, historic items, vacations, jewelry, and sports memorabilia. Highlighted auction items this year include the rare opportunity to host a dinner party for 10 on the back porch of The Hermitage

mansion or in the Hermitage garden, and vacations in luxury condos in Destin or Bonita Springs, Florida or in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

Tickets for the black tie dinner and silent auction may be purchased for \$300 per person by contacting Pam King, VP of Development at The Hermitage, at (615) 889-2941 ext. 200 or [pking@thehermitage.com](mailto:pking@thehermitage.com). A variety of sponsorships are also available at Presidential, Congressional State and Cabinet Levels.

### **About The Hermitage**

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. In 1856, the State of Tennessee purchased the property from the Jackson family, entrusting it to the Ladies' Hermitage Association in 1889 to operate as one of America's first historic site museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 30 historic buildings, including restored slave cabins. Thanks to efforts of this nonprofit organization, the mansion is the most accurately preserved early presidential home in the country. The Hermitage is a national model for authenticity, conservation, and historic preservation. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as archaeology and the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of some 180,000 annual visitors, including 30,000 school children, from all 50 states and many foreign countries; in fact, we interpret the Hermitage mansion in five foreign languages. The property also receives 30,000 annual visits from the local community, including more than 1,000 children who play Little League baseball at The Hermitage's Rotary Park. The Hermitage is a "Partner Place" with the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and a site along the National Park Service's Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. For more information, visit [www.thehermitage.com](http://www.thehermitage.com).

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