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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laura Bush To Visit Andrew Jackson's Hermitage for 117th Spring Outing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Jan. 4, 2017) – Former First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush will be the keynote speaker May 17 at the Andrew Jackson Foundation's 117th annual Spring Outing, a Nashville tradition that began in the early days of the Ladies' Hermitage Association as a picnic on the lawn of the mansion.

Mrs. Bush will be the first former White House resident to headline the program at Spring Outing. Her arrival highlights a yearlong celebration of Andrew Jackson's 250th birthday and marks the Foundation's shift toward a more national profile.

"We are honored by Mrs. Bush's visit, and her timing couldn't be better," Foundation President and CEO Howard Kittell said. "Modern times have underscored the importance of the Andrew Jackson story and his impact on American history. Mrs. Bush's arrival is certainly a milestone for us as we re-introduce Andrew Jackson and his legacy to the country."

Mrs. Bush is a leading voice for human rights across the globe, and an advocate for women's issues and global health care innovations. Today she serves as the chairwoman for the Bush Institute's Women's Initiative. She also serves on the National Advisory Board for The Salvation Army, the Council for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the board of trustees for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is the author of the bestselling memoir "Spoken from the Heart."

As First Lady, Mrs. Bush served as Honorary Chair of the Save America's Treasures grant program established by President Bill Clinton in 1998. The Andrew Jackson Foundation, then the Ladies' Hermitage Association, received funding from the program in 2000 to restore two cabins comprising the first Hermitage of Jackson's early political and military years. Today these historic structures are available as a valuable part of the interpretation of Andrew Jackson's Hermitage.

This will be her second visit to The Hermitage, after touring President Jackson's home in 2009.

"She said that she wanted to come back, and she meant what she said," Kittell said. "This is a tremendous honor for us and certainly something special for our guests."

