



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANDREW JACKSON FOUNDATION APPOINTS NEW REGENT, SIX NEW TRUSTEES

Noted leaders in education, tourism, investments, military, public relations join nonprofit board dedicated to preserving presidential home

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (June 30, 2021) – The Andrew Jackson Foundation, which operates The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson, has elected six new trustees to its board. The new trustees, who join a rank of 17 others, will begin their term July 1, 2021. Among them are recognized leaders in wide-ranging spaces, including corporate, nonprofit, military, communications and higher education.

Leading the board will be regent **John L. Nau III**, a Texas businessman who is the current chairman of the Texas Historical Commission and past chair of the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an appointment made by President George W. Bush. Nau succeeds regent **Carol Yochem**, president of First Horizon Bank.

The new trustees are:

Marees Choppin, current Regent of The General James Robertson Chapter of the DAR, formerly worked for the International Department of Commerce Union Bank (now Bank of America), where she specialized in Latin American finance before joining Harpeth Hall as the co-department chair of world languages.

Elizabeth (Beth) S. Courtney, the Managing Partner, Southeast of Finn Partners, America's fourth largest independent global public relations firms. She leads Finn's integrated marketing services across 10 Southeastern states. A veteran communications professional, Beth has managed complex programs for clients in a spectrum of corporate and government sectors.

W.L. Gray, the founder of Goodpasture Gray, an SEC registered investment advisory firm. He has more than 40 years of Wall Street experience, serving as senior vice president of two major Wall Street firms. He is also currently focused on pre-clinical research for ALS and is working with Vanderbilt University Medical Center to establish an ALS Research Center with the LiveLikeLou Foundation.

Pam Koban, whose higher education career of more than 30 years includes roles as the University of Tennessee Nashville Director of Human Resources, Human Resource Officer for the University of Tennessee System-Wide Administration and the system-wide Chief Human Resource Officer for the Tennessee Board of Regents. She has served as a member of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission since 2013.

Susan H. Whitaker, who served a 12-year tenure as the Tennessee Commissioner of Tourist Development. In that role, Tennessee tourism dollars nearly doubled, reaching \$19 billion and exceeding

100 million visitors a year. Whitaker left state government in 2015 and formed Whitaker Travel & Tourism Strategies, where she collaborates with public and private sector clients in developing strategic plans for destinations and the companies that serve them.

Kurt Winstead, whose 30-year military career included Director of the Joint Staff, State's Senior Staff Judge Advocate and Brigade Command Judge Advocate during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He retired as a Brigadier General from the Tennessee National Guard In 2021. He has practiced law since 1988 and is a founding partner at Rudy Winstead Turner PLLC.

“Our board of trustees is comprised of a team of leaders and experts committed to the mission to preserve, educate and inspire—the three tenets comprising our core mission,” said Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage. “On the heels of recovery from the pandemic’s financial strain on our organization, it is the expertise and leadership of regent Yochem and the entire board that has positioned us to move our mission forward. The next five years will be centered on financial sustainability; exercising effective stewardship of the land, structures and collections of the Foundation; and enhancing visitors’ understanding of Andrew Jackson’s continued effect on American politics and culture. I think it is an exciting time, and we are honored these six new trustees chose The Hermitage.”

For more information on Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage, visit www.thehermitage.com.

About Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage

Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage: Home of the People’s President is one of the largest, most well preserved and most visited presidential homes in the United States. Opened to the public in 1889, The Hermitage is one of America’s first presidential museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 20 historic buildings, including Jackson’s mansion and tomb, restored slave cabins, a church and gardens. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of more than 230,000 annual visitors. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

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