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ANDREW JACKSON FOUNDATION APPOINTS FIVE NEW TRUSTEES

Donelson descendant, former mayor and noted leaders in public affairs, government relations, real estate and law join nonprofit board dedicated to preserving presidential site

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (July 29, 2022) – The Andrew Jackson Foundation, which operates The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson, has elected five new trustees to its board. The new trustees, who join a rank of 16 others, began their term July 1, 2022. Among them are recognized leaders in wide-ranging spaces, including corporate, government and local business.

Leading the board for the second year is 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.

The new trustees are:

Susan A. Basham, co-owner of The Belle Meade Shoppes, which specializes in antiques and interior furnishings. She is the current president of the Lebanon Road Garden Club and is past president and current vice president of the Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society and a member of the American Daffodil Societies, where she co-chaired the 2018 National Convention in Nashville.

Karl F. Dean, former mayor of Nashville and Davidson County. Prior to his time as mayor, Dean served as Nashville's Director of Law and Public Defender. He has taught at Vanderbilt, Belmont and Boston universities.

Andrew Jackson (A.J.) Donelson, attorney, business leader, public affairs professional and entrepreneur. His career spans 40 years in Washington, D.C., advising businesses from Fortune 500 companies to start-ups. Donelson is the founder of Advocom Group, a boutique advocacy and strategic communications consulting firm. He is a long-time Mentor-in-Residence for Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures, where he helps university faculty on strategies to commercialize innovative research.

Dwight (D.J.) Farris, licensed Realtor and Broker with Pilkerton Realtors in Nashville. Governor Bill Lee appointed Farris to the Tennessee Real Estate Commission in 2020. He is a past chair of the Tennessee Prayer Breakfast, which draws 800 participants each year.

James C. Free, chairman of The Smith-Free Group, a Washington, D.C.-based government relations firm he co-founded in 1995. Free served under then-speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives Ned McWherter and eventually rose to chief clerk of the House. He was appointed Special Assistant for Congressional Affairs to President Jimmy Carter, advocating Carter's positions on transportation, trade

and environmental issues. He then spent 40 years representing global companies in energy, entertainment, communications, healthcare, financial services and transportation.

“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 the core mission of our foundation,” said Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage. “It is their expertise and leadership that has positioned us to move our mission forward—and continue doing so. The next three to 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 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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