



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Ralph S. Northam Governor

September 21, 2019

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I want to welcome everyone attending the Peter Francisco Society Meeting.

I hope all attendees have a wonderful time celebrating the life, legacy and accomplishments of Peter Francisco. As the "Hercules of the American Revolution" and Sergeant-at-Arms of the Virginia House of Delegates, he served Virginia with great honor and distinction. Enlisting in the Continental Army during a pivotal moment in American history, he had a vision that his new home would find independence, and with his help, we did. His life is the story of abandonment, indentured servitude, resistance, love and hope. He will forever remain part of Virginia's history – a history that we should all strive to learn more about every day.

Lastly, I want to commend all members on their willingness to invite other people to attend Peter Francisco Society Meetings. I also congratulate your hard work and success on Francisco Landing. Your efforts have not only given more Virginians the opportunity to learn about the legacy of Peter Francisco, but has also contributed to the revitalization of Downtown Hopewell. Such efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I am positive that the citizens of Hopewell could not be more grateful for your support.

Again, I wish everyone a successful meeting and dedication ceremony. May you have many more to come.

Sincerely,

Ralph S. Northam

LS/Porte