



## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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### Eight Chosen as 2013 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History

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For Immediate Release

The Library of Virginia has joined forces with Dominion Virginia Power to form a new program. The Library's *African American Trailblazers in Virginia History* and Dominion's *Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership* series are now one program—**Strong Men & Women in Virginia History**.

In observance of Black History Month, the Library of Virginia and Dominion are honoring eight distinguished Virginians as the 2013 **Strong Men & Women in Virginia History** for their contributions to Virginia and the nation. Those being honored this year include men and women who were born into slavery but rose to become legislators and educators, as well as those who continue to push back frontiers in their communities, the military, and even space.

This year's honorees are:

Peter Jacob Carter (1845–1886), Northampton County  
Legislator

Jennie Serepta Dean (1848–1913), Manassas  
Educator

Robert Russa Moton (1867–1940), Hampton  
Educator

Nannie Berger Hairston (1921– ), Christiansburg  
Community Activist

Wyatt Tee Walker (1929– ), Petersburg  
Civil Rights Activist

Xavier R. Richardson (1957– ), Fredericksburg  
Mentor and Community Leader

Gwen Bingham (1959– ), Prince George County  
Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army

Robert L. Satcher Jr. (1965– ), Hampton  
Astronaut

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Each generation of African Americans has built on the achievements of those who came before to lead the way to the future. The men and women featured in the **Strong Men & Women in Virginia History** program offer powerful examples of individuals who refused to be defined by their circumstances. Their biographies are a testament to the determination and perseverance displayed by extraordinary people during challenging times. Through education and advocacy, these individuals demonstrate how African Americans have actively campaigned for better lives for themselves and their people. It is these many contributions that the Strong Men & Women program seeks to share.

Biographies of the honorees will be displayed in an exhibition at the Library in February; featured on materials that have been sent to schools, libraries, and museums across Virginia; and included on an educational website for teachers and students. To learn more about these extraordinary men and women, all of whom have used their talents and creativity to push for equality and inclusion in American society, visit our website at: [www.lva.virginia.gov/smw](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/smw).

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