



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

2009 African American Trailblazers Honored with Poster, Exhibition and Ceremony

Contacts: Janice M. Hathcock, Library of Virginia
804-692-3592
Shelley Solheim, Capital One
804-284-9366

For Immediate Release

(Richmond, Va.) -- In observance of African American History Month, the Library of Virginia, in partnership with Capital One, is pleased to honor eight distinguished Virginians as **African American Trailblazers in Virginia** for their contributions to the state and nation. The men and women featured as **Trailblazers** 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, advocacy, entertainment, or armed rebellion, these individuals demonstrate how African Americans have actively campaigned for better lives for themselves and their people. It is these many contributions that the **African American Trailblazers** program seeks to share.

For 2009, the **African American Trailblazers in Virginia** are

- *Dangerfield Newby* (1820–1859), Culpeper Co., member of John Brown's raiding party
- *Amaza Lee Meredith* (1895–1984), Lynchburg and Petersburg, architect
- *Oliver White Hill* (1907–2007), Richmond, attorney and civil rights leader
- *Edna Lewis* (1916–2006), Orange Co., chef and author
- *Evelyn Thomas Butts* (1924–1993), Norfolk, principal in case to invalidate the poll tax
- *Claudia Alexander Whitworth* (born 1927), Roanoke, newspaper publisher and humanitarian
- *John Cephas* (born 1930), Caroline Co., bluesman and international performer
- *Leland Melvin* (born 1964), Lynchburg, astronaut

Biographies of the honorees will be featured in an exhibition on display at the Library in February; on a poster that has been sent to schools, libraries and museums across Virginia; and included on an educational Web site for teachers and students. To learn more about these individuals and to explore educational resources about their lives, visit our Web site at <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/trailblazers/>.

The 2009 honorees also will be celebrated at an awards ceremony hosted by the Library on February 26. Seating is limited, so please call 804-692-3900 for reservations.

###

800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.lva.virginia.gov

804.692.3500 *phone*
804.692.3976 *ty*

Capital One Financial Corporation (www.capitalone.com) is a financial holding company whose subsidiaries collectively had \$109 billion in deposits and \$147 billion in managed loans outstanding as of December 31, 2008. Headquartered in McLean, VA, Capital One has 738 locations primarily in New York, New Jersey, Texas, and Louisiana. Its principal subsidiaries, Capital One, N.A. and Capital One Bank (USA), N. A., offer a broad spectrum of financial products and services to consumers, small businesses and commercial clients. A Fortune 500 company, Capital One trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "COF" and is included in the S&P 100 index.

The Library of Virginia(www.lva.virginia.gov), located in historic downtown Richmond, holds the world's most extensive collection of material about the Old Dominion and has been a steward of the commonwealth's documentary and printed heritage since 1823. The story of Virginia and Virginians has been told in many ways since 1607. At the Library of Virginia it is told through more than 107 million manuscripts and more than 1.8 million books, serials, bound periodicals, microfilm reels, newspapers and state and federal documents, each an individual tile in the vast and colorful mosaic of Virginia's experience.