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Jenna Bush Hager Creates Conversation about Virginia Women’s Monument

- *Sept. 7 event supports monument honoring contributions of Virginia women*
- *Proceeds help fund sculpture of Adèle Goodman Clark*

Richmond, Va. (Aug. 3, 2017) – Author and television personality **Jenna Bush Hager**, daughter of President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, will headline a special event hosted by the [Virginia Capitol Foundation](#) to raise awareness of and build community support for *Voices from the Garden* – the [Virginia Women’s Monument](#) on Capitol Square. This marks Hager’s first public speaking appearance in Richmond.

“**A Conversation with Jenna Bush Hager**” will take place at St. Catherine’s School from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 7. Tickets (\$50 each) can be bought online at www.virginiacapitol.gov and the public is invited to attend. Sponsors for the event are Dominion Energy, Altria and St. Catherine’s School.

Following an introduction by Susan Allen, former Virginia First Lady and Chair of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, Hager will engage in a lively discussion of the challenges that today’s women face in their efforts to balance the daunting demands of a busy career with a fulfilling personal life. Also, she will share insights about the female role models in her life, along with hopes and dreams for her own daughters, among other topics.

Jenna Bush Hager is a contributing correspondent on NBC’s *Today* show and an editor-at-large for *Southern Living* magazine. Also, she is the author of *The New York Times* best seller *Ana’s Story: A Journey of Hope*, which she wrote after traveling in Latin America in 2006 as an intern with UNICEF. Currently, she serves as chair of UNICEF’s Next Generation initiative, which is dedicated to reducing childhood deaths around the world. She and her twin sister, Barbara Bush, are co-authors of a new book, *Sisters First*.

In 2008, she married Henry Hager and they have two girls, Mila and Poppy. A graduate of St. Christopher’s School in Richmond, Henry Hager is the son of former Virginia Lieutenant Governor John H. Hager and Maggie Hager, who serves on the board of the Virginia Capitol Foundation.

The program is designed as a casual and fun Q&A conversation with Jenna Bush Hager. Kay Coles James, who served in the administrations of President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush and was Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources under Governor George Allen, will serve as moderator. Currently, James is President and Founder of the Gloucester Institute, a leadership training center for young African-Americans.

Proceeds from the event's ticket sales will be allocated toward commissioning the life-size bronze sculpture of [Adèle Goodman Clark](#). Clark is one of the 12 female figures selected for the Virginia Women's Monument, representing women who made significant but often unrecognized contributions to shape the 400-year history of the Commonwealth. She was a founding member of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia, a founder of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a 1901 graduate of Virginia Randolph Ellett School, the predecessor of St. Catherine's School.

"The Virginia Women's Monument will inspire women for generations to come, and I'm delighted to do whatever I can to make it a reality," said Hager. "As the daughter of an educator, I especially love how visitors to Capitol Square will learn about fascinating women who came from diverse backgrounds and from different centuries, including Adèle Goodman Clark. This is such an exciting initiative to engage audiences in the important role that women have played throughout Virginia history."

Colleen Dugan Messick, Executive Director of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, noted that the Virginia Women's Monument, when finished and unveiled in two or three years, is intended to be a thought-provoking and interactive experience as visitors walk among the 12 sculptures in an oval-shaped garden. Designed by Ivan Schwartz of StudioEIS, this monument will be the first of its kind in the United States.

"In addition to the voices of the featured figures, a Wall of Honor will contain names and narratives about the struggles and accomplishments of many more women," said Messick. "We are so pleased that Jenna Bush Hager shares our vision and passion for this innovative monument that will highlight Virginia women's accomplishments across four centuries, and beyond."

For more information and to purchase tickets for "A Conversation with Jenna Bush Hager," visit www.virginiacapitol.gov or call 804-786-1012.

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About the Virginia Capitol Foundation and Voices from the Garden – the Virginia Women's Monument:

The Virginia Capitol Foundation is the independent, non-profit, non-partisan, tax-exempt organization supporting the ongoing restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the Virginia Capitol, Capitol Square and Executive Mansion. To learn more about the monument and the Women's Monument Commission, to nominate someone for the Wall of Honor or to make a financial gift supporting the monument, visit virginiacapitol.gov.