



## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Local Celebrities Headline Opening Ceremony**

SUFFOLK, VA., April 7, 2005 – Suffolk’s Civil War Weekend will kick off with a red, white, and blue All American Ceremony featuring local celebrities such as Patty Culhane, Wavy TV News Military Correspondent, and local author, Dr. Keith D. Dickson. The Ceremony is set for the main stage along Prentis Street in historic downtown Suffolk, 12noon on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. This opening event is an opportunity to honor all Americans who have sacrificed their lives in war and for those who still serve to protect our freedom. The Suffolk Civil War Weekend will include an array of expert authors, living history exhibits, museum and bus tours, horse and buggy rides, live music, lantern tours, a memorial service and more. Scheduled from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Saturday and 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday, the Suffolk Civil War Weekend is free and open to the public. Contact the Suffolk Visitor Center for additional information at (757) 923-3880.

A liaison, uniting the community and armed services, Patty Culhane has traveled extensively covering the involvement of local troops in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She has journeyed to Bahrain, Iraq and Norfolk-based ships off of the coast of Afghanistan. A Chicago native who holds a Master’s Degree from the University of Illinois, Culhane joined local news station WAVY News 10 in August of 2000. Her invaluable experience makes her the ideal keynote speaker for the All American Opening Ceremony.

Dr. Keith D. Dickson is best known for penning *Civil War for Dummies* and *World War II for Dummies*; however, he serves as a Colonel in the United States Army Special Forces (Green Berets). A professor of Military Studies at the Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University, Dr. Dickson earned his Ph.D. in American History at the University of Virginia. Dr. Dickson was a featured speaker

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at the 2004 Suffolk Civil War Weekend and will deliver his remarks at the Opening Ceremony and conduct a presentation on Sunday in the Speaker's Tent as well.

The Suffolk Civil War Weekend is sponsored by the Suffolk Division of Tourism, Suffolk Parks and Recreation, Riddick's Folly House Museum, Seaboard Station Railroad Museum, SEVAC, Sons of Confederate Veterans/Tom Smith Camp, Norfolk County Grays Camp 1549, Target, Producers Peanuts, Duke Automotive, Martin Screenprints & Embroidery, Suffolk Art League, Suffolk News Herald, Special Events Entertainment and the Suffolk United Daughters of the Confederacy.

For more information, contact the Suffolk Visitor Center at 757-923-3880 or visit [www.Suffolk-Fun.com](http://www.Suffolk-Fun.com).

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