



Protecting **FORT MONROE**
Preserving **OUR NATIONAL TREASURE**

U.S. Representative Thelma Drake



U.S. Representative Thelma Drake: *Protecting* FORT MONROE - *Preserving* OUR NATIONAL TREASURE

THELMA DRAKE



Dear Citizens of Hampton,

Many of us have kept a close eye on the fate of Fort Monroe since the 2005 BRAC decision to close the base and move many of its military functions to Fort Eustis. The future of this national treasure impacts all of us which is why I have been working closely with state and local officials to ensure that we get it right the first time.

It has been very apparent during my travels throughout Hampton and my Conversations with your Congresswoman sessions in local neighborhoods that the issue of Fort Monroe is held very near and dear to the hearts of many residents.

Recently, the General Assembly passed a law imploring the Fort Monroe FADA to ask the local Congressional member to seek a reconnaissance study. Once the Fort Monroe FADA's formal request is received by my office, I will officially ask the Department of the Interior to evaluate the resources at Fort Monroe and do a preliminary resource assessment of the area. This will ensure that we can continue to move forward in preparation for the Army's departure and represents the first step in protecting the base that has protected us for 400 years.

Sincerely,

Thelma Drake

Thelma Drake
U.S. Representative

WHAT IS A RECONNAISSANCE STUDY?



The reconnaissance study is a preliminary study done by the National Park Service to do an initial evaluation on the feasibility of the property being used as a National Park site. This abbreviated process takes approximately six months and is done at a greatly reduced cost to the taxpayer.

Thelma Drake has offered and will seek the reconnaissance study once the Fort Monroe FADA makes its formal request.

1609 - A second fort is built on the site after Fort Algoume burns.

1728 - Fort George is constructed after Fort Algoume is destroyed in a hurricane.



1803 - The Old Point Comfort Lighthouse is built.

1834 - Fort Monroe is completed - the largest stone fort ever built in the United States.

1861 - Fort Monroe becomes known as "Freedom's Fortress" after escaped slaves who reached the fort were declared free.



1862 - President Abraham Lincoln visits Fort Monroe.

1920 - The first Hotel Chamberlin is completely destroyed in a fire.



1928 - The current Hotel Chamberlin is completed and opens to the public.

1973 - Fort Monroe becomes home to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).



1609 - Captain John Smith and early Virginia colonists build Fort Algoume on the site of present-day Fort Monroe.

1781 - American Revolution - A battery is established on the ruins of Fort George during the siege of Yorktown.

1819 - Construction of Fort Monroe begins.

1831-34 - Robert E. Lee is stationed at Fort Monroe during final construction.



1860 Civil War - Fort Monroe remains in Union control throughout the war, serving as a base for Union sea and land expeditions into the Confederacy.

1865 - Jefferson Davis is imprisoned at Fort Monroe until his release on bail in 1867.



1896 - The first Hotel Chamberlin is completed at Fort Monroe.

1917 WWI - Fort Monroe's armament is updated to provide protection to the naval installations in Hampton Roads and Norfolk.

1941 WWII - Fort Monroe strengthens its protective role by including coastal artillery guns capable of hitting targets 25 miles away.

2005 - Fort Monroe is included on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list.

Coming Together to *Protect* Fort Monroe...

Responding to BRAC

- September 2005 – BRAC announced Fort Monroe's inclusion on the BRAC list.
- December 2005 – The Federal Area Development Authority (FADA) was recognized by the Army as the entity that the Army would work with as the Fort is cleaned up and given back to the Commonwealth.

Listening to Hampton Residents

- Representative Drake holds her Conversation with your Congresswoman events around Hampton during which residents expressed their concern about the future of Fort Monroe.

Ensuring the Long-Term Viability

- October 2006 – Representative Drake helped secure funding to repair the seawall protecting Fort Monroe which was damaged as a result of Hurricane Isabel. This reversed a previous decision to deny federal funding for the repairs after the BRAC decision to close the base.

Working Solutions for the Future

- January/February 2007 – Representative Drake worked with Delegate Gear, Senator Williams and Governor Kaine on federal issues related to the General Assembly legislation expanding the makeup of the FADA.
- Representative Drake served as a liaison for the Army and the National Park Service to ensure that there was federal involvement with actions taking place at the state and local level.
- During this process, Representative Drake felt it was important that the new FADA:
 - 1) include more public input; and,
 - 2) include more state-level representation.
- Representative Drake offered the reconnaissance study as a compromise as a cost-effective and time-effective way to explore the viability of creating a national park.
- Representative Drake will write a letter to Secretary of the Interior seeking a reconnaissance study.

Current Protections

- A portion of Fort Monroe has already been designated a National Historic Landmark. This includes 83 historic buildings.
- National Historic Landmarks are buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects that have been determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be nationally significant in American history and culture (according to the NHL website).
- Any re-use plan must comply with guidelines set out by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Representative Thelma Drake

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Contacting Representative Thelma Drake

By logging on to www.drake.house.gov you can find immediate information on:

- Help with Federal Agencies
- Help for Small Businesses
- Help with Federal Grants
- Help with Education Loans
- Information on Representative Drake's internship program

Please call one of Representative Drake's offices if you need assistance with issues related to a federal agency.

Due to security delays, constituents are recommended to correspond with Representative Drake by email at www.drake.house.gov or by sending mail to her district offices.

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Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4215

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Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(757) 497-6859

Please Join ...

Representative Thelma Drake to learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the steps that you can take to prevent against flood loss. This informational session will feature a presentation by FEMA and will focus on learning more about:

- The coverage benefits and costs of the NFIP
- The NFIP claims process and steps to take in the event of a flooding event
- The risk of flooding in your neighborhood and how you can enroll in the NFIP

Date: Saturday, May 12th, 2007

Where: Asbury Elementary School • 140 Beach Road • Hampton, Va 23664

Time: 1:00 pm

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20535

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This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

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Thelma Drake
Thelma Drake
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