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## Colonial Williamsburg Remembers James Watkinson

The Colonial Williamsburg community is saddened by the loss of James Sidney Watkinson, a longtime member of the Colonial Williamsburg Company Board of Directors, who passed away on Saturday, June 26.

“Jim’s steadfast commitment to Colonial Williamsburg spanned many years and made a wide-reaching, lasting difference,” said Cliff Fleet, president and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg. “Our staff in the Historic Area, at the Foundation and in our hotels and restaurants remember Jim for how much he valued them. He is missed by many, yet we always will recall his devotion to the work we do.”

Watkinson served on the board from 1984-1998, bringing extensive experience from his commercial real estate career with Morton G. Thalhimer, Inc. (Cushman & Wakefield/Thalhimer), where he ultimately became chairman and CEO. He was born in Albany, California, served in the Navy during World War II and then earned a bachelor’s in economics from Stanford University. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he met his wife, the late Douglas Dabney Watkinson, and they settled in Richmond, Virginia.

“Through his leadership and with his generosity, Jim’s impact was wide-reaching,” said Carly Fiorina, chair of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees. “Jim and Douglas were both significant donors to Colonial Williamsburg for decades and their philanthropic support will continue to have a positive effect for years to come.”

They created the *Douglas D. and James S. Watkinson Educational Endowment for Colonial Williamsburg* and the *Douglas D. and James S. Watkinson Endowment Fund for Educational Outreach*. The Watkinsons also supported the Colin G. and Nancy N. Campbell Distinguished Presidential Chair Endowment, the Colonial Williamsburg Fund, the Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute and interpretive education. Watkinson also was a member of the President’s Council.

“Jim was fully committed to Colonial Williamsburg’s educational mission because he believed that what history teaches us is vitally important to the nation,” said Colin Campbell, former Colonial Williamsburg Foundation president and former board chair. “He also valued the commitment to high quality in all components of Colonial Williamsburg, including the hospitality facilities and investments in real estate.”