

# African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter

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Volume 10  
Issue 1 March 2007

Article 14

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3-1-2007

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### Recommended Citation

O'Dell, Larry (2007) "Virginia Apologizes for Role in Slavery," *African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol10/iss1/14>

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## Virginia Apologizes for Role in Slavery

By Larry O'Dell

February 25, 2007

Article posted online by the Associated Press at: <http://abcnews.go.com/>  
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*Virginia Lawmakers Express 'Profound Regret'  
for Role in Slavery, Exploitation of Native Americans.*

Meeting on the grounds of the former Confederate Capitol, the Virginia General Assembly voted unanimously Saturday to express "profound regret" for the state's role in slavery.

Sponsors of the resolution say they know of no other state that has apologized for slavery, although Missouri lawmakers are considering such a measure. The resolution does not carry the weight of law but sends an important symbolic message, supporters said.

"This session will be remembered for a lot of things, but 20 years hence I suspect one of those things will be the fact that we came together and passed this resolution," said Delegate A. Donald McEachin, a Democrat who sponsored it in the House of Delegates.

The resolution passed the House 96-0 and cleared the 40-member Senate on a unanimous voice vote. It does not require Gov. Timothy M. Kaine's approval.

The measure also expressed regret for "the exploitation of Native Americans."

The resolution was introduced as Virginia begins its celebration of the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, where the first Africans arrived in 1619. Richmond, home to a popular boulevard lined with statues of Confederate heroes, later became another point of arrival for Africans and a slave-trade hub. . . .