

RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE

WE, the Pace Society of America, do hereby recognize 17 June, 2022 as

Richard Pace and "Chanco" Day

State of Virginia,

WHEREAS, "Richard Pace of Wapping Wall, carpenter and Isabel Smyth of the same, married on the 5th day of October 1608" at St Dunstan's in the East Church, Stepney, (London) Middlesex County, England; and,

WHEREAS, Richard Pace and wife, Isabel (Smyth) Pace, soon after their marriage and upon reading a Virginia Company promotional broadside, applied to Sir Thomas Smythe in London's Philpot Lane, where they entered themselves as Adventurers on the Company's ledger as if they had invested twelve and a half pounds each, and upon being administered the "oath of sovereignty" under the Second Charter, received one share each for "contributing their body to the endeavor" and agreeing to serve, likely seven years, and then boarded a Virginia Company ship to sail to the new Colony of Jamestowne, in Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, Richard Pace and wife, Isabel (Smyth) Pace by 1616, after meeting their obligations to the Virginia Company, had earned the right to special privileges and a dividend of 200 acres of land, and by agreement of the Virginia Company in November, 1618, they were to grant a patent to the Paces, who soon thereafter established their plantation, called Paces Paines, located on the west side of the James River in current Surry County, Virginia, and thus being dubbed "Ancient Planters;" and,

WHEREAS, the English colonists and the Native American tribes under the leadership of Chiefs Powhatan and Opechancanough, had lived in peace since 1614, and the English had prospered and improved the Colony of Jamestowne; and

WHEREAS, Richard Pace and wife, Isabel (Smyth) Pace, and their son, George Pace, took into their home a young Native American boy of the Pamunkey tribe, to raise him in the Christian faith and as their own son, as stated in Virginia Company records, and said Richard Pace "used him as his sonne," and although his name has been lost in history, he was subsequently called "Chanco" in folklore; and,

WHEREAS, Richard Pace and wife, Isabel (Smyth) Pace returned to England to benefit from the Virginia Company's plan to bring more colonists to Jamestowne, and thus on 12 July 1621 they sailed from Cowes, Isle of Wight County, England on the *Marmaduke* with 6 people, using their headrights (50 acres per person) to acquire an additional 300 acres of land adjacent to Paces Paines; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Company devised a plan to bring groups of marriageable young women to Jamestowne, Richard Pace invested in the plan by bringing on 12 August 1621, at his own expense, his young kinswoman, Ursula Clawson to Jamestowne; and

WHEREAS, during the night of 21 March 1622 the Native American youth (in folklore named "Chanco"), living within the Pace household and who had been converted to Christianity, and who must have had a very heavy burden on his small shoulders with his loyalties to his own native people but also mutual respect and love for his adoptive father, Richard Pace, thus

"Chanco," told Pace about Opechancanough plan's to assault the colonists' settlements the next day, thus prompting Richard Pace to fortify his own plantation before rowing three miles across the James River in the darkness to Jamestowne to warn Governor Francis Wyatt of the plot; and

WHEREAS, on 22 March 1622 the Native Americans in fact attacked the English colonies up and down the James River, now known as the Great Uprising, resulting in the deaths of approximately one-fourth of the greater population of the Virginia colonists while Jamestowne Fort, which was prepared due to Pace's warning, was thus spared and colonists survived as recounted in the original Virginia Company records; and,

WHEREAS, in 1889 The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA, now Preservation Virginia) was founded to preserve and protect Virginia's landmarks and later in 1893 acquired via donation 22 1/2 acres being their premier property: Jamestown, site of the first permanent English settlement in North America including the ruins of the iconic 17th-century brick church tower; and,

WHEREAS, in 1890 National Society, Colonial Dames of America was founded and in 1906 they constructed the brick Jamestown Memorial Church on top of the foundations of the older 1617 and 1639 churches, which was dedicated 13 May 1907, and later in Spring of 1909 they dedicated a plaque to honor and recognize the courage and bravery of "Chanco" as well as Richard Pace in warning Jamestowne of the 22 March 1622 Great Uprising with said plaque being placed on the north wall of the church; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the week of 22 May 1922 the Virginia Pageant Association held a statewide event, called "The Pageant of Virginia" in Richmond attended by over 20,000 spectators and where over 3,000 actors portrayed events in the history of Virginia via a play, which included one episode that portrayed heroic "Chanco" and Richard Pace warning Jamestowne of the 22 March 1622 Great Uprising; and,

WHEREAS, the Thomas Rolfe Branch, Surry County, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, erected a monument to honor and recognize the courage and bravery of "Chanco" as well as Richard Pace in warning Jamestowne of the 22 March 1622 Great Uprising, said monument being dedicated and unveiled on 26 April 1929 by Honorable J Gordon Bohannon of Petersburg, Virginia and Princess Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Cook, Chief of the Pamunkey tribe, on the Surry County Virginia Courthouse green where children of the Surry County schools participated; and,

WHEREAS, the Jamestowne Society was organized on 14 May 1936 whose mission is to unite descendants of Jamestown settlers prior to 1700, support archaeological excavations at Jamestown, provide educational programming and publications, conserve official documents from the colonial period, and promote the significance of Historic Jamestowne in the founding and shaping of our nation of which 125 current members are descendants of Richard Pace, and of those 125 members, 20 are also members of the Pace Society of America; and,

WHEREAS, in 1934, the National Park Service acquired the remaining 1,500 acres of Jamestown Island that are a combination of woods and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the 17th through 19th October 1952 Surry County, Virginia held the "Surry County - Tercentennial Celebration" on the grounds of Surry High School via many activities witnessed by hundreds with a play which included one episode that portrayed heroic "Chanco" and Richard Pace warning Jamestowne of the 22 March 1622 Great Uprising; and,

WHEREAS, the Pace Society of America was founded in Columbus, Mississippi in 1963 whose mission is to further genealogical and historical research for the Pace surname, publish and distribute findings via a quarterly Bulletin, to preserve and make available the research via a Website (www.pacesociety.org), Facebook page and extensive Pace DNA Project and whose 500 members of which 1/2 are descendants of Richard Pace, gather for annual reunions throughout the U. S. each year; and,

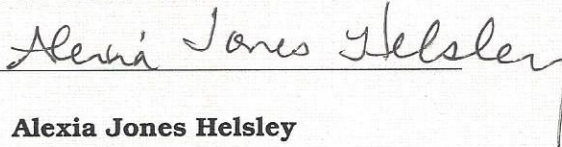
WHEREAS, Preservation Virginia began the *Jamestown Rediscovery Project* in 1994 to prepare for the 400th anniversary of the colony in 2007 which has led to significant archaeological discoveries while the National Park Service planned and implemented an expansion to support the research and interpretation of the site -- thus today both jointly operating the island as "Historic Jamestowne," which includes the site of the original 1608 fort, James City town site, and Virginia's first capital; and,

WHEREAS, the Pace Society of America members will convene for their next reunion in Williamsburg/Jamestown the 16th through 18th June 2022 to honor and recognize the courage and bravery of "Chanco" and their ancestor, Richard Pace during this 400th anniversary year of his warning Jamestowne of the Great Uprising on 22 March 1622 which resulted in Jamestowne's survival at that moment in time, and

WHEREAS, the Pace Society wishes to show its support and appreciation not only to Surry County Historical Society for their efforts to educate others about Richard Pace and "Chanco" but also to Preservation Virginia and National Park Service for their past and on-going efforts to both preserve and promote "Historic Jamestowne, one of Virginia's as well as America's most important, irreplaceable historic sites, but also to promote the history of the Native American tribes of the Chesapeake area including their interaction with the colonists; and,

NOW THEREFORE, WE, the Pace Society of America do hereby urge all citizens to recognize and remember Richard Pace and "Chanco," as we hereby today, during this 400th year anniversary of "Chanco" and Richard Pace warning Jamestowne of the 22 March 1622 Great Uprising, place a wreath at Jamestown Historic Site this the 17th day of June A. D. 2022.

Attested: 17 June 2022

Signed: 

Alexia Jones Helsley

President, Board of Trustees, Pace Society of America