MEDIA ADVISORY

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Center for Governmental Studies to Examine Career of Linwood Holton

CHARLOTTESVILLE – Governors Linwood Holton and Gerald L. Baliles will headline a stellar lineup of journalists, political analysts and current and former members of Virginia state government during the A. Linwood Holton Governors Conference on July 16 and 17 at the University of Virginia.

Sponsored each year by the University of Virginia Center for Governmental Studies and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the Governors Project seeks to review the administrations of Virginia’s modern governors in a non-partisan manner and to determine how each has helped shape today’s Commonwealth. Following the success of last year’s Mills E. Godwin, Jr. Inaugural Governors Conference, this year’s event will explore the historical significance of Holton’s political career.

Known for his efforts to ease racial tensions and for revamping the Commonwealth’s executive branch, Holton is considered by many to be nation’s first New South governor. He was elected in 1969 as Virginia’s first Republican governor since Reconstruction and is widely credited with leading the Virginia GOP out of the obscurity it faced during the Byrd era.

A full schedule of panel discussions held at the Boar’s Head Inn on both days will be highlighted by a special presentation on Friday evening in the Dome Room of Thomas Jefferson’s Rotunda. The evening will include remarks by Center for Governmental Studies Director Larry Sabato, an introduction by Baliles and a keynote address by Holton, during which the Governor will reflect on his legacy and analyze the current state of affairs in the Commonwealth.

In addition to Holton and Baliles the conference will feature public figures such as Lieutenant Governor John Hager, Congressman Caldwell Butler, Delegate Richard Cranwell, Senators Hunter Andrews, Benjamin Lambert and Henry Marsh, as well as Bill Battle, Holton’s 1969 gubernatorial opponent; journalists such as Margaret Edds, Margie Fisher, James Latimer and Charley McDowell; and former administration officials, such as Staige Blackford, Alexander Gilliam, Cynthia Newman, John Ritchie and William Robertson.

Due to limited space, the Conference is not open to the general public. Media interested in covering the event should contact Center for Governmental Studies Program Director Alex Theodoridis at (804) 243-8468.

Please see attached agenda.