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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nation's Foremost Civil War Historian to Speak at Tampa Bay History Center April 18th

TAMPA (April 3, 2009) – The nation's leading authority on the Civil War, James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at Virginia Tech and the Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, will speak in Teco Hall at the Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water St., Tampa, on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

The public event, co-sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association of Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay History Center, will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres from the Columbia Restaurant and a cash bar beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by Robertson's presentation, "Reflections on the Civil War," at 6:30 p.m. Robertson will also sell and sign copies of his books.

The cost is \$25 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres and the presentation. All proceeds will benefit the Virginia Tech Alumni Association of Tampa Bay's scholarship fund. Seating is limited. RSVP to Amy Zielenbach by April 16 at amyziel@verizon.net and bring cash or check to the door, or mail a check payable to "Tampa Bay Chapter - VTAA" to Amy Zielenbach, 15802 Amberly Drive, Tampa FL 33647.

A native of Danville, Va., Robertson is the recipient of every major award given in the field of Civil War history. He is the author of the award-winning books *General A.P. Hill; Soldiers Blue and Gray*; *Civil War! America Becomes One Nation*; and the 950-page biography, *Stonewall*

Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend, which won an unprecedented eight national awards. Robertson teaches the largest Civil War history class in American higher education, with approximately 250 students enrolled each semester.

Robertson appears regularly in Civil War programs on the Arts & Entertainment Network, the History Channel and C-Span. He was the chief historical consultant for *Gods and Generals*, the Turner Pictures/Warner Brothers movie released in 2003. Robertson is an Alumni Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech, one of eight selected from the university's 2,200 faculty members.

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