

# News Announcement



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **VIRGINIA "LOVE THE BUS" EVENT SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**RICHMOND, VA – JANUARY 30, 2012:** The Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation (VAPT) in cooperation with its business partners will host the first statewide **LOVE THE BUS** celebration at 10:00AM on Thursday, February 16th. The rally will be held in Richmond, Virginia at the historic Bell Tower in **Capitol Square** with refreshments to follow in the nearby Darden Memorial Garden. Students and pupil transportation officials from across the Commonwealth will gather at the capital to celebrate the institution of the iconic yellow school bus, and highlight the vital contributions pupil transportation plays in Virginia's public education mission.

Organized in conjunction with the American School Bus Council, LOVE THE BUS festivities will be held by yellow school bus fans across the nation during the month of February. These events are designed to raise public awareness of the important safety, economic, educational, and

environmental benefits provided to communities daily by the effective, cost saving school bus.

Among these benefits:

- School buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in avoiding crashes and preventing injury.
- School buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school.
- School buses keep an annual estimated 17.3 million cars off roads surrounding schools each morning

During the event, both state and national representatives will share their stories of affection for the yellow school bus as well as the challenges currently facing the task of safely carrying Virginia's school children to and from school each day. Highlights of the festivities will include displays of LOVE THE BUS themed artwork from local school children, and musical performances by the Henrico County High School Pep Band/Drum Line, and the Waller Mill Fine Arts Magnet School Grade 5 Chorus (York County). Attendees will also have the opportunity to step aboard several modern school buses to see firsthand the technological features which make the school bus the undisputedly safest mode of ground transportation in the world. Attendance to LOVE THE BUS is open to the public. Complimentary refreshments will be served.