

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 16, 2010

CONTACT:

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HEADLINE: 2010 Shad Planking Speaker

BODY:

The 62nd annual Shad Planking, sponsored by the Wakefield Ruritan Club, will be held at the Wakefield Sportsman's Club on Brittles Mill Road, 4 miles west of Wakefield, VA beginning at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. The speaker for this year's event will be the former Governor of Virginia and former United States Senator, the Honorable George F. Allen. Senator Allen has served the Commonwealth of Virginia for over twenty years, as Governor, in both bodies of the United States Congress, and as a Delegate holding Thomas Jefferson's seat in the Virginia General Assembly. Currently he serves as the Chairman of the American Energy Freedom Center, whose mission is to advocate positive ideas for American jobs, economic prosperity and promotes increased freedom, opportunity, and competition in the development and use of our vast energy resources.

The Shad Planking is an annual event that is known for drawing politically minded people as well as those wishing to seek public office in the Commonwealth. The afternoon event will begin at 2:00 pm and end at 6:30 pm, rain or shine. The formal program will begin at 4:00 pm. The meal will be served when ready. The menu this year will feature our trademark planked shad cooked over an open fire. The Virginia Diner will again provide its famous cole slaw and corn muffins. In addition, there will be shad roe and fish filets fried to golden brown, sweet pickles, iced tea and plenty of other favorite beverages. This year's event promises to continue the long-standing traditions of Shad Planking.

The Shad Planking traces its origin to the early 1930s when a group of friends gathered together at Wrenn's Mill in Isle of Wight County during the spring running of the shad in the James River. They planked the shad after the tradition of native Virginia Indians and they talked politics after the tradition of their fathers before them. As the tradition grew, the Wakefield Ruritan Club assumed sponsorship of the event in 1949. Generations of Virginia politicians have attended and addressed the Shad Planking gathering. Such legendary figures in Virginia politics as Harry Byrd, Senior and Junior, Mills Godwin, John Warner, John Hager, Doug Wilder, Mary Sue Terry, Bob McDonnell, Mark Warner and many others have generously given of their time and talent to support this event. The gathering is truly a unique assembly of the many and varying views of the people and politics of Virginia. It has come to be an important event in the political life of the Commonwealth. The Wakefield Ruritan Club donates all earnings from this event to local community service organizations such as Wakefield Youth Baseball and Softball programs, fire departments and rescue squads.

Tickets are available through the Virginia Diner in Wakefield, Virginia by calling 1-800-935-4004 or through the Wakefield Ruritan Club by mail at POB 148, Wakefield, VA 23888. Tickets may also be ordered online through the Shad Planking website at <http://www.shadplanking.com>. Credit cards are accepted at the Diner and on the Shad Planking website. Ticket prices are \$20 before April 1st and \$25 thereafter. Further information can be obtained by contacting Robert Bain, Shad Planking Chairman, at 757-641-8060 or by email to robert@shadplanking.com.