

Lecture on William Styron to be Presented Sept. 8 at Main Street Library

~ A walking tour of the sites in Hilton Village associated with Styron follows the lecture ~

Newport News, Aug. 8, 2018 – Born in Newport News on June 11, 1925, Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Styron spent his early years growing up in the neighborhood of Hilton Village. A lecture on the author's life, called "*Remembering One of Hilton's Own*," will be given at 3 p.m. Sept. 8 in the Main Street Library.

The lecture will be presented by James L. West III, official Styron biographer; local author William A. Fox; along with historians M. Huntley Galleher and Lewis Lawson. The speakers will share insights about Styron's youth in Hilton Village and the region, which defined the man and subsequently served as literary settings for some of his books, such as *A Tidewater Morning*.

In 1968, Styron's novel, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. He won the National Book Award in 1980 for *Sophie's Choice*. Styron died on Nov. 1, 2006, at the age of 81.

Styron biographer, James L. West III, is a professor of English at Penn State University and author of *William Styron: A Life*, published by Random House in 1998. His edition of Styron's collected nonfiction, entitled *My Generation*, was published in 2015.

Following the program, there will be a walking tour of the sites in Hilton Village that are associated with Styron. The route, which begins at the library at 110 Main St., is approximately one-half mile long, so comfortable walking shoes are suggested. The walking tour is free and open to the public.

The talk is part of the "Historic Hilton Village 100 Lecture Series," created in commemoration of the neighborhood's 100th anniversary this year. Light refreshments will be provided, and no registration is required. For more information, call 757-591-4858 or 757-525-7372 or click [here](#).

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Fun Fact: The Newport News neighborhood of Port Warwick was named after a fictional city in William Styron's first novel, written in 1951 and titled *Lie Down in Darkness*. Port Warwick's signature feature – the grassy area at its center – is called Styron Square to honor the life and work of its famous native son. The two main streets of Port Warwick, Loftis Boulevard and Nat Turner Boulevard, are named for characters in Styron's novels.

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