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**P R E S S R E L E A S E
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Virginia General Assembly Declares June 27, 2009
Will F. Jenkins Day**

In acknowledgement of the General Assembly's declaration of Saturday, June 27, 2009 as Will F. Jenkins Day, the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors and the Gloucester Historical Committee will host a program at 2:00 p. m. in the Colonial Courthouse celebrating the literary accomplishments of this long time resident of Clay Bank.

Mr. Jenkins until the time of his death in 1975, was one of the most prolific writers of the twentieth century, best known for his many science fiction stories and novels written under the pen name of Murray Leinster. He also wrote in other genres which included: westerns, detective stories and romances for slick magazines such as the Saturday Evening Post and Time Magazine, which "dubbed" him the Dean of Science Fiction in 1949.

In addition to the 2:00 p. m. program on Saturday, interested citizens are invited to visit the Gloucester Museum of History to view an exhibit featuring a chronicle of his career featuring a sampling of his publications in magazines, awards and photographs. The Gloucester Main Street Library foyer will have a display of Jenkins memorabilia thru July 5, 2009.

At 3:30 p. m. on Saturday also, Thomas M. Barrett will deliver a lecture, "The Cold War Science Fiction of Will Jenkins (Murray Leinster)" as part of the festivities marking Will F. Jenkins Day. Mr. Barrett is an Associate Professor in the history department of St. Mary's College of Maryland. He curated the Museum & Library exhibits and has written the entry of Jenkins in the Encyclopedia Virginia. He is also the author of numerous publications on Russian history and popular culture.

For further information, please call the Gloucester County Administrator's Office at 693-4042.