

# Richmond County Museum

## *Jones Memorial*



*Congressman William Atkinson Jones  
A Hero of Philippine Independence*

Standing in the Churchyard of St. John's Episcopal Church, Warsaw, in Virginia's rural Northern Neck, is a powerful and inspiring Memorial dedicated to Warsaw Citizen William Atkinson Jones, Author of the Philippine Independence Bill of 1916.

The Bill enabled the People of the Philippine Republic to begin self-government in preparation for total Independence following the Spanish-American War. For his heroic efforts in this cause, Congressman Jones became known as the "George Washington of the Philippines". Bridges, Avenues and Towns throughout the Philippines bear his name.

Designed by noted Spanish Sculptor Don Mariano Benillure, the Memorial was dedicated on June 20, 1926, a gift of the Philippine Government and People, including School Children who collected pennies as their contribution.

William Atkinson Jones was born March 21, 1849, in Warsaw, Virginia, son of Judge Thomas Jones and Grandson of Revolutionary War General Joseph Jones. Young Willie Jones served in the last Civil War Battles of Richmond and Petersburg as VMI Cadet.

Following the Civil War, Jones studied Law at the University of Virginia and returned to Warsaw to serve as Commonwealth's Attorney. He became a major force in economic development in Richmond County, and was elected to represent Virginia's First Congressional District in 1890, where he served until his death in 1918.

As a member of the House of Representatives Insular Affairs Committee, Congressman Jones visited the Philippines where he took a keen interest in the rights of the Philippine People to be Independent. He worked tirelessly for 16 years to secure passage of the Philippine Independence Bill, for which he earned the love and admiration of the Philippine People.

In 1998, the Richmond County Museum hosted Madam Amelita Martinez Ramos, wife of the President of the Philippine Republic in her visit to the Jones Memorial for the purpose of placing a Wreath to Celebrate the Philippine Centennial.

The Richmond County Museum features an exhibit focusing on Congressman Jones and Philippine Independence.

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***Richmond County Museum, at the Courthouse.***

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Wednesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
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