

Leadership Speaker: Introduction for Thomas Jefferson

- **Our next speaker is an American original. He calls Virginia his home, though he is frequently seen throughout this land.**
- **He comes from a family of eight children, six sisters and a brother. He was educated away from home through most of his early years, including two years at the College of William and Mary. The study of law and a short career in the legal profession followed.**
- **He found his place in the political arena. A significant career ensued, where he served at the local, state, and national levels over a period of 40 years.**
- **He loved his home best of all, where he pursued family interests, farming, science, architecture, and more.**
- **While he received acclaim for his public efforts, his personal life included great tragedy. His father died when he was just 14. He lacked a close relationship with his mother. After 10 years of marriage, his wife died. Five of his six children died during his lifetime.**
- **He knew both political and personal abuse. He was once described as "an ambitious and violent demagogue, coarse and vulgar in his manners, awkward and rude in his appearance."**
- **I trust you will form another opinion of him today. He is one of a kind.**
- **Please join me in welcoming our special guest, the third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson.**