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March 5, 2011

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**“President and Mrs. William Howard Taft” arrive at Rappahannock Westminster-
Canterbury**

On Monday, March 21 President William Howard Taft and his First Lady, Nellie Taft, will appear at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury outside Irvington. The twenty-seventh president and his spouse will be portrayed by veteran dramatists and presidential interpreters Bill and Sue Wills of Winter Park, Florida, as part of their “The Presidents and Their First Ladies: Dramatically Speaking” series. Veteran stage actors, Bill and Sue Wills have been performing together since 1970. From 1978 to 1997 they ran the Parker Playhouse in Ocean City, Maryland.

Begun as an Elderhostel program in 1991 at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, “The Presidents and Their First Ladies: Dramatically Speaking” has grown to include performances featuring 32 of the nation’s presidents and first ladies. Bill Wills says the aim of these programs is to provide insight into the personal lives of America’s presidents and their spouses.

The husband-and-wife duo have appeared in more than four thousand programs across the country, delivering their dramatic interpretations in schools, senior living centers, libraries and community auditoriums. The couple’s recent performance as Dwight and Mamie

Eisenhower at the Bush Presidential Library elicited comments such as “the characterizations were strikingly realistic” and “the whole audience felt as if we were listening to the Eisenhowers.”

Bill Wills says he and his wife look forward to returning to Irvington this spring. They have been visiting RWC since 1995. “RWC holds a special place in our hearts,” Wills says. “It was one of the first retirement communities at which we appeared when we began performing. The folks there are always so interested ; they seem to hang on every word.”

“Presidents and Their First Ladies: Dramatically Speaking” is being sponsored by the RWC Bazaar Performance Series. Each year, part of the proceeds raised at the annual RWC Bazaar is set aside to fund theater and musical programs. The performance is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium located in the Chesapeake Center on the campus of RWC, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Bill and Sue Wills in character as President William Howard Taft and his wife Nellie. The couple will perform their interpretive presentation of the Taft family at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury on March 21.