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**Maryland Public Television debuts *Potomac by Air: Our Nation’s River***

***Aerial documentary explores the Potomac’s natural and man-made history***

**OWINGS MILLS** -- Maryland Public Television will celebrate one of our nation’s most important rivers with a 60-minute original documentary *Potomac by Air: Our Nation’s River,* premiering during the station’s annual Chesapeake Bay Week observance this month*.*  Airing on Friday, April 24 at 9 p.m., the documentary explores our nation’s history as it takes viewers on an aerial trip along the striking curves of the Potomac.

The Potomac River descends through roughly 400 miles of terrain, marked by significant landmarks and pristine shorelines. Starting in West Virginia, the documentary captures the flow of the river as it rapidly descends through the Appalachian Mountains into the Piedmont region of Maryland, then proceeds south, past the Great Falls, into the nation’s capital and ends in the Chesapeake Bay.

Shot from above in high-definition, the program provides viewers with a scenic journey of the river’s natural and man-made history along with our nation’s remarkable collection of monuments and memorials, from the Washington Monument to the White House and more. *Potomac by Air* will then continue south to explore the river’s natural duality, from non-tidal freshwater to brackish and tidal.

Principal photography for *Potomac by Air: Our Nation’s River* was shot in two days’ time last October by a camera mounted on the belly of a helicopter. Stunning, low-altitude high-definition footage of the river is complemented by day and evening shots of the Washington Monument, the Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other landmarks. To accomplish its filming, Maryland Public Television was granted waivers from normal security restrictions governing the high-security ring of the nation’s capital by the Transportation Security Administration.

After its April 24 premiere at 9pm, the program will rebroadcast again at 10pm with additional repeats on MPT-HD on April 25 at 1am, May 16 at 9:30pm, and May 31 at 2:30pm and 11pm. It will also air on MPT-2 on May 17 at 8pm.

For the full rundown of all Chesapeake Bay Week® productions, visit [www.bayweek.mpt.org](http://www.bayweek.mpt.org).