FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Event – Abhishekam on Massive 15 Foot Granite Hanuman Murthi

Clyde, NC. May 4, 2015

For <u>Hanuman Jayanthi</u>, Hanuman's Birthday, Sri Somesvara Temple will host a special oncea-year event on Wednesday, May 13, at 11:00 am. This event will include a puja (ceremony) with abhishekam, which includes bathing the 15 foot hand-carved black granite Hanuman murthi (statue) in milk, water, turmeric, etc. This is the only day of the year that abhishekam is performed on the murthi, and afterwards, Hanuman will be decorated with custom-made jewelry, garments, etc. The abhishekam and archana will be performed according to Vedic tradition by Sri Somesvara's Vedic pandit. This event will take place at Hanuman Park, located to the southwest of Sri Somesvara Temple.

The Hanuman murthi at Sri Somesvara Temple is one of the largest granite murthis in the United States. This 15-foot, hand-carved, black granite deity from India was installed on June 2, 2014, after five days of Vedic ceremonies with five pandits. People travelled from other countries and across the United States to witness the installation last June. One of the pandits remarked, "I have participated in 79 deity installations and this Hanuman is by far the most powerful of any I have helped install."

The Story of Hanuman Jayanthi

Hanuman is an incarnation of Lord Shiva, the son of the wind god Vayu, and the humble servant of Lord Rama. Hanuman is a representation of pure devotion, the embodiment of strength, and a hero of the great Indian epic, the Ramayana. His undying devotion made him such that he became free from all physical fatigue and limitations physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Technically, Hanuman Jayanthi is the date of Hanuman's birth; however there are many other dates of significance, including Hanuman's conception and his second birth, enlightenment. Many of these days are celebrated throughout different parts of India, and referred to as Hanuman Jayanthi. At Sri Somesvara Temple, the day of Hanuman's birth is celebrated as Hanuman Jayanthi.

"The Vedic calendar specifies many specific moments throughout the year. By doing so, the psyche (and in fact all levels of our life) align with the rhythm and flow of nature. This can be viewed as a technique to live in harmony with nature and thereby gain the support of nature." – Dr. Michael Mamas (Michaelji)

<u>Sri Somesvara Temple</u> is a Vedic Shiva Temple that lies at the heart of <u>Mount Soma</u>, a spiritual destination center in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Sri Somesvara contains 46 tons of hand-carved granite from India, is 100% Vastu, and employs Vedic technology in all ceremonies. Sri Somesvara is the first of five temples to be built at Mount Soma, a community that is being built according to the Vaastu Shastra guidelines for an enlightened city. The visionary, developer, and spiritual leader of Sri Somesvara and Mount Soma is <u>Dr. Michael Mamas</u> (Michaelji).

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