

75 years after Prohibition's repeal, ABC store still operating in same location

By [STAFF REPORTS](#)

Richmond Times Dispatch

Published: June 24, 2009

A liquor store that opened six months after the end of Prohibition is still in business 75 years later in Clifton Forge, where state Alcoholic Beverage Control officials are gathered today to celebrate the milestone.

Virginia ABC Store No. 123 is still operating at 531 Main St. in the Alleghany Highlands town, the only state liquor store to remain in continuous operation in one place for 75 years. The store opened on June 25, 1934, so the anniversary is tomorrow. Prohibition had ended with the ratification of the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in December 1933. The Virginia General Assembly established the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control by vote on March 7, 1934.

"While much has changed in 75 years, Virginia ABC remains committed to retail excellence and enhancing public safety," said Franklin P. Hall, who retired as a member of the House of Delegates this year and was appointed a commissioner on the ABC Board by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine in April.

Hall was joined at today's ceremony by another commissioner, Susan Swecker, a native of nearby Highland County

The ABC Department also is commemorating its 75th anniversary with an exhibition at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

-- Michael Martz