

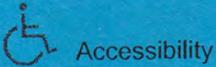


# *June 17th* **African American Heritage Celebration**



African American Monument  
Dedicated July 29, 2000

**FREEDOM PARK  
LEXINGTON PARK, MARYLAND  
SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006  
12 NOON TO 8 PM**



Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc. In Partnership with the St. Mary's County Government



## THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN MONUMENT WALKWAY

Freedom Park  
Lexington Park, Maryland

We are encouraging individuals and organizations wishing to provide financial support for UCAC to purchase bricks inscribed with their name(s) or the name of someone they wish to honor. These bricks will be placed on the walkway surrounding and leading to the monument and will serve as a permanent acknowledgment of their support and commitment to the importance of African American contributions to St. Mary's County. The cost is a tax-deductible donation of \$50.00 per brick. You are entitled to 18 characters for each brick and an additional fifty cents for each extra character. Order forms are available by contacting UCAC at P.O. Box 1457, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

Though the monument has been built, there are still important ways in which you can contribute to UCAC. You can purchase a brick to honor a mentor, friend, or family member, or just to show your support for the project. Proceeds from the purchase of bricks will be used to maintain the monument and to support UCAC's mission. Membership in UCAC committees is open to individuals and organizations willing to share information and learn about African American Heritage.

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC), I welcome you to our third annual Juneteenth Celebration. This is a celebration of African American heritage in St. Mary's County and it will be an event to remember!

As a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Maryland since 1994, UCAC has accomplished a mission of designing and constructing a monument in honor of African-American individuals and organizations that have and continue to contribute in significant ways to the history and development of St. Mary's County. Through our oral history project and the work of UCAC in general, we are committed to strengthening, recording and celebrating the contributions of African Americans to St. Mary's County. Today, we proudly present to the public our newly published book, *In Relentless Pursuit of an Education: African American Stories from a Century of Segregation (1865-1967)*.

Today, we join with people throughout the country in celebrating Juneteenth, the final emancipation of slavery. Slavery was a horrible time of terrorism and violence in our country. It was the catalyst for the Civil War, a divisive war in our country that still continues to breed hate and resentment among people and along geographical lines. As we acknowledge the diversity of the citizens in our country, I believe that it is always right and good to celebrate the emancipation of slavery, as a special time to honor the freedom and human rights that all people in the United States enjoy.

A special thanks to all who made this day possible for our enlightenment and enjoyment. Let us embrace the strength and unity of the African American Community and the St. Mary's County community at large. It is the sincere hope of UCAC that we continue to build monuments within that represent the spirit of love and divine inspiration that reflect heritage and create vision for all!

UCAC Mission Statement: To increase understanding of and to foster African American contributions to the history and development of St. Mary's County.

### Directors:

Janice T. Walthour—President  
Bob Lewis — Secretary-Treasurer  
Elmer Brown  
Robin Burt  
Bonnie Elward  
Francine Dove Hawkins  
Jeoffery Jackson  
Anna Moseley

Merideth Taylor — Vice President  
Donald Barber  
Johnie Brown  
Kelsey Bush  
Robert Gant  
Steve Hawkins  
Alma Jordon



### ***HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MONUMENT OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY***

The African American monument is located in Lexington Park, Maryland on the grounds of Freedom Park. It was dedicated on July 29, 2000.

This monument commemorating the contributions of African Americans in St. Mary's County represents the spirit of divine inspiration. The symbolism of the monument evolved from a community of people who persevered to make it a reality.

*The Pyramid* - The pyramid represents one of the oldest architectural structures built of stone and mortar. The three-sided base of this edifice symbolizes creativity, survival, strength, and multicultural participation in the building of community in St. Mary's County. This foundation reminds us that we stand on the backs and shoulders of the many who came before us.

*The Natural Stone* - The rough hewn simplicity of native natural stone from the county symbolizes the efforts of the many African Americans who have made contributions to St. Mary's County. The stones in all sizes and shapes represent the diverse accomplishments of all people in the African American community...rich and poor, known, and unknown.

*The Eternal Flame* - The finial of the monument is an eternal flame which symbolizes the constant eternal presence of our foreparents and our eternal gratefulness to them as we pass the torch to future generations.

**PLEASE VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE: [WWW.UCACONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.UCACONLINE.ORG)**

# THE STORY OF JUNETEENTH

On *June 19, 1865*, two years after President Lincoln's signing of the *Emancipation Proclamation*, General Granger of the Union Army landed in Galveston, Texas, and issued *General Order No. 3*, "... all slaves are free." Since then, African Americans around the country along with other interested citizens have celebrated this event as

## JUNETEENTH.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted state recognition.

Throughout the 80's and 90's Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place along side older organizations. Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom while encountering self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.

*From the Afro-American Almanac*  
<http://www.toptags.com/aama/events/jtenth.htm>

## ABOUT THE MISTRESSES OF CEREMONIES

**Elfreda Talbert Mathis**, a retired educator, is a life-long resident of St. Mary's County. During her 36 years with the St. Mary's County Public School system, she taught at Piney Point Elementary School and worked in resource and coordinating positions in the system. For over 20 years she worked as an elementary school principal serving the populations of Ridge Elementary and Lexington Park Elementary schools.

As a community activist, she has held membership and leadership responsibilities in a variety of community organizations and has served on St. Mary's County boards and commissions. Presently, Elfreda is a candidate for St. Mary's County commissioner.

**Kim Cullins**, a resident of the county since early childhood, is the marketing director and program specialist for the St. Mary's County Museum Division. Kim is very active in tourism and establishing community events that bring the rich history and heritage of St. Mary's County to all segments of the community. Kim is a history buff and lover of jazz.

**Robin Burt**, resides here in the county and is an employee at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. She is a member of the UCAC Board of Directors and serves as secretary of the Juneteenth Committee. Robin is actively involved in bringing information to the community about the Juneteenth celebration.

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

For the past 20 years, the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission has been honoring citizens of the county at their annual Human Relations Awareness Day breakfast. The recipients of these awards have been chosen for their work in providing community service and promoting human rights.

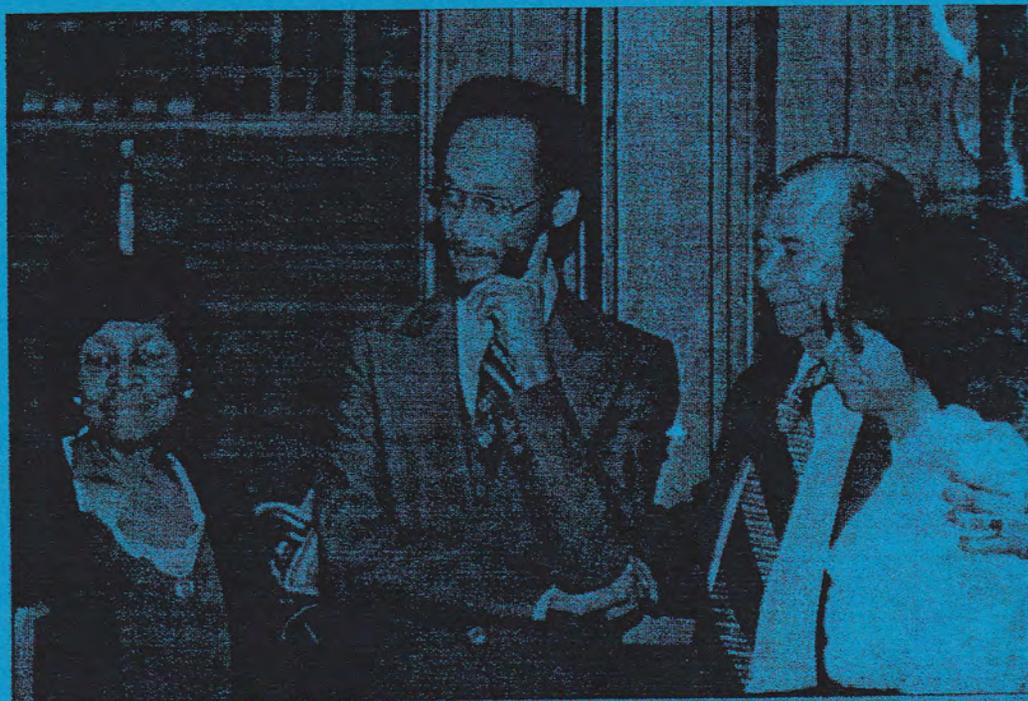
At this Juneteenth Celebration, the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) honors the recipients of this award in the new Millennium and gives accolades to each of them for making a difference in our community. UCAC honors their contributions and looks forward to continuing community service that fosters respect and understanding of the diverse population in our county and in our world.

A very special thanks to the Human Relations Commission for the work they are doing to raise awareness about human rights in our community!

### PAST HONOREES

- 2000 Gwendoline Bankins & Phiney Cusic
- 2001 Robert B. Gant, Dirk Griffith, DFC Andrew Holton, Reverend Raymond Moore, McKay's Food and Drug (Corporate Award) & Nichole Willy (Youth Award)
- 2002 Sister Susan Ashton, M.D. & Sister Agnese Neumann, CRNP (Community Award), Alvin Andrew Fenwick, Francine Dove Hawkins, PH.D., Dudley Lindsley, Leonard Lionel Somerville, Crystal Johnson (Student Award) & Wal-Mart (Corporate Award)
- 2003 Ruth Portee (Community Award), Leonard Francis Shade, Merideth Taylor, Sherella M. Butler (Student Award) & BAE Systems, Inc. (Corporate Award)
- 2004 Irvanette W. Hall (Community Award), Everlyn L. Holland, Jennifer L. Armstrong (Youth Award) & The Boeing Company (Corporate Award)
- 2005 Laurice M. White (Community Award), Elsie C. Lawrence, Kenneth R. Ritter & Gary S. Brown (Youth Award)
- 2006 Keith Fairfax (Community Award), St. Clair & Cropp, Shop with Cops Program & Molly Gates (Youth Award)

## HONORING THE GROVES FAMILY REBECCA, CONRAD, WILLIAM, AND JOAN



Staff Photo by Viki Volk

Rebecca, Conrad, William and Joan Groves are honored as pioneers of integration at the first annual human relations awareness day. The Groves' children were the first black students to attend Great Mills High School.

Reprinted by Permission of *The Enterprise*.

The process of desegregating the public schools was actually initiated in the late 1950s. It began with one family who decided to make a difference and parents who were willing to go to court to defend their right to an equal and integrated education for their children. In 1958, under a court order filed by William Groves against the St. Mary's County Public Schools, Joan Groves entered Great Mills High School in Great Mills, Maryland.

Today at Juneteenth, we honor the Groves family for their contributions to the history and development of St. Mary's County. Joan Groves Briscoe, and Conrad Groves were the first students to integrate Great Mills High School in 1958. William, Rebecca, and Conrad are deceased. Bricks have been laid in the walkway leading to the African American Monument of St. Mary's County in their honor. These bricks will serve as a permanent recognition of the significant impact they made to bring about change in the segregated schools of the county.

**HONORING SHERIFF JOSEPH LEE SOMERVILLE**

**FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN SHERIFF  
IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY AND IN MARYLAND**

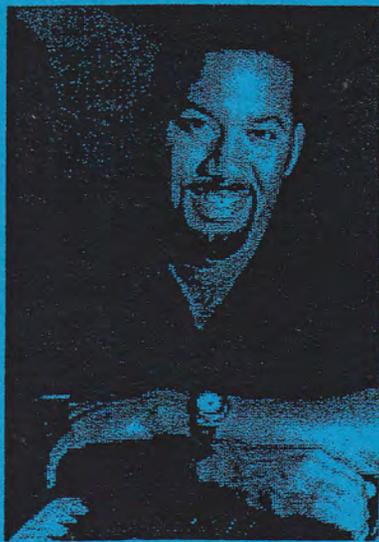
**EIGHTH ELECTED AFRICAN AMERICAN SHERIFF  
IN THE UNITED STATES**



Reprinted by permission of *The Enterprise*.

Lieutenant Joseph Lee Somerville was appointed by Governor Marvin Mandel to the office of sheriff following the death of Sheriff George Sanger in 1976. Somerville went on to defeat a white candidate, former trooper Murray Jackson in the Democratic primary in 1978, making Somerville the first African American to be elected sheriff in the history of St. Mary's County and in the state of Maryland.

At today's Juneteenth Celebration we have honored Sheriff Somerville for his contributions to the history and development of St. Mary's County by placing a memorial brick in the walkway leading to the African American Monument. This brick will serve as a permanent recognition of the significant contribution he made to law enforcement and political action in St. Mary's County, Maryland.



**MARCUS JOHNSON**  
**JAZZ MUSICIAN**  
[WWW.THREEKEYS.COM/MJ](http://WWW.THREEKEYS.COM/MJ)

Pianist Marcus Johnson is a self-taught keyboardist who draws inspiration from Quincy Jones, George Duke, and Gerald Albright. Marcus Johnson is CEO of Marimej Entertainment Group and Three Keys Music. Johnson graduated from Georgetown University in 1997 with a Law Degree and a Masters in Business Administration.

He grew up listening to a broad variety of musical genres: his mother played classical piano and his first memorable concert experience was an Earth, Wind & Fire theatrical extravaganza that his father took him to. His jazz inflections surfaced when he began tinkling the keys at age thirteen and he eventually found himself studying both traditional and contemporary masters (Joe Sample and Thelonius Monk are two names he frequently cites).

Fresh out of Howard University, Johnson had big dreams of releasing his own debut contemporary jazz album, *Lessons in Love*, an enigmatic masterpiece showcasing Johnson's flair for the piano. In 1995, armed with both the moral and financial support of his dotting older sister, he was able to release *Lessons in Love*, launching his career as a contemporary jazz artist and creating his own label, Marimej Entertainment Group, LLC known today as Three Keys Music.

Just one year after releasing *Lessons in Love*, the multi-talented pianist released his sophomore album, *Inter Alia*. In the Kemp Mill Music retail chain, this album outsold the Titanic soundtrack in the first two weeks after its release. This success and the attention that it brought led Johnson to sign a deal with N2K Encoded Music – home of the online innovator: Music Boulevard, which was the foundation for what is known today as Amazon.com. N2K renamed *Inter Alia*, calling it *Chocolate City Groovin'*. When N2K was sold, Johnson was able to reclaim his rights to his masters and, again, started releasing CDs under the Marimej Banner.

Johnson has made a name for himself at the hottest jazz festivals and events including The Capitol Jazz Festival, Ghana Jazz Festival, Bahamas Jazz Festival, St. Lucia Jazz Festival, Bermuda Jazz Festival, Atlantic Artscape, Huntington Beach Jazz Festival, and the National Smooth Jazz Awards. Johnson has simultaneously worked as a savvy businessman and emerged as a major contender in the jazz market by releasing 8 phenomenal albums. He describes his music as "instrumental R&B with a DC bounce," and maintains that the hallmark of his music is "the neck factor," a term he coined to explain the involuntary neck movement that results from listening to his music.

Most recently, Marcus was a morning host on Smooth Jazz 105.9 radio and also featured on the *Idol Chatter* segment on Fox 5 News to comment on the *American Idol* show. Complimenting his phenomenal musical accomplishments, Marcus Johnson has also been honored with the U.S. Small Business Administration's Young Entrepreneur Award and was one of five entrepreneurs worldwide to be nominated for Black Enterprise magazine's 2005 Small Business Rising Star Award.

## JUNETEENTH PROGRAM

12:00 - 1:00 Grand Opening of Juneteenth Celebration

Music Provided By: Clifton Bullock, saxophonist and Roy Johnson, keyboardist

Mistress of Ceremonies: Elfreda Talbert Mathis

Invocation: Reverend Roderick McClanahan, Pastor  
First Missionary Baptist Church in Lexington Park, Maryland

Posting of Colors: St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department

Welcome: Mike Brown, Co-Chairman of Juneteenth

Proclamations, Recognitions, and Acknowledgements: Janice Walthour

"Making a Difference in the Millennium"

Juneteenth Essay Contest: St. Mary's County Public Schools - Elmer Brown

Recognition: Contest Winners

Human Relations Awards Recipients Honored: Janice Walthour

Recognition: Recipients of the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission  
Awards from 2000-2006

"History Makers": Brick Presentations - Merideth Taylor

Recognition: Joan Groves Briscoe and Conrad Groves (posthumously)  
Sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville

1:00 - 2:00 Gospel Hour

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church Gospel Choir: Reverend Damian Shadwell, Pastor

First Missionary Baptist Church Choirs

Oasis of Victory Christian Church International Choir: Reverend James Spence, Pastor

Spiritual Dancers: L.J. & Jacob Taylor

Mistress of Ceremonies: Kim Cullins

2:30 - 4:00 Poetry Slam

2:30 - 3:15 Local Poets and Authors

Clifton Bullock, Garrett James, and Rasheeda Brown

3:15 - 3:45 Mad Jazz Poetry Productions

4:00 - 5:00 African Dance & Drumming

African Dance: Imani Edu-Tainers African Dance Company

African Drumming: James "Jumbe" Gilliam, Chinua McFarlane, and Reuben Graves

Youth Entertainers: Global Village African Dance and Drumming Troupe

Lexington Park Elementary School's African Cultural Enrichment  
Club in conjunction with the

Lexington Park Boys and Girls Clubs of America

6:00 - 8:00 Smooth Jazz Performances

Mistress of Ceremonies: Robin Burt

Opening Performer: Mike Wireman, musician

Featuring: Marcus Johnson, keyboardist

Nationally and Internationally renowned jazz musician

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY CULTURAL ARTS COLLABORATION PROJECT

### CHOREOGRAPHER

SONYA MANN-MCFARLANE

### MUSICAL DIRECTOR

JAMES "JUMBE" GILLIAM, SR.

### MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

JAMES GILLIAM, JR.

CHINUA MCFARLANE

REUBEN GRAVES

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- IMANI EDU-TAINERS DANCERS  
LANCASTER, PA
- GLOBAL VILLAGE AFRICAN DANCE AND DRUMMING TROUPE  
SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT  
LEXINGTON PARK, MD

TURQUOISE BISCOE \* DENISHA BRINKLEY \* KANESIA DICKENS \*  
DYMOND ESTEP \* SHANICE FENWICK \* REUBEN GRAVES \*  
STEVIE-MARI HAWKINS \* DARRIELLE JOHNSON \* ARNISHA WESTRY

- LEXINGTON PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S AFRICAN CULTURAL  
ENRICHMENT CLUB (ACE) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
LEXINGTON PARK BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA  
LEXINGTON PARK, MD

### JAMES JUMBE GILLIAM

PERCUSSIONIST, VOCALIST

[WWW.SOULINMOTIONPLAYERS.ORG](http://WWW.SOULINMOTIONPLAYERS.ORG)

Jumbe started playing hand drums and percussion in the Philadelphia school system. He also sang in the All Philadelphia Choir and attended settlement music school. At Cheyney State University he was an integral part of their music program; singing and playing percussion most of their productions. He plays congas and djembe drums and has gined in many different settings such as: Jazz, Rhythm and Blues, Latin, Reggae, African, and Gospel. One of his private teachers for conga drums was Doc Gibbs. He also attended many workshops, the most renowned being with the "Montiquitoes De Montanzas De Cuba." His African drum training was with master drummer Ibrahim Camara of West Africa.

Some of the people and groups he has gined with are: Sister Sledge, Essra Mohawk, Dexter Wanzel, Willie Bo Bo, Princess Statletta Depure, Afro I Dance, Drama and Drum Theater, African Heritage Dancers and Drummers, The Earthtones Reggae Band, and the Corner Stone Mass Choir Gospel Band. He has also recorded with the Earthtones "Live at Penn State Art Festival" (1993) and Doc Long "The Drum" (1994).

Jumbe often says "The rhythmic style of his hand drumming, which he tries to incorporate with multiethnic composition material, is based on melodic concepts and techniques derived from tradition."



## IMANI EDU-TAINERS AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY WWW.IMANIAFRICANDANCE.ORG

IMANI meaning faith, the symbol of the "AKUABA" doll, representing healthy children, and the term "edu-tain" describes the organization's mission: to receive and provide training, education, and cultural enrichment in African traditions, with an emphasis on youth participation.

Imani Edu-Tainers African Dance Company is a not-for-profit organization and was founded in 1992 by Sonya Mann-McFarlane in Chapel Hill, NC. Sonya relocated to Lancaster, PA in 1993 and continues to promote community awareness, appreciation, and understanding of African culture and community enlightenment. The performing company supported by the organization has received rave reviews for performances and presentations in Lancaster County and beyond.

African dance/drumming classes and other cultural enrichment activities are offered to children, teens, and adults. These activities facilitate increased community involvement with youth, improve community relations, and promote a better understanding and appreciation of African culture and its contributions to today's society.

Imani Edu-Tainers African Dance Company is a "sister" organization to The Cultural Movement African Dance Company which is based in Goldsboro, NC. This is where Sonya received a considerable amount of her training. Anne Hurrey, Director of The Cultural Movement continues to provide consultation, guidance, and serves as a resource to Imani.

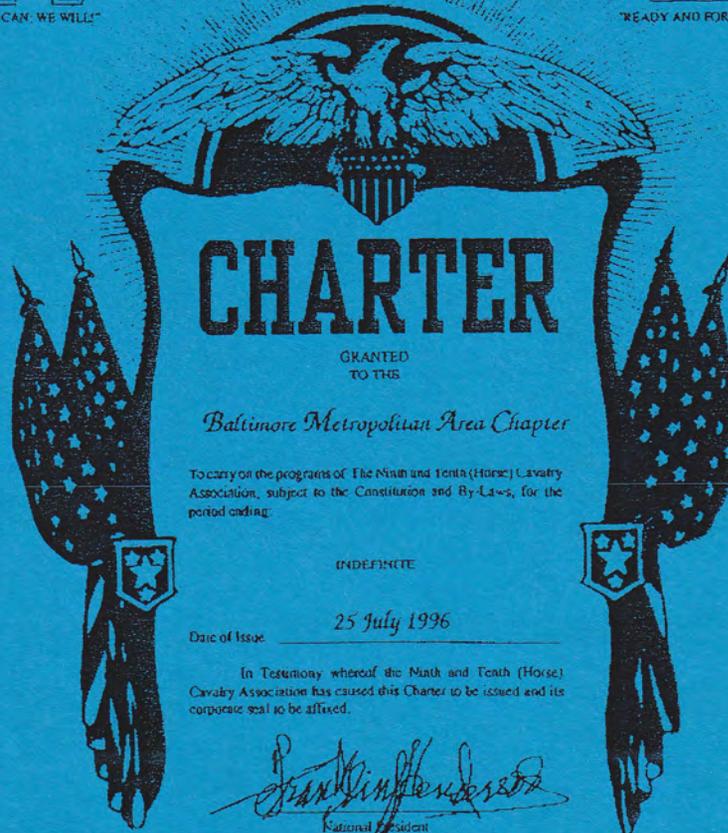


## BUFFALO SOLDIERS

The Baltimore Metropolitan Chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association (The Buffalo Soldiers) was chartered in 1996. The current chapter president is Trooper Lloyd Bowser. The overall national president of the 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association Trooper Richard Robertson is also a member of the Baltimore chapter. The main objective of the organization (through reenactments) is to keep the legacy alive of the African American men and one woman who served in the US Army during the western expansion of the United States. The Chapter consists of members who are actual descendants of the Buffalo Soldiers and also veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm.



Buffalo Soldiers  
NINTH & TENTH (HORSE) CAVALRY  
ASSOCIATION  
(The Official Reenactment Association)



# CHARTER

GRANTED  
TO THE

*Baltimore Metropolitan Area Chapter*

To carry on the programs of The Ninth and Tenth (Horse) Cavalry Association, subject to the Constitution and By-Laws, for the period ending:

INDEFINITE

Date of Issue: 25 July 1996

In Testimony whereof the Ninth and Tenth (Horse) Cavalry Association has caused this Charter to be issued and its corporate seal to be affixed.

National President



National Chairman  
By-Laws Committee

National Secretary

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Askey and Askey CPA.  
Steven Thurmon  
Mary Agnes Shelton  
Department of Recreation, Parks, & Community Services  
Kathleen S. Reif  
Barbara J. Berry  
Cheryl A. Brown  
Delores Thompson  
IBPOEW  
Del. Anthony J. O'Donnell  
St. Mary's County Arts Council  
Callaway Village Shopping Center  
St. Mary's County Board of Education  
St. Mary's County Genealogical Society  
St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners  
Department of Business and Economic Development  
St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department

Compliance Corporation  
Barbara Scriber-Brown  
James Barnes  
Andrea V. Bowman  
Rose M. Briscoe  
Charlene Clark  
Joan H. Dorsey  
Sandra Johnson  
Cynthia Brown  
Del. John Bohanan  
Laurice White  
The Three Notch Theatre  
Robin Finnacom  
DJ Brown Productions  
Spencer Scriber  
SMECO  
E. Reynolds

Programs: St. Mary's County Library: Kathleen Reif, Janice Hummel and Priscilla Dyson

Mr. Bumblebritches and Friends

## JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE

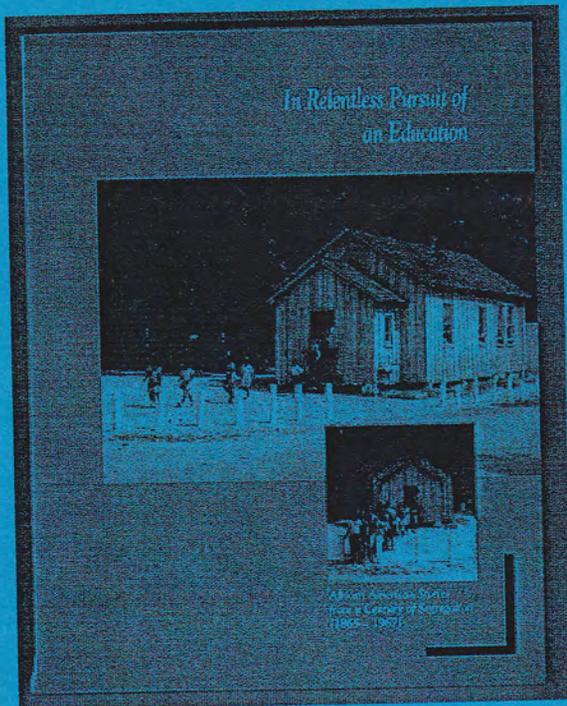
Michael Brown (Co-Chairman)	Jeoff Jackson (Co-Chairman)
Elmer Brown	Bonnie Elward
Johnie Brown	Sandra Johnson
Linda Thomas	Bob Lewis
Kim Cullins	Francine Dove Hawkins
Janice Walthour	Carolyn Laray
Robin Burt	

Save the date: Saturday, June 16, 2007 for next year's celebration!

## UCAC PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS FIRST BOOK!

Based on their popular exhibit "Remember to the Past, Look to the Future: African American Schools during a Century of Segregation" —

### *In Relentless Pursuit of an Education: African American Stories from a Century of Segregation (1865-1967)*



*In Relentless Pursuit of an Education is local history at its best. In their own words, residents of St. Mary's County, Maryland, tell of the separate and unequal black schools that existed until the county finally complied with Brown v. Board of Education in 1967. This generation displays no nostalgia for segregation, but they do recall how their daily life was marked not only by inequality, but also by determination, caring, even fun. One hundred years from now, their voices will be a priceless resource for historians yearning to understand, "What was it like? What was it really like?"*

— James W. Loewen, author of Lies My Teacher Told Me and Sundown Towns

Featuring oral history excerpts and photographs of over fifty former students, teachers, and administrators who experienced segregated education in St. Mary's County.

**Buy this ground breaking book right here at Juneteenth!**

**Price: \$15.00** (includes tax) 117 pages, 220 photographs, soft cover

You can also order the book from UCAC at  
[www.ucaonline.org](http://www.ucaonline.org)  
or find it at your local book store or library.