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LOCAL COALITION TO CELEBRATE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM 'LIFT EV'RY VOICE & SING' BY JACKSONVILLE NATIVES JAMES WELDON JOHNSON AND JOHN ROSAMOND JOHNSON

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., (January 22, 2020)-- The I'm A Star Foundation, the Jacksonville Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Duval County Public Schools, the Ritz Theatre and Museum and other organizations proudly unite to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Black National Anthem "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" by Jacksonville's very own James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson.

Former School Board Member and Co-Chair Dr. Constance Hall says the 120-year-old song was first performed here in Jacksonville and has inspired countless generations. "James Weldon Johnson publicly performed the song with 500 school children at the Stanton School while he served as principal," she says.

The Coalition is planning a week of events recognizing Jacksonville's rich history from February 9th thru February 13th.

Tuesday, February 4th—Duval County School Board to pass a proclamation commemorating the occasion with Stanton College Preparatory School choir performing the song at 6pm. 1701 Prudential Drive., Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Sunday, February 9th— "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Sunday!" All churches, ministries, synagogues and faith communities are asked to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the song, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," by lifting your voices in unity in singing the song during your worship service or devotional time.

Tuesday, February 11th— Unveiling of the new mural at James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School—3276 Norman E. Thagard Blvd. Program begins at 6pm.

Jacksonville City Council to pass a resolution commemorating the occasion with Bethel Baptist Institutional Church choir performing the song at 5pm. 117 W. Duval Street., 1st Floor—Council Chamber

Wednesday, February 12th— Inaugural Celebration of the Black National Anthem “120 Years of Lifting Our Voices.” Community event at the Ritz Theatre and Museum—829 N. Davis Street. Program begins at 6pm.

Thursday, February 13th—The Inaugural Heritage Bowl Baseball Game: William M. Raines High Vikings vs. Jean Ribault High Trojans. Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville—301 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard. Game starts at 11am.

Former State Senator and Co-Chair Tony Hill says the celebration will highlight the major contributions the Johnson brothers had locally and nationwide. “My hope is that we express our appreciation to them while educating a new generation on the impact and meaning of this great song” he says.

For additional information, please call (904) 924-0756.

Event Sponsors:



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