



**JOHN GILMORE RILEY**  
CENTER/MUSEUM OF AFRICAN  
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **John G. Riley Center/Museum honors African American legacies in its *Route in Search of Roots* exhibit**

**TALLAHASSEE** - The "*Route in Search of Roots*" exhibit now showing through March 1, 2016 at the historic John G. Riley Center & Museum traces the paths of the African Diaspora ("the movement, migration, or scattering of people away from an established or ancestral homeland") within the context of Florida's 500-year historic timeline. The living history exhibit honors the legacy of African American contributions to the Tallahassee community and throughout the State of Florida from 1865 to 1954.

The current exhibit includes a *Reconstruction Politics* display which pays tribute to the first Black Elected Officials of the 19th and 20th Centuries, many of whom can be credited with establishing the foundation for the black middle class. The exhibit also highlights the role of education during the Reconstruction Era and its impact on the ability of African Americans to gain access to a wide array of professional arenas. By highlighting the myriad experiences that enriched the fabric of Florida's history and established many of the thriving communities that are in existence today. "*Route in Search of Roots*" demonstrates the rich heritage and innovative abilities of persons of African descent to triumph over adversity and remain rooted in the strength of a greater vision.

Florida has a unique relationship and history with African descendants unlike any other state in the nation. Since its inception, Florida has been a safe haven and center for Africans and African descendants who fought against slavery and oppression. Recorded evidence of Blacks in Florida dates back to 1513 involving the Spanish exploration and settlement of Hispaniola.

As a proud member of the Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network (FAAHPN), the John G. Riley Center & Museum helps to ensure that the African American history is well-represented through exhibits, lectures and other cultural heritage events that underscore the significant events, people and customs that have contributed to Florida's rich black heritage.

Riley Museum hours are Monday through Thursday 10:00 am until 4:00 pm and Friday through Saturday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. (Admission: \$5 General Public \$2 Leon County Public School Students). For more information on the exhibit or to schedule a group tour, please contact the Riley Museum at (850) 681-7881 or [info@rileymuseum.org](mailto:info@rileymuseum.org).