



JOHN G. RILEY
HOUSE & MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emancipation 2013 Festival of Freedom begins this weekend at the John Riley Center/Museum

TALLAHASSEE – The John G. Riley Center/Museum invites the public to enjoy an exciting week of heritage, hope, music and wholesome fellowship as they kickoff the week-long Festival of Freedom. Those looking for a little something different to do this Saturday, May 18th, 2013 are sure to enjoy the **free T.O.U.R. Guide Day**. Hosted in partnership with Visit Tallahassee, this event offers patrons **FREE ADMISSION** into the John G. Riley Center/Museum, located at 419 East Jefferson Street, from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** and features free food, door prizes and a live remote broadcast with 96.1 Jamz!

This Saturday's T.O.U.R. Guide Day also serves as the "kick-off" for the museum's week-long Festival of Freedom which commemorates the 1865 reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in Florida (originally issued by President Lincoln in January 1863) to end the enslavement of people of African descent throughout the United States. The festivities will culminate on Saturday, May 25, with the U.S. Colored Troops Reenactment Unit's *"Walk through History"* from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at Speed Spencer Stephens Park (featuring descendants of the Black Seminoles, Civil War and Buffalo Soldier reenactors, horse rides and live entertainment), followed by the Annual Emancipation and Abolitionist Ball from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the McMillan National Guard Armory (ticket cost is \$50 for individuals and \$75 for couples). The Riley Museum will be offering chances to win tickets to the ball during this Saturday's special T.O.U.R. Guide Day event. Other highlights of this year's Emancipation and Abolitionist Ball will include the Unit Quadrille, a dance from the Civil War era, and live music by the Leon Anderson Jazz and Blues Band with Avis Berry.

The Reenactment Unit and Living History Association of the 2nd Infantry Regiment USCT, was created in collaboration with the John G. Riley Museum and the Natural Bridge Historical Society to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of historical reenactments. Its guiding mission is to preserve protect, education, promote, and interpret the accomplishments of the original soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Regiment USCT, and their families. The unit's motto, *"Knowing one's history is to believe in it, but seeing one's history presented in a Living History form is to truly conceive it,"* exemplifies its endeavors to teach the African American perspective of Civil War history.

The Riley Museum hours are Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Fridays thru Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. 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.