



JOHN G. RILEY
HOUSE & MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2013 T.O.U.R. Guide Day at the John Riley Center/Museum

TALLAHASSEE – 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! Besides brewing up some of the best coffee in town, the Riley Museum's T.O.U.R. Guide Day will highlight the vibrant artwork of the infamous "Highwaymen."

The remarkable Highwaymen exhibit features 20th Century soulful outpourings of empowerment, self-reliance, hope and distinction. Featured will be 13 Florida Highwaymen paintings which were gifted to the museum by local philanthropist, Grace Dansby, as well as an unforgettable oil painting by Anne Whitfield that brings to life Tallahassee matriarch Aunt Memory which was donated by Bill Gladwin. Museum staff, docents and supporters will be on-hand to share stories of survival during the era that inspired the *Highwaymen Exhibit* which pays homage to what is good and strong in all of us, the divine ability to rise above adversity. Ocean scenes, sunsets, authenticity and promise permeate the historical exhibit which also includes other artistic renderings of distinguished African American pioneers that depict some of Florida's 500 year history in commemoration of this year's *Viva Florida 500*.

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 week-long celebration 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.

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.