



JOHN G. RILEY
HOUSE & MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2013 Festival of Freedom continues this weekend with the U.S. Colored Troops Reenactment Unit's *"Walk Through History"*

TALLAHASSEE – The John G. Riley Center/Museum invites the public to enjoy an exciting week of heritage, hope, music and wholesome fellowship as part of the week-long Festival of Freedom, which commemorates the 1865 release of African Americans from the tyranny of slavery following the arrival of the Emancipation Proclamation (originally issued by President Lincoln in January 1863) to end the enslavement of people of African descent at the conclusion of the Civil War.

Those looking for a little something different to do this Saturday, May 25th, 2013 are sure to enjoy 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, hosted in partnership with John G. Riley Center/Museum. This event offers patrons FREE ADMISSION into the park (located at 1907 Saxon Street), and features local food trucks, prize giveaways, presentations by living descendants of the Black Seminoles, Civil War and Buffalo Soldier Re-enactors, other live entertainers and horse rides for kids!

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, educate, 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 history presented in a living history forum is to truly conceive it,"* exemplifies its commitment to sharing African American contributions to the Civil War.

The festivities will culminate on Saturday evening with the third annual Emancipation/Abolitionist Ball from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the McMillan National Guard Armory. Tickets are \$50 for individuals and \$75 for couples and can be purchased directly from the Riley Museum. 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 lead vocalist Ms. Avis Berry.

The Riley Museum's 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.

U.S. Colored Troops Reenactment Unit's "Walk Through History"

- 9:00 AM** - Welcome (*Marion McGee*)
- 9:15 AM** - Invocation (*TBD*)
- 9:20 AM** - Musical Selection (*Amazing Grace by Ms. Imani Walker*)
- 9:25 AM** - Introduction of Reenactors (*USCT, Black Seminoles, Buffalo Soldiers*)
- 9:30 AM** - Musical Selection (*Pandora Radio*)
- 9:45 AM** - Trivia/Prize Giveaways (*Marion McGee*)
- 10:00 AM** - Dance Performance (*FAMU Bahamian Drum Rushers*)
- 10:15 AM** - Dramatic Monologue (*Theresa Chandler as Phyllis Wheatley*)
- 10:30 AM** - Group Fitness (*Zumba Divas*)
- 11:00 AM** - Dramatic Monologue (*Jami Thomas as Harriet Tubman*)
- 11:15 AM** - Musical Selection (*Trumpet Ensemble*)
- 11:30 AM** - Dramatic Monologue (*John Anderson as Frederick Douglas*)
- 11:45 AM** - Trivia/Prize Giveaways (*Marion McGee*)
- 12:00 PM** - Leon Anderson Band
- 1:00 PM** - Dismissal/Benediction