



JOHN GILMORE RILEY
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AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“John G. Riley Center/Museum will honor the Legacy of an Educational Leader during the upcoming Applause for the Pioneers Gala”

TALLAHASSEE (February 16, 2018) – The non-profit organization will host its **14th annual Applause for the Pioneers: Cuff Links and Pearls Gala** on **Friday, February 23, 2018** from 6:30PM to 10:30PM at the Goodwood Museum and Gardens (1600 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308). The objective of the annual gala is to pay homage to and honor the legacy of individuals who served as trailblazers in our community.

This year, we are pleased to honor the memory of **William R. Perkins**, the principal of Griffin High School from 1914 until 1961. The Florida State Primitive Baptist Convention conceived the idea to establish the school in 1901 and the doors opened in 1907. There are former students and many community residents who recall with fondness and respect his many years as Principal of Griffin Normal and Industrial Institute (later Griffin High School). Mr. Perkins, along with his wife Willie K. Perkins and son, Edwin Norwood Sr. as Assistant Principals, dedicated countless hours to increase enrollment of students and teachers. During his tenure as principal, The Leon County School Board began to give the school up to \$50,000 in financial support. The Riley Museum’s recognition will help to ensure that amongst his other duties as principal, Mr. Perkin’s commitment to education and other pioneering endeavors in the community will not go unnoticed. Notably also was his tenure as Editorial Secretary of the National Primitive Baptist Publishing Board in Huntsville Alabama. Professor Perkin’s name will be permanently enshrined on the Applause for the Pioneers Scroll inside the Riley Museum Visitors Center.

The evening of the Gala will include memorable moments in the life of William R. Perkins and his family, musical entertainment by Crooked Shooz Band, and a special dining experience by METZ Culinary Management.

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The Gala provides support for the Riley Internship Program, which has matriculated 74 interns from undergraduate to graduate degree programs, with thirty-two (32) completing Doctoral Degrees. Your support of this event helps to continue cultivating emerging young professionals for the future.

Your tax-deductible support and sponsorship will help the Riley Museum continue building a future for our students, and honoring our ancestors. **A full table (of 8) is \$1,000, half table (of 4) is \$500, and individual tickets are \$100.00.** All donations are payable to the Riley Center/Museum via cash, check or PayPal. A processing transaction fee will be added to all PayPal payments.

Thank you and for more information about the Riley Museum Gala or to purchase tickets visit www.rileymuseum.org or contact the Riley Museum by phone at 850-681-7881 or email at info@rileymuseum.org.

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