
MEDIA ADVISORY

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STATE ARCHIVES TO CELEBRATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LOUISIANIANS

Secretary of State Tom Schedler and the Friends of the Louisiana State Archives are announcing the opening of the Black History Month exhibit to be celebrated from Feb. 7 through March 31 at the Louisiana State Archives. Selections from the Archives' collections, encompassing photographs, posters and books, along with recognition of Louisiana Public Broadcasting African-American Legends, will be highlighted. A public reception is slated Sunday, Feb. 20, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"The Archives is again recognizing African-Americans and their immeasurable achievements as we pay tribute to Louisianians and those across the country," said Secretary of State Tom Schedler. "One year ago, we opened the Eddie G. Robinson Museum in Grambling in honor of legendary coach Eddie G. Robinson, the son of a sharecropper and a domestic servant, who amazed the nation with his many football wins and his compassion to mentor young people. The museum is now part of the Secretary of State's 17-museum division. We also have a Heroes and Heritage Trail, connecting Louisiana's museums in an interesting reward program."

The exhibit will also feature the first African-American governor of a state in the United States, Pinckney Benton Stewart "P.B.S." Pinchback; the first African-American lieutenant governor of a state in the United States, Oscar James Dunn; artist Clementine Hunter; rhythm-and-blues vocalist Aaron Neville; author Ernest J. Gaines; Retired Lt. Gen. Russell Honore; and actress Lynn Whitfield.

Photographs on display will depict African-Americans in everyday life from the Archives collection of John B. Gasquet which includes more than 4,000 photographs. Baton Rouge businessman Ben Jeffers and his wife Salomia have also generously loaned selected pieces from their collection of sculpture and paintings.

In addition to the exhibit, the Archives has almost three dozen collections, including the A.Z. Young Collection, highlighting African-American contributions to Louisiana, accessible to the public upon request. Young, a Civil Rights leader, led a peaceful 10-day march from Bogalusa to Baton Rouge along Highway 190 through Livingston Parish on Aug. 20, 1967.

The public can view the exhibit during regular Archives hours: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and the building is wheelchair accessible. For more information about the Louisiana State Archives, visit our website at www.sos.louisiana.gov/archives.