



150th Anniversary of the Civil War USCT Grand Review
Historic Event to Honor the Sacrifice of African American Patriots of the Civil War

(Harrisburg, PA – September 29, 2015) – The 2015 Grand Review Committee announced today that the 2015 Grand Review Weekend will take place in Harrisburg, PA on Friday, November 13-14, 2015. The anchor event for the historic weekend is a Grand Review of United States Colored Troops (USCT) with participation from the National U. S. Colored Troop Living History Association. In addition, an exhibition hall with cultural and heritage partners will take place in Strawberry Square, immediately following the USCT procession and Grand Review.

The Grand Review is the cornerstone event to commemorate the African American Patriots of the Civil War. “The historical significance of this living moment in history cannot be overstated. African American youth in our community will have the opportunity to see re-enactors of USCT Regiments from across the country honor those that served, in their hometown” says Brandon Flood, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus.

“Unity and solidarity are the hallmarks of the USCT. That's why we gather and galvanize our community resources coming together to honor the patriots of the Civil War that were critical to the success of the Union and I am honored to be co-chair of this historic event.” says Representative Patty Kim.

The White Carnation Dinner, which will honor the living descendants of African American Civil War patriots, will kick off the weekend on Friday, November 13, 2015 at Grace United Methodist Church. Attendees include members of the U. S. Colored Troops Living History Association, stewards working to preserve the gravesites of these patriots, community and civic leaders, and students participating in the 100 Voices mentoring project “This event is about connecting families to their great legacy and keeping the memory of the U.S. Colored Troops and their contributions to the Civil War alive. I applaud this great community effort and am proud to serve as co-chair for this landmark initiative”, says Representative Schreiber. V. Chapman Smith, Special Assistant - National Education and Public Program Strategy at National Archives and Records Administration will keynote the dinner.

The Grand Procession will kickoff from Grace United Methodist Church in Harrisburg on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 10am, where Senators Rich Alloway and Rob Teplitz and Representative Dan Moul will serve as Honorary Grand Marshalls to review the troops. “I am honored to welcome the USCTLHA and descendants to Harrisburg where we will all stand on hallowed grounds to lift up the legacy of the brave soldiers who helped the Union to victory. Lets all work together to place their names back into history”, remarked Senator Teplitz. Dr. Frank Smith, founder of the African American Museum of the Civil War, will serve as the W.H. Day honorary keynote speaker during the commemoration event at Soldier’s Grove. “We have the obligation to call out the names of the African American Patriots of the Civil War. We also have the responsibility to leave a record of the men and women of the 3rd Jubilee who gather to claim this great legacy. May our actions in Harrisburg provide a deeper understanding of the importance of both receiving the legacy and passing the torch”, Dr. Frank Smith, founder and CEO- African American Museum of the Civil War.

An additional component of the initiative includes the 100 Voices Program, which includes 100 young men from Harrisburg and Susquehanna Township School Districts. Each young man will immerse himself in the history of one of the African American patriots of the Civil War honored in the Grand Review.

“The work of private citizens to sustain this history provides innovative and invaluable opportunities for our students to participate in live learning and classroom instruction that is aligned to state standards and promotes the importance of life-long learning. We are proud to be a part of this landmark moment in living history,” said Dr. Sybil Knight-Burney, Superintendent of the Harrisburg School District”, Sybil Knight Burney-Superintendent of the Harrisburg School District.

This project would not be possible without the support of the underwriting sponsor, Keystone Legacy Foundation. In addition, the committee would like to thank Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Harrisburg University of Science & Technology, Harrisburg School District, Susquehanna Township School District, Harristown Development Corporation, Comfort Inn, and Amtrak for their continued support.

The current schedule of events includes:

October – December, 2015 – 100 Voices Youth Mentorship Program

Friday, November 13, 2015 – Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds Tour, Youth Exhibit – Women & Children of the Civil War, and the White Carnation Dinner.

Saturday, November 14, 2015 –USCT Grand Review Procession, Commemoration Program and Wreath Laying Ceremony, and Exhibition Hall and Chautauqua.

For more information about the 2015 Grand Review and an detailed event schedule, please visit www.2015grandreview.com.

Enclosure: Map of the Grand Procession and Review

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