



For Immediate Release

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Yolanda Adams, Ed Gordon to Participate in International Civil Rights Center & Museum Events
Grammy-winning Gospel artist and Emmy-winning journalist headline Unity Service and Town Hall Forum

GREENSBORO, N.C., (Dec. 30, 2009) — The International Civil Rights Center & Museum (Museum) today announced singer Yolanda Adams will headline its Celebration of Unity Service on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, and journalist Ed Gordon will lead the Town Hall Forum on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010. These two events are part of the grand opening activities for the Museum, which will open in Greensboro, N.C., on Feb. 1, 2010, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the famed lunch counter sit-ins.

“The participation of Ms. Adams and Mr. Gordon underscores the national significance of the museum,” said Earl Jones, N.C. Representative and co-founder of the Museum. “It’s wonderful to see so many people joining us in celebrating such a historic event.”

Ed Gordon to Host Town Hall Forum at N.C. A&T State University

Ed Gordon, Emmy award-winning journalist and host of “Our World with Black Enterprise,” will moderate the Town Hall Forum on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010. The Forum will focus on 21st Century Activism and Protest: The State of the Civil Rights Movement and will be held at North Carolina A&T State University’s Alumni Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is being co-sponsored by N.C. A&T State University and Bennett College. Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Al Sharpton, Dr. Benjamin Chavis and Bennett College President Dr. Julianne Malveaux are among the panelists.

The Forum will include an intergenerational dialogue examining the history of the civil rights movement, and its impact on social, economic, justice and equality issues. The first hour will provide a retrospective on civil rights while the second hour will focus on contemporary issues. Several emerging leaders are set to lead the latter discussion including award-winning journalist and former ESPN sports analyst Stephen A. Smith; attorney and radio host Warren Ballentine; Kim Saunders, president & CEO of Mechanics and Farmers Bank; Syene Jasmin, N.C. A&T State University student government association president; and Derrick K. Smith, N.C. A&T State University adjunct political science professor.

The event is free and open to the public.

Yolanda Adams among entertainers for Celebration of Unity, an ecumenical service

Grammy[®] award-winning contemporary gospel singer Yolanda Adams will be among the headliners for a free ecumenical service on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010. Motivational speaker, author and Pastor Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant and Rev. Samuel “Billy” Kyles will also be in attendance for the event, which will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum beginning at 6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

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Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant is founder and pastor of Empowerment Temple, a fast growing church located in Baltimore, Md. His services are nationally broadcast weekly on “The Word Network,” a Christian-based television network geared towards urban ministries and gospel music.

Rev. Samuel “Billy” Kyles has been pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., since 1959. Since the 1960s, he has maintained his work as a civil rights activist and is most notably known as a history maker for his activism in the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers’ strike. Part of his effort in the strike included persuading Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to support the effort. Kyles succeeded, and it was during this effort that Dr. King delivered what would be his final speech (“Mountaintop”) on April 3, 1968. King was assassinated the next day at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Rev. Billy Kyles remains the only survivor who spent the final hour of Dr. King’s life with him.

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum will open Feb. 1, 2010, and function as an archival center, collecting museum and teaching facility devoted to the international struggle for civil and human rights. For more information about the International Civil Rights Center & Museum’s grand opening schedule of events, visit www.sitinmovement.org/savethedate.

About the International Civil Rights Center & Museum

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum will function as an archival center, collecting museum and teaching facility devoted to the international struggle for civil and human rights focusing on the nonviolent protests of the Greensboro sit-ins. The 43,000 square-foot museum is located in the former F.W. Woolworth retail store where four courageous students from North Carolina A&T University began their protest at the whites-only lunch counter.

The Museum complex features educational exhibits, a gallery, auditorium, archival center, and a proposed Joint Center for the Study of Civil and Human Rights.

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum was founded by Melvin “Skip” Alston and Earl Jones in 1993 under the auspices of the Sit-in Movement Inc.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: PRESS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MUSEUM. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD CONTACT ROKEYA WORTHY AT (336) 553-1708 OR RWORTHY@RLFCOMMUNICATIONS.COM.