



Freedom Trail Launched

By David Nolan

The 45th anniversary of the signing of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 was celebrated here by the launching of the third phase of the Freedom Trail of historic sites of the civil rights movement, sponsored by ACCORD with the support of the Northrop Grumman Corporation.

A tour of the Freedom Trail on the Red Trains included a stop on Julia Street for the symbolic unveiling of a marker at the Habitat for Humanity home of Audrey Nell Edwards, one of the St. Augustine Four who spent six months in jail and reform school in 1963 and 1964 for asking to be served at the local Woolworth's lunch counter. She and her three colleagues are honored on the marker, as are many of the civil rights veterans buried in the nearby historic Woodlawn Cemetery. Dr. Robert B. Hayling, leader of the St. Augustine movement participated in the marker unveiling, along with State Senator Tony Hill and Gwendolyn Duncan, president of ACCORD.

After the tour there was a luncheon for a full house in the Casa Monica Hotel (where, it was pointed out, police dogs had been kept in the lobby of the then-vacant building in 1964 during the civil rights demonstrations that brought Dr. Martin Luther King to St. Augustine).

There were two prominent speakers at the luncheon. Keynote Speaker, Attorney Willie E. Gary of Stuart, Florida, recounted his rise from field hand and busboy to one of the nation's best-known lawyers. He said he didn't even have the ten dollar application fee when he went off to college, but they trusted him for it. Later, when he prospered, he gave a ten million dollar gift to his alma mater, Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C.

After winning many multi-million dollar verdicts for his clients, he and his wife established the Gary Foundation to help those in need, particularly in the educational field. He emphasized the importance of giving back, and also told people to remember that "what goes around, comes around." He said he once worked as a dishwasher at a fancy hotel, and had two white colleagues--one of whom was nice to him, and the other who constantly shouted racial slurs at him. After his great success in the legal field, he bought that hotel, and promoted the nice one--right into the job of the one who had harassed him. Gary said he was pleased to visit St. Augustine and have a chance to meet some of the heroes of the civil rights movement here.

The guest speaker was Leon Russell, a former president of the Florida NAACP and longtime director of the Office of Human Rights for Pinellas County, Florida. Russell noted that this year marked the one hundredth birthday of the NAACP, as well as the two hundredth birthday of Abraham Lincoln. He recounted the story of the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the NAACP anthem written by Jacksonville native James Weldon Johnson, and was glad to hear that one of the Freedom Trail markers had been put on the old NAACP office at 76 Washington Street to celebrate that organization's centennial.

The first "Dr. Robert Hayling Award for Valor" was presented by State Senator Tony Hill to James S. Jackson for his civil rights activities in the 1960s. He told how Jackson had been arrested 19 times for protesting racial discrimination and had participated in the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965.

Freedom Trail Launched cont.

Jackson was also beaten, with his colleagues, Dr. Robert Hayling, Clyde Jenkins, and James Hauser, at a Ku Klux Klan rally held in the fall of 1963 behind what is now the Big Lots shopping center. He later became one of the first black repairmen hired by the telephone company, and worked at that job for 23 years before retirement. Jackson is quoted at length in Tom Dent's 1997 book *Southern Journey* that deals with places that played a prominent role in the civil rights movement.

Carolyn Fisher, with accompanist Philip Brown, moved the crowd with a stirring rendition of "May the Works I've Done Speak for Me," the song that was sung at the 2002 funeral of civil rights activist Katherine "Kat" Twine. Northrop Grumman vice president Rick Matthews told the group that the first thing he did on coming to St. Augustine in 2007 was to take part in the launching of the Freedom Trail. He has often said that it celebrates not just black history, but underappreciated American history. City Commissioner Errol Jones was master of ceremonies, and concluding remarks were given by Dr. Robert B. Hayling.

Comments by some in attendance:

"Taking the time to observe the 45th Anniversary of the Signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act was beyond my fondest dreams. The scales of American justice are on the move to equal justice, but we still have a long way to go. I believe that each person, in this human rights struggle can help to keep this moving forward by treating each person as he or she wishes to be treated. The Struggle is not going to be won overnight but we, as truly dedicated believers must, Never Give Up!" **Dr. Robert B. Hayling**, Leader of the St. Augustine Movement

"Thank you for having me on the most dynamic program this year. I pray to live my life as Atty Gary spoke of and to be a Light and help Somebody through song (May the work I've Done Speak for Me- in Glory)". **Carolyn Fisher**, Teacher and Singer

"...the 40th Accord event on Thursday...tour provided a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the great history in St. Augustine... speakers...at the luncheon were terrific... really enjoyed the entire program". **Jacqueline Farrell**, Community Relations & Employee Services for the Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems in Melbourne, St. Augustine & Warner Robins Sites

ACCORD sends a special thanks to all of our sponsors and supporters. Photos, taken by Mrs. Shirley Williams-Galvin, of the event, can be found at www.staugustinespotted.com Also, for more information on the Freedom Trail, please visit www.accordfreedomtrail.org.





Mr. James S. Jackson

*2009 Recipient of the
 Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor*

James Sanders Jackson was one of five children born to William and Ora Belle Jackson on October 5, 1944, in St. Augustine, Florida. He attended local schools such as St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School & Excelsior High School. He graduated in 1963 from Harris High School in Hastings, FL.

That Fall, he enrolled in Florida Memorial College on a work-study program. This was when he became involved in the Civil Rights Movement at the encouragement of Mrs. Fannie Fullwood, and older students such as Henry Thomas and George Benjamin, who were very involved in the Movement.

James became a member of the NAACP Youth Council eventually serving as its Vice-President. The Advisors were Dr. Robert Hayling and Rev. Goldie Eubanks. He participated in several Sit-Ins and picketed businesses in the downtown St. Augustine area that refused to serve Blacks at their food counters. He was arrested a total of 19 times during the Movement and was threatened by people opposed to the Movement. The most dangerous threat came from the KKK who abducted James, Dr. Hayling, James Hauser, and Clyde Jenkins for ease dropping on a Klan Meeting. They were severely beaten and threatened with mutilation and death by fire. After the Sheriff ordered their release the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to St. Augustine in 1964 and drew National attention to the problems of segregation in the South. James traveled all over the South with them, participating in marches and Voter Registrations. He was in a lot of dangerous situations in Alabama and other Southern States.

James lost a very good friend to the *Struggle* when James Cheney was murdered in Mississippi in 1964 with two other Civil Rights workers. The signing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 was a very memorable day for James. After the Civil Rights Act was passed, James moved to the North because he could not find a job in the South. He found a job in Manhattan while living in New York City.

Although he was employed and living a comfortable life, New York never felt like home, so he returned to St. Augustine. James married Gussie Williams in 1966 and started a family that now consists of six children, 12 grand children, and 5 great grand children. James worked several low-income jobs because of his arrest record, until he was hired by Southern Bell Telephone Company in the 1970's as one of the first of three Blacks hired as telephone repairman. He worked for that company for 23 years before retiring.

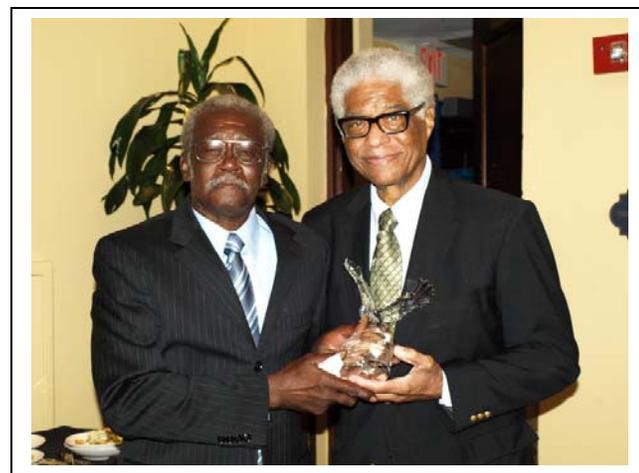
After, a few years of retirement, he has become a school bus driver for the St. Johns County School District.

The Soaring Eagle



This *soaring eagle* was chosen because it symbolizes a new flight to freedom is about to take place, one of love, filled with courage to achieve the goal of justice for all. It represents the keen eyesight of Dr. Robert B. Hayling and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to see life better for their people. Seeing an eagle soar overhead means it's about to go to the next level. Eagles are symbols of strategic intellect as is evident in the strategic moves Dr. Hayling and others had in mind to achieving their goals with the rallies, marches, sit-ins, wade-ins, strategic planning meetings, to purposely fill the jails cells with demonstrators who were arrested for such meager charges as *asking to be served a cup of tea*, or *sitting at a lunch counter asking to be served a hamburger and a coca cola*. These moves brought attention to the irrationality of the Jim Crow Laws. It's hard to believe those things happened but they did.

After careful considerations and discussions of the nominees, by the majority of the votes, the 40th ACCORD, Inc. Freedom Trail Committee chose to present the **First Annual Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor** to **Mr. James 'Jimmy' Jackson** for his courage, dedication, and sacrifices made during the Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine, Florida.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
 TO ALL WHOSE BIRTHDAYS ARE IN
 July and August
 GOD BLESS YOU TO HAVE MANY, MANY MORE
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