



VMW Tours on the Freedom Trail



VMW Tours of Newport News, VA came to St. Augustine specifically to take the ACCORD Freedom Trail Tour with David Nolan as guide on the Red Sightseeing Tram.

VMW Sponsored "Luxury" Guided Tours specializes in African-American Heritage Sites, putting people in touch with their culture, their land, and their history. Their Itinerary included stops in Savannah, GA to visit the Ralph Gilbert Civil Rights Museum; St. Augustine, FL for the **ACCORD Freedom Trail Tour**; Eatonville, FL to the Zora Neale Hurston Museum; Miami, FL embarking on a Royal Caribbean Cruise aboard "Majesty of the Seas", to the Bahamas; the Virginia Key Beach Park, a historical recreational area; Daytona Beach, FL, Bethune Cookman College; Jacksonville, FL to visit the LaVilla Museum and Old Historic Ritz Theatre and the Jacksonville Landing; Hilton Head, SC to tour Hilton Head Island and vicinity, including Mitchelville by Gullah Heritage Trail Tours; and on back to Hampton, VA. The patrons represented six states--some flew as far away as California to get on the bus in Newport News, VA.

While in St. Augustine on the Freedom Trail Tour, tourists got a very special treat: meeting Mrs. Rena Ayers, now 106 years of age and who was a "Housemother" to the 1963-'64 Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine, FL. After dining at a local fast food restaurant, they continued on their tour further south.

A special thank you to the Red Sightseeing Trains, David Nolan, local historian & Co-Chair of the ACCORD Freedom Trail Project, and Gwendolyn Duncan, ACCORD President, for making this a memorable experience for VMW Tourists.



TICKETS ON SALE

5th Annual ACCORD Freedom Trail Luncheon

Ticket sales are going great. We anticipate a full house for our 5th Annual ACCORD Freedom Trail Luncheon presented by the Northrop Grumman Corporation, "Honoring true American Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine" and Commemorating the 47th Anniversary of the Signing of the Landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.



Vintage Photo of Beach Wade-In, 1964
Compliments of Fred Martin

The luncheon will be held at the Casa Monica Hotel, 95 Cordova St., St. Augustine, FL @ 11:30 A.M.

Keynote Speaker will be Civil Rights Activist, [Dr. Dorothy Cotton](#). Guest Speaker will be Ms. Sonya Y. Plummer, grand daughter of [the Late Rev. Goldie M. Eubanks, Sr.](#), Civil Rights Leader of the St. Augustine Movement.

The Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor will be posthumously given to the *Late Rev. Goldie M. Eubanks, Sr.*, Civil Rights Leader who along with Dr. Robert B. Hayling, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference led a campaign in the Nation's Oldest City which directly led to the passage of the Landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Honored guests will include *Mrs. Lillian Twine-Roberson*, whose home was firebombed by the KKK, only thing remaining today are the steps and the *Family of the Late Mrs. Esther Burgess*, wife of the First Black Episcopal Bishop in the United States who came to St. Augustine to participate in the non-violent struggle for equality and was arrested along with Dr. Robert B. Hayling; Mrs. Mary Parkman Peabody, the 72-year old mother of the Governor of Massachusetts; Mrs. Campbell; and Mrs. Rowe trying to integrate the local Ponce de Leon Restaurant. For more information, please visit this link on our website: <http://accordfreedomtrail.org/celebration2011.html>





NORTHROP GRUMMAN AND ACCORD MEET & GREET SANDRA EVERS-MANLY

On a bright and sunny morning in Downtown St. Augustine, at the Casa Monica Hotel, NGC Executives from The St. Augustine Plant and as far away as Los Angeles, CA, members of ACCORD, invited guests from the Civil Rights Museum Committee, and St. Augustine City Commissioner Errol Jones gathered to have breakfast and meet and greet one of Northrop Grumman's most revered Executives; [Sandra Evers-Manly](#).



NGC has been trying for years to get Sandra to come to the ACCORD Annual Freedom Trail Luncheons and while in route one year, she almost made it and got as close as Houston, Texas, but a storm prevented her from continuing her journey to St. Augustine. But, on May 5th, she arrived along with many other Executives of the NGC. They were on official business but took time out on the 6th from their busy schedule to meet with ACCORD Members and have breakfast, see the documentary by Andrew Young Presents; "Crossing In St. Augustine" shown by ACCORD and to take a tour of the Freedom Trail on the Red Sightseeing Tours Tram narrated by David Nolan, local historian and Co-Chair of the Freedom Trail Project. We all felt like we've known Sandra all of our lives. Meeting her for the first time was like greeting one of your family members or best friend that you haven't seen in a few months. Sandra was no stranger to any of us. We all love her and hope she comes back again soon.



FREEDOM TRAIL MARKER DEDICATED

Over three dozen Northrop Grumman Executives, Civil Rights Museum Committee Members, Activists, and ACCORD Members gathered at the former home of the [Late Mr. Oscar Turner](#) to dedicate an ACCORD Freedom Trail Marker. On hand also was City Commissioner Errol Jones, who is the grand son of Mr. Turner.



Commissioner Jones' 90 year-old mother, Mrs. Mattie Roy Jones in attendance to celebrate this momentous occasion.



Oscar Turner was active in Civil Rights Movement serving as Vice President of the NAACP.



Get Well Wishes To ACCORD Member Beth Levenbach who is recovering from surgery

See More Photos by Shirley Williams-Galvin

Please visit:

<http://spotted.staugustine.com/galleries/index.php?id=333328>



Happy Birthday Greetings to All Born In May & June