



## ACCORD Celebrates Dr. Robert B. Hayling's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

*A Replica of Historic Civil Rights Marker Unveiled on the Birthday of Octogenarian Dr. Robert B. Hayling, at his former residence located at 160 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., formerly Central Ave.*



It was the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of one of the Nation's *Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement* of the 1960's and to celebrate this glorious occasion; The 40<sup>th</sup> ACCORD, Inc. unveiled a replica of a Freedom Trail Marker, at the former home of Dr. Robert B. Hayling. This marker is presented by the Northrop Grumman Corporation and the Karole & Eric Barkley Foundation of New York City.

On hand for the celebration was Mrs. Annie Rutledge, the grandmother of Karole & Eric Barkley, current owners of the house that David Nolan, local historian calls "*The Civil Rights House*". Unveiling the marker are Dr. Hayling and Mrs. Rutledge, a former teacher at Excelsior Elementary School who is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher of Gwendolyn Duncan, President of the 40<sup>th</sup> ACCORD, Inc. The Flag that draped the Marker was significant in that it was flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. on the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Flag and a Certificate of Authenticity, signed by Senator Bill Nelson, was presented to Dr. Hayling. Funding for ten additional markers, by the Northrop Grumman Corporation will be unveiled by February, 2010.

Commissioner Errol Jones read a Birthday Greeting from the City. Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline noticing that Dr. Hayling did not have a City pin took off hers and pinned it on Dr. Hayling. To access more pictures of the event by Shirley Williams-Galvin, click on the link: <http://spotted.staugustine.com/galleries/index.php?id=329528>

## Pictures of the Ceremony



*Research, on all markers was done by David Nolan, local historian and Co-Chair of the Freedom Trail Project.*

### The Marker Text:

The southern half of Lincolnvile was, in colonial times, a plantation called "Buena Esperanza" (Spanish for "Good Hope"). During the Flagler Era of the 1880s it was bought by Standard Oil millionaire William Warden and developed as a residential subdivision. One of Warden's investments was the local gas and electric company, whose manager lived in this elegant Victorian house which originally bore the address of 160 Central Avenue.

In 1954, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in the famous case of *Brown v. Board of Education* that racially segregated schools had to end. This was a harbinger for the end of the Jim Crow system of discrimination that had prevailed since the end of Reconstruction. Most of the southern states responded by establishing some kind of official state commission to see what could be done to preserve racial segregation as long as possible. Florida's contribution to that was called the Fabisinski Committee, headed by Judge L. L. Fabisinski--who had grown up here in this house in the early years of the twentieth century. Five decades after Judge Fabisinski left, this house became, in 1964, the home of Dr. Robert B. Hayling, the courageous dentist who was the main organizer of the civil rights movement in St. Augustine. For his outstanding leadership, Dr. Hayling has been hailed as "The Father of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

There is no other house in St. Augustine--probably no other house in America--that within its walls has sheltered the two opposite sides of that great conflict that shaped our modern democracy. Thus has it come to be known as "The Civil Rights House."



**Dutch Treat Birthday Dinner Hosted by the Hilton  
Historic Bayfront Hotel at the  
Aviles Restaurant**

Over three dozen persons attended the Dutch Treat Birthday Dinner Party, sponsored by ACCORD and hosted by the Hilton Historic Bayfront Hotel. Attorney David Ham of Middleburg was the Master of Ceremony. Attorney Ham's mother, Maude B. Jackson, Civil Rights Activist and former student of Florida Memorial College, participated in the '64 Movement. She shared with the group a story of feeling so welcomed by SCLC 47 years ago and extended that same feeling of warmth and acceptance to those in attendance who came to celebrate Dr. Hayling's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Also in attendance was Stetson Kennedy, now in his 90's who infiltrated the Klan and wrote a book about its activities. He also wrote many articles for the Pittsburg Courier, under the pseudonym of *SNOW JAMES*.

A couple of Dr. Hayling's classmates came who attended high school with him in Tallahassee. Many birthday greetings were read, including one from Senator Bill Nelson, during the dinner from family members and friends. Ambassador Andrew Young sent a video clip of Dr. Hayling which he gave a few weeks ago. A power-point presentation with vintage and current photos proved very emotional to the honored guest. He said that it brought back so many memories. All in all Dr. Hayling was so very thankful for the celebration. After the meal, the birthday song was sung and Dr. Hayling sliced pieces of cake for everyone to enjoy.

**Some Birthday Greetings**

**Ambassador Young**

A very Happy Birthday to Dr. Robert B. Hayling, who turns 80 today. I can remember a time when it seemed most unlikely he would enjoy such a long life. He was a leader of the Civil Rights movement in St. Augustine, where he had been a prominent dentist, and where Martin Luther King Jr. sent me in 1964 for what would be one of the most violent chapters in our struggle. I interviewed Dr. Hayling just a few weeks ago for my upcoming documentary, "*Crossing St. Augustine*," which will air on the nationally syndicated TV series "Andrew Young Presents" early next year. In this clip, he discusses the most harrowing night of his life – and I warn you, it is graphic. *We are so glad you are still with us, old friend.*

**Marilyn Wiles**

Birthday Wishes to a genuine leader of our community. You are special to many of us who have met you know of your life long commitment to making a difference in our world. Thank you for giving others the courage to follow in your footsteps –finding ways to make a difference too. Happy Birthday!

**Lois Hamilton**

Connie "Lynch" was certainly named correctly. Happy Birthday, Dr. Hayling! This nation is honored to have you in it!!!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Like women in this country, there is still a lot that we need to do to bring full EQUALITY & FREEDOM to ALL AMERICANS.

**Dorothy Eubanks Hardin, Jeanette Eubanks Kelly,  
and the Rest of Goldie Eubanks' children**

**HAPPY 80 TH BIRTHDAY OUR DEAR FRIEND,**

How rapidly the years roll by.

It seems like yesterday you were that  
"Knight" that rode into our quaint city to conquer and  
defeat the "Evils of injustice, and inequality"  
**MY WHAT AN ACT YOU WERE!!!!**

**Faces were no longer smiling  
People did Sit – INS-----People Picketed  
People went to jail----People were beaten  
People had to be hidden (some even used disguises)  
Bullets flew----Houses were set a fire and shot into  
Undesirables became visible**

**These and a lot more things took place  
under your "WATCH"**

Out of all this and more, Our Friend, you are "Our  
Hero" and one that we will never forget. Of course you  
have been around us so long that "You hang" like one of  
the family and rightly so.

You are always welcome.

We do love and appreciate you.

Your stalwart stance for your passionate beliefs have left  
a mark in History, and stamped an incredible legacy for  
people everywhere.

Dr. Robert B. Hayling, do enjoy "Your Day" and we  
pray that many more will be waiting around "The Bend"  
for you in the future.

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**Pictures of the Birthday Dinner**



**TO ALL WHOSE BIRTHDAYS ARE IN  
December  
GOD BLESS YOU TO HAVE MANY MORE  
HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

