

ACCORD, Inc.
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ACCORD Newsletter

Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations, Inc.



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Joanne Willis Keynote Speaker for Annual ACCORD Freedom Trail Luncheon

By *Gwendolyn Duncan*

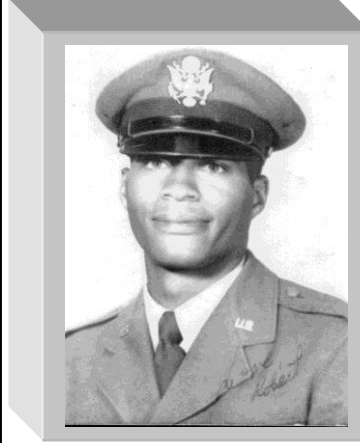


“Joanne Willis, Keynote Speaker for the 7th Annual ACCORD Freedom Trail Luncheon shares personal accounts of her participation in the 1964 Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine, FL. She attended the rallies, marched, cow-prodded, spat upon, arrested, and jailed for non-violent protest against segregation...”

Joanne Willis was born and raised in St. Augustine, FL. She was the youngest of nine children. She attended #6 Schools and Webster Elementary School, in West Augustine, FL. She completed high school at Bonnie Doon Composite High School in Edmonton Alberta, Canada. Upon graduating from high school, she returned to St. Augustine and attended Florida Normal College for one year before transferring, and graduating from Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana. While attending Goshen College she spent one semester in Kingston, Jamaica studying the culture and providing free public services. Joanne graduated from Goshen College within three years with a degree in Social Welfare. After 30 years of public services, she retired from the State of Indiana.

During the 60's, Joanne, at 15 years of age, became a Civil Rights Activist, participating in rallies, mass meetings, marches, sit in's, and door to door voter's registrations. She was arrested on numerous occasions while attempting to integrate restaurants, churches, beaches, and motels in the Nation's Oldest City. Joanne is the mother of two young adults: Austin Anthony, 39 and Letitia Marie, 37. Austin is an Internet Technician, graduating from Indiana University and Letitia has a Bachelors' Degree from Howard University and a Master's degree from Northwestern University, in Chemical Engineering. Joanne resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Robert B. Hayling Receives the “Order of La Florida” Award



In recognition of extraordinary contributions to the advancement of civil rights through his boundless courage, strength of leadership, and exemplary actions that demonstrate the finest qualities of citizenship and commitment to a more just community for all people.

St. Augustine's highest and most prestigious award, was presented by Members of the St. Augustine

City Commission to long time civil rights activist, Dr. Robert B. Hayling. The presentation was in conjunction with the 40th ACCORD's 7th Annual Freedom Trail Luncheon July 2, 2013, commemorating the 49th Anniversary signing of the Landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, honoring the Heroes and Sheroes of the St. Augustine Movement, and the upkeep of the Freedom Trail.

Dr. Robert B. Hayling was born in Tallahassee, Florida on November 20, 1929. He is the son of college professor, Charles C. Hayling, Sr. who for thirty-three years served on the faculty of Florida A & M College. He is the second of four children, all of whom are Florida A & M College graduates. All went on to acquire Graduate Degrees and three of which are retired educators. He graduated from Florida A & M College in June of 1951 with a BS Degree in Biology. In August 1951, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. In December 1952, he graduated from the Air Force Officer's Candidate School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He was assigned to the Aero Medical Research Center, the Department of Toxicology at Right-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. In December of 1954, he married his classmate and college sweetheart, Athea L. Wake, of Miami, FL. After four years of service, he received an honorable discharge with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He entered Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry, in Nashville, Tennessee in 1955. In June of 1960 he earned a degree in Dentistry and began his Practice in St. Augustine, Florida. He took over the Practice of Dr. Rudolph Gordon who died in 1959 after an automobile accident and serious health problems. He was the first Black Dentist in Florida to be elected to the local, regional, state, and national components of the American Dental Association.

Hayling served as an Adult Advisor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth Council. For eleven months as the head of the St. Augustine Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). His dental practice was integrated and flourished from the beginning until his civil rights involvement. In 1963, the City of St. Augustine, FL celebrated its 400th Anniversary of its founding.



****To View Spotted Pictures****

7th Annual ACCORD
Freedom Trail Luncheon

July 2, 2013

Click [HERE](#)

The United States Government gave the City \$400,000 to help the City in its year-long celebration. No Blacks had been included in the planning or ceremonies in connection with these activities.

The Black Population of the City of St. Augustine was approximately 20%. This oversight or exclusion was brought to the attention of the Federal Government, particularly Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson, especially because he was scheduled to participate. The Black community and Dr. Hayling in St. Augustine were confronted with many prevailing acts of discrimination.

For his continued fight to right the injustices perpetrated upon him and his fellow blacks and other activist citizens, his home was shot into with high powered rifles barely missing his pregnant wife, Athea, and killing his dog which was within the home. His wife and two daughters escaped without physical injury. On another occasion, Dr. Hayling along with Mr. Clyde Jenkins, Mr. James Hauser, and Mr. James Jackson were kidnapped by the Ku Klux Klan. All of the men, except Mr. James Jackson were beaten unmercifully and left semi-conscious.

On July 2, 2009, the First Annual Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor was presented by Florida State Senator Anthony 'Tony' Hill. This annual award recognizes the extraordinary acts of a demonstrator who participated in the St. Augustine Movement. The award this year went posthumously to Mrs. Mary Parkman Peabody.

It is Dr. Hayling's belief and wish that his actions and efforts have helped to move the Scales of Justice to a more equal position for all mankind.

*"The Order of La Florida Award" was created in 1975 as a way for the city to recognize those who have "contributed extraordinary services to our community," the commission has voted to present the award on just 18 other occasions. For more information, please visit the City of St. Augustine website at: <http://www.ci.st-augustine.fl.us/the-city/featured-stories-archive/hayling2.cfm>

Artist Debuts "Shades of Blue" Collection At Freedom Trail Luncheon



Irwin Brunson was one of the first students to integrate the schools of St. Johns County. Irwin's Collection entitled *Shades of Blue* depicts on canvas, events and places forever etched in his memory during the turbulent 60s civil rights movement.

Irwin displayed on easels sixteen paintings with narratives describing each one. A portfolio of all the paintings was presented to Dr. Hayling as a tribute to the dentist and hero he knew as a child. Three prints of his paintings framed for a silent auction were available for luncheon patrons to bid on. Half of the proceeds, from the silent auction, were donated to ACCORD to continue its mission of remembering the heroes and heroes of the Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine, FL.

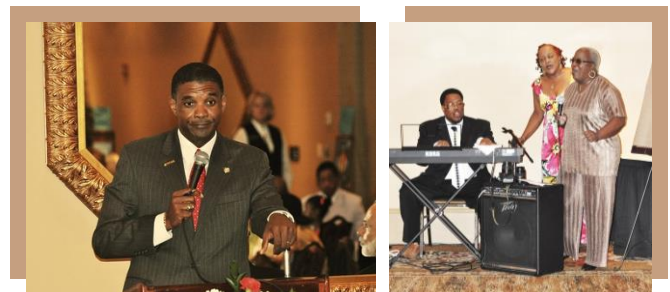
Mrs. Mary Parkman Peabody Posthumously Given the Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor



In honor and recognition of her courageous acts displayed during the 1964 Civil Rights Movement, ACCORD presents the "Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor" Posthumously to the Late [Mrs. Mary Parkman Peabody](#).

In a June, 2013 letter written by her son Malcolm E. Peabody, to Ms. Dalonja Duncan, President of ACCORD, Inc., he states, "I will be unable to attend the event, but...honored to receive the award in absentia...if mother were alive today, she would be very proud to receive the...award...she would insist that the courage of all those who participated in the demonstrations, particularly the children and Dr. Hayling...far exceeded what she was required to display...In representing my family let me say how touched we are to have this honor placed on our mother"

The Annual "Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor" was initiated and sponsored, July 2, 2009 by former Florida State Senator Dr. Anthony 'Tony' Hill. Past Recipients are Mr. James Jackson, Mr. Clyde Jenkins, Rev. Goldie Eubanks+, and Mrs. Loucille Plummer+ who had as a guest in her home, Mrs. Peabody in 1964.



Special Thanks to Dr. Anthony 'Tony' Hill, Emcee; Minister Philip Brown, Pianist; Carolyn Fisher, and Ramona Fisher, Songstresses; for helping to make our luncheon a success.

Please stop by the Wells Fargo Bank, 33 King Street, St. Augustine, FL to see historic mural recently unveiled and accessible 24/7 (see picture at top of page 2)

Want to help us continue our mission?

PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION MADE
PAYABLE TO: *The 40th ACCORD Inc.*,
AND MAIL TO:
ACCORD, INC., P.O. BOX 697, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-0697