

ACCORD, Inc.  
P.O. Box 697  
St. Augustine, FL

# ACCORD Newsletter

Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations. Inc.



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## ACCORD HOSTS 2018 Civil Rights Staff Ride

*For the third consecutive year, ACCORD, Inc. hosts the West Point Military Academy Civil Rights Staff Ride*

*By Gwendolyn Duncan*

According to Dr. Robert J. Goldstein, in his 2017 Staff Report, The Civil Rights Staff Ride is a project of the West Point Center for the Rule of Law and the United States West Point Military Academy Department of Law. The Staff Ride is an interdisciplinary course that uses immersion to teach contemporary issues in civil rights. In educating cadets to be leaders of character, the course inspires cadets to gain empathy and understanding of the diverse population of Americans they will lead as Army officers. Staff rides have long been used to teach the tactics of battles to officers, the Civil Rights Staff Ride uses historical battles for civil rights to teach the challenges of Contemporary American society.

Begun in 2013 as an Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) experience, the focus of the Staff Ride was in teaching the law and history of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. However it became abundantly clear after the 2014 Staff Ride that the focus was much too narrow, and that other disciplines were needed to understand the maelstrom of current events that prompted renewed discussion of race in America.

The Cadets and their Professors traveled by van from New York to Lorton, Virginia to board the Amtrak Auto Train. Once onboard they traveled over a thousand miles to get to Sanford, FL. Once there and retrieving their van, they drove to St. Augustine. Unlike, the previous years, it rained *cats & dogs*.

We, at ACCORD were preparing months in advance for the Cadets visit. We made postcard invites, posted an event on Facebook, and made many telephone calls. We planned a tour of the ACCORD Freedom Trail and Museum with David Nolan. Also, we were going to prepare lunch and have some Activists from the 1960s Movement on hand to talk with them. That was the plan, but things did not work out that way.

The Cadets had planned to arrive at Noon. We planned a *Chit Chat & Chew Lunch* at St. Paul A.M.E. Church with permission from Rev. Ron Rawls. We invited a few Activists to stop by have lunch, and talk to the Cadets. Professor Hardin called and said that the train was delayed and they would not be in St. Augustine until 3 PM...*no problem* because those that arrived at noon got to visit with one another, eat, and view, "Crossing in St. Augustine" by Andrew Young Presents. It was a sort of Family Reunion for those Activists who had not seen each other in years. It was a Who's Who of the St. Augustine Civil Rights Movement gathered together.

David Nolan took some of the guests to the Museum to view our artifacts and wait for the arrival of the Cadets.

## Cadets Arrive at St. Paul

The Cadets arrived around 3 PM at St. Paul AME Church. Rev. Ron Rawls, Mrs. Cora Tyson, Mrs. Barbara McClain, The Duncan Grands, and yours truly were there to welcome them to St. Augustine. After a Prayer led by Little Miss Gabrielle Duncan, they dined on a variety of sub sandwiches, fruit, chips, and drinks. They also viewed a few clips from the Documentary, then off we all went to join the others at the ACCORD Civil Rights Museum.



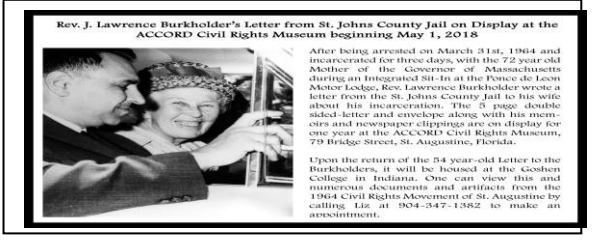
## Dozens Were There Waiting

*Dozens gathered on a very rainy Wednesday Afternoon, at the ACCORD Civil Rights Museum, to Meet & Greet the Cadets and their Professors from West Point Military Academy on their trip to the Deep South*

Praise GOD from whom all blessings flow. It was our great pleasure for the third consecutive year to host the West Point Military Academy's 2018 Civil Rights Staff Ride. Many thanks to all who came out in the inclement weather to Meet & Greet the Cadets and Professors, especially Mrs. Cora Tyson 95 year old "Housemother to the Civil Rights Movement" and Vice President of ACCORD; Mr. AL Lingo, Activist from Atlanta; Ga who was in the Monson Pool in 1964 when then Manager James Brock poured acid in the pool, beaten and nearly killed on the "Bloody Sunday" St. Augustine Beach Confrontation; Mrs. Lillian Twine Roberson, whose house was firebombed by the Ku Klux Klan for sending her three boys to integrate the *all-white* Fullerwood School; her son Kenneth from Indianapolis, Indiana, who was among the first to integrate the St. John's County Schools; Audrey Nell Edwards, of the St. Augustine Four, arrested, jailed, and sentenced to Reform School for a year for asking to be served a hamburger and a coke during a 1963 Sit-In at the Woolworths Lunch Counter; Mrs. Barbara Floyd, Freedom School Student, who was among the students who went North to experience life in the Northern States; and 99 year-old World War II United States Veteran, Mr. Solie Mitchell who said, "If GOD lets me live 30 more days, I will be 100 years old.

We were also pleased to have three Representatives of the Northrop Grumman Corporation in attendance, Mr. Brian Mahoney, VP. , Mr. Randy Bradley. 2nd VP, Mr. Mose Countryman, Director of the African American Task Group; Mr. David Nolan, local Historian, Author, and a founder of ACCORD, Inc., whose wife Darien also present, a Professor of English at Flagler College; Mr. George Clauson, Vietnam Era Veteran, Jacksonville, FL; Elisha Kennedy, Atlanta, GA; Faith, Indianapolis, Indiana; the six Duncan grands; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Duncan; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rettig; and others whose names we will add later were also present. Thanks again to everyone for showering, forgive the pun, our guests with great Southern Hospitality.

**BURKHOLDER DISPLAY  
CONTINUES THRU  
MAY 2019**



**1964 Letter from the  
St. Johns County Jail on Display at the  
ACCORD Civil Rights Museum**

*After being arrested on March 31st, 1964 and incarcerated for three days, with the 72 year old Mother of the Governor of Massachusetts during an Integrated Sit-In at the Ponce de Leon Motor Lodge, Rev. Lawrence Burkholder, a Mennonite Professor of Harvard Divinity School wrote a letter from the St. Johns County Jail to his wife about his incarceration. The 5 page double sided-letter and envelope along with his memoirs and newspaper clippings are on display for a year at the ACCORD Civil Rights Museum*



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote a famous letter from the Birmingham Jail after being arrested for peaceful protest. The Rabbis wrote a letter from the St. Johns County Jail after the largest mass arrest of Rabbis in the United States for peaceful demonstrations in the Nation's Oldest City. Now, the ACCORD Civil Rights Museum has the honor of displaying another Letter from the St. Johns County Jail from the 1964 Demonstrations.*

The following accounts are from the Memoirs, "Recollections of a Sectarian Realist, A Mennonite Life in the Twentieth Century" by J Lawrence Burkholder edited by his daughter Myrna Burkholder. After a plea went out on National News by Dr. Robert B. Hayling for college students from the North to spend their Easter Break in St. Augustine, not at the beaches, but in peaceful demonstrations against segregation a Mennonite Professor from the Harvard Divinity School, Rev. Lawrence Burkholder, vacationing in Palm Beach, FL, heard that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be in St. Augustine on March 30th, 1964. He asked his wife if he could go and she replied, "Well Alright, if you must go, you must go".

After Rev. Burkholder's arrival, on March 31st, 1964, by Greyhound Bus, to St. Augustine, he entered Dr. Robert B. Hayling's dental office. He was greeted by someone saying, "Here's the man who will go with us". Gathered in the office among others, dressed in their *Sunday Best* were Mrs. Mary Peabody who was the wife of a Retired Episcopal Bishop and 72-year old mother of the Governor

of Massachusetts, Endicott Peabody; Mrs. Hester Campbell, wife of Donald J. Campbell, dean of the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge; and locals Mrs. Nettie Mitchell, Mrs. Lillian Twine Roberson, Mrs. Georgia Reed, Mrs. Cuter Eubanks, and Mrs. Rosalie Phelps. On they went, an integrated group for lunch, to the Ponce de Leon Motor Lodge. Mrs. Peabody was the leader.

They all were arrested. While incarcerated for a total of three days in the St. Johns County Jail, Rev. Burkholder wrote a 5 page double-sided letter to his wife. Now, a family Keepsake, that will be on a one year loan to the ACCORD Civil Rights Museum, in St. Augustine, FL. Upon the return of the 54 year-old Letter to Burk holders', it will be housed at the Goshen College in Indiana.

One can view this and numerous documents and artifacts from the 1964 Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine by calling Liz at 904 347 1382 to make an appointment.

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**PHOTOS**



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