

ADC to Stage Annual M.L.K Observance, and Establish "Beacon" Award in honor of Past Civil Rights Leaders



Wilkie Clark



Reverend R. L. Heflin



Roy D. Terry

On the even of the inauguration of the nation's first African American President, Barack Obama, The Randolph County Chapter of the A.D.C. will stage its annual celebration of The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Holiday, in a church service to be held on Monday evening, January 19, 2009 at the First Baptist Church in Roanoke.

The guest speaker for the event is Rev. Dr. William H. Greason, pastor of The Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL.

Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, served as headquarters from 1956 to 1961 for the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR), which was led by Fred Shuttlesworth and active in the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement. The ACMHR focused on legal and nonviolent direct action against segregated accommodations, transportation, schools and employment discrimination. It played a crucial role in the 1961 Freedom Ride that resulted in federal enforcement of U.S. Supreme Court and Interstate Commerce Commission rulings to desegregate public transportation. The church buildings were bombed three times, first on December 25, 1956, again on June 29, 1958, and finally on December 14, 1962. The church was declared a National Historic Landmark in 2005.

Reverend Dr. Greason has been recognized for outstanding service in the Christian Ministry spanning over 30

years at Bethel Baptist Church. Greason served as a member of the United States Marines and earned a Bachelor of Theology Degree, Bachelor of Arts Degree, and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Birmingham Baptist Bible College. He played professional baseball with the Birmingham Black Barons, the United States Marines, the Oklahoma City Indians, the Houston Buffs, the Columbus Redbirds, the St. Louis Cardinals, and the Rochester Red Wings, including travel to Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Santa Domingo.

He has been the recipient of numerous public awards to his credit.

The program's theme is "Realizing The Dream."

Jeremy Patterson will to serve as the program's emcee.

ABOUT THE "BEACON" AWARD

The Clark-Heflin-Terry Beacon Award will be presented annually to a person who has demonstrated **OUTSTANDING AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY--BY GOING BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY IN SERVICE TO BENEFIT ALL PEOPLE.**

This award is named for Wilkie Clark, Robert L. Heflin, and Roy Terry. These three individuals worked tirelessly for equality, civil rights, political involvement and economic improvements

for African-Americans in Randolph County. Because of the leadership of these persons, the citizens of Randolph County were brought together to fight the injustices within the county. They have influenced the lives of all persons of Randolph County and because of their efforts, we, the Randolph County Alabama Democratic Conference, remember and continue to recognize the impact that they had on African-Americans by naming this award in their honor-- Clark-Heflin-Terry Beacon Award. We cannot repay them for the time,

money and sacrifice that they made, not for self-recognition but in service to all people, but we can thank them for being a Beacon within our community.

Therefore, each year at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, the Randolph County Chapter of the Alabama Democratic Conference will recognize an individual who has been a Beacon in Randolph County as was demonstrated by these three men.

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