

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

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**AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER HOST THE 11TH ANNUAL
OFFICIAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

The Annual Juneteenth Celebration for Westchester County, sponsored by The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc. (AACCWR) and the City of Mount Vernon will take place June 17 through June 20, 2010. The theme is *From Sharecroppers to Share Holders* (a quote by Dorothy Pittman-Hughes).

The Juneteenth Celebration commemorates the date – June 19, 1865 – when the slaves in Galveston, TX first received the word of the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery which was originally issued by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. Today, Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom which emphasizes education and achievement. Resolutions have been unanimously passed in the United States House of Representative and in the Senate encouraging the observance of Juneteenth with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs across the country, and asking that President Bush issue a Juneteenth Independence Day Proclamation.

The Official Juneteenth Celebration will kick off with a Business to Business Reception honoring *The Ten Most Influential Blacks* at Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown, NY on Thursday, June 17th beginning at 6:00pm.

The following is a list of the Ten Most Influential Blacks:

Mr. G. Lamont Blackstone, Principal G.L. Blackstone & Associates; Ms. Sandra Blackwell, Publisher The Westcher County Press; Mr. William H. Burgess, III, President The Burgess Group; Mr. Michael M. Clay, Director, Opportunity Programs Group of the Dormitory Authority of the SNY; Mr. Henry A. May, Author of Sallwardt Publications; Ms. Olive Peart, Author, Publisher of the Demarche Publishing LLC; Mr. Rodney J. Reynolds, Founding Publisher of American Legacy Magazine; Mrs. Yolanda Robinson, Chief of Staff to the Mayor Young of the City of Mount Vernon; Mr. Timothy D. Scott, Executive Chief Tee's fish Chaips N More LLC; Ms. Jillian White, President of White Picket Fences Appraisals.

During the reception attendees will be able to sample spirits from member companies of the Association of Black Alcohol Beverage Companies. Companies like Ite Spirits, Pour Mio and Sugar Hill Golden Ale.

On Friday, June 18th there will be *Jazz with the Stars*. The event will begin at 6 P.M. at local clubs in County.

The crowning event of the Celebration will be *the Annual Celebrity Salute to the Players of the Negro Baseball League Games*, featuring teams made up of local celebrities and anyone else who wants to come out and have a good time playing ball. This event will take place, Saturday, June 19th at Brush Park, 598 Union St., in Mount Vernon. Everyone is invited to sign on as players/vendor/sponsors/spectators. A portion of the proceeds from the games will be used to fund a scholarship for the Mount Vernon Little League Program. The pre-game show will begin at 4:30pm. Youngsters who are members of little league teams are invited to sport their colors by wearing their uniforms.

The weekend will culminate with a worship service in southern Westchester at Trinity Episcopal Church, 335 So. Fourth Avenue in Mount Vernon during the 10:30am service where Rev. Dr. Joel Nafume is the pastor; Trinity Episcopal Church, the oldest church in Mount Vernon, has transformed from a primarily white congregation, through the influence of the civil rights movement of the 60's and 70's on the city of Mount Vernon, to one that has several different nationalities. Northern Westchester service will take place at Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Rev. Adolphus C. Lacy pastor, 11 Rev. G. Franklin Wiggins Plaza, Peekskill, NY during the 10:45am service. Additional local churches will be listed online at the Chamber's website.

Along with the Chamber and the city of Mount Vernon, members of the Association of Black Alcohol Beverage Companies, the A'vatar Foundation, created to promote the arts in Westchester County is a major sponsor of the Celebration.

The AACCCWR was established June 28, 1996 as an independent not-for-profit agency to aid, counsel and protect the interest of the African American business concerns. The mission, according to Robin L. Douglas, founder and president, is to preserve competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of Westchester and Rockland Counties.

For up to date information and to make reservations visit our website at www.aaccnys.org or call 914-699-4749.