



For Immediate Release

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THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MUSEUM ANNOUNCES 2012 HONOREES

Civil Rights Activist Myrlie Evers-Williams to be honored at Museum's Gala
observing the 52nd Anniversary of the 1960 Sit-In Protests

GREENSBORO, N.C., (Jan. 27, 2012) — The International Civil Rights Center & Museum has announced its honorees for the 52nd Anniversary Gala and Banquet. The event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012, at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C. Renowned civil rights activist and author Myrlie Evers-Williams —wife of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers—will be recognized as the leading honoree at the celebration.

The event will begin with a reception, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Sandra Hughes, former veteran news anchor for WFMY News 2, will serve as the emcee for the evening. George Johnson Jr., Dean, Professor of Law at Elon University School of Law, and Edward Winslow III, managing partner at Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey, Leonard LLP, serve as the honorary co-chairs for the event.

The Museum will honor Myrlie Evers-Williams as the 2012 recipient of the Alston-Jones International Civil & Human Rights Award. The citation, the Museum's highest recognition, is named in honor of its co-founders, Melvin "Skip" Alston and Earl Jones.

"Each year, we gather to pay tribute to those deserving individuals who have dedicated their lives to the cause for equality and justice," said Melvin "Skip" Alston, chairman of the board. "This event serves as a platform for us to show our sincere appreciation for their diligent work that continues to make a difference in our nation today."

Individual tickets for the gala are \$100, and sponsorship tables are available. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to secure a sponsor table, please contact Pamela Glass at (336) 274-9199 ext. 235, or visit <http://www.sitinmovement.org/>.

Evers-Williams, Gary among 2012 Honorees

Evers-Williams has played a significant role in the Civil Rights movement, especially following the assassination of her husband. A noted activist for racial justice and women's equality, she has also worked tirelessly to preserve his legacy. During the 1980s, she became the first African-American

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selected to serve on the Los Angeles Public Works Commission; and in 1995, she was also the first woman to be appointed as chairperson of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). After her term, Evers-Williams established the Medgar Evers Institute located in Jackson, Mississippi. She is the author and editor of numerous books, including *Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming the Woman I Was Meant to Be*, and *The Autobiography of Medgar Evers: A Hero's Life and Legacy Revealed Through His Writings, Letters and Speeches*. Evers-Williams has also been the recipient of several awards and honorary doctorates based on her work.

Nationally recognized attorney and motivational speaker Willie E. Gary will be honored as this year's recipient of the Trailblazer Award—a special recognition honoring individuals who have achieved *firsts* in areas where African-American have not previously been represented or are under-represented. Gary has successfully handled some of the largest jury awards and settlements in U.S. history, and has tried cases in more than 40 states. After admittance to the Florida Bar, Gary opened the first African-American law firm there, his home state. His successful career has earned him the distinction of being recognized as a leading trial attorney. Gary is an active humanitarian and philanthropist who, along with wife Gloria, founded The Gary Foundation in 1994. This foundation has provided scholarships and other resources to youth in their pursuit of higher education. He has also donated generous contributions to his alma mater, Shaw University, other Historically Black Colleges and Universities and numerous organizations.

The evening will include the presentation of the Unsung Hero award to local resident Atty. David Dansby, and the Sit-In Participant's award (personally selected by the surviving members of the Greensboro Four). Previous recipients of the Alston-Jones International Civil & Human Rights Award include: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously), Dr. Maya Angelou, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., President Nelson Mandela, Mrs. Rosa Parks, Mr. Harry Belafonte, Ms. Cicely Tyson and Atty. Morris Dees, who was inducted last year.

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