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**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MUSEUM TO HOST
U.S. POSTAL STAMP DEDICATION CEREMONY**

Special stamps will honor three legendary African Americans

GREENSBORO, N.C., (Feb. 16, 2012) — The International Civil Rights Center & Museum, along with the U.S. Postal Service, will dedicate commemorative postage stamps to honor the memories of three African American luminaries—John H. Johnson, Barbara Jordan and Romare Bearden featured in the recent Black Heritage Stamp series. The dedication ceremony will be held at the Museum on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012 at 11:30 a.m., immediately following the weekly “Children’s Storytelling Hour.”

“We are most proud to have the opportunity to recognize three individuals who became some of our nation’s most distinguished voices in our history,” said Bamidele Demerson, executive director of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum. “This Museum serves as the appropriate venue for this type of recognition.”

Each of the dedicated stamps will be issued as Forever stamps, which are equal in value to the current first-class mail rate stamps. Bearden’s artwork is depicted on a set of four Forever stamps. The additions of Johnson, Jordan and Bearden to the series are based on their valuable contributions in American history and to the African-American community:

- John H. Johnson was the founder of Johnson Publishing Company, the largest African American-owned firm of its kind in the United States. The company is home to major publications such as *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, owns Supreme Beauty hair care products and Fashion Fair Cosmetics, and also produces the Ebony Fashion Fair—the world’s largest traveling fashion show. In 1982, Johnson was the first African American to appear on the *Forbes* 400 list of wealthiest Americans.
- Barbara Jordan was a leader in the civil rights movement, and the first African-American woman to be elected to the Texas legislature. She became the first African American elected to the

Texas State Senate since 1883. Jordan was also the first African-American woman to be nominated to the U.S. Congress, where she successfully served three terms and supported various legislation initiatives extending federal protection of civil rights.

- Romare Bearden, a noted artist and writer, was born in Charlotte, North Carolina and recognized by *The New York Times* as "one of America's pre-eminent artists" and "the nation's foremost collagist." Bearden's work is celebrated for its revolutionary approach to watercolors, oils, collages, and other media. To honor his memory, the Romare Bearden Foundation was established in 1990, and ground was recently broken for the Romare Bearden Park in Charlotte.

For the Children's Storytelling Hour at 11a.m., Carl Walton, communications coordinator, U.S. Postal Service-Greensboro district, will read *Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights* by Jim Haskins. The story informs readers about an unsung hero, U.S. Postal carrier W. W. Law, who registered voters and taught young people about the tactics of nonviolent resistance.

Admission to the Museum — \$10.00 for adults; \$8.00 for seniors and students; \$6.00 for youth — includes access to all exhibitions and programs. For access to programs and activities only, fees are \$6.00 for adults, seniors and students and \$4.00 for children. For more information on these upcoming events, contact the Museum at (336) 274-9199 or visit www.sitinmovement.org.

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