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A Legacy Forgotten: Blue & Gold Pride, Film About Georgia's Powerful Black History

Special to the NNPA from
 The Savannah Herald

A Legacy Forgotten is a film about the African-American High School that broke through the wall of segregation to win the first integrated State basketball championship in Georgia. The name of the school is Alfred Ely Beach High School and it is a powerful part of the state of Georgia's Black History. Packed with encouragement, hope, and hilarious stories, this film tells how a group of young men drew strength from the academic and athletic legacy of excellence from their school. As a result, they overcame racism, hatred, and Georgia's expectation of failure to become a beacon of hope.

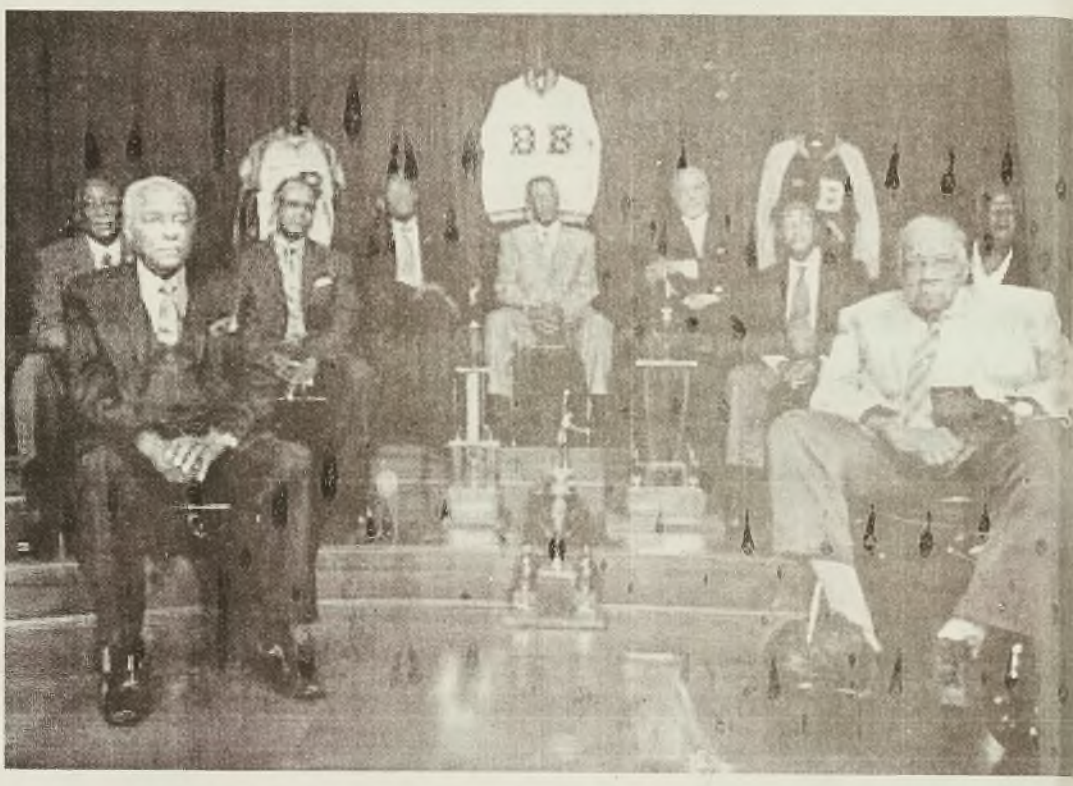
Alfred Ely Beach High School was founded in 1867 as one of the first schools in Georgia created after the American Civil War for the education of freed slaves. In addition, it is only one of such schools that are still in operation today. Through many tests and trials, the school has managed to survive and produce many generations of academically and athletically astute individuals who have made great contributions to their city of origin, Savannah, the state of Georgia, the United States, and abroad.

During this Black History month, a salute is given to the distinguished alumni of Alfred Ely Beach High School. Some of those alumni are: James E. Wright, World War II flight instructor for the Tuskegee Army; Robert S. Abbott, Publisher and Founder of the Chicago Defender newspaper; Regina Thomas, former Georgia State Senator; Edna Jackson, current Mayor of the city of Savannah, Ga.; Dr. David Hall, president of the University of the Virgin Islands; Mervin "The Magician" Jackson, American Basketball Association All-Star; and Larry "Gator" Rivers, legendary Harlem Globetrotter. These individuals and many other alumni have helped to color this wonderful fabric of history.

One of the major accomplishments that was recognized around the United States was when Beach's men basketball team won the historic, first integrated State basketball championship in Georgia, in 1967. It was such a historic event that Sports Illustrated wrote an article about Beach's championship win called "Black Supremacy." In addition to Beach's history of athletic prowess, Beach's alumni exhibited a tradition of academic excellence. During many of the film's interviews, Miller Barger, the film's director and producer, stated, "Most of the alumni I interviewed made reference to the academic excellence that was instilled in them by the faculty and staff. Many of them made reference to the alumni who graduated before them and how they stood on their shoulders. They felt failure was not an option."

This film project began in February 2012 and has become a massive undertaking due to the extensive history of Alfred Ely Beach High School. As a result, We Came To Conquer Entertainment, LLC (WCTC), the production company behind the project, has partnered with Kingdom Culture Ministries, Inc., a non-profit, Fiscal Sponsor, to advance the production of the film. Through this partnership, all funds donated to the production of the film will be tax deductible. Therefore, Miller Barger, Larry "Gator" Rivers, the film's executive producer, and WCTC are soliciting donations from anyone who wants to see this great story in black history told. No contribution is too small and all donors will be listed in the film's closing credits. Donations to the film can be made online at www.kingdomministries.org/A-Legacy-Forgotten or mailed to Kingdom Culture Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 2156, Lilburn, GA 30048. Make all checks payable to KCM, and write A Legacy Forgotten on the memo line.

For more information on the film, go to www.facebook.com/ALegacyForgottenBlueGoldPride. You can also ask questions about the project by emailing info@wecametocconquer.com. - Savannah Herald



A Legacy Forgotten

Jamaica 'Holding its Own' and 'Feeling Good' About Performance of its Tourism Industry

By Tony Best

Special to the NNPA from the New York Carib News

"We are feeling good about the winter-tourist season," Sandra Scott, the Jamaica Tourist Board's Deputy Director of Tourism, Marketing was reflecting on performance of an industry that's vital to the economic well-being of the Caribbean country which is still itself out of the economic doldrums.

But interestingly, the frequent snowstorm, and the long cold spells that are hitting the northeastern region of the United States and Canada are unlikely to fuel a "bumper season" for the destination, she said.

"Although the official figures for January aren't available, we are doing better than last year, perhaps three or five per cent over the previous year's arrivals," Scott told the Carib News while in New York City. "We are seeing more tourists from North America coming to the country. The tourism product is fresh. We have new products (hotels) coming on board and renovated ones as well. The hotel sector is doing very well. The Ritz Carlton which closed last year is being refurbished and will be ready for the coming winter season. Other hotels have been refurbished and that makes us very happy."

Scott, who has almost a quarter of a century of experience in the hospitality and tourism marketing arena in Jamaica and Canada said that the European market was also "doing very, very well for us," with the Russian Federation showing strong growth as a source market for visitors to the country.

"Russia is up by 600-700 per cent year over year," Scott explained. "We do have a flight from Russia to Jamaica that enables travelers to spend 10 days. They are not 'beach' people but they want to see the culture. If they are staying in Montego Bay they would undertake a tour of Kingston with the Bob Marley Museum as a prime attraction. They are also shoppers. The bottom line is that Europe is doing very well for us."

But industry executives and others who were expecting the unusually cold spells across the U.S. and Canada to encourage large numbers of Americans and Canadians to leave their homes and seek comfort and excitement in warm climes of Jamaica and its Caribbean neighbors may be in for a disappointment.

"A lot of people thought because of the bad weather in North America we would have a bumper winter tourist season (in Jamaica) but because of the nature of the weather, the snow storms and so on, we have had a lot of flight cancellations to Jamaica as a result," Scott said. "We have found that a lot of travelers are leaving their homes for several reasons. For instance, some don't want to leave their homes unattended. They are concerned about frozen and busted pipes, snow piling up on the sidewalks and so on. But we are up for last year but so far I wouldn't say it is a bumper season because of the bad weather. We have an increase in visitors in January over last year."

The Deputy Director said that the Jamaican Diaspora remained a very important market for the country and the tourism agency intended to continue its strong marketing drive to encourage even more national return to their birthplace.

"The Diaspora remains a good market for our country," was the way she put it. Scott who joined the Tourist board almost a decade ago as its regional director for Canada, overseeing the growth of travel to Jamaica and heightening the country's popularity among Canadians was promoted to her current position in 2011.

"We are more than holding our own," was the way she put it. However, she explained, intra-Caribbean travel to Jamaica was "down" and she blamed the fall on a lack of adequate airline flights.

"We have a problem in the Caribbean when it comes to connectivity from island to island," she said. "Airline service isn't what it used to be. We have Caribbean Airlines which has cut back on its service somewhat."

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