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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

National Park Service's Dr. Joy G. Kinard Will Keynote 5th Annual "Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival" *Noted Scholar, Keeper of Historic Sites & Trails Will Speak to the Resilience of African American Ancestors*

(Mobile, AL Feb. 1, 2023) -- The preservation of Black History and its importance in telling America's full story is in the bones of Dr. Joy G. Kinard, keynote speaker for the 5th Annual "Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival." And the festival's theme carries the significance of her address because of her own family history.

The Washington, D.C. native - with a Ph.D. in U.S. History and a minor in Public History and Caribbean Studies -- paid tribute to her father in her first book, *The Man, The Movement, The Museum: The Journey of John R. Kinard as the First African American Director of A Smithsonian Institution Museum*, published in 2017. Her [father's social and economic activism](#) took him to Africa, to establishing the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum that eventually told the history of its Black community, to directing the nation's museum through the Smithsonian.

"The theme for this year's festival, "Warriors of Resilience," speaks to my spirit as we reflect on how the story of Africatown helps draw the nation closer to the promise of true understanding through the amazing work of its descendent community," Dr. Kinard says.

In keeping with her father's passion, Dr. Kinard's [20-year National Park Service \(NPS\) career](#) reflects her abiding interest in the preservation and advancement of stories pertaining to African American and American heritage. She is currently the Superintendent of the Central Alabama Civil Rights Sites, which include the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, and the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

"Every day, the story of Africatown lives in us all, and we replicate it's excellence in everything we do as we continue to come together in remembrance," Dr. Kinard says.

Her leadership roles in the NPS include being the first superintendent of the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument for 5 years. She spent 4 years as National Capital Parks-East Central District Manager, managing historic places such as the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, the National Archives for Black Women's History, the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site, Langston Golf Course, James Creek Marina, and Buzzard Point Marina, all parts of Anacostia Park.

Her [management portfolio and assignments](#) include Acting Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Cultural Resource Manager at the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site, Oxon Hill Farm, and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. She also served as a park ranger at various sites in Virginia and Maryland, educating visitors on the stories of prominent figures in American history, including George Washington, Frederick Douglass and Robert E. Lee.

She [has been featured](#) in the HGTV documentary, *African American Historic Homes*, produced by High Noon Entertainment, where the focus was the home of Frederick Douglass; and was recently featured on C-SPAN to observe Women's Equality Day by the Sewall Belmont House and Museum.

As a scholar of African-American history and culture, Dr. Kinard contributed to the seminal African American National Biography Encyclopedia, and she taught university courses in History. Dr. Kinard has studied race relations abroad in Paris, London, and St. Catherine's, Canada as part of a Howard University Cultural Study Tour.

Her keynote address starts at noon Saturday, Feb.4th, at the Mobile County Training School. It will be followed at 2 PM by the performance of the full-length play, *An Ocean in My Bones*, by Cleveland-based theatrical director Terrence Spivey.

TELLING OUR STORIES

People can tell their family stories in oral interviews that will be conducted during the festival, hosted by the Clotilda Descendant Association (CDA).

The CDA and Dr. Kern Jackson (who is also a co-writer of the award-winning documentary *Descendant*), with his students from the University of South Alabama, will conduct the oral interviews to collect family histories from Descendants of Clotilda Africans, Africatown residents, historians, and those who are interested in participating.

-- more --

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. JOY G. KINARD
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SPRIT OF OUR ANCESTORS FESTIVAL
FEATURING "AN OCEAN IN MY BONES"
by Terrence Spivey

"An Ocean In My Bones"
A Play
by Terrence Spivey

Free Showings
 Saturday, February 4th at 2:00 PM CST
 Sunday, February 5th at 2:00 PM CST

Mobile County Training School
800 Whitley Street
Mobile, Alabama 36610

REGISTRATION CLOSED

February 4-5, 2023 | Mobile County Training School
800 Whitley St. Mobile, Alabama

WHO: The Clotilda Descendants Association

WHAT: 5th Annual *"Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival,"* Theme: "Transcendent Warriors of Resilience."

WHEN: January 30 through February 5, 2023 (See more details below)

WHERE:

SPRIT OF OUR ANCESTORS FILM FESTIVAL

City of Prichard, A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex, Wednesday Feb. 1st, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Mobile Public Library-[Ben May Auditorium, Thursday, Feb. 2nd, 5:30 PM -8:00 PM](#)

Mobile Public Library-[Toulminville Branch, Friday, Feb. 3rd, 12:30 PM -3:00 PM](#)

Check website links and flyers for updated information on show times and post-film Q&A Sessions

SPRIT OF OUR ANCESTORS FESTIVAL

SPRIT OF OUR ANCESTORS PROGRAM @ MOBILE COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Saturday, Feb. 4th & Sunday, Feb. 5th, Starting at Noon

800 Whitley Street, Mobile, AL 36610

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. JOY G. KINARD

Superintendent of Alabama's Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site and the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail for the National Park Service

FREE PERFORMANCES OF *AN OCEAN IN MY BONES*, A PLAY By Terrence Spivey

Saturday, Feb. 4th @ 2:00 PM (**REGISTRATION CLOSED**) | Sunday, Feb. 5th @ 2:00 PM (**REGISTRATION CLOSED**)

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For More Information, Contact: Joycelyn Davis, Organizer. Email: joycelyn.davis@aol.com