

Scottsboro Boys Museum dedication held

Contributed by Cheyann Duncan
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A dedication and formal grand opening was held at the Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center. The museum and cultural center is located at the Joyce Chapel United Methodist Church on West Willow Street. A proclamation was signed and dedicated to the museum by Scottsboro City Mayor Melton Potter, declaring February 2010 to be Black History Month.

Ms. Lecia Brooks, director of the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery, Ala. spoke at the ceremony about diversity education, human relations, youth development and hate crime prevention. Mrs. Kathy Horton Garrett, the granddaughter of Circuit Judge James Edwin Horton (1878-1973), who presided over the re-trial of nine black men accused in 1931 of raping two white women, also attended and spoke at the ceremony.

The museum will feature educational material concerning the historic case in which two Supreme Court rulings are considered to be the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. The Supreme Court ruled that under the Equal Protection Clause in the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, states were forbidden from excluding citizens from juries due solely to their race. It also gave every citizen the right to able legal counsel.