

*The Clay County African American Legacy, Inc.  
and  
Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City*

*Historical Marker Unveiling and Dedication  
at*

*Garrison School Cultural Center  
502 N. Water St.  
Liberty, Missouri*

*In Observance of the  
143<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Garrison School  
and the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Liberty Juneteenth Celebration*

1877-2020



*Friday, July 24, 2020  
6:30 p.m.*

**NAACP History: *Lift Every Voice and Sing***  
Historically recognized as the Negro National Anthem

“*Lift Every Voice and Sing* – often called “The Black National Anthem” – was written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) and then set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) in 1899. It was first performed in public in the Johnsons’ hometown of Jacksonville, Florida as part of a celebration of Lincoln’s Birthday on February 12, 1900 by a choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal.” (Source: [https://www.naacp.org/naacp-history-lift-evry-voice-and-sing/.](https://www.naacp.org/naacp-history-lift-evry-voice-and-sing/) )

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
Lyrics:

Lift ev’ry voice and sing,  
‘Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list’ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on ‘til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the

slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
‘Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met  
Thee,  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget  
Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land



# Juneteenth Program

## Welcome

Mr. AJ Byrd, President, Clay County African American Legacy Inc.

## Negro National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (Please Stand)

Ms. Teresa Habernal, Liberty Resident

## Prayer

Rev. Tony P. Johnson, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Liberty

## Greetings

The Honorable Michael Hagen, Liberty Mayor Pro Tem

The Honorable Lauren Arthur, Missouri State Senator District 17

The Honorable Mark Ellebracht, Missouri State Representative - District 17

Mr. Harold A. Phillips, Liberty Councilman First Ward

Mr. Paul Jenness, Liberty Councilman First Ward

Ms. Gayle Potter, President, Liberty Chamber of Commerce & Liberty Tourism Committee Chair

## Poem Tribute

Mr. Shelton Ponder, Liberty Poet and Playwright, CCAAL Inc. Board Member

## Reading of the Historical Marker Narrative

Dr. Cecelia Robinson, CCAAL Inc. Historian

## The Native Sons and Daughters Of Greater Kansas City Acknowledgement and Presentation of Historical Marker Certificate of Appreciation

Mr. Richard O. Retrum, President, The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

Mr. Ross Marshall, Chair of the Historical Marker Committee

## Recognition of Ms. Mary Ann Pfeifer, Community Volunteer

Ms. Theresa Byrd, CCAAL Inc. Board Member

## Recognition of Ms. Jaeda Dickens, Liberty North High School Senior, Recipient of the Ken Robinson \$500.00 Scholarship

Mr. AJ Byrd, President, CCAAL Inc

## Presentation of UAW Local 249 and UAW Region 4 Midwest States CAP Donation Checks to Clay County African American Legacy Inc. for Garrison School Cultural Center

Mr. Jason Starr, President Local 249 United Auto Workers

## Closing Remarks

Mr. AJ Byrd, President, CCAAL Inc

## Unveiling of the Historical Marker