

# **Volusia Remembers Coalition HONORS**

**Mr. Charles Harris  
and  
Mr. Anthony Johnson**

**Saturday, September 17, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

**Macedonia Missionary  
Baptist Church**

**534 Osteen Maytown Road  
Osteen, FL 32764**

**Reverend James Jenkins, Pastor**

*The lynching of African Americans was a widely supported campaign to enforce racial subordination and segregation during the period between Reconstruction and World War II. "Lynching in America," a report by the Equal Justice Initiative, documents more than 4400 racial terror lynchings in the United States during this period. More recently, Equal Justice Initiative has documented more than 6000 racial terror lynchings. These events did not occur solely "somewhere else." The Equal Justice Initiative has identified and documented four cases of lynching in Volusia County and over three hundred in Florida.*

Saturday, September 17, 2022

10:00 a.m.

**Daisy T. Grimes, Presiding**

Volusia Remembers Coalition, Ceremony / Soil Collection Chair  
Minority Elected Officials of Volusia County Inc., Government Relations Chair  
NIA Empowerment Group, Inc., President  
VCAALC, Chief Administrative Officer

Meditation..... Reverend James Jenkins  
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
Osteen Maytown Road, Osteen, FL

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” ..... *(Please Stand)* (Pre-recorded)..... Concert Chorale Bethune-Cookman University  
Bethune-Cookman University  
Daytona Beach, FL

Greetings..... Dr. Grady Ballenger, Volusia Remembers Coalition, Co-Chair  
Emeritus Professor of English, Stetson University  
DeLand, FL

Greetings .....Equal Justice Initiative (Pre-recorded) ..... Gabrielle Daniels, MPH, MACS, Project Manager  
Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, AL

Greetings ..... Honorable James R. Clayton, Chief Circuit Judge  
Seventh Judicial Circuit Court  
DeLand, FL

Spoken Words ..... *(Honoring Mr. Charles Harris and Mr. Anthony Johnson)* ..... Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown  
Professor and Endowed Chair of Social Justice Education, Stetson University  
President, National Coalition of the Homeless

A Personal Journey Towards Racial Healing ..... Evan Keller, CEO, Tree Work Now, Inc.  
CEO, Creating Jobs, Inc.  
VRC, Public Relations / Publicity Chair

Volusia Remembers Coalition ..... “Why We Are Here” ..... Reverend Reginald Williams  
Emmanuel Christian Ministries, Inc.  
AAMA, Chairman; VRC, Finance

Black Laborers during Jim Crow Era in Volusia ..... Mr. Charles Harris and Mr. Anthony Johnson .....  
Dr. Felicia Benzo, Founder/CEO  
CATALYST Global Youth Initiatives, Inc.  
Volusia Remembers Coalition, Education Chair  
WV-NAACP Youth Council Advisor  
Jody Williams, Volusia Remembers Coalition, Education Member

Reflection ..... History of Lynching ..... Dr. Richard Buckelew  
Associate Professor of History, College Arts & Humanities, Bethune-Cookman University  
Volusia Remembers Coalition, Historian

Proclamation and Recognition

County of Volusia..... Honorable Barbara Girtman, District 1 Representative  
DeLand, FL

**SAY THEIR NAMES...SAY THEIR NAMES**

Mary Allen, African American Museum of the Arts, Inc., CEO  
Volusia Remembers Coalition, Community Historian

Dr. Sadie McConner, McConner Training Institute, LLC, CEO  
Daytona Beach Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Social Action Chair  
Volusia Remembers Coalition, Soil Committee

Sounding of the Drums ..... Mike Brown  
Volusia Remembers Coalition, Soil Committee

Remember, Reflect and Reconcile with Libation .....Honorable Hubert L. Grimes, Esq.  
Monts & Grimes Law, P.L.  
Volusia County Circuit Judge (Retired)  
Honorable James R. Clayton, Chief Circuit Judge  
DeLand, FL

Closing Remarks ..... Sharon Stafford, Volusia Remembers Coalition, Co-Chair  
Everybody Is Somebody, Inc., Visionary/CEO  
WV-NAACP, Assistant Secretary, Membership Chair

Prayer of Reconciliation and Benediction ..... Reverend John Campbell  
United Methodist Minister (Retired)  
DeLand, FL

**GRAB N GO REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

Everyone attending this event is recommended to wear a face mask. Gloves and other forms of PPE may also be worn, if desired. CDC guidelines on social distancing and government restrictions on gatherings will be observed.



## MISSION

To remember, acknowledge, and reflect upon our history of racial terror by partnering with the **Equal Justice Initiative** to install monuments to Jim Crow-era victims of lynching in our county and to build racial unity and justice in the present and for the future.

## GOALS

**Honor:** Remember victims of lynching and celebrate civil rights victories.

**Educate:** Explore our divided past and chart a united future.

**Reconcile:** Cultivate justice, healing, and reconciliation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are so appreciative to be partnering with the **Equal Justice Initiative** to bring the Community Remembrance Project to Volusia County. Collaborating with EJI, we hope to place historical markers and monuments honoring these victims at designated sites in the county. They will also be remembered through Soil Collection Jars and a monument with their names at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. We believe that the dialogue we are beginning about our racial history can help to strengthen a healing process in our community.

We would like to express deep gratitude to the County of Volusia, Bethune Cookman University, African American Museum of the Arts, Inc., Rev. James Jenkins and the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Congregation, Rev. John Campbell, and the CIVITAS Project. A special thanks to Stetson University President Chris Roellke, Executive Vice-President Bob Huth, Chaz Underriner, Associate Professor of Digital Arts, Sidney Johnston, Historian and Grants Officer, Cory Lancaster, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications and Maurin A. Flores-Johnson, and the awesome staff at Stetson's Printshop. Finally, special thanks to Volusia County Chief Sheriff Michael Chitwood for joining with us in these hard, but healing conversations and to his deputies for proving security for our soil collection and ceremony. Last but not least a BIG thanks to our great community for your support!!!

Please stay connected with us as we plan to place memorials to honor these victims at designated sites in Volusia County as well as to embark on healing this hard history. We thank you for joining us!

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sharon Stafford, Co-Chair

Grady Ballenger, Co-Chair

Judy Thompson, Secretary /  
CIVITAS Liaison

Daisy Grimes, Ceremony / Soil  
Collection Chair

Felicia Benzo, Education Chair

Evan Keller, Public Relations /  
Publicity Chair

Tom Robertson, Finance Chair

Reginald Williams, Finance

Rina Tovar Arroyo, Fundraising  
Chair

Sam Houston, Social Media Chair

Mary Allen, Community Historian

Rick Buckelew, Professor of  
History



