

Black History Month Theme

"The Legacy of African Leadership for the Present and  
the Future"

Students, the President, Faculty and Staff

cordially invite you to attend and share in the reading

of the

Honorable Rufus Lewis' Collection

Thursday, February 25, 1999

10:00 a.m.

Library Tower of Learning

3860 Mobile Hwy

Montgomery, AL 36108

Please Reply by February 18, 1999

(334) 240-9739

H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College

and the

Division of the Library and Archives

present

The Reading of  
The Honorable Rufus Lewis' *COMES FORTH*  
Father of Montgomery's Voting Rights Movement



# H. COUNCILL TRENHOLM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

1225 AIR BASE BOULEVARD • P.O. BOX 9039 • MONTGOMERY, AL 36108-3199  
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February 9, 1999

To: Colleagues  
From: Gwen Patton, Program Coordinator *GMP*  
Re: Black History Month Program—"Legacy of African-American Leadership for the Present and the Future."

The College and the Division of the Library and Archives will host a special program on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25th at 10:00 A.M. in the MAIN READING ROOM. The program will be a reading of correspondences written by and to the Honorable Rufus Lewis. (Hon. Lewis' papers are housed in the College's Archives.)

For our program to be a success, we sincerely need your help. Below are requests we hope you will be able to fulfill:

1. Mrs. Yvonne Williams—Hostess, oversee signing of archival guestbook; seating of Mrs. Eleanor Dawkins (daughter), Karen (granddaughter) and VIPs.
2. Mr. David Rawls—Video-taping of program.
3. Mr. Joe Meriwether—Moving of 2 small tables to location and placing of stackable chairs in audience form in the Main Reading Room.
4. Mrs. MaryAnn Campbell—Pastries and punch with student hostess for reception.
5. Rev. Henry Hendricks—Invocation at program.
6. Mrs. Shirley Billups—Direct the unison singing of the "Negro National Anthem."
7. Ms. Adana Bennet—Reader of Lewis' papers; rehearsal to be scheduled.
8. Mr. Lonnie Green—Reader of Lewis' papers; rehearsal to be scheduled.
9. Mr. Stinson Holmes—Reader of Lewis' papers; rehearsal to be scheduled.
10. Mrs. Zenobia Blackmon—Bring greetings at the program on behalf of Library.
11. Dean Sam Munnerlyn—Bring greetings at program on behalf of Student Services.
12. Dean Gail Taylor—Bring Greetings at program on behalf of Academic Services.
13. Dr. W. Clyde Williams—Closing Remarks and other comments as he deems fit.

Please let me know if the above meets with your approval.

Thank you.



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## THE HONORABLE RUFUS A LEWIS COLLECTION

### Division of Library and Archives

The Honorable Rufus A. Lewis, born November 30, 1906, in Montgomery County, began an earnest and consistent Voting Rights Drive in the early 1940s. In an October 8, 1995, issue of U.S. NEWS REPORT, the article states: "Back in the '40s, Rufus Lewis became obsessed with voting rights. An entire generation of Montgomery (B)lacks say that Lewis, who is barely known today, is the reason they first voted." We at Trenholm State Technical College are turning this around as we sought to establish our Voting Rights Archives with the Lewis' papers and artifacts being our first collection. "Today's generation and those to come hereafter will know that the HONORABLE RUFUS A. LEWIS IS THE FATHER OF MONTGOMERY'S VOTING RIGHTS MOVEMENT," said Archivist Gwen Patton.

Mr. Lewis is a graduate of Fisk University and served as football coach at Alabama State University. He, also, was a partner in the Ross and Clayton Funeral Home business. In 1952, he opened the "Citizens' Club," a night club for African Americans. The primary purpose of the night club was to motivate Black citizens in a social setting to register to vote. Most members were already registered voters, and their continuing membership in the Club was to help others become registered voters. Many members held "Citizenship Schools" in their homes, where Black people learned how to fill out the literacy test, the pre-requisite to becoming a registered voter.

In 1960, Mr. Lewis was one of the founders and the first Montgomery County Chapter President of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC). In 1976, U.S. President Jimmy Carter appointed Mr. Lewis to serve as an United States Marshal, the first Black marshal ever in Alabama.

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