



# H. COUNCILL TRENHOLM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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## Black History Month Celebration Division of Library & Archives February 25, 1999

**Theme: "The Legacy of African-American Leadership for the Present and the Future"**

Invocation .....	Reverend Henry Hendricks
Welcome .....	Mr. Sam Munnerlyn, Dean of Student Services
Occasion .....	Dr. Gwen Patton, Archivist
"Lift Every Voice and Sing" .....	Directed by - Mrs. Shirley Billups
Readers .....	Mr. Lonnie Greene Ms. Adana Bennett Mr. Stinson Holmes
Remarks .....	Mrs. Zenobia Blackmon, Director of Library  Dr. W. Clyde Williams, President

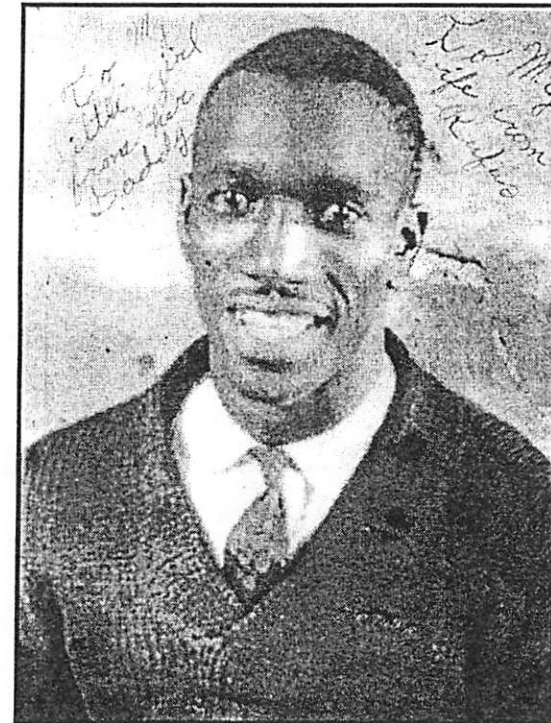
\* Reception immediately following the program.

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H. COUNCILL TRENHOLM STATE  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
AND THE  
DIVISION OF THE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

PRESENT

"THE READING OF  
THE HONORABLE RUFUS LEWIS' CORRESPONDENCES"



*The committee wishes to thank:*

*Ms. Yvonne Williams*

*Mr. Paul Blackmon*

*Mr. Joe Merriweather*

*Mr. Keneerd Brooks*

*Mr. David Rawls*

*The Culinary Arts Center*

*The Program Participants*

*&*

*All of YOU for coming!*



10:00 am  
FEBRUARY 25, 1999  
MAIN READING ROOM OF THE LIBRARY



### Lift Every Voice And Sing

Lift every voice and sing, 'til earth and Heaven ring.  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening 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.



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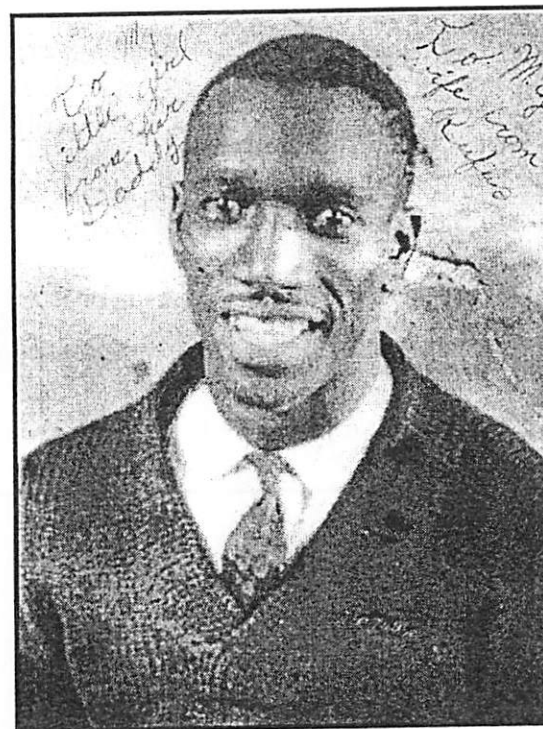
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## **THE HONORABLE RUFUS A. LEWIS COLLECTION**

### **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 Stat 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 other become registered voters. Many member 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.

(Over)

Below is a listing of Lewis' holdings in the College's Archives:

Call Number	Title	Barcode
AR 001 LEW Com Sto	Parks and Recreation Board	402920
AR 001 LEW Com Sto	U.S. Presidents, Senators, G	402918
AR 001 LEW Com Sto	Organizations	402919
AR 001 LEW DB 4	Correspondences	402911
AR 001 LEW DB 1	Voters' Registration	402907
AR 001 LEW DB 2	Voters' Registration	402908
AR 001 LEW DB 3	Voters' Registration/Political	402909
AR 001 LEW DB 4	Correspondences	402910
AR 001 LEW Drop-fro	Books, Magazines, Reel Tapes	402916
AR 001 LEW Drop-fro	Scrapbook	402917
AR 001 LEW News Bo	Newspapers	402915
AR 001 LEW Post B	Poster, Newspapers, Organizations	402912



## Today's Voting Rights Activists Lunch With The Father of the Voting Rights Movement



Seated l-r Dr. Gwen Patton, Coach Lewis, Maverick Roberts, ADC State Coordinator Jerom Gray, Standing l-r: Ms. Deloris Gamble and Ms. Tamela Zeigler. Photo: TSTC Archives

1960, and was instrumental in promulgating the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In 1976, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as the first-ever Black Alabamian to serve as a U.S. Marshal.

The Young Democrats can be considered the great-great-grandchildren of Lewis in the Voting

Rights movement. Lewis, now 92 years old, spent more than 70 years of his life, fighting for 1st-class citizenship for all Alabamians and Americans.

"It was because of Lewis' undaunted motivation and encouragement that my grandparents became registered

## Red Baron Premium Stearman Squadrons Barstorm-Tuskegee, Alabama

Red Baron BAKE to RISE Pizza proudly presents a special appearance of the Red Baron Premium Stearman Squadron Flying enthusiasts and the community are invited to come see the four bi-planes on display, Monday, April 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. and Tuesday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the Moton Field Airport, located at 1727 Airport Road, in Tuskegee, Alabama. This is not an air show.

The red and white, smoke trailing, super Stearman are original open-Air cockpit bi-planes reminiscent of aviation's early days. The planes, sponsored by Red Baron BAKE to

RISE Pizza, tour nine months out of the year to cities all across the United States, in an effort to keep the romance of flying and the lost art of barnstorming alive.

Red Baron captures the nostalgic days when barnstormers would take to the skies in smoke-training bi-planes, thrilling the community with flight performances as they travel from town to town.

The Red Baron Premium Stearman Squadron appearance in the Tuskegee area benefits Tuskegee Aviation Project, a non-profit organization. Red Baron's Stearman, once used as train-

SEE RED BARON PAGE 4

# BROWN'S



## Today's Voting Rights Activists Lunch With The Father of the Voting Rights Movement

When the Young Democrats, affiliated with the Alabama Democratic Conference, lunched with the Honorable Rufus A. Lewis, an historical promise was codified: "We will continue the Lewis' legacy by registering everybody we see and getting them to the polls to vote," said Maverick Roberts.

An organizational genius, Lewis with the support of others who had confidence in this leadership skills, made it possible for a generation (1945-65) of Black Montgomerians become registered voters. He was one of the co-founders of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC) in

1960, and was instrumental in promulgating the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In 1976, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as the first-ever Black Alabamian to serve as a U.S. Marshal.

The Young Democrats can be considered the great-great-grandchildren of Lewis in the Voting Rights Movement. Lewis, now 92 years old, spent more than 70 years of his life, fighting for 1st-class citizenship for all Alabamians and Americans.

"It was because of Lewis' undaunted motivation and encouragement that my grandparents became registered

and opened up their home as a 'citizenship school' in 1950," said TSTC Archivist Gwen Patton. "It is so fitting that these Young Democrats make this promise to Coach Lewis to continue his legacy."

"It's important for people to vote, especially young people," said Coach Lewis. "Their vote enmasse can have influence that will effect necessary changes in our country."

You can study the Hon. Rufus A. Lewis Special Collection at the archives in the H. Council Trenholm State Technical College Learning Resource Center, located on the Historical Voting Rights Trail.



Seated l-r Dr. Gwen Patton, Coach Lewis, Maverick Roberts, ADC State Coordinator Jerom Gray. Standing l-r: Ms. Deloris Gamble and Ms. Tamela Zeigler. Photo: TSTC Archives