

Friends of Idessa Redden

and

H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College Archives

Cordially invite you to

Celebrate the 90th Birthday of
MRS. IDESSA REDDEN

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Joseph Dickerson Culinary Arts Centre

3085 Mobile Highway

Please, please, please RSVP by November 11, 2002

State how many will be in your group

(334) 420-4475

Special Thanks to:

Chef Mary Ann Campbell and the TrenholmTech Culinary Arts Students for preparing the reception.

Mr. David Rawls and the TrenholmTech Students in Radio/TV Broadcasting Program.

Mr. Joe Merriwether and the custodial staff.

The Division of Library/Archives Staff and student workers.

To visit the Idessa Redden Collection, go to www.trenholmtech.cc.al.us/library, and click on "Archives," or search "Idessa Williams-Redden."



Redden with Legatees of Voting Rights Movement. Photo by Diane Ward (11/96)



Redden with mentor and colleague Coach Rufus Lewis. Photo by Diane Ward (11/96)



Friends of Mrs. Idessa Redden and H. Council Trenholm State Technical College Archives

Celebrate the 90th Birthday of
Mrs. Idessa Redden
Our Beloved Pioneer and Freedom Fighter



03/02

Joseph L. Dickerson Culinary Arts Centre
3085 Mobile Highway
November 19, 2002
11:30 a.m.



Mrs. Idessa Williams-Redden
Pioneer Voting Rights Activist

Idessa (Taylor) Williams-Redden was born on November 27, 1912 in Montgomery, Alabama. She was reared by her grandparents, Julius and Louisa Harris.

Idessa attended St. Paul Methodist Church School, Loveless St. John Catholic and State Normal High Schools. After high school, she began working at Reliance Manufacturing Company (The Shirt Factory). While working there, she attended Bethesda Beauty and Culture School, and in 1949, she opened "Idessa's Beauty Nook."

Idessa became a registered voter in 1949, and there was no turning back her commitment to the struggle. She joined Coach Rufus Lewis in the crusade for full voting rights as a "block captain" to encourage people to sign up for voting rights clinics. She was one of the 200,000 who attended the "1963 March on Washington" to petition for 1st class citizenship. She worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and served as an organizer with Coach Rufus Lewis in the Voter Registration Committee under the Montgomery Improvement Association.

In 1970, Idessa began working as Family Service Worker with the Montgomery Community Action Agency. This program grew out of the federal government's response to correct the inequalities that had festered in the Black community since slavery time. Idessa retired in 1998 at the age of 85, satisfied that she had honored her childhood vow to serve her people.

In 1978, Idessa married her second husband, John Redden, a retiree who supported her civil rights activity unconditionally. He brought to this loving union his son, John Jr.

Presently, Idessa devotes many hours to the St. Jude Ladies of Charity, the sick and disabled, and to her first love, children. "Working in the Civil/Voting Rights Movement was the greatest challenge of my life. I was in the Movement to help my people. I have dedicated my life to help uplift my fellow man," she said, upon her retirement. "I don't do things for honor. I just do things."



- Programme -

Dr. Gwen Patton, TrenholmTech Archivist
Presiding

Invocation Rev. Henry Hendricks
TrenholmTech Staff

Welcome Dr. Anthony Molina
President, TrenholmTech College

Birthday Greetings (3 minutes)

Rev. Tom Gardner, Director
Montgomery Community Action Agency

Father James Holden
City of St. Jude

Mrs. Essie Smith
St. Jude Ladies of Charity

Father Manuel Williams
Resurrection Catholic Church

Mrs. Roberta Franklin
Radio Personality

Dr. Richard Bailey
Emancipation Proclamation Committee

Elected Official, Legatees

Happy Birthday Mr. Bobby Jackson
Montgomery Heritage Museum

Remarks Mrs. Idessa Redden

Reception Following in the Grand Dining Room