

News Advisory



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thousands Making Journey to Allensworth For Centennial Celebration

Descendents of Founders of Community to be in Attendance
The Legislative Black Caucus and Key Legislative, National and State
Leaders to Attend

Who: An estimated 5,000 from all across California and the nation are expected, including:

- Ms. Josephine Blodgett-Smith, Allensworth descendent, granddaughter of Lieutenant Colonel Allen and Josephine Allensworth.
- Mrs. Alice Royal, born in Allensworth and attended the Allensworth school; author of the book, "Allensworth, The Freedom Colony."
- Gemelia Hall Herring, oldest living pioneer of Allensworth. She turned 100 on February 4th of this year.
- Barbara Jones, descendent of Allensworth family
- Karen Bass, Speaker of California Assembly
- State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
- Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter
- Assemblymember Curren Price
- Assemblymember Mike Davis

- Assemblymember Sandre Swanson
- Ruth Coleman, Director, California State Parks
- Acquanetta Warren, California State Parks and Rec. Comm.
- Alice Huffman, California State Parks and Rec. Comm.
- Connie Conway, Chairman, Tulare Co. Board of Supervisors
- Lonnie Bunch, Founding Director, Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Rick Moss, Chief Curator and Director, African American Museum and Library at Oakland, California
- Susan Anderson, Historian and Curator of the Allensworth Exhibit – "100 Years of the California Dream"
- Victor Carter, President of the Friends of Allensworth
- William Allen Young, Actor from "CSI Miami"

What: 100th Anniversary of the only California town founded, financed and governed by African Americans and rebuilt by California State Parks

When: October 11 and 12, 2008

Where: Allensworth State Historic Park, located in Tulare County, off Highway 99, south of Visalia, near the community of Earlimart.

Press: ***If you are sending reporters and photographers, please call Roy Stearns, (916) 799-1036. We would love an RSVP. Please!!***

We will have a press and media tent with background information and materials, laptop computers and a WiFi capability from the park. We will assist with setting up interview with descendents and dignitaries in attendance.

We will have programs, maps and biographical information.

We have parking set aside for live and satellite trucks with backdrop of main events in the celebration.

More Info: www.parks.ca.gov and click on Allensworth Symbol.

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