

DeKalb's Military Heroes

On February 24, the DeKalb History Center hosted our Fourth Annual Black History Month Celebration, with a Salute to DeKalb's Military Heroes. We recognized the outstanding contributions of four veterans who made a positive impact on DeKalb County: Arthur Anderson, Reverend Thomas N. Bristow, Sr., James W. Gray and Ray J. Jones, Jr.

Held at the historic Courthouse, the luncheon featured a performance by the James C. Ward Classical Arts Chorale from the Antioch-Lithonia

Missionary Baptist Church. Commissioner Larry Johnson and Dr. Jabari Simami welcomed the more than 120 guests. Former Attorney General Thurbert Baker then presented the Distinguished Service Award to each nominee.

Arthur Anderson began his military service in 1965 in the U.S. Army and served three years in Vietnam with the 129th Assault Helicopter Company headquartered in Dong Ba Thin, Vietnam. While stationed stateside, Anderson served at various military posts. He achieved the ranking of E-5 and was honorably discharged in 1968.

Anderson attended the public school system in Richland County, SC and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Benedict College in Columbia, SC. He also holds an MBA from Atlanta University and a Ph. D. in Education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

For many years, Anderson taught business administration at Morris Brown College and American Intercontinental University. He is currently employed at Smith Ace Hardware in Decatur. He is a leader in his congregation at



*Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award:
Arthur Anderson, Ray Jones, Jim Gray and Rev. Thomas Bristow.*

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New From the Archives

As part of our GHRAB grant, we received a year-long Ancestry.com subscription. It is a fantastic resource for original documents such as passports, census records and marriage and birth certificates. To supplement your family research, come to the History Center to utilize this resource.

If you are looking to help preserve history, the Methodist Children's Home needs help rehousing their collection of photographs and documents relating to the facility. We are going to help them get started, but volunteers will be needed to do the work of organizing and boxing up their priceless history for long-term safety and storage. Please contact Jill at 404-373-1088, extension 23 for details.

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Upcoming Events

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Lunch & Learn, “Twice Upon a Time, the Founding and Re-founding of Emory University,” on **Tuesday, May 17, at Noon**, featuring speaker Gary Hauk. Through lean times and fat, the university’s history offers tales of saints and scoundrels, vision and misdirection, perseverance and imagination. From the launching of a humble school in rural Georgia to the building of one of the nation’s great urban research universities, the story unfolds with the help of archival photographs and a lively narrative. Free—bring your lunch!

Opening Reception, “The Great Speckled Bird,” on **Tuesday, May 17, from 5:30—7:00 pm** in the lobby of the historic Courthouse. Join us as we showcase the enhanced and expanded 40th anniversary exhibit of the South’s standard underground newspaper. *The Bird* burst upon the scene in the midst of national upheaval and chronicled turbulent times in Atlanta from 1968-1976. The country was polarized by the Vietnam War and struggles against discrimination at home. A growing “in-your-face” youth culture with strange clothes, hair, music, drugs and a wholesale rejection of middle-class values bewildered or angered many in the older generation. From the first issue, which castigated Atlanta icon Ralph McGill for his support of the war, there was never a doubt whose side *The Bird* was on. For over eight years it was the “voice of the voiceless” – African-Americans fighting Jim Crow in the South and institutionalized racism in the North; striking garbage and farm workers; Vietnamese peasants being slaughtered by American bombs and napalm; women taking control of their bodies; students demanding meaningful educations; and young people seeking new ways to live. At its height, with a circulation around 22,000, *The Bird* was the most widely-read weekly paper in Georgia. The exhibit is in the main gallery space and will be open for expanded hours during the Decatur Arts Festival, May 28 (10:00 am - 5:00 pm) and May 29 (noon - 5:00 pm).

Log Cabin Storytelling, Fran Frantz presents storytelling and frontier crafts “with a twist.” Mrs. Frantz is a local historian and enthusiastic storyteller who weaves fascinating tales of pioneer life with children’s chores, entertainment, bartering and science. Sessions are **Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am** at the historic Biffle Cabin, 720 W. Trinity Place, for children 6 - 12. Ages 4 - 5 may attend if accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$6 per child per session. Tickets are required; please call 404-373-1088, extension 26 for reservations or information. **Schedule:** June 1 - Candle Making, June 15 - Corn Husk Dolls, June 22 - Pottery, June 29 - Weaving, July 6 - Butter Churning, July 27 - Ice Cream Making.

Talking Walls—A workshop for DeKalb Educators, **June 6—10**. This workshop gives educators a greater understanding of DeKalb’s historic resources and how they can be used to enrich the classroom curriculum. Participants will visit historic sites, hear local speakers, and participate in hands-on activities, including map and photo analysis. Teachers will visit the Flat Rock Archives, the Sylvester Cemetery and Shermantown and receive an introduction to our Archives. They will develop a lesson plan incorporating local historic resources or primary documents which will be presented on the final day. Teachers are awarded three Professional Learning Units (PLUs) upon completion. Teachers of all grade levels and subjects are encouraged to attend! For more information contact Leslie Borger at 404-373-1088 ext. 20.

Box City Architectural and History Camp, July 18—22, 9:00 am—noon, at the historic Courthouse. For children 9-14 years old. In conjunction with Decatur Active Living, campers learn about architecture, urban planning and history while creating their own box city. Experts in the field of architectural history and city planning plus exploration of the city of Decatur provide a fun week with lots of creative opportunities. For more information or registration see the Decatur Active Living Playbook.

Lunch and Learn, “A Mind-Opening Influence of Great Importance: Arthur Raper at Agnes Scott College” on **Tuesday, July 19, at Noon**, with speaker Cliff Khun. In the 1920s and 1930s, Decatur resident Arthur Raper was one of the South’s leading liberals. From 1932 to 1939, Raper taught sociology at Agnes Scott College. An examination of Raper’s sometimes controversial tenure at Agnes Scott reveals an important though forgotten dimension of his life, an experience he himself later referred to as perhaps his “finest hour.” It also sheds light on white women’s education of the period. ✦

From the Archives (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The Marion Reinhardt Collection has been fully processed. It was received in 2001 from Terry Martin-Hart and includes dozens of programs for performances, sheet music, vinyl records, correspondence and eight folders of photographs. The photographs are particularly fun and include publicity, pin-up and performance shots. There are 9 photo albums and scrapbooks as well, to say nothing of the extensive materials on Avondale Estates, including Reinhardt's childhood home.

Another new collection is the Glenncrest Garden Club, which began in 1939. The records in this collection continue through 1989. There are extensive notebook pages of board minutes, all hand written, seven scrapbooks full of prize ribbons from flower shows, photographs and club projects. The collection is made of two donations from the Friends of the Decatur Library and the Glenncrest Garden Club.

The Family and Children's Services Collection has also been completely processed. Extensive refolding and rusty paper clip removal was needed, but the nine boxes are now complete. The DeKalb County Department of Family and Children Services began as the DeKalb County Department of Public Welfare in 1937 and the records go until 1953. There are several excellent 8x10 photographs of the Lynwood Nursery School from May 1955. The materials in the collection are mostly annual reports, with some supporting materials, board minutes

and two folders of clients' letters, which have been typed, preserving spelling and grammar errors, but names have been removed.

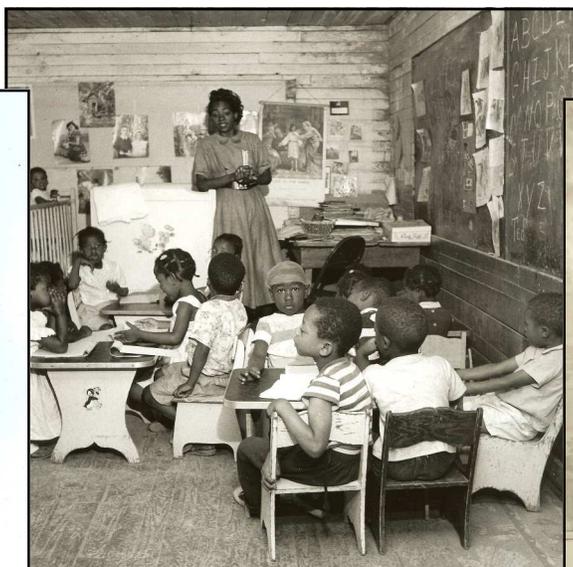
The Needle Craft Club materials donated by Mary D. Arapian are also ready for researchers. The club first met in January of 1913 and the collection includes minute books, financial records and correspondence. Members were fined for absences and tardiness. The club had its own song and held an annual Christmas party. During wartime, the group members knitted sweaters for children overseas and sent Christmas boxes to Camp Gordon.

The Vee Simmons Collection, which she donated, has also been processed. Dr. Simmons began teaching in Decatur in the fall of 1955, eventually serving as superintendent from 1975 until 1986, when she retired. In 2000, Simmons was chosen as a City of Decatur Hometown Hero. She was active in her church, Grace United Methodist, including serving as chair of the board of Grace Academy, chairman of the board of trustees for five years and as head of the building committee when expansion of the campus took place. She also volunteered for ten years at Fernbank.

Check our website for updated special collections being added weekly! ✦



Glenncrest Garden Club prize ribbon.



The Lynwood Nursery School in May 1955.



Publicity photo of Marion Reinhardt.

A Salute to DeKalb's

Continued from page 1

Antioch A.M.E. Church, serving on various committees such as the Performing Arts Ministry and the Usher Board. He is an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Rev. Thomas N. Bristow, Sr., enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1946 at age 17 and completed Basic Training at Sheppard Air Base. He was trained in Aircraft Sheet Metal and as a Fuel Cell Specialist. At Lockbourne Air Base, he was assigned to the 100th Fighter Squadron, serving under the legendary Col. Benjamin O. Davis. Later he was made Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the entire Sheet Metal Shop. He married Delores V. Scott in 1948. In 1950, Bristow joined the 466th Anti-Aircraft Army Reserve Unit in Newport, VA, where he stayed for one year and was then transferred to the Air Force Reserves.

In October 1950, Bristow was called up to active duty. He was stationed in New York and then transferred to Camp Stommon in Oakland, CA to await orders for Korea. Because he had less than six months left to serve, he was shipped back to Mitchell Field Airbase in New York, where he was honorably discharged in 1951.

The Bristows then moved to New Jersey, where he obtained an apprenticeship with a machinist and then a position working for Wrights Aeronautics in Woodridge, NJ. They later moved to Atlanta to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren. In 1995, Delores Bristow succumbed to an illness and passed away. Bristow currently lives in the Lithonia area and is a member of James Paschal Baptist Church.

James W. Gray enlisted in the Army during the Korean War and served overseas with the Infantry. Upon his return, he attended the Southeastern Signal School and was transferred to

the Signal Corps, where he attained the rank of First Sergeant in the 288th Signal Company Radio Relay. He was transferred to the Army Reserve and served as a Warrant and Commissioned Officer. He retired from the military in 1992 with more than 40 years combined service.

Gray has been active in the Boy Scouts and is a member of the Soapstone Ridge Council. He has served on the Red Cross, United Way, the Georgia Justice Project, and the DeKalb Grand Jurors Association. He currently serves on the Citizens Review Panel of the DeKalb Juvenile Court. He is a member of the American Legion, a Life Member of the Reserve Officers Association and The Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is a Past VFW Post Commander, Past District Commander and currently serves as VFW Department of Georgia Chaplain.

Gray attended Clark University in Worcester, MA and was employed by IBM Corporation for 27 years. He retired in 1990 to accept a position as Southeastern Regional Director for Prison Fellowship Ministries, and retired from that in 1999. Gray is a member of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church and is a Certified United Methodist Lay Speaker. He is active in The Leadership Ministry and serves as a Table Leader for the Friday Morning Men's Fellowship. Gray has also participated in ministry outreach programs in Asia and South America. Gray is married to the former Sadye Beasley; they have four children and three grandchildren.

Ray J. Jones, Jr., was a product of a working-poor environment who joined the U.S. Army to create a better life for himself and his family. He felt that the economic constraints of segregated Columbus, GA made it virtually impossible to escape the personal struggles and economic hardships shared by his



Guests enjoy music from the James C. Ward Classical Arts Chorale.



Members of the Chorale pose after the event.

Military Heroes (cont.)

parents. Jones' civilian education includes a BA in Management from Columbia College and a degree in Applied Behavioral Science from National Louis University, Atlanta.

During his 30-year career, Jones held a variety of leadership positions from Recruiting Station Commander to Sergeant Major. Jones deployed to Southeast Asia (1965) in support of the Vietnam War and to Europe (1967) with the 509th Infantry (Airborne) during the Cold War period. He deployed to Camp Casey, South Korea (1983) where he served as First Sergeant, 17th Infantry (Buffalo Soldier). He was selected to serve as Forces Command Equal Opportunity Sergeant Major (1987).

Upon retirement from the military (1994), Jones served as a Veteran Representative for the Georgia Department of Labor. He was a Constituent Representative for Senator Max Cleland and a Field Representative for Congresswoman Denise Majette. Currently, Jones serves as the Past Chairman of DeKalb Veterans Affairs Advisory Board and on other service organizations where he continues to advocate for veterans and their communities.

Many thanks to our Benefactors and Guardians listed below. ✦



After the Awards ceremony, honorees and dignitaries posed for a group picture. Pictured left to right: Arthur Anderson, Ray Jones, former Attorney General Thurbert Baker, Jim Gray, Reverend Thomas Bristow, and Commissioner Larry Johnson. Pastor Ward is in the front. Photos from Edward Anderson.

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Annual Meeting and

The DeKalb History Center celebrated our 64th anniversary at the Old Courthouse on the Square on March 25. At the Annual Meeting, new directors and officers were elected. Officers for the next year are President - Kerri Morrin, Treasurer - Darold Honore, President Elect - Melvin Bettis, Past President - Stuart M. Zola and Secretary - Mary K. Jarboe. New directors included John Hewitt, James Tsismanikis, Meg Samuels, Beth Shorthouse and Gail Vinson. Outgoing board members—Sheldon Fleming, Paul Hudson, Jack Regan, Bobbie Kennedy Sanford and Paula S. Swartzberg —were thanked for their service to the organization.

The party included a silent auction as a fundraiser. Over 100 generous restaurants, artists, hotels and merchants made donations to the auction which was a huge success! More than \$4,500 was raised to benefit the History Center.

Our guests enjoyed food from: **Avante, Avenue, Badda Bing, Bold American, Endive, Gloriosa, Soiree and Sun in My Belly.** Special thanks to **Bash!, The Champion, Decatur Package Store and Decatur Wine and Spirits.** Music by **Lark Chamber Music**, lighting by **Spectrum Entertainment**, additional decor by **The Plant Peddler, BBJ Linens, Connie Duglin Specialty Linen** and photography by **Jeff Gaines Photography.** ✦



Silent Auction

Silent Auction Packages included donations from:

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