FOURTH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 4, 2012

JAMES G. JACKSON             REV. DAMON LYNCH, JR.
WILLIAM L. MALLORY, SR.       RICHARD MAXWELL
REV. DR. OTIS MOSS, JR.       JESSE OWENS

OHIO TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

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National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
Honda

Commissioners: Leonard Hubert, Chair     Stephanie Mercado     William Patmon III     Tom Roberts     Rashmi Yajnik
The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame seeks to acknowledge citizens who have left their mark in Ohio communities through tireless efforts in furthering civil and human rights. These distinguished individuals have served as beacons making significant strides in support of civil and human rights. Through their exemplary leadership they have helped to eliminate barriers to equal opportunity in this great state as well as foster cultural awareness and understanding for a more just society.
Honda salutes Ohio’s civil rights heroes.

The all-new 2013 Accord

HONDA
The Power of Dreams
John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor  
Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Ohio  
do hereby officially recognize

THE OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

We are honored to extend our warmest greetings to those gathered here for the 4th Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame Ceremony at the Ohio Statehouse.

The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame was created by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) in 2009 to acknowledge outstanding Ohioans who are innovators in human and civil rights, and to advance the goals of equality and inclusion. Inductees of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame have made substantial contributions in support of civil rights, cultural awareness, and understanding in continuance of a more just society.

We commend each member of the 2012 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame class for your contributions. Congratulations to the Ohio Tuskegee Airmen, Jesse Owens (posthumously), William L. Mallory, Sr., Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr., Richard Maxwell (posthumously), and James G. Jackson. You are all trailblazers in your respective fields and you can take great personal pride in your accomplishments.

We would also like to acknowledge G. Michael Payton, Executive Director of the OCRC, Leonard Hubert, Chair of the OCRC, Dr. Gregory Williams, today's keynote speaker, and the sponsors for today's exciting event. On behalf of all Ohioans, best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

On this 4th day of October, 2012:

[Signature]
John R. Kasich  
Governor

[Signature]
Mary Taylor  
Lieutenant Governor
Jan-Michele Lemon-Kearney

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio and a graduate of Walnut Hills High School. She began a distinguished academic career at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama and ultimately graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and elementary education. Jan-Michele went on to earn a masters degree in counseling and consulting psychology from Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Then, in 1991, she earned a juris doctorate from Harvard Law School and served as the graduation day speaker and first class marshal of her law school class.

After graduating from law school, Jan-Michele worked as an associate in the litigation department of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister in Cincinnati. She left Taft to start a solo law practice, and to take on the role as publisher of Sesh Communications and president of the non-profit organization, The Cincinnati Herald Fund.

Sesh Communications publishes The Cincinnati Herald, an award-winning weekly newspaper, The Northern Kentucky Herald, The Dayton Defender, and Prime Magazine. The organization also hosts two high-profile annual events: The Nefertiti Awards banquet to honor extraordinary women exemplifying the wisdom and inner beauty of Queen Nefertiti, and the Annual Daddy-Daughter Dinner Dance. In addition to these public events, The Herald has adopted a 7th-8th grade inner city school class, and meets with the students on a weekly basis.

The Cincinnati Herald Fund is a non-profit organization that contributes to charitable causes. The Fund recently donated $10,000 to Cincinnati State Community College for its program to prevent attrition and encourage graduation. In conjunction with the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, The Cincinnati Herald Fund is planning an asthma awareness walk, and a fundraiser to help stop childhood hunger.

Jan-Michele hosts a weekly public affairs television show, “Issues,” on WLWT-TV 5, an NBC affiliate, and she is a licensed Realtor®.

Jan-Michele is an active community leader and currently serves on the boards of The Seven Hills School, the Walnut Hills High School Alumni Foundation, the Cotillion, the Center for Independent Living Options, and the vestry of the Christ Church Cathedral. She is immediate past president of The Seven Hills Middle School Parents Association, and chair of the YWCA’s Annual Heart to Heart Racial Justice Breakfast. She also serves on the steering committee for the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner for the Cincinnati chapter. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and The Links, Incorporated.

Jan-Michele is married to Ohio State Senator Eric H. Kearney (9th District). They are blessed with two children: Celeste, age 15, and Asher, age 8.
CONGRATULATIONS to the 2012 Ohio Civil Rights Inductees

Wright State University is proud to support the Ohio Civil Rights Commission’s 2012 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. It is our honor to stand with these inductees and our co-sponsors.
Welcome to Ohio’s Fourth Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame ceremony.

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission and co-sponsors Honda of America Mfg., Inc., Wright State University, PNC Bank, Wal-Mart and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center are very proud to host this annual event. Collectively, we are committed to preserving the civil rights history in our great state.

On behalf of Ohio’s diverse citizenry, we extend our sincere appreciation to the outstanding persons selected today for induction into Ohio’s Fourth Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The inductees represent some of Ohio’s finest citizens for their service and sacrifice to society. This celebration of their splendid achievements aims to capture the highest aspirations of our state and nation and inspire others to follow their legacies.

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission is honored to perform its role as Ohio’s leader in promoting equal opportunity and goodwill. We are grateful for the opportunity and committed to administering Ohio’s strong public policy against discrimination.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “Where after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, and equal dignity, without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.”

Thank you for supporting this important event and for celebrating our state’s important history.

Sincerely,

Leonard Hubert, Chair
Stephanie Mercado
William Patmon III
Tom Roberts
Rashmi Yajnik

G. Michael Payton, Executive Director
Tom Roberts, Commissioner
Stephanie Mercado, Commissioner

October 4, 2012
October 4, 2012

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Honda and our associates throughout Ohio, I would like to congratulate the 2012 inductees of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Together, your passion and determination has made Ohio a better place to live and work.

At Honda, we believe that the power of people lies in their ability to dream. We believe that dreaming unleashes the strength of the human spirit to make change. At Honda, this type of change results in great products.

Today’s inductees are also dreamers. Each of them, in their own way, has dreamed of a better tomorrow and we are so thankful that they took action toward meaningful change. Collectively, they have channeled their tireless work and effort to enrich the lives of so many people throughout Ohio and all over the world.

That is why Honda is so proud to be a founding sponsor of this event. It is an opportunity for all of us to see what is possible when people are not afraid to dream. It is also an opportunity to recognize today’s inductees and their families for their many sacrifices in making this world a better place.

To the inductees and families, I again offer my congratulations and gratitude. It is now our responsibility to carry on your commitment and passion to improve our communities and continue the work of civil rights.

Sincere congratulations,

Hidenobu Iwata
President and CEO
Honda of America, Mfg.
October 4, 2012

On behalf of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (NURFC), we would like to express our warmest congratulations to the inductees of the 2012 Ohio Civil Rights Commission Hall of Fame. Each individual has demonstrated great courage, exemplary perseverance and an undying spirit of cooperation in advancing human and civil rights and social justice.

A mission driven organization, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is a firm believer in achieving its goals to “reveal the stories about freedom’s heroes, from the era of the Underground Railroad to contemporary times, challenging and inspiring everyone to take courageous steps for freedom today.” It is humbling to be a part of today’s ceremony in the presence of great leaders who dare others to fulfill this dream.

As the leader of an institution who embraces the spirit of civil rights, equality and justice in our communities, I have been fortunate enough to work with a fellow inductee and NURFC Board of Trustees co-chair, Reverend Damon Lynch, Jr. Reverend Lynch embodies the spirit of a national message of equality. John Williams, the former president of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, summarized the role of Reverend Lynch as “both a bridge builder and a collaborator. While he can be a forceful spokesman and advocate, he has always been able to reach out to both understand and find a solution.”

Just like the 19th century abolitionists who devoted themselves to rid the country of such discrimination, we honor each of the 2012 inductees who are also committing their lives to a cause larger than themselves to ensure that all people may know this justice.

To the 2012 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame inductees, thank you for reminding others that there’s a spark within each of us and to always fan the flame!

Sincerely,

Kim A. Robinson
Executive Director
Wright State University is proud to participate in the fourth annual Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Along with our fellow founders, Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc., and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, we remain committed to honoring outstanding individuals who have been champions for the equality and inclusion of all Ohioans.

When I think about today’s inductees, I am reminded of the woman who was known as the “mother of the modern day civil rights movement.” When Rosa Parks refused to surrender her seat to a white male passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus in December 1955, she began to change the course of history with one small act.

Rosa Parks would later say of that historic moment, “I knew someone had to take the first step and I made up my mind not to move.” The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Class of 2012 have taken their own first steps to make a difference in the lives of all Ohioans.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Wright State University, congratulations to all of this year’s inductees. Like the great Rosa Parks and the many other defenders of civil liberties, you have set a shining example for your fellow citizens and future generations.

In closing, I’d like to share one final thought from the former seamstress who initiated a new era in the American quest for freedom and equality. “I believe,” said Rosa Parks, “we are here on the planet Earth to live, grow up, and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom.”

Sincerely,

David R. Hopkins
October 4, 2012

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The PNC Financial Services Group, I would like to congratulate the 2012 Ohio Civil Rights Commission Hall of Fame inductees and their families. Today’s ceremony reminds us that when people with diverse points of view, backgrounds, and experiences come together and work hard, great things happen. The inductees’ commitment to advancing positive change throughout Ohio is to be commended.

Like the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, at PNC we recognize that our people represent our strongest competitive advantage and our greatest sustainable resource. The more successful we are at fully engaging and educating our people, the more successful we will be in meeting the needs of our customers and communities.

As we pause to honor the 2012 inductees, it’s important to reflect on the significance of fostering diversity in this region. Today’s inductees have worked hard to not only promote this significance, but to positively impact Ohio, making it a better place to live and work as a result.

We applaud these efforts and look forward to the continued partnership and dedication to advancing equality in the region.

Sincerely,

Marsha Jones
Chief Diversity Officer
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
for inspiring everyone in this room.

_Determination. Hard work. Guts._ That’s what leaders are made of. And that’s why we’re so proud to honor the Ohio Civil Rights 2012 Hall of Fame Inductees.

pnc.com
Dr. Gregory H. Williams’ diverse career is an accumulation of stellar accomplishments that spans a wide array of various positions of leadership in education, public and community service, and private enterprise. Dr. Williams’s personal story is a triumphant tale that led to great success in a way that has left a remarkable impact on a broad audience.

Most recently, Dr. Williams served as the 27th president of the University of Cincinnati, from November 2009 to August 2012. In this capacity, he is widely recognized as the university’s first African-American President. During his tenure with the university, Dr. Williams worked to make the university a first-choice destination for students, patients, faculty and staff. Under Dr. Williams’ leadership, the university formed a new health system called UC Health, which includes the university’s Academic Health Center as well as University Hospital, UC Physicians, West Chester Hospital, and Drake Center. Dr. Williams also led the final phases of the university’s Proudly Cincinnati campaign, the largest campaign in UC history with a $1 billion goal.

Dr. Williams has put his tremendous talents as a leader and an educator to work as a university administrator for more than 30 years, serving in a variety of posts at The George Washington University, The University of Iowa, and The Ohio State University. From 1993—2001, Dr. Williams served as Dean of the Law School and Carter C. Kissell Professor of Law at The Ohio State University. From 2001-2009, Dr. Williams served as president of The City College of New York (CCNY), the flagship college of The City University of New York.

The author of three published books, he is best known for his award-winning and best-selling memoir, Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black. As a result of his autobiography, he has been featured on a number of national programs including “Oprah,” “Dateline NBC with Tom Brokaw,” “Larry King Live,” ABC’s “Nightline with Ted Koppel” and “Fresh Air with Terri Gross” of National Public Radio. In 1995, Life on the Color Line was selected as Book of the Year by The Los Angeles Times. In 1996, the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in North America named Life on the Color Line an “Outstanding Book on the Subject of Human Rights.” It is often required reading for students at U.S. colleges and universities. President Williams also has written a number of articles and book reviews for The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post and other publications.

In his community, Dr. Williams serves on the board of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Uptown Consortium. He is a member of the Cincinnati Business Committee, the Strive Executive Committee and the CincyTech Executive Committee. He also chairs the United Way Research Council in Greater Cincinnati. Nationally, he serves on the Big East Athletic Conference Executive Committee and on the Big Six Committee (SEC, ACC, Big East, Pac 10, Big 12, Big 10). He is a member of the American Law Institute, a past Chair of the Commission on Access, Diversity and Excellence (CADE) of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU, formerly the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges) and a past president of the Association of American Law Schools.

Dr. Williams has received numerous awards among them are the Distinguished Service Citation from BRIDGES for a Just Community in Cincinnati (2012), “Governor’s Tribute to African-American Leaders of Excellence in State Service” (2004) from New York Governor George Pataki for his significant contributions to the people of the state, the Austrian Cross of Honor in Science and Art, First Class (2006), and the “Dean of the Year” award given by the National Association of Public Interest Law (1999). He also was the first recipient of the National Bar Association’s A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Preservation of Human and Civil Rights (1999).

President Williams has earned five degrees, including a JD and PhD from George Washington University, and he holds five honorary doctorates. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.
The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center congratulates all of the 2012 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame inductees.

We are very proud to recognize the efforts and legacy of our own board member, Reverend Damon Lynch, Jr. Every day he embodies our spirit of courage, cooperation and perseverance and inspires us all to fan the flame of freedom in the world!

To learn more about the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, visit freedomcenter.org
MEET THE 2012 OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

JAMES G. JACKSON
REV. DAMON LYNCH, JR.
WILLIAM L. MALLORY, SR.
RICHARD MAXWELL
REV. DR. OTIS MOSS, JR.
JESSE OWENS
OHIO TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
Nominator: Jeffrey Blackwell, Deputy Chief  
Columbus Division of Police

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Chief James G. Jackson continues to maintain his residence within the city he was sworn to protect for 51 years.

Mr. Jackson has committed a life-long career to serving and protecting the citizens in his community and country. In his early career, Mr. Jackson joined the United States Marine Corps. After three (3) years, he left the Corps after being honorably discharged. Shortly thereafter, in March 1958, he entered the Columbus Division of Police as a Patrolman where he began a prestigious career that would span over half a century and where he would leave an indelible legacy of excellence in service.

Mr. Jackson’s first assignments as a Patrolman included, among other things, foot patrol and cruiser duty. In March 1967, Mr. Jackson was promoted to Sergeant where he took on duties and responsibilities in the Patrol and Vice Units. Just four (4) years later, in February 1971, he was promoted to Lieutenant where he proudly served in the Patrol and Community Relations Units. In July of 1974, he was promoted to Captain and placed in charge of “B” Company Patrol. After three (3) years, Mr. Jackson was promoted to Deputy Chief in June 1977. In this high-ranking capacity for nearly thirteen (13) years, he was charged with the responsibility of directing and overseeing several high level subdivisions within the Columbus Division of Police including the Investigative Subdivision, the Patrol Subdivision, and the Special Operations Subdivision. The totality of his career in the Division set the stage for his ultimate appointment in 1990 to Chief of the Columbus Division of Police.

Mr. Jackson’s unique ascension through the ranks remains unparalleled. He attained each level of distinction based on his remarkable merit. Mr. Jackson is recognized as being the only person to ascend to the ranks of Sergeant, Captain, and Deputy Chief in the Columbus Division of Police and place first on each of the three requisite written promotional examinations.

Mr. Jackson’s appointment to Chief was the official recommendation of the Public Safety Director and was confirmed by the five-member selection committee that evaluated all four deputy chiefs considered for the position of Chief of Police. Mr. Jackson was promoted to the post of Chief of Police on June 15, 1990, and holds the distinction of being the only Civil Service Chief of Police in a city with a population of 500,000 or more in the United States. He is well-known for the holding the title as the longest serving Chief in the Division’s history, and, before retiring in 2009, he was recognized as the longest serving Police Chief of Major City Chiefs in the U.S. and Canada.

Mr. Jackson has been an active proponent of equal opportunities throughout his life. In federal court cases argued in 1973, 1975, and 1984, he testified—at his own peril—about discrimination in hiring practices, assignments, and promotions that occurred within the Columbus Division of Police. His testimony was given significant weight in the outcome of the three separate trials where the decisions served to bring about change in employment practices at the Columbus Division of Police.

Mr. Jackson attended Harvard University, The Ohio State University, Northwestern University, the FBI Academy. He also took several management courses presented by the Secret Service and other management organizations.

During Mr. Jackson’s tenure, the Columbus Division of Police was voted the “Best Dressed” Police Department in the nation, was recognized as one of the few large agencies in the U.S. or Canada to be internationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), and was one of only a few departments in the world with an accredited crime lab.
Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr.

Nominator: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr. describes his entry into the Civil Rights arena as being baptized by fire. Cincinnati was burning with fire and hate when the young minister, who had just accepted his calling, was cast into the middle of it.

Rev. Lynch, still wet behind the ears, was summoned by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. to preach a sermon entitled “These Revolutionary Times” The occasion was a graduation of Catholic Priests. That experience catapulted Rev. Lynch into full-time service and he has not stopped working toward the improvement of civil and human rights for all people.

Rev. Lynch was born in Roopville, Georgia and moved with his family to Cincinnati, Ohio at a young age. He attended elementary and secondary school in Lincoln Heights, Ohio and graduated from Lockland Wayne High School in 1956.

He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1956 and served. After two years of military service, Rev. Lynch became active in the change that was occurring in Black America. Following in his father’s footsteps he enrolled in Barber College. Knowing he needed to be prepared for the ministry, he also enrolled in Cincinnati Christian Seminary where he received a BS degree. He later received an MBA degree from Graduate Theological Foundation at Notre Dame.

He was called to Pastor the New Jerusalem Baptist Church in 1970 where he has labored for 42 years. Rev. Lynch spent his early years in the ministry working with world renowned leaders of the Civil Rights Movement including work with Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Virginia Coffey, and Charlene Ventura that resulted in starting the first Martin Luther King Jr. Day March. He also served as president of the local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Operation Breadbasket during a time when employment opportunities for Black truck drivers and plant workers in the beverage industry were scarce in Cincinnati. Rev. Lynch, SCLC, and Operation Breadbasket helped open the doors to full employment both in the plants as well as for drivers. Rev. Lynch has also worked diligently to champion issues including gay rights and prisoner’s rights.

Rev. Lynch not only believes in civil rights, but he also served as an advocate for silver rights as well. The first federally sponsored credit union was started by the Baptist Minister’s Conference under his watch as president. During his tenure as president of the Baptist Ministers Conference many rights were gained for minority and poor people.

Rev. Lynch is a founding board member of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and serves as its presiding co-chair. Rev. Lynch has been honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian and has received numerous awards and honorary degrees throughout his lifetime.

The work for civil rights never stops and he believes that he should not stop as long as there is work to do.
William L. Mallory, Sr.

Nominator: Paul Booth

William L. Mallory, Sr., a native of Cincinnati, was born on October 4, 1931 and has remained a life-long resident of the city’s West End.

Mr. Mallory gained a passion for politics at a very early age. He won his first political race earning him a position as secretary of his student government council. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Mallory won his next election in a race for president of the Ninth Street Hi Y Club after he delivered a compelling speech.

Mr. Mallory then decided to drop out of school in an effort to earn money for his family. He worked selling newspapers in front of City Hall, unloading freight cars, and serving as a bus boy at Cincinnati’s Hub Café earning just $25 a week. After much urging from former teachers and the director of the Urban League of Cincinnati, Mr. Mallory returned to school to earn his high school diploma. Later that same year, Mallory enrolled at Central State University where he worked several odd jobs to pay his tuition and dedicated his time to the local NAACP chapter and the International Relations Club. Mr. Mallory earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and graduated with honors.

In 1966, Mr. Mallory was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives where he began a lengthy political career that entailed championing a long list of civil rights legislation. In 1967, he was the lead spokesman opposing a stop-and-frisk bill that would allow the police to stop and search anyone they reasonably believed would commit a crime. Mr. Mallory saw this as a bill that would codify racial profiling in Ohio. Ultimately, the bill was withdrawn from the floor and did not return for final consideration.

Mr. Mallory quickly rose through the ranks of the legislature. He first accepted an appointment as Assistant Whip, and by 1974, he became the first African-American Majority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives. Mr. Mallory’s tenure as Majority Leader was characterized by his part in the nation’s fight for full extension of civil rights, and his passion for education policy. During this time, he also served as the president of the Black Elected Democrats of Ohio.

Mr. Mallory was responsible for numerous legislative initiatives in support of civil rights throughout his twenty-eight year career in the Ohio General Assembly including fair public housing, formation of the Urban Minority Alcohol Drug Outreach program to fight alcoholism amongst minorities, formation of the Commission on Aging, creating home furlough (now known as re-entry) for ex-offenders, ensuring state funding for Central State University, landlord-tenant legislation to fight homelessness, and spearheading Ohio’s recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

During his time in the legislature, Mr. Mallory served as the chairman of the Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittees of the Finance and Appropriations Committee. Here, he is credited with gaining the support to pass the Urban Demonstration Project which was designed to help students with special needs in low-performing schools. As an education advocate, Mr. Mallory never lost his passion for teaching and continued to serve at the University of Cincinnati as an adjunct professor of political science and African-American studies.

Mr. Mallory was also deeply involved in matters of public transportation because he realized the importance of inexpensive and reliable transportation in African-American communities. Mr. Mallory takes credit for the transition of local transit authorities in Ohio to non-profit organizations through the Citizens Transportation Committee. He even traveled to Europe to study the many forms of regional rail. Mr. Mallory remains committed to ensuring access to affordable public transportation and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority Board.

Mr. Mallory was called upon to serve on the National Highway Safety Advisory Committee by President Jimmy Carter, and to serve on the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee by President William J. Clinton.

Throughout his life, William L. Mallory, Sr. has made the welfare and advancement of the people of Cincinnati and of Ohio his life’s work.
Richard Maxwell was born February 27, 1942, and graduated from North High School in 1960. Later that year, he began his freshman year at The Ohio State University (OSU) and decided to enlist in the Marine Corps Reserves. After completing boot camp, he returned to OSU and joined a university intramural football league with his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. During a game on the evening of Nov 18, 1963, Mr. Maxwell seized the opportunity to score a touchdown by diving into the end zone. This heroic play caused Mr. Maxwell to sustain a spinal cord injury and left him paralyzed from the neck down.

After the accident, Mr. Maxwell completed a rehabilitation program at Dodd Hall at The OSU Medical Center and went on to continue his college education at OSU. He graduated with a degree in business in 1969. His decision to return to school, however, was not without its fair share of challenges. Prior to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990—which was nearly 30 years after his accident—there were no requirements of universities to account for accessibility on campus. The majority of the buildings where Mr. Maxwell’s classes were held lacked accessible entrances or walkways that would allow him to maneuver his chair by himself. As a result, his fraternity brothers met him every day at every class in order to physically carry him and his wheelchair into and out of the classroom building.

More importantly, there were very few housing options that existed during that time to accommodate the needs of people living in wheelchairs. The options available were limited to nursing homes or living with parents who were fortunate enough to find accessible housing. This left people with extraordinary mental ability with very few options based on their limited physical abilities.

Mr. Maxwell’s story served as an inspiration to a diverse group of community activists who wanted to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Mr. Maxwell, along with Dr. Ernie Johnson, a medical doctor from OSU Medical Center at Dodd Hall; a local architect; a Central Ohio attorney; a local realtor; and a community minister joined forces to create affordable and accessible living space for people with disabilities that allowed them to live independently. This dynamic team worked with state legislators to obtain financial support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help subsidize the cost of living for qualified tenants. Together in 1974, Creative Living was established. Creative Living is a non-profit organization encouraging independent living for adults with severe physical disabilities by providing wheelchair accessible housing and assistance and by creating a supportive environment for people to learn, work, live and contribute to the community. Mr. Maxwell continued a lifelong involvement with the organization through his service as Vice President and later on the Board of Trustees.

After he graduated, and with the help of Creative Living, Mr. Maxwell went on to enjoy a successful career. He worked as a Patient Services Coordinator at Dodd Hall. In 1972, he took on a role as an administrator in The OSU Office for Disability Services where he worked to advocate for students with physical disabilities and was able to able to provide tools and knowledge to students with disabilities that empowered them to become their own advocate. In this capacity, he also served on several campus committees and worked in partnership with the campus planning commission to create awareness and provide input for solutions to disability issues and accessibility challenges of students on campus. Later, he went on to serve as a clinical faculty member in The OSU Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department where he lent his story and experiences to provide workshops and lectures to students in physical medicine as well as others studying medicine and architecture.

Mr. Maxwell spent his life serving his community and dedicating his time to improving the lives of people with disabilities. He served as a member of numerous community organizations including the Consumer Advisory Council for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, the State Library Advisory Committee for Outreach Services, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, the Housing Advisory Committee for the Metropolitan Human Services Commission, the Access Advisory Committee for the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Central Ohio Rehabilitation Association, Ohio Wheelchair Athletic Association, Ohio Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities and the University District Organization.

Mr. Maxwell’s accomplishments are many and he was the recipient of several awards and recognitions including the 1971 Columbus Citizen-Journal Top Ten Men of the Year, and a 1974 appointment to the Ohio Governor’s Commission on Employment of the Handicapped. In 1985, he was awarded the OSU Affirmative Action Award for his contributions to disability awareness and campus accessibility. After 27 years of service, Mr. Maxwell retired from OSU and was selected for induction into the Sphinx Honorary and the Golden Key Society.
Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.

Nominators: Paul M. Booth and Ernest Wilkerson

Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. is one of America’s most influential leaders and has been actively involved in advocating for the achievement of education, civil and human rights, and social justice issues for all of his adult life. He was born in La Grange, Georgia and went on to earn his bachelor’s degree from Morehouse College, his master of divinity degree from Morehouse School of Religion/Inter-denominational Theological Center and his doctor of ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary.

Dr. Moss committed thirty-three years of distinguished service leading the congregation as Pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to this service, he held numerous pastoral positions at several churches in Georgia and Ohio including serving as co-pastor with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Moss has served his community on the local, national, and international levels promoting peace and justice. He served as a board member and Regional Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) during Dr. King’s tenure as founding President. He also served as national board member and trustee of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change. His service to Ohio and the United States has been recognized by numerous Ohio Governors, the Ohio Legislature, national media outlets, and several community organizations. In 2009, he co-lectured with Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, during a multi-city tour of India illuminating the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi.

Dr. Moss has been appointed to several key leadership positions by our country’s Presidential administrations including advisor to former President Carter at Camp David, 1994 special guest of former President Clinton at the Peace Treaty signing between Israel and Jordan, and President Obama’s White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership Council.

Dr. Moss is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Role Model of the Year Award from the National Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Development in 1992 and the Leadership Award from the Cleveland Chapter of the American Jewish Committee in 1996. He was inducted into the 2007 Class of the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame and in 2004 Dr. Moss was bestowed the unique honor of the Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching from Yale University. Additionally, Dr. Moss was twice named by Ebony Magazine as one of America’s Greatest Black Preachers. He holds six honorary degrees from colleges and universities in Ohio, Georgia, and Arkansas.

Dr. Moss is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Sigma Pi Phi Boulé. His board memberships have included The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Foundation. Dr. Moss served as the Chairman of the Morehouse College Board of Trustees for more than ten years and the college recently named their newest dormitory suites in his name.

Dr. Moss is married to Mrs. Edwina Hudson Moss and is the father of Kevin Moss, Daphne Moss (deceased), and Otis Moss, III. Together they are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.
OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

OCTOBER 4, 2012

Nominator: Dr. Valerie B. Lee, Vice Provost Diversity & Inclusion, Chief Diversity Officer, Vice President Outreach & Engagement
The Ohio State University

James Cleveland “Jesse” Owens was born on September 12, 1913 in Oakville Alabama. As part of the Great Migration, Jesse and his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio when Jesse was just nine years old. When Jesse attended his new school in Cleveland, the teacher mistook “J.C.” for “Jesse” as a result of his strong Southern accent. A correction to his name was never made and, for the rest of his life, Jesse Owens would be the name he used.

Mr. Owens began his track career in junior high school running early in the morning before school started with his track coach, Charles Riles. He did this in order to earn money for his family working various odd jobs after school. He set two new junior high school records by clearing 6 feet in the high jump and leaping 22 feet 11 ¾ inches in the broad jump. During his senior year of high school at East Technical High School in Cleveland, Mr. Owens commanded national attention when he tied the world record for the 100-meter dash at 9.4 seconds and set a new high school record for the 220-yard dash running it in 20.7 seconds. He completed a long jump of 24 feet 9.5 inches at the 1933 National High School Championship in Chicago, Illinois. One week prior to the National High School Championship, he set a new world record in the broad jump by jumping 24 feet, 11 ¾ inches.

After being recruited by a number of colleges and universities across the country for his spectacular track performance, he finally chose to attend The Ohio State University (OSU). OSU did not provide a track scholarship. As a result, Jesse paid his way through college by working long hours at night. He held a number of positions including a waiter, gas attendant, a night elevator operator, and as a page in the Ohio Statehouse to pay for his education. During the day, he attended classes and continued to run and work out with the track team.

While at OSU, he earned the nickname, “Buckeye Bullet” for his continued stellar performance. In 1935, at the Big Ten Championships in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Mr. Owens set three world records and tied a fourth. He matched his high school record in the 100 yard dash in 9.4 seconds, and set world records in the long jump with a jump of 26 feet 8.25 inches, 220 yard dash in 20.3 seconds, low hurdles of 22.6 seconds. He would hold the long jump record for the next 25 years and would become known as the first ever to break the long-standing record of 23 seconds in the low hurdles.

Mr. Owens’ outstanding college performance catapulted him to membership on the U.S. Olympic team. In 1936, he traveled to Berlin, Germany to compete in the Summer Olympics. Adolf Hitler used the national stage to endorse Nazi Germany and promote his belief that the German “Aryan” people were the dominant race. Mr. Owens held a different belief and used the opportunity to be the first American athlete to win four gold medals in a single Olympiad. He won the 100 meter sprint, the long jump, the 200meter sprint, and ran with his team to win the 4x100 meter relay. Mr. Owens’ record stood unmatched for the next 48 years until Carl Lewis matched Mr. Owens’ record in the 1984 Olympic games.

Mr. Owens’ tremendous success at the 1936 Olympic games not only discredited Hitler's race theory, but also proved that neither race nor national origin were sufficient determinants of excellence. While in Germany, unlike during his travels in the United States, Owens was permitted to travel with his team and even stay in the same hotel. However, upon his return to the United States, he was greeted with a New York City ticker-tape parade, and, after the celebration, he was relegated to riding the freight elevator at the Waldorf-Astoria to attend the ceremony that was given in his honor.

After his Olympic success, Mr. Owens decided to return home with the intention of taking advantage of the commercial offers that were available as a newly crowned Olympic medalist. U.S. athletic officials, however, revoked his amateur status and prohibited him from cashing in on his success by appearing in amateur sporting events. So instead, he went on to pursue a number of different career opportunities in an effort to help others in his community. He dedicated time to the Chicago Boys & Girls Club as a director and board member, ran a dry cleaning business, and worked as a gas station attendant. He ultimately found his calling as a highly sought after motivational speaker.

In 1976, at the age of 66, Mr. Owens was awarded the highest civilian honor in the nation when he was awarded the Medal of Freedom by U.S. President Gerald Ford at the Olympic games in Toronto. Then, in 1979, President Carter presented him with the Living Legend Award.
Due to the rigid pattern of racial segregation that prevailed in the United States during World War II, approximately 992 Black military aviators were trained at an isolated complex near the town of Tuskegee, Alabama. Under the command of Benjamin O. Davis, 450 Black fighter pilots fought in the aerial war over North Africa, Sicily, and Europe. These gallant men flew 15,553 sorties and completed 1,578 missions in P-39, P-40, and P-51 aircraft.

They were called “Schwartz Vogelmenshen” (Black Birdmen) by the Germans who both feared and respected them. White American bomber crews reverently referred to them as “the Red-Tailed Angels” due to the identifying red paint on their tail assemblies. All told, these Black flyers were credited with 275 air kills, 325 additional aircraft destroyed on the ground and even an enemy destroyer that was sunk by gun fire during a strafing mission. Their awards and decorations included 715 Air Medals, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Silver Star, three (3) Distinguished Unit Citations, and on March 29, 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

For every Black pilot, there were ten other Black civilian or military men and women on ground support duty. Many of these men and women remained in the military after World War II and spearheaded the integration of the U.S. Air Force in 1949. Three of these airmen were ultimately promoted to General: the late General Daniel “Chappie” James, late Major General (Ret.) Lucius Theus, and late General (Ret.) Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. whose father, B.O. Davis, Sr., is listed on a United States Postage Stamp as the “Pioneer of Military Integration.”

In 1972, the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. was founded. Organized as a non-military and non-profit entity, the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. exists primarily to motivate and inspire young Americans to pursue aviation related careers. Currently, there are 45 Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. chapters located in major cities and regions throughout the United States. While the membership is comprised principally of veterans and various active and reserve military personnel, membership is swelling due to a number of civilians who demonstrate a sincere interest in helping the organization achieve its goals and objectives.
“Where after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, and equal dignity, without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt

First Lady, United States of America 1933-1945
With Gratitude

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