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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Historic Photographs to be Dedicated at
the Alexandria African American Heritage Park**

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The Alexandria Black History Resource Center will participate in a dedication ceremony of four historical photographs to the Alexandria community on Saturday, August 24, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. at the Alexandria African American Heritage Park. The photos, depicting selected senior citizens who have either lived in or served the Alexandria community for several decades, are a gift from The Company of Sisters, Inc.

Represented in the photographs are Mrs. Mabel Price, Mrs. Elsie Tucker Thomas, Mrs. Regina Duncan, Miss Christine Howard, Mr. Courtney Brooks and Dr. Arthur Dawkins.

The Company of Sisters, Inc. is a nonprofit service organization that seeks to empower individuals through mentoring and sponsoring programs in partnerships with business, government and community service groups. This oral history project is consistent with the Company of Sisters' objective to foster an appreciation of the rich heritage of African Americans and their contributions to the local community.

The dedication will culminate nine months of oral history interviews to record the early recollections of persons who either grew up or worked in Alexandria. These recollections have been documented by members of the Company of Sisters on audiotape and videotape. The pictures were taken by local fine art photographer, Mary Noel McMillian.

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Historic Photo Dedication/2

The documentation and preparation of oral histories is one phase of the research now underway for a permanent exhibition, "*Securing the Blessings of Liberty*," which will open in February 2004 at The Alexandria Black History Resource Center. The project was made possible through the generous support of The Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the James P. Moran Special Project Fund of the United Way.

"*Securing the Blessings of Liberty*" will soon move into phase two by inviting local congregations to participate and contribute to the history project by helping document Alexandria's African American legacy. Representatives of the churches will be designated to serve as Resource Center Oral History Project Coordinators, preserving the spoken memories of Alexandria's African American senior citizens.

The Alexandria Black History Resource Center is located at 638 North Alfred Street in Alexandria, Virginia. The Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. For additional information about the dedication ceremony, please call the Alexandria Black History Resource Center at (703) 838-4356.

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