



Yocum African American History Association

Contact: YAAHA@YocumBlackHistory.org

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THE YOCUM AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION IS FORMED UNDER AN UNLIKELY ALLIANCE

The non-profit association dedicated to education is found by two culturally diverse women

MEDINA, OH – The Yocum African American History Association had its origin in 2015 when a black woman and a white woman forged a partnership and began their journey to uncover hidden black history. They shared a belief that Americans knowing more about each other is the surest path to unity. Their mutual quest is to both demonstrate that black history is American history and foster racial harmony.

This amazing and unlikely partnership began when Sandra K. Yocum wrote a letter to Frances Presley Rice expressing her concern and seeking advice about how to end black generational poverty.

In response, Rice stated her view that the first step to breaking the cycle of poverty is to demonstrate with examples that black Americans are talented, capable people who have and can achieve success against the odds. Rice suggested that Yocum research black history, uncover success stories and craft lesson plans designed to inspire young people to overcome obstacles and succeed.

Yocum accepted the challenge, began research in 2016 and completed 14 lesson plans in 2018. The two women then co-founded the Yocum African American History Association in 2018 as a non-profit organization and posted the lesson plans online.

Paragon House published the 14 lesson plans as an ebook in December 2019 and the printed edition in September 2020.

Yocum is a gifted artist and teacher. She graduated from Bradley University with a B.F.A., majoring in printmaking, painting, and Art. She received an Education K-12 certification.

Yocum said: “The experiences I gained in the late 1960s as a recent college graduate, teaching second grade students in Watts, the predominately black community in Los Angeles, was eye-opening.” She continued by saying: “Over the years, I helped minority students as a tutor, mentor, art instructor, and program coordinator with a variety of non-profit organizations, including Let’s Make a Difference, Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop and Students with a Goal.”

As a result of her experiences, she became aware of how little black students knew about their own history, or how African-Americans for centuries overcame obstacles and achieved success. This realization caused her to delve deeply into civil rights history and become a student of this history. While reviewing history books, she found omission and revisionism that prevent students from knowing the truth about the history of civil rights in particular and black history in general. This discovery caused her to compile her extensive research and write the book **BLACK HISTORY 1619 TO 2019** and found the Yocum African-American History Association and become its president.

Rice is a 20-year Army veteran who retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1984 after twenty years of active duty service. She holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, California; a Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California; and a Bachelor of Science degree from Drury College, Springfield, Missouri.

Upon retirement, from the Army, she was awarded the Legion of Merit for her years of service, the highest medal that can be awarded to a non-combatant for exceptionally meritorious service. At that time, she was accorded the distinction of being one of America's top 100 Black Business and Professional Women by the editorial board of Dollars and Sense magazine.

Rice stated: “Starting in the early 1960s, I began studying black history and acquired a depth of knowledge that proved invaluable as I co-founded the Yocum African American History Association and became its vice president.” Rice said: “I collaborated on the research and writing of the book **BLACK HISTORY 1619 TO 2019** and this book embodies our shared vision and dedication to the restoration and preservation of the events which shaped the lives and contributions of African Americans.”

Charitable donations to YAAHA will help the organization promote a better understanding of factual black history that can foster new perspectives, positive attitudes, and encouragement for those questioning how they can make a difference in their communities. Contributions can be made online or by check payable to YAAHA and sent to: YAAHA, PO Box 1507, Medina, OH 44258. Donate today.

About YAAHA

The Yocum African American History Association (YAAHA) is a 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to sharing educational resources about black American history. We provide resource materials such as lesson plans, a DVD production, valuable historical information, public speaking opportunities, online lectures on YouTube, and BLACK HISTORY 1619 TO 2019: ILLUSTRATED AND DOCUMENTED BLACK HISTORY available in eBook and printed format. Our team is intent on preserving the integrity of black history in America.

For more information, visit: www.YocumBlackHistory.org

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