

10th Annual 'Race Unity Rally' to be held June 3 in Capitol Rotunda

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD, IL....May 27, 2007--The 10th annual 'Race Unity Rally' will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 3 in the State Capitol rotunda. Organizers say the rally is an opportunity to make new friendships with people from diverse backgrounds. The rally will feature remarks from former U.S. Marshall Robert Moore, live music and dance, and the announcement of winners in a children's race unity art and poetry contest funded by Regions Bank.

"It is our hope that these efforts will result in many new friendships, and a broadened, more global perspective of humanity," said Nancy Flood, chairwoman of the rally organizing committee and a member of the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Springfield.

The rally's keynote speaker, Mr. Robert Moore, served 8 years as a U.S. Marshall and was appointed to the position by President Bill Clinton. He is the former chief of police in Jackson, Mississippi, and previously served as an Illinois State Trooper. In 1993, he played a major role here in the relocation of the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to a highly visible location across from the Illinois State Capitol.

Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin has been invited to address the rally. Also scheduled to perform at the event are dancers from the India Association of Greater Springfield, and French horn player Jimmy Hampton from Detroit.

At the rally, 18 winners will be announced from the Vision of Race Unity Art and Poetry Contest. Organizers say the contest is designed to have youth start thinking about what it takes to have a racially unified community. The contest was open to students in grade school (grades 3-5), middle school, and high school--and includes over \$1000 in prize money that will be awarded to the winners at the rally. In addition, one area school will win a separate \$500 prize for promoting racial unity and encouraging its students to participate in the art and poetry contests. Regions Bank donated the prize money for both contests.

Immediately following the event, cake and refreshments will be served at the Capitol Visitors Center located west of the Stratton building. If it rains, the refreshments will be served at the Springfield Baha'i Center, corner of 8th and Allen.

The rally is sponsored by Frontiers International Club of Springfield, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Greater Springfield Baha'i community, Pax Christi, and the Grassroots Interfaith Team.

More information on the rally is available at www.springfieldbahai.org, or by calling 553-5978. The above website will include photos the winning art and poetry entries by the middle of June.

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