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Clayton County Board of Commissioners



PRESS RELEASE

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Reception Hosted by Commissioner Sonna Singleton For

Dr. Pauline Knight-Ofosu

Civil Rights Freedom Rider and Rex resident honored by Commissioners

Jonesboro- Commissioner Sonna Singleton, (District 1), was joined by many community leaders, business owners, county personnel and residents, young and old alike, when she recently hosted a reception for civil rights activist and Freedom Rider, Dr. Pauline Knight-Ofosu of Rex, Georgia, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides. The reception was held at the Board of Commissioners Office located at 112 Smith Street.

Dr. Knight-Ofosu first became involved in the Civil Rights Movement while attending Tennessee State University (TSU). It was in 1960, when Dr. Pauline Knight-Ofosu, became an active member of The Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council while attending what is now known as Tennessee State University (TSU). A year later in 1961 the 20 year old student participated in the Freedom Rides which resulted in her arrest and imprisonment in Jackson, MS. After returning to school she was expelled from the university. Dr. Knight-Ofosu and other TSU Freedom Riders filed a lawsuit, Pauline Knight, et. Al. vs. Tennessee State Board of Education et. Al. The ruling resulted in her reinstatement and she graduated in 1962.

“As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides I wanted to especially acknowledge Dr. Pauline Knight-Ofosu, a resident of Clayton County”, said Singleton. “She was among those many brave men and women, black and white, who put their lives in danger to help end segregation in all interstate public transportation facilities throughout the South during those rides. It is truly an honor for me to hold this reception in her honor.”

Also, at the 7:00pm Board of Commissioners Business Meeting a proclamation was presented to Dr. Knight-Ofosu for her dedication to civil rights and her many other accomplishments. There was also a presentation made to Mundy Mill’s High School Senior, Tiana Williams who received an appointment to U. S Naval Academy. Tiana’s appointment was another remarkable example of the benefits that are offered to many young African-Americans because of civil rights activist such as Dr. Knight-Ofosu.

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