



*“Remembering our
Past, Celebrating
our Future”*

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Message from TGI Founder, The Honorable Kay Coles James

African American history is American history. As we enter February 2021 amidst a deadly pandemic, a divided country, and social unrest, we should celebrate this Black History Month by seeking hope and optimism from the powerful legacies of those who came before us.

I find strength when I reflect on those who came before me and paved the way for the freedoms I enjoy today. It should come as no surprise that one of my heroes is Dr. Robert Russa Moton. Born the son of freed slaves who went on to become one of the most prominent African American leaders of the early twentieth century, Dr. Moton dedicated his life to inspiring African Americans to advance themselves through education by successfully advocating for high quality colleges and institutions of learning, for Black people.

At his Virginia home, Holly Knoll, Dr. Moton invited the greatest thinkers of the day to discuss and debate issues of African American advancement, and he turned those discussions into action. He advised five U.S. presidents on issues of concern to Black communities, and he arranged for federal appointments for Black people.

Years after his death, Holly Knoll served as a retreat, for revolutionary leaders of the day such as Dr. Martin Luther King, A. Philip Randolph, and former Congressman John Lewis, to strategize and develop solutions for the issues of their time.

Dr. Moton was so inspirational to me that I have worked to keep his legacy alive. In 2005, I founded the Gloucester Institute, which resides at Holly Knoll, to provide an intellectually safe environment where ideas can be discussed, debated, and transformed into solutions for the African American community. The institute carries on the tremendous legacy of Dr. Moton and hosts lecture series, policy discussions, and networking and career training to prepare the next generation of African American leaders.

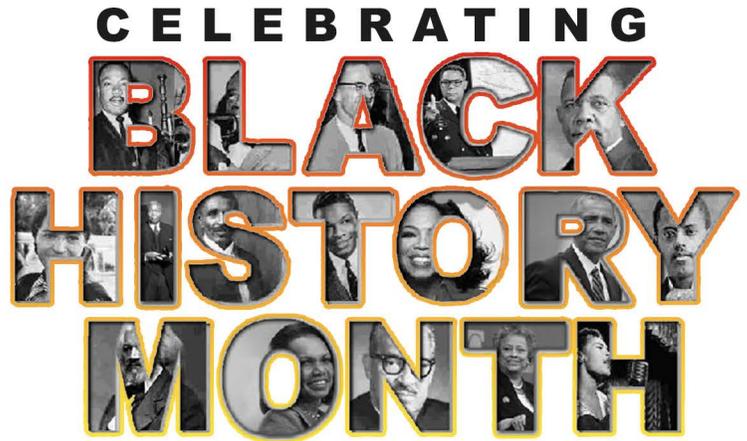
The situation in which we find ourselves, in 2021, reminds me of another one of my all-time heroes, Harriet Tubman. As she was ferrying slaves north to freedom, she said to them, “If you hear the dogs, keep going. If you see torches in the woods, keep going. If you hear shouting coming after you, keep going. Don’t ever stop, keep going. And if you want a taste of freedom, keep going.”

And that’s the kind of tenacity we must have right now, we should not be discouraged with what’s going on in our country. No matter what you hear, no matter what you see, keep going. If you want a free America, keep going and stand up for our foundational principles of liberty and freedom.

The stories of Dr. Moton and Harriet Tubman are a part of our American story. Their inspiration can be our inspiration. The more that our leaders understand how our past has impacted our present – from race relations to education -- the more they’ll understand that the decisions they make today will dramatically impact this nation for generations to come.



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Moton Fellowship Program _____

The application for the 2021 Moton Fellows Program is NOW OPEN. This summer’s program will be hosted on the Historic Holly Knoll Campus in Gloucester, Virginia. Applicants should demonstrate an aptitude for leadership and the ability to work autonomously.

Learn More:

<https://gloucesterinstitute.org/programs/moton-fellowship/>



Moton Fellows Dr. Robert Russa Moton Archive Project

Upcoming Event: February 2021 Black History Program details coming soon _____

Emerging Leaders Program application is now open! _____

The purpose of the Emerging Leaders Program is to introduce young leaders to advanced leadership concepts and build a strong foundation for leadership into the 21st century. The program recruits exceptional students who we identify as our nation’s future leaders. Our students engage in a six-month program that fosters personal and professional development focused on critical thinking and problem solving. We connect our students with current leaders, and we expose them to opportunities and events that are outside their range of experiences.

Learn More:

<https://gloucesterinstitute.org/programs/emerging-leaders/>

ELP Leadership Session, February 26-27, 2021 _____



The Heritage Foundation's Leadership Session

This session focuses on the key fundamental aspects of leadership development. The session is hosted in conjunction with The Heritage Foundation’s Philip N. Truluck Center for Leadership Development. At the conclusion of the seminar students leaders will be able to articulate the principles of strategy development, how to achieve and maintain a competitive edge, how to manage their personal brand and improve their emotional intelligence.

TGI Fun Fact: Robert Russa Moton High School was built in 1939 as a public school for black students in Prince Edward County. As early as the 1940s, the school’s conditions were becoming problematic. Overcrowding was a major issue, with 450 students occupying a space built for only 180. When it rained, students had to use umbrellas inside the school to stay dry because the roof leaked badly. The walkout led by students Barbara Johns and John Arthur Stokes was the impetus for a successful Supreme Court battle that resulted in a decision in favor of integration.