



Saturday, AUGUST 11th 2012

A FIRST SOLEMN MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR THE ANCESTORS

(Proceed to the slave cabin at the Ross Mansion, forming a large circle to create the tribute area...)



Terrence Moore (AFRAM Festival Committee member), holds a wreath honoring the ancestors and prepares to lead a spoken memorial ceremony.

The wreath, designed and constructed by Jocelyn Quick and Dzikon Camper, consists of flowers and plants native to West Africa.

Leader:

On this the 11th day of August, in the year Two Thousand, Twelve we come together to acknowledge and honor the lives of our ancestors. ***We come to remember you...***

You were the farmers and the fishermen, the hunters and weavers of fine cloth. You were the builders of cities and temples. You were healers, artisans and musicians. You were storytellers, singers and elders (teachers of oral history). You mined and traded for turquoise and gold; you gave the banana, the okra, and yam their names. Sons and daughters of a rich continent, you were stolen from your native lands; carried in chains across formidable oceans – many to sickness and death, others to slavery - to build the wealth of other nations.

ALL:
We remember the generations who followed...

Leader:

You were deprived of the language and customs of your forebears. Often cruelly severed from loved ones, your faith and inner strength were sometimes all you had to rely on. Even as Joseph's talents were undiminished by his many trials in Egypt, so your children continued to employ gifts endowed by their Creator to survive...

ALL:

And to reclaim Self Determination despite EVERY adversity;

Leader:

Despite attempts...to deny and degrade your customs, your rich histories and human identities, to rend every aspect of familial sanctity, YOU strove to build secure lives for the future. You left your mark – subtly weaving traces of language, music, worship, agriculture, arts and ingenuity throughout the fabric of life and culture in our nation and throughout the Diaspora.

LIBATION CEREMONY (Dr. Donald Blakely)



Dr. Donald Blakely, Delaware State Representative (R-34th Legislative District), accompanied by Mr. Terrence Moore leads the libation ceremony in remembrance of the ancestors. Water is continuously recycled and connects life past, present, and future.



Members of the William C. Jason School Alumni participate in the AFRAM libation ceremony with Dr. Blakely and Mr. Moore. An ancestor is named and water is poured onto the ground to begin anew the cycle of water connecting past, present, and future.

Leader:

Whether their places of final rest are in this town, elsewhere in our nation - or throughout the Diaspora; whether they lie surrounded by loved ones, or alone and unknown the Ancestors are not forgotten.

We come together to honor their collective lives and memory.

Leader:

Their stories resonate throughout human history; oppression is overcome by Faith, Courage and Unity. Their stories have passed to each generation and are continued in us and in our children.

All:

Let us remember that their struggles and their sacrifices earned the blessings we now enjoy. Let us commit today to continue in the paths of Faith, Courage and Unity - to build solidly on the foundations our ancestors prepared for us - to strive for a better future for all of humankind.

CLOSING:

Placement of the wreath