

*Honoring the Past and Embracing the Future*

# *70th Anniversary Observance of the Tallahassee Bus Boycott*



May 26, 2026, will mark the 70th Anniversary of Wilhelmina Jakes and Carrie Patterson, two female students from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, sitting down in the “whites only” section of a segregated bus in the city of Tallahassee.

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**Thursday May 21, 2026 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

The Carriage House (Goodwood Museum & Gardens 1600 Miccosukee Road)

6:00 PM Exhibition of selected participants in the Tallahassee bus boycott

7:00 PM Presiding ..... Keith D. Parker  
Founder and CEO, National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc.

Musical Selections .....  
*Star Spangled Banner*  
*Lift Every Voice And Sing*

- Program .....
- Welcome Mary K. Bedford, Executive Director  
Goodwood Museum & Gardens
  - Occasion Ms. Shauna Smith, Retired TCC Professor, Community Activist  
Descendant of Dr. Charles U. Smith
  - Musical Selection Gabrielle Davis  
Descendant of Reverend Dr. Charles K. Steele
  - Speaker James Davis, Jr.  
Interim CEO, The C. K. Steele Human Rights Institute  
Descendant of Reverend Dr. Charles K. Steele
  - Recitations Area Secondary Education Students
  - Announcements
    - Friday’s Program
    - Memorial to the Enslaved
  - Closing Remarks

The Tallahassee Bus Boycott was a citywide boycott that sought to end racial segregation in the employment and seating arrangements of city buses. On May 26, 1956, Wilhelmina Jakes and Carrie Patterson, two Florida A&M University students, were arrested by the Tallahassee Police Department for ‘placing themselves in a position to incite a riot.’ Robert Saunders, representing the NAACP, and Reverend. C. K. Steele began talks with city authorities while the local African American community started boycotting the city's buses.

The documentary, *Footsteps to Freedom*, will be posted on the City of Tallahassee's government access channel (WCOT) May 18 – May 22.

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**Friday**      **May 22, 2026**      **9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**  
City Hall      (300 S. Adams Street      Tallahassee FL 32301)

Presiding ..... Keith D. Parker  
Founder and CEO, National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc.

Musical Selections .....  
*Star Spangled Banner*  
*Lift Every Voice And Sing*

Welcome & Occasion ..... Honorable Curtis Richardson, Mayor Pro Tem

Greetings ..... TBD

Recitations ..... Area Secondary Education Students

Introduction of Speaker ..... Area Secondary Education Student

Speaker ..... Bill Mattox  
Member, Advisory Council, The Village Square

Musical Selection ..... Area Secondary Education Student

Reading of Proclamation(s)  
    o On Display ..... City Commission  
    o On Display ..... County Commission

Recitation ..... Area Secondary Education Student

Closing Remarks ..... Keith D. Parker

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