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PRESS RELEASE**

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**Announcing The 2011 Class of
Wright Dunbar Inc's Dayton Region's Walk of Fame**

Dayton- Five new honorees will take their place in history on Thursday, September 22, 2011, alongside other Dayton Region greats honored on the Walk of Fame. Public Ceremony will take place at 10:00am at the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, 1100 West Third Street with the Ticketed Luncheon occurring at Sinclair Community College at Noon. For ticket and sponsorship information call 937-443-0249.

Gussie Lord Davis 1863-1899 *Born in Dayton, Ohio in 1863, the year of the Emancipation Proclamation, Gussie Lord Davis was the first commercially successful African-American composer of popular songs. One of his most memorable songs was "Irene Good Night". Davis published over 300 songs of which one of his greatest hits written in 1896 "In the Baggage Coach Ahead" was inspired by a situation related to his job as a railroad porter. Following his work as a porter, he was a janitor at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. While there he managed to pick up bits and pieces of musical knowledge and was soon writing ballads. The only musical training gained was from private study provided him by teachers at the Cincinnati Conservatory.*

Gussie Lord Davis's is listed by the Whittlesey File at the Library of Congress and "includes music that is included in the standard repertoire of today's bluegrass, folk, and country musicians such as "Footprints in the Snow", "One Little Word" and Baggage Coach Ahead".

Dayton Marcos 1920-1940's (Barnstorming after 1924) *Chartered in 1920 as one of eight Negro League Baseball Teams the Dayton Marcos played its first game at Westwood Field on Western Avenue, (now James H. McGee Blvd.) on June 12, 1920, against the Chicago Giants. Before 1920, the Marcos was the only black team in the Ohio-Indiana League.*

It was reported that one of the best-known members of the team was Bill Sloan, "a hero of the 1913 flood. W. G. Sloan, the well-known colored ball player, was in the rescue work continuously from Tuesday morning until Friday, 68 hours of continuous work on the West Side. He took the Caleb family of five persons from a raft on

which they had been floating, tossed the heaving and rushing waters for 48 hours. With Frank Thoro and George Crandall helping, Sloan saved 317 people during 68 hours of continuous work”.

Another member, having played shortstop for the Dayton Marcos was Mr. Curtis “Bingo” Lloyd. He worked with Mrs. Miley O. Williamson of the Dayton NAACP to desegregate city golf courses. He also threw out the first pitch at the Dayton Dragons Baseball game in 2000 where in tribute to the Dayton Marcos Baseball Team, the Dragon Team member work shirts of the teams in the National Negro League. This last living member of the team died in 2002.

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Ralph and Christine Dull 1929/1934- Founders of the International Peace Museum, Christine and Ralph Dull have given their professional and personal life to helping the cause of peace around the world. Other accomplishments and honors for this dynamic couple include their work in the environmental arena. Ralph’s work of over 40 years with Heifer International has garnered him awards as well as numerous recognitions from the Soil and Water Conservation Organization. Christine has dedicated her life to efforts of peace. She has been recognized for her work by the National Conference for Community and Justice, and a recipient of the Atticus Finch Quiet Hero Award following *The Big Read* in 2006 of “To Kill A Mockingbird”.

The Dulls have opened their home in the name of international cooperation and diplomacy to individuals from Germany, Vietnam, El Salvador, Japan the Ukrainians and Guatemala and others. When the Peace Accord discussions were at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Christine was among the groups who prayed for success of the negotiations while also playing throughout the evening on her cello, a signature piece titled “The Cellist of Sarajevo” Combining all these passions led to their founding of the International Peace Museum in Dayton, Ohio.

Herbert Woodward Martin 1933 - Recognized as Professor Emeritus and Poet-in-Residence Herbert Martin is nationally known as a Dunbar Scholar for his readings of the poetry of Paul Lawrence Dunbar. Born in Alabama in 1933 Martin and his family moved to Toledo, Ohio, when Herbert was twelve years old. His parents appreciated literature and music and saw to it that their young son was immersed in the arts. Martin began to write poetry during his undergraduate years at the University of Toledo, from which he graduated in 1964. Author Ronald Primeau examines Martin's place in American literature with particular emphasis on his multidisciplinary talents and his contributions to the arts through his highly regarded performances of poetry (especially that of Paul Laurence Dunbar) and his acting, playwriting, and composing.

As stated in the book *Herbert Woodward Martin and the African American Tradition In Poetry*. “Quiet is a word repeated often in poems by Herbert Woodward Martin. A quiet lyrical love pervades the music of his poetry. In public performances, he projects a softness commanding attention. One of his collections is entitled: *The Forms of Silence*. Martin’s complex artistry is forceful. His first book rewrote conventional poetic forms and created the contrapuntal dialogue, an inventive wizardry with debts to the African American choir, the call-response pattern of slave songs, and the counterpoint music of Johann Sebastian Bach”.

Phoebe Anne Mozey (Annie Oakley) 1860-1926 Born August 13, 1860 in Darke County, Ohio Phoebe learned to shoot at the age of eight with her father’s old Kentucky rifle. In the fall of 1882 she was invited to take part in a shooting contest in Cincinnati against Frank Butler, a marksman who earned a living by performing in circuses. When she won, Butler convinced Phoebe to travel with him across the country, demonstrating her skills. Later they married and they traveled across the country together. In 1885 the couple joined “Buffalo Bill” Cody’s Wild West Show and became known to the public as “Miss as Annie Oakley.

In 1894, she starred in Thomas Edison’s “The Little Sure Shot”, where she exhibited her talents by shooting glass balls out of the air. A play entitled “Annie Get Your Gun” was based on her life. She also is credited

with teaching upwards of 15,000 women how to use a gun, believing it to be essential for women to learn how to use a gun, not only as a form of physical and mental exercise, but also to defend themselves.

In December 1924, Annie and Frank moved to Dayton, Ohio. It was here that she was visited by famed cowboy and humorist Will Rogers. He would go on to write a glowing tribute to her in his Sunday newspaper column. She died of pernicious anemia at the age of sixty-six on November 3, 1926.

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