



African American Celebration Incorporation

Shreveport, Louisiana
Phone: (318) 686-1508

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Contact: (318) 686-1508**

The African American Celebration Incorporation and Shreveport Public Assembly and Recreation (SPAR) to Honor Life and Legacy of Aretha Franklin

(SHREVEPORT) August 20, 2018 - The African American Celebration Incorporation and Shreveport SPAR will hold a ceremony to honor the life and legacy of Aretha Franklin on Friday, August 31, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the Airport Park Recreation Center located at 6500 Kennedy Drive, Shreveport, La. 71109.

Aretha Franklin touched the lives of many people, not only through her soulful voice, but also through her acts of kindness. Although she is remembered for her music, she's also being remembered for her role in the civil rights movement.

Aretha sang at the New Bethel Baptist Church, where her father was pastor and organized the famous 1963 Walk to Freedom, the largest-ever demonstration for civil rights in the US until the March on Washington later that year, when Dr. King made his "I have a dream" speech. After Dr. King was assassinated in 1968, she sang at his funeral. Throughout her life, Aretha helped to pay for many civil rights tours and campaigns and also held free concerts, housed activists and was a financial lifeline to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a prominent civil rights organization.

African American Celebration Incorporation Founder and District 3 State Representative Barbara Norton, who was present during Aretha's performance at the inauguration of the first African-American President, Barack Obama said, "As an African-American from a small community in the city of Shreveport in the South, I never thought I'd live to witness the inauguration of the first African-American President of the United States and to hear the soulful and heartfelt performance of "My Country Tis' Of Thee by the Queen of Soul. There will never be another Aretha Franklin."

In memory of Aretha's most memorable performance of the 2009 inauguration, all women are asked to wear their favorite church hat to honor the great legacy of Aretha's fashion. The ceremony will include music, singing, and expressions. The event is free and the public is invited to attend.

###