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CELEBRATE 41 YEARS OF THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S BLACK HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE FRIDAY, JULY 27
AT THE DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM

DETROIT - The Detroit Historical Society’s Black Historic Sites Committee is observing its 41st anniversary this year, and the celebration culminates with a very special evening Friday, July 27 at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. with the program to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Dubbed “41 Years of Firsts: A Celebration,” the event honors an impressive group of African Americans trailblazers. The honorees include:

- **Dr. William Banks (1903 – 1985)**, attorney, Baptist minister, real estate mogul and founder of the first Black-owned and operated television station in the country, WGPR-TV Channel 62 (now CBS-owned WWJ-TV) in Detroit;
- **Karl and Beulah Hamilton**, founding members of the Black Historic Sites Committee who worked during their lives to honor the memory of Michigan’s Black soldiers who fought in the Civil War and other conflicts;
- **Erma Henderson (1917 - 2009)**, Detroit’s first African American City Councilwoman;
- **Alexander Jefferson**, retired U.S. Air Force officer, educator and author, famous as one of the Tuskegee Airmen in the 332nd Fighter Group;
- **Dr. Barbara Ross Lee**, the first African American woman dean of a United States medical school at the College of Osteopathic Medicine of Ohio University;
- **Dr. Norman McRae (1925 – 2010)**, trailblazing Detroit educator, historian and co-author of a 2001 book commissioned by the Detroit Historical Society called “Detroit: The First City of the Midwest;”
- **Ed Welburn**, Vice President of Global Design at General Motors, the first African American to lead design for a major automaker.

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Former WKBD-TV Channel 50 and WGPR-TV 62 news anchor Amyre Makupson will serve as mistress of ceremonies for the event.

The cost of the event is $30 for Detroit Historical Society and Black Historic Sites Committee members and $40 for the public. For more information or to make a reservation for the event, please call (313) 833-1801 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

The Black Historic Sites Committee of the Detroit Historical Society, founded in 1971, is a group of volunteers that promotes a greater understanding of the contributions of African Americans to the history of metro Detroit and the state of Michigan.

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