



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BRANCH

"FREEDOM FIGHTERS FOR A NEW CENTURY"

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Media Interview opportunities with members of the Taney, Scott, and Haley family with the press are available at the conclusion of the Healing and Reconciliation ceremony at The Roger Brooke Statue on Maryland Capitol grounds in Annapolis.

THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRED SCOTT DECISION: APOLOGY TO BE GIVEN

Monday March 6, 2017 Maryland State Capitol Annapolis, Maryland.

A historic apology will be offered at The Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney Statue in front of the Maryland Capitol Building by descendants of Roger Brooke Taney to the Dred Scott family and to the African American community on The 160th Anniversary of The Dred Scott Decision coming up on Monday March 6, 2017 at 11:30am. This is a part of a state-wide Clergy effort to heal the racial divide. Bishop Harry Jackson of The Reconciled Church (Beltsville, MD), Charles Taney IV, New York Actress Kate Taney Billingsly, Lynn Jackson, president of The Dred Scott Foundation, and William Alexander Haley (Grandson of Alex Haley, author of Malcom X and "Roots") will lead the event.

PURPOSE: TO JOIN IN THE STATEWIDE CALL TO MOVE THE ROGER BROOKE TANEY STATUE

Members of Maryland State Assembly have begun discussions around removing The Roger Brooke Statue from The State Capitol grounds. Similar efforts have taken place with City Council members in Baltimore and Frederick, MD. The Roger Brooke Taney and Dred Scott family members see this as an opportunity to express their support in **the erection of two additional statues of Dred Scott and Frederick Douglas to stand in a position of dialogue with Roger Brooke Taney**, along with an educational display on the Dred Scott decision and its aftermath. **And, they will help raise the funds for the Dred Scott statue.** *The Scotts and Taney's believe that Americans should learn from their history not bury their history.*

DESCENDANTS OF DRED SCOTT AND ROGER BROOKE TANEY TO HOST JOINT EVENT AND RECONCILIATION

On the morning of **March 6th**, at **8:30 AM**, a reading of *A Man of His Time* a play written by New York actress, Kate Taney Billingsly will be performed at **Calvary United Methodist Church ~ 301 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, MD 21401**. Breakfast will also be served. Cost is \$10 and open to the public. The **reconciliation ceremony, at the statue** outside the Maryland State House, will follow at around **11:30 AM**.

Additional Information

The descendants of Dred Scott and Roger Brooke Taney were brought together by a work of art. In May, 2016, the renowned Actors Studio in New York City produced the premier of *A Man of His Time*, a one act play centered on an emotional meeting of the descendants of Scott and Taney set in today's time. The playwright is Kate Taney Billingsley, an actor and member of the Actors Studio. The Actors Studio invited Lynne Jackson, the great-great-granddaughter of Dred Scott and Charlie Taney, the great-great-great nephew of Roger Brooke Taney to come to New York to participate in a talk-back session with the audience after the play. Jackson lives in Missouri, Taney in Connecticut.

After meeting in New York, Lynne Jackson and Charlie Taney formed a working relationship. Jackson says; "Only Divine Providence could have set up the Scott and Taney descendants' first meeting around an amazing play written by a Taney about Scott and Taney descendants meeting for the first time! I had hoped to meet and draw them out over time to build a relationship through the Foundation's work and they actually contacted me. It was a highlight for me personally and for the Foundation's 10th anniversary."

Jackson is the founder and president of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation in St. Louis and was working on a strategic plan for her foundation. Taney consults with non-profits and offered to work pro bono with Jackson on this project. After successfully completing the strategic plan, Jackson invited Taney to *Dred Scott Presents Sons & Daughters of Reconciliation*, a December 2016 conference in St. Louis hosted by the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation. At this event the Taney and Scott families participated in a public reconciliation. Taney recognized the harm caused to African Americans by the infamous *Dred Scott* decision authored by Roger Brooke Taney, and formally apologized for the Taney family to the Scott family. In turn, the Scott family formally forgave the Taney family. The result is a new foundation of trust, and a commitment to work together on the reconciliation of black and white America. Charlie Taney says, "Working with Lynne Jackson and the Scott family on reconciliation has been an important and deeply moving experience. "

As President Obama said in his remarks at Reverend Clementa Pickney's funeral after the 2015 Charleston massacre, "*Justice grows out of our recognition of each other.*" This public reconciliation between these two families, yoked together by history, is a further attempt at achieving justice through mutual recognition and reconciliation.
