

City of Dallas News Release

Public Information Office

www.dallascityhall.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2008

Civil Rights Saturday: Celebrate the birthday of Juanita J. Craft on Saturday, February 9, 2008 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the birthday of Dallas' own Juanita J. Craft at **Civil Rights Saturday** on February 9, 2008. This event will take place at the Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House museum and garden in South Dallas. There will be a spoken word and drum tribute by local griot and storyteller Melody Bell. Also, Akin Babatunde will perform a series of stories entitled "Storyfest," one of which is about Juanita Craft.

Mrs. Craft was an N.A.A.C.P. organizer and was instrumental in forwarding the cause for civil rights in Texas. A former Dallas City Counsel woman, she was out front in the fight for justice and equality for African Americans in Dallas, Texas as well as the entire United States. Mrs. Craft was born Juanita Jewel Shanks in Round Rock, Texas, on February 9, 1902.

The Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House was created by the City of Dallas to serve as a living memorial to one of its outstanding leaders and "drum majors" for justice. The home of Mrs. Juanita J. Craft served as a civil rights and leadership development school for more than fifty years. The Office of Cultural Affairs manages the facility and provides interpretive tours of the house, numerous programs and services throughout the year.

Tours of the museum are available by appointment only Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the school year to accommodate student groups. At the end of the school year, hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Group tours must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance; however tours for individuals may be scheduled with 48 hours' notice.

This event is free to the public and is co-hosted by Black Dallas Remembered; For more information about Black Dallas Remembered, contact Dr. Mamie McKnight at 214-333-0983.

The Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House Museum is at 2618 Warren Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75215
214-670-8637; 214-670-8201 (Fax)