

10/8/98

Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO KEYNOTE WOMEN'S EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

LITTLE ROCK, AR (August 19, 1998)--Hillary Rodham Clinton will return to Little Rock October 8 as the keynote speaker for the 40th anniversary reunion of the Women's Emergency Committee to Open our Schools (WEC). The event will be open to the public.

Established in 1958, the WEC led the efforts to open the Little Rock public high schools which had closed for the 1958-59 year following the integration of Little Rock Central High School in 1957. The WEC remained active until 1963.

Initially kept secret to avoid retaliation by segregationists, the WEC members' identities remained unknown for 40 years. In March of this year a committee of WEC members publicly released the roster containing 1,281 names for the first time. The list was released so all living members, their families and the families of deceased members could participate in the October 8 reunion which will be hosted by the City of Little Rock.

Little Rock Mayor Jim Dailey said Mrs. Clinton's speech would take place at 4 p.m. on October 8 at the Decorative Arts Museum in downtown Little Rock. The Museum was the home of the late Adolphine Fletcher Terry, who at age 76, founded and organized the WEC in 1958. The weekly WEC board meetings were held in Mrs. Terry's dining room.

"We're honored that the First Lady will be coming home to help salute these remarkable women and their families," Dailey said.

"This recognition of the WEC is well deserved," he continued, "but it's also long overdue. These women were very courageous and the more we learn about them, the more we appreciate them."

WEC member Irene Samuel is coordinating plans for the reunion. WEC members and their families who have been identified are being contacted by letter this week, but Dailey said those having questions or needing more information should call Laura Miller at the Central High Visitor Center, (501) 374-1957. He said specifics about the October 8th program would be announced later.

A CHRONOLOGY OF THE WOMEN'S EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 1958-1963

The following timeline follows the formation and actions of the Women's Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools in response to the Arkansas Legislature's closing of all Little Rock High Schools for the 1958-59 school year to prevent further desegregation.

1958

When Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus signed Act 4, closing all four of Little Rock's high schools to prevent further desegregation, civic leader Adolphine Fletcher Terry founded the Women's Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools and hosted the first meeting of the group on September 16 in her dining room. The WEC focused its first efforts on a special election to re-open the schools. Although the measure was defeated by an almost three-to-one margin, the WEC continued to fight for the public schools as Faubus threatened to open the public schools as private ones. In November when the entire school board resigned (save one member), the WEC worked to get three moderates, Everett Tucker, Jr., Ted Lamb and Russell H. Matson, Jr., elected in December.

1959

After helping with the School Board election recount in January, the WEC mobilized to assist with the Stop This Outrageous Purge campaign. STOP worked to restore the 44 teachers fired by the school board (after the moderates walked out) for "integrationist tendencies." When a school board recall election was held in late May, the WEC and STOP groups won the election by an intricately organized "get out the vote" campaign and voters removed the three segregationist members of the board and retained the three moderate members. As the Little Rock high schools reopened peacefully in August (with black students at Central and Hall High Schools), the WEC reminded city residents that "all the world is watching us." The WEC also published "The Little Rock Report" to show other communities the economic devastation which resulted from closing the schools. The report went into three printings with copies requested around the nation and the globe.

1960

WEC worked against a proposed amendment to the state constitution to allow school districts to dismantle free public schools by organizing study groups, a speaker's bureau and frequent mailings. Later in the year, members assisted the Save Our Schools committee in New Orleans and drove voters to the polls to re-elect two moderate school board members. Voters elected six of the nine legislative candidates the WEC supported.

1961

As Little Rock prepared to desegregate the junior high schools, the WEC worked with the local PTA Council and the Committee for the Peaceful Operation of Free Public Schools to make sure parents understood and abided by the school board policy. In addition to helping defeat a construction bond issue which affected school financing in Arkansas, the WEC helped two moderate school board members get re-elected.

1962

While all ten of the WEC's preferred legislative candidates were elected, only one recommended candidate made it onto the school board. The WEC worked with the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women to get the Voting Machine Amendment to the state constitution passed.

1963

The WEC remained busy working in the state legislature to defend a permanent voter registration act and successfully defeated "selective" literacy tests requiring a written interpretation of the constitution to be able to vote. A proposal to replace the outlawed poll tax with a "head tax" was voted down, too. Cities such as Atlanta, Mobile and New Orleans with problems desegregating their schools continued to receive consulting services from the WEC in the form of speakers and printed materials. The WEC also helped initiate the KEEP program to help culturally deprived kindergarten children. In early November, the WEC held a day long state workshop on public education advocacy entitled "What Women Can Do." When the group formally disbanded days later, the Pine Bluff Commercial noted "that the committee could be put together again in an afternoon, and doubtless will be should the need arise."

**Women's Emergency Committee Reunion
P. O. Box 82
Little Rock, AR 72203**

For additional information, contact:
**Skip Rutherford 501-975-8371
Julie Ludlow 314-982-8623
Pager 800-901-6372**

NEWS RELEASE

**NAMING PROJECT FUNDED BY SOUTHWESTERN BELL
CELEBRATES THE LEGACY OF THE WOMEN'S EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

*The names of the 1,281 women who fought for
public education from 1958-1963 are etched into windowpanes
in Little Rock's Decorative Arts Museum*

LITTLE ROCK, AR, October 5, 1998--The names of the 1,281 members of the Women's Emergency Committee (WEC)--once a closely-guarded secret--now are etched in the glass windowpanes of the Decorative Arts Museum's conservatory, thanks to a donation from Southwestern Bell.

During a special ceremony at Little Rock's Decorative Arts Museum, Jim Shelley--the president of Southwestern Bell in Arkansas--and Little Rock Mayor Jim Dailey unveiled 16 windowpanes inscribed with the names of the members of the Women's Emergency Committee (WEC), a group of Arkansas women who fought for public education from 1958 to 1963 following the 1957 integration of Little Rock Central High School.

When Little Rock's public high schools were closed in 1958 due to integration, the WEC lobbied lawmakers, educated voters and pressured community groups to reopen the schools, a goal that was accomplished the following year.

For four decades, the names of WEC members were kept secret because of the controversy that surrounded that tumultuous period. But this year, the members' names were made public and now are etched on windowpanes in the Museum, formerly the home of WEC founder Adolphine Fletcher Terry. Southwestern Bell funded the etchings with a \$10,000 donation.

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"The WEC members were dedicated to the education of our youth--regardless of race--and their efforts laid the ground work for four decades of change and growth," said Shelley.

"When I view the 1,281 names on these panels, I think of the courage these women demonstrated in fighting--against popular opinion--to reopen the schools," added Dailey. "This tribute is well deserved and long overdue."

The unveiling of the commemorative window panels is part of a series of events to honor the WEC on the 40th anniversary of its first meeting. On Thursday, October 8, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will continue the celebration as she serves as keynote speaker at a special ceremony to salute the WEC.

Irene Samuel, an original member of the WEC and chair of the Reunion Committee, is participating in many of the anniversary activities along with several of the other original members.

"When the WEC was active, many of us were ostracized by friends, neighbors and strangers alike because we were going against popular opinion of that day," Samuel said. "It is wonderful to see the exciting shift in attitudes and the strong support and interest."

Arkansas Victory 98

P. O. Box 747
Little Rock, AR 72203-0747

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 1998

CONTACT: Kay Stabbins
Bristow for Governor
(501) 399-9900

Michael Cook
Smith for Congress
(501) 224-9354

LITTLE ROCK, AR (October 2, 1998) – First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will be the guest of honor at a fundraising reception benefiting the campaigns of Bill Bristow, the Democratic nominee for Governor, and Judy Smith, the Democratic nominee for Congress from the 4th Congressional District.

The reception will be Thursday, October 8, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Statehouse Convention Center and tickets are \$100. For more information, please contact the campaigns of Bill Bristow at 501-399-9900 or Judy Smith at 870-836-3473.

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*Tane Cunningham
ATime
Noel Olman
#ADG*

*Conus live
Speech WEC
Dinner = Scott Parks*

*Blancae Lincoln
501-918-6067*

Arkansas Victory 98 is the fundraising representative for this event.

Lincoln for U.S. Senate Campaign

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 1998

Contact: Debra De Shong
(501) 376-0977
(501) 376-0988 fax
(501) 395-2152 pager

Media Advisory

Blanche Lincoln Speaks To Education Rally with First Lady Hillary Clinton

(LITTLE ROCK)--United States Senate candidate Blanche Lincoln will speak to the education rally sponsored by the Arkansas Education Association and the Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association. First Lady Hillary Clinton will also address the rally called, "Excellence in Public Education."

Thursday, October 8, 1998

7:00 pm

(Pre-Set: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm)

Education Rally with Blanche Lincoln

and First Lady Hillary Clinton

Hilton Inn, University Avenue at I-630

Little Rock

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800 Marshall Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72202-3591
(501) 320-4300 • FAX (501) 320-3988 • TDD (501) 320-1184

October 7, 1998

Melissa Whitfield
(501) 320-4300

Media Advisory

- What:** First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will deliver the Inaugural Anne Hickman Lecture
- When:** 10:00 a.m.
Friday, October 9
- Where:** Chairman's Hall
Sturgis Building
Arkansas Children's Hospital
800 Marshall Street
- Background:** The Anne Hickman Lecture Series was instituted to honor Anne Hickman, a long-time Board member and volunteer for Arkansas Children's Hospital. The lecture series is part of the hospital's role as a teaching institution with a goal of bringing lecturers who are leaders in child health and development issues. Mrs. Clinton is the perfect choice to deliver the inaugural lecture due to her long-time affiliation with Arkansas Children's Hospital as a volunteer, board member and a current board member emeritus.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Melissa Whitfield
(501) 320-4300

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Delivers Inaugural Anne Hickman Lecture

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS (October 9, 1998) – First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the speaker today at the first Anne Hickman Lecture held at Arkansas Children's Hospital. The Anne Hickman Lecture Series honors Mrs. Hickman, a long-time volunteer, board member and supporter of the hospital. To honor her, the Board instituted the lecture series to once a year bring a person of national and international importance in the area of child health and development to the hospital to speak.

"We are honored that Mrs. Clinton could be with us to deliver this lecture," said Jonathan Bates, MD, president and CEO of Arkansas Children's Hospital. "She has been a very important part of this hospital through being a host for our annual Children's Miracle Network Telethon when she was First Lady of Arkansas, then serving on our Board of Directors, where she still serves as board member emeritus. Her life-long dedication to children and their health and development made her a natural to inaugurate this lecture series."

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"Anne Hickman has done so much for this hospital over the past 30 years, that it is a joy to be able to honor her this way," said Barbara Moore, chairman of the Arkansas Children's Hospital Board of Directors. "We could never do enough to repay her for all she has done to make this hospital the first-class provider of pediatric health care that it is today."

Just a few of Mrs. Hickman's accomplishments are chairing a group in 1983 that eventually became the now 1,000-member statewide Circle of Friends that provides volunteer support and raises funds for the hospital. She also was an organizer of the ACH Auxiliary's annual Garden Party for the hospital which has become a highly successful community event. And she was chair of the campaign to raise \$15 million to build the Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute.

Arkansas Children's Hospital is one of the ten largest children's hospitals in the United States. More than 217,000 patient visits were made to the hospital last year. Arkansas Children's Hospital provides specialized medical care for infants, children and young adults.

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Julie,

Please Review the following information:

- ① News Release for the Women's Emergency Committee Reunion.

address: Terry Mansion
7th Avenue, Little Rock.

Throw: 60 ft

Cable Run: 150 ft. max

Press Parking: Rock Street (Entrance)

Pre-set: 2:15 - 2:45 p.m.

- ② Education Rally with Blanche Lincoln

address: Hilton Inn
University Ave. @ I-630
Little Rock, Arkansas

Throw: 55 ft.

Cable Run: 100 ft.

Entrance: Banquet Area Entrance

Parking: University Ave.

Preset: 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

- ③ Anne Hickman Lecture at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Address: 800 Marshall St.
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Throw: 25 ft.

Parking: 800 Marshall St. in Patient parking lot
Enter through Sturgis Building.

Room: Chairman's Hall

Preset: 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.

TV crews will tape and air later on news Broadcast

10/8/98
4:00 p.m.

10/8/98
7:00 p.m.

10/9/98
10 a.m.