

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Save the Date: May event in Hillsborough will mark the anniversary of the end of segregation in Orange County, NC Schools

Hillsborough, NC - (April 3, 2018)-- When the Class of 1968 marched down the aisle to get their diplomas, they were the last group of students to graduate from [Central High School](#), the school for Black youth of Orange County, located in Hillsborough, NC. After this, children of color would attend Orange High School, which formerly had been the school for white students.

2018 marks the 50th Anniversary of the closing of Central High School, and the official end of segregated schools in Orange County and to acknowledge this milestone, Free Spirit Freedom (a 501 C3 project of the Hillsborough Arts Council), together with, the Central/Orange Alumni Association will host a gospel concert to celebrate the **50th Reunion of the Class of 1968**, and the toppling of the walls of segregation in public education.

The celebration is **Sunday, May 20, 2018** from 2 pm – 5 pm at the outdoor Farmer's Market Pavilion, 144 E. Margaret Lane in Downtown Hillsborough. Some seating will be provided, but bring lawn chairs and shading. Enjoy free refreshments and music.

"Local singing groups, choirs and musicians will carry us from the days of slavery, through the Jim Crow era, through the Civil Rights Movement and today," said Dr. Freddie L. Parker, member of the Central/Orange Alumni Association.

"The memories of the transition era may be bittersweet, yet we, as a people, have struggled, we have achieved, and we shall rejoice," said Renee A. Price, co-founder of Free Spirit Freedom.

Other activities:

- **Friday, May 18**, join the Alumni Association for a basketball game at Hillsborough Elementary School [site of the former Central High], from 6 pm to 8 pm. Price said guests of all ages are invited to participate, and the game is not limited to graduates and children and friends are encouraged to join a team. (Contact Wayne Bynum, 919-812-4816).
- **Saturday, May 19**, there will be a car cruise—with vintage, classic and new vehicles—driving through downtown Hillsborough, beginning at the corner of E. Margaret Lane and S. Cameron Street and culminating at Hillsborough Elementary School. To register, contact Jennie Foushee at 919-942-3852. Any class from Central and Orange High Schools can enter the cruise.
- **Saturday, May 19** evening, beginning at 7pm, the Alumni Association will host a Reunion Dinner-Dance at Hillsborough Elementary School. Tickets are limited; for details please contact Danita Thompson at 919-641-6643.

For information on how to get involved, contact Thomas Watson, chair, Orange Alumni Association at 919-260-3386. Free Spirit Freedom/ Hillsborough Arts Council. www.freespiritfreedom.org

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