

**THE WHARLEST &
EXERLENA
JACKSON LEGACY
PROJECT**

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APRIL 1 & 2, 2022

Honor Their Memories. Continue Their Legacy.

Welcome to

THE WHARLEST & EXERLENA JACKSON

Legacy Project

The Cold Case Justice Initiative (CCJI) and the Jackson Family welcome you to the Second Annual Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson Legacy Project. The program is free. The theme of the project is ***Honor Their Memory. Continue Their Legacy.***

What is the Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson Legacy Project? It is an initiative to honor the legacy and works of Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson and to continue their contributions to the Adams County community and other communities in the country by offering workshops on racial justice, civic engagement, and college and vocational career preparation.

During the Civil Rights Movement, Wharlest and Exerlena advocated for and assisted people of color in the community of Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi by helping to build and organize the local NAACP chapter. They were instrumental in helping Black citizens register to vote so that they could have a voice in the community and be prepared to accept jobs that they were qualified for.

Wharlest became the Treasurer for the local NAACP Chapter, in Natchez, MS. In this role, he attended NAACP meetings and helped organize voter registration locations in Natchez. Exerlena also was active in the movement and assisted Wharlest by attending meetings when he was unable to attend, helping organize marches, and helping people of color register to vote. What they did during the Civil Rights Movement was dangerous, but also courageous. They sacrificed their lives each time they attended meetings, held a march, and when a person of color was officially registered to vote.

The local Ku Klux Klan was Wharlest's worst enemy. However, Wharlest was not afraid but determined to continue his work in the community. He had qualifications that earned him a promotion within Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company for a job that previously was held only by Whites. This promotion would cost Wharlest his life. He was murdered on February 27, 1967, when a bomb was detonated under his truck when he left work. Wharlest's efforts were not in vain. His murder galvanized the community to insist on the equal rights and civic participation that Wharlest and Exerlena fought and sacrificed for.

We hope the Jackson Legacy Project will educate and inspire others to continue to keep voting rights, education, and employment equal for all people.

The Cold Case Justice Initiative at Syracuse University College of Law was co-founded by Professor Paula C. Johnson and Professor Janis L. McDonald (emerita), which Professor Johnson continues to direct. CCJI was created to reinvestigate unsolved racially motivated murders that were committed during the Civil Rights Era. After an initial request for assistance from the family of Frank Morris, who was killed in Ferriday, Louisiana in 1964, CCJI responded to subsequent requests for assistance from other victims' family members.

From the start, CCJI has focused on the needs and desires of family members to pursue investigations of their loved ones' deaths and to hold responsible parties accountable. It has been clear from our work with family members that the pain and uncertainty over the loss of their loved ones have lingered for many years. The lack of serious official attention to investigate the deaths and disappearances of their family members has compounded their pain. Yet it has also strengthened their resolve to obtain justice, correct the historical record, and continue the legacy of their loved ones.

Thus, CCJI not only works on case investigations and relevant research but also works on academic education, professional training, public awareness, and memorializing the legacies of victims of racial crimes for the rights and freedom of present and future generations.

CCJI works closely with the Jackson Family to ensure that Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson's sacrifices and contributions to racial justice, equality, voting rights, and democratic participation are not forgotten.

Program Schedule: The Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson Legacy Program will begin Friday evening, April 1st, and continues with a full-day program on Saturday, April 2nd. The program is free and will be online. Students in junior and senior high school, parents, guardians, counselors, educators, and other members of interested communities in Mississippi, Syracuse, NY, and elsewhere are welcome to participate. There will be featured speakers, including members of the Jackson family, public officials, educators, and workshop presenters.

Friday will have a special session that is geared towards parents, guardians, and other adults who are instrumental in students' lives. This is an opportunity for adults in such key relationships to learn how they can best support their children as they approach graduation and the next chapter of their lives. On Saturday, there will be panels on a range of topics that are designed for students as they prepare for life after junior high/high school. Students can familiarize themselves with the various opportunities to pursue their interests after high school graduation. In honoring their memories, we will have a session to discuss the importance of civic engagement in light of current voting rights issues.

Once again, we welcome you to the Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson Legacy Project to remember their lives and continue their legacy.

Day 1: Friday, April 1st

6:00pm - 6:15pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

6:20pm - 6:35pm

The Meaning Behind the Legacy Project
Presented By: Member of the Jackson Family

All Program
Times are in
Central
Time.

6:40pm - 7:40pm

Parents' Session: How to Best Support Your Child's
Educational, Career, and Future Directions with Q&A
Session

7:45pm - 8:00pm

Closing Remarks with Preview of Saturday

8:00pm - 8:30pm

Optional: Hangout Room

Day 2: Saturday April 2nd

9:15am- 9:55am

Optional: Meet and Greet

All Program
Times are in
Central
Time.

10:00am - 10:30am

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Black National Anthem

10:30am -10:50am

Video Presentation

10:50am- 11:35am

Keynote Address
Presented By: Producers of the PBS Frontline
documentary, "American Reckoning"

11:40am - 11:55am

Jackson Family Remarks: Upholding the Jackson Family
Legacy

12:00pm - 1:00pm	Civic Engagement and Voting Rights Panel Discussion
1:00pm - 1:10pm	Break
1:10pm - 1:55pm	Break Out Rooms <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Creative Arts2. Vocational Training3. Entrepreneurship4. Preparing for College5. STEM
2:00pm - 2:15pm	A Law Student's Perspective
2:20pm - 3:05pm	COVID-19 Public Health Panel Discussion and Q&A Session
3:10pm - 3:30pm	Jackson Legacy Scholarship Announcement
3:30pm - 3:45pm	Closing Remarks