

For Immediate Release

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International Coalition to Commemorate the African Ancestors of the Middle Passage (ICCAAMP)

USA, April 15, 2019 – The *International Coalition to Commemorate African Ancestors of the Middle Passage (ICCAAMP)* was formed in 2015 to organize activities that are designed to remember the millions of Africans who were sold, kidnapped, shipped then died along the route from Africa to the Americas. ICCAAMP also honors and commemorates those who survived the transatlantic trafficking in African people known as the *Maafa*, *Black Holocaust*, and *Middle Passage*.

ICCAAMP has proclaimed every second weekend in June (beginning in 2016) as the international commemoration to Remember the Ancestors of the Middle Passage - the Maafa, with simultaneous activities hosted by ICCAAMP members in African-descended communities across the United States and internationally. It will begin with prayers and the pouring of libation promptly at 12 noon ET on Saturday, and continued prayer services at Black religious and spiritual institutions on Sunday – this year the dates are June 8-9, 2019.

The annual commemoration provides an opportunity for members of the African-descended community to remember the millions of Africans -- men, women, and children, who were sold, kidnapped, shipped and who died along the route from Africa to the Americas. By remembering, we **honor and restore the humanity of the nameless faceless African Ancestors, and disrupt the collective amnesia**. We also begin the process of **healing from the fear, pain, guilt and shame of the experience that continues to traumatize the African descended community today, and we start the restoration of cultural identity, dignity and pride**. ICCAAMP also **honors and commemorates those who survived the transatlantic trafficking in African people, the Maafa**, to draw upon their strength, courage and determination to overcome obstacles of enormous magnitude. ICAAMP is calling upon individuals in the Black community who are unable to host their own commemorations or participate in activities hosted by Coalition members, to observe a minute of silence and prayer wherever they are at 12 noon ET, on the Saturday, to remember the Ancestors of the Maafa. The Coalition is also requesting all Black religious and spiritual institutions to dedicate a service in remembrance of the Ancestors of the Middle Passage.

Ceremonies take place nationally in USA: **Brooklyn, New York; Washington, DC; Charleston and Georgetown, South Carolina; Hampton and Fredericksburg, Virginia; Annapolis, Maryland; Newport, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts, New Orleans, Louisiana; York and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles, San Francisco and Oakland, California; Montgomery, Alabama; Miami, Florida; Detroit, Michigan;** and internationally in **Cameroon, Senegal, Nigeria, Panama, Barbados, Brazil, Benin, Jamaica, Ghana, US Virgin Islands**. ICCAAMP is seeking to identify other African-descended communities which conduct commemoration ceremonies as well as those who are interested in hosting ceremonies to join the Coalition.

ICCAAMP has joined in partnership with the **400 Years of African American History Commission's** signature event Commemorating the 400th year arrival of the 21+ enslaved Africans in the English Colony of Virginia in 1619 to observe **“LET’S TALK”**: **The International Day of Drumming and Healing, June 19, 2019**. The Commission references the first enslaved Africans’ from Angola arrival at Ft. Comfort, Virginia, in 1619. This commemorative day will focus on healing and reeducation among Africans in the Western Diaspora and beyond. It will mourn the terror and trauma endured by African descendants over those four centuries occasioned by: The Transatlantic slave trade; forced family dissolution; centuries of degradation based on race (e.g., slavery, peonage, lynching, Jim Crow, and structural racism); a myriad socioeconomic disparities; and, now, mass incarceration.

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For a complete list of commemoration locations, please visit the ICCAAMP website:
www.RememberTheAncestors.com and **https://www.facebook.com/remembertheancestors/**
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