



Carrie Meek – James N. Eaton, Sr.  
Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum  
Carnegie Library at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

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*"African American history is the history of America" - James N. Eaton, Sr., Founder*

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**MEEK-EATON**  
**BLACK ARCHIVES**

# MEEK-EATON RESEARCH CENTER AND MUSEUM

presents

## IN CELEBRATING **AMERICA 250**

### **Service & Sacrifice: Military Legacies Preserved in the Vault**

February 2026 thru August 2026

### **SPONSOR DECK**

Florida A&M University  
Meek-Eaton Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum  
445 Robert and Trudie Perkins Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32307

[www.famu.edu/meba](http://www.famu.edu/meba)

Curated by Timothy A. Barber, a professionally designed exhibition showcasing uniforms, photographs, medals, and personal artifacts that honor the service of African Americans, particularly FAMU students and alumni, whose defense of the nation embodies the ideals of equality, citizenship, and the enduring mission of the Archives as a center of national significance in Black history and culture.



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02.01.26

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Carrie Meek – James N. Eaton, Sr. Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum

445 Robert and Trudie Perkins Way - Tallahassee, FL 32307

[WWW.FAMU.EDU](http://WWW.FAMU.EDU) \* [BLACKARCHIVES@FAMU.EDU](mailto:BLACKARCHIVES@FAMU.EDU)

Office (850) 599-3020 \* Fax (850) 561-2604



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## **Service & Sacrifice: Military Legacies Preserved in the Vault**

Timothy Barber, Museum Director (Curator)

As part of *America250FL @ FAMU* and the 50th Anniversary of the Meek-Eaton Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum, this exhibition embodies the national commemoration’s theme of “**Service and Sacrifice**” by illuminating the extraordinary military contributions of African Americans whose courage, intellect, and leadership have fortified both the nation and the ideals of democracy itself.

The Meek-Eaton Black Archives, Research Center, and Museum proudly presents a landmark curatorial project that draws upon the institution’s unparalleled archival holdings to tell the stories of those who have defended freedom abroad while advancing equality at home. *Service & Sacrifice: Military Legacies Preserved in the Vault* features an extraordinary array of military uniforms, medals, correspondence, photographs, documents, and personal artifacts spanning more than a century of service—from the Civil War and World War II through Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the modern era. These rare and evocative objects reveal deeply personal narratives of Florida A&M University alumni, faculty, and Floridians whose patriotism and perseverance exemplify the enduring relationship between African American military service and the pursuit of full citizenship.

Through a lens of historical scholarship and cultural preservation, the exhibition explores how service in the armed forces became both a crucible of discipline and a catalyst for social change—transforming the lives of individuals and shaping collective movements toward civil rights, education, and leadership. Drawing on both institutional collections and community donations, *Service & Sacrifice* situates the African American soldier within the broader tapestry of American history, affirming that the defense of liberty has always included the fight for recognition, representation, and justice.

On view from **February 1 through August 1, 2026**, this exhibition coincides with the Meek-Eaton’s 50th anniversary—**MEBA50**—a year-long celebration of the Archives’ half-century of excellence in preserving, interpreting, and presenting African American history and culture. The presentation also stands as Florida A&M University’s contribution to the **America250** commemoration, reinforcing the University’s legacy as a national leader in civic education, public service, and cultural preservation.

By bringing these artifacts out of the vault and into public dialogue, the Meek-Eaton Black Archives invites audiences to reflect on the intertwined narratives of patriotism and perseverance that define the African American experience. In doing so, *Service & Sacrifice* serves as both a tribute and a testament—honoring the bravery of those who served while inspiring future generations to uphold the same spirit of duty, scholarship, and freedom that has shaped the nation’s ongoing journey toward a more perfect union.



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**Greetings Potential Sponsor,**

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Meek-Eaton Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum is proud to announce its upcoming major exhibition, *Service & Sacrifice: Military Legacies Preserved in the Vault*, opening **February 1, 2026, through August 1, 2026**, as part of **MEBA50**—a year-long celebration of the Archives' 50th Anniversary—and Florida A&M University's participation in the **America250** commemoration.

This landmark exhibition honors the valor, leadership, and enduring legacy of African American men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, with a special focus on the distinguished alumni and community members of Florida A&M University. Drawing from the Meek-Eaton's extensive archival collections and community donations, the exhibition will feature uniforms, medals, photographs, documents, and personal artifacts that tell powerful stories of courage, citizenship, and resilience—connecting local service to the national struggle for equality and freedom.

*Service & Sacrifice* will be curated at the Meek-Eaton Black Archives, located at **445 Robert and Trudie Perkins Way, Tallahassee, FL 32308**, and will include **public programs, student-led tours, veterans' panels, educational workshops, and community engagement events** throughout its run.

We invite you to join us in bringing this important project to life by becoming an **exhibition sponsor**. Your contribution will directly support the professional design, fabrication, and installation of the exhibition, as well as vital conservation materials and interpretive displays that ensure these historic objects are presented with the dignity and care they deserve.

Sponsors will receive special recognition and exclusive access to exhibition events, including a **private pre-opening tour** for sponsors and special guests, followed by a **formal public opening ceremony** honoring veterans and supporters.

We hope that you will consider joining us as a valued partner in preserving and presenting this significant story of service and sacrifice. Please review the enclosed sponsorship materials to identify the level of support that best aligns with your interests and capacity.

I am available at any time to discuss this opportunity or answer any questions you may have. I can be reached at **(850) 599-3020** or by email at [timothy.barber@famu.edu](mailto:timothy.barber@famu.edu). Thank you for your commitment to history, heritage, and the continued excellence of the Meek-Eaton Black Archives.

Warm regards,

Timothy A. Barber  
Director of Museum Operations  
Florida A&M University





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## **ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

The **Meek-Eaton Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum** is an esteemed institution dedicated to preserving and showcasing the rich history and cultural heritage of African Americans in the Southeastern United States. Located on the campus of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida, the museum has become a cornerstone for historical research and education within the African American community.

### **Founding and Mission**

**Founding:** The Black Archives was established in 1971 by Dr. James N. Eaton, who served as its first director. Dr. Eaton's vision was to create a center that would not only preserve African American history but also serve as a hub for scholarly research and public education.

**Mission:** The mission of the Meek-Eaton Black Archives is to collect, preserve, and make accessible records, artifacts, and other materials that document the experiences and contributions of African Americans in the Southeastern United States. The Archives aims to educate the public, support academic research, and foster an appreciation for African American history and culture.



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BECOME A SPONSOR!

## CELEBRATING AMERICA 250

### Service & Sacrifice: Military Legacies Preserved in the Vault

February 2026 thru August 2026

**Why Sponsor?** As a sponsor, you will play a crucial role in supporting an event that fosters cultural appreciation and promotes critical thinking and research. Your sponsorship will help us in achieving the following goals:

- **Enhancing Community Engagement:** Providing a platform for dialogue and education on the significance of black beauty and cultural heritage.
- **Supporting Artists:** Offering opportunities and visibility to African American artists and creators.
- **Inspiring Future Generations:** Encouraging young people to explore and embrace their cultural identities.

Additionally, sponsors may take advantage of the 501 (c) 3 non-profit opportunities as permitted by law when donating to Florida A&M University Foundation.



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**Sponsorship Levels and Benefits:**

**1. PLATINUM Title Exhibit Sponsor (\$50,000)**

- Prominent logo placement on all promotional materials
- Prominent logo placement on exhibit panels
- Prominent listing on exhibit sponsor levels list
- Mention in press releases and media coverage
- Invitation to pre-opening “Sneak Peek”
- Sponsor Level Badges at the exhibit opening
- Opportunity to bring greetings at the opening
- Dedicated social media placement
- Opportunity to host event during exhibition run

**2. DIAMOND Opening Reception Sponsor (\$25,000-\$49,999)**

- Logo placement on promotional materials
- Branding opportunities at opening
- Prominent listing on exhibit sponsor levels list
- Mention in press releases
- Invitation to pre-opening “Sneak Peek”
- Sponsor Level Badges at the exhibit opening
- Opportunity to bring greetings at the opening
- Social media mentions

**3. GOLD Exhibit Sponsor (\$10,000-\$24,999)**

- Logo placement on promotional materials
- Prominent listing on exhibit sponsor levels list
- Invitation to pre-opening “Sneak Peek”
- Sponsor Level Badges at the exhibit opening
- Social media mentions



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**4. SILVER Exhibit Sponsor (\$5,000-\$9,999)**

- Listing on exhibit sponsor levels list
- Invitation to pre-opening “Sneak Peek”
- Sponsor Level Badges at the exhibit opening
- Social media mentions

**5. BRONZE Exhibit Sponsor (\$2,500-\$4,999)**

- Listing on exhibit sponsor levels list
- Invitation to pre-opening “Sneak Peek”
- Sponsor Level Badges at the exhibit opening

**6. PATRON Exhibit Sponsor (\$1,000-\$2,499)**

- Listing on exhibit sponsor levels list
- Invitation to pre-opening “Sneak Peek”
- Sponsor Level Badges at exhibit opening

**Customized Sponsorship Packages**

We understand that each potential sponsor has unique needs and objectives. We are happy to work with you to create a customized sponsorship package that aligns with your goals and maximizes the impact of your contribution.

**Next Steps**

We would love to discuss this exciting opportunity with you further. Please contact **Timothy A. Barber**, Director of Museum Operations, at [timothy.barber@famu.edu](mailto:timothy.barber@famu.edu) or (850) 599-3020 to set up a meeting or for more information.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support a meaningful and impactful event. We look forward to the possibility of partnering with you to celebrate and promote the beauty and cultural heritage of the African American community.





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Ways to Contribute!

VISA, DEBIT, OR ONLINE PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE DIRECTLY TO FAMU FOUNDATION BY SCAN  
VIA QR CODE or Link BELOW. SELECT “SPECIAL PROGRAMS” or “BLACK ARCHIVES – GENERAL.”

\*If making online payment, please forward e-mail confirmation of payment to [blackarchives@famu.edu](mailto:blackarchives@famu.edu)

[https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/JU6wIg?utm\\_medium=qr&utm\\_source=qr&vid=17mwbe](https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/JU6wIg?utm_medium=qr&utm_source=qr&vid=17mwbe)



If you would like to pay by check, please make check payable to FAMU MEBA, and mail to:

Florida A&M University  
Meek-Eaton Black Archives  
445 Robert and Trudie Perkins Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32307  
c/o Director

Please write **Military America250** in the memo.