

NEWS RELEASE

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

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For Immediate Release

International Coalition Established to Remember the African Ancestors of the Middle Passage – the Maafa

USA, April 29, 2016: The International Coalition to Commemorate African Ancestors of the Middle Passage (ICCAAMP) has proclaimed **every second weekend in June** (beginning in 2016) as the **International Commemoration Weekend to Remember the African Ancestors of the Middle Passage - the Maafa**, with simultaneous activities hosted by ICCAAMP members in African-descended communities across the United States and internationally. Central to the commemorations are simultaneous prayers and libations on the second **Saturday** (June 11th), at 12 noon (EST); and continued prayer services at Black religious and spiritual institutions on **Sunday**, (June 12th).

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 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 (EST), on Saturday, June 11, 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 African Ancestors of the Middle Passage.

For decades, ICCAAMP member organizations have been conducting annual events primarily during the month of June that commemorate the spirit of these African Ancestors who have for years gone unrecognized and or forgotten. The Coalition was created to unify the important work of these organizations; to provide information to the public regarding where the Pan African Ancestral commemorations will take place; and to encourage individuals and organizations in the Black community to host their own commemoration. With this in mind, ICCAAMP has developed a set of suggestions (located on the ICCAAMP website) for those individuals and organizations who desire to develop their own ceremonies to commemorate the African Ancestors of the Middle Passage.

Ceremonies take place **nationally** in: 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, Jamaica and Ghana. 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

Founded in 2015, the International Coalition to Commemorate African Ancestors of the Middle Passage (ICCAAMP) has been formed 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. We also honor and commemorate those who survived the transatlantic trafficking in African people known as the Maafa, Black Holocaust, and Middle Passage. *For a list of commemoration locations, please visit the ICCAAMP at www.RememberTheAncestors.com. Follow us on www.facebook.com.Remembertheancestors.com; and on Twitter [#remembertheancestors](https://twitter.com/remembertheancestors)*

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