

On March 25, 2000,  
in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary  
of the Human Rights Ordinance of the City of Alexandria,  
the City placed a plaque in Barrett Library  
that reads the following:

“A library is the collective memory of all humanity.  
Its contents are the common heritage of us all.

On August 21, 1939, five citizens of the city walked into this building  
and sat at one of its reading tables. Though surrounded by the wisdom  
of the ages, they were denied access to the thoughts on the shelves  
around them for a reason as implausible as the color of their skin.  
For merely being in this room, they were arrested.

The act of these five men in the defying a discriminatory regulation was  
one of the earliest examples of a tactic successfully employed by  
a later generation to undermine racial segregation across the nation.  
This plaque is placed here so that the names of these five courageous  
citizens -- Williams Evans, Otto Tucker, Edward Gaddis, Morris  
Murray, and Clarence “Buck” Strange -- will forever remain  
a part of the collective memory of our community.”

## PROGRAM

10 am

Welcome ..... Rose T. Dawson  
*Director of Libraries, Alexandria Library*

Proclamation ..... Kerry J. Donley  
*Vice Mayor, City of Alexandria*

Musical Selection: “People Get Ready” ..... Arkese Gaskins  
*Alexandria Library*

Introduction of Keynote Speaker ..... Louis C. Hicks  
*Current Director, Alexandria Black History Museum*

Keynote Speaker ..... Eugene Thompson  
*First Director, Alexandria Black History Museum*

Re-enactment ..... Third Grade Students  
*Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School*

Acknowledgments ..... Rose T. Dawson  
*Director of Libraries, Alexandria Library*

Program followed by refreshments

Please visit the display and view the documentary  
*Out of Obscurity: The Story of the 1939  
Alexandria Library Sit-in*

Refreshments courtesy of The Friends of Barrett Branch

Gift materials for students courtesy of Alexandria Black History Museum

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Mayor and City Council

William D. Euille, Mayor  
Kerry J. Donley, Vice Mayor  
Frank H. Fannon IV  
Alicia Hughes  
Rob Krupicka  
Redella S. "Del" Pepper  
Paul C. Smedberg

### Alexandria Library Board

Dorothy "Brooksie" Koopman, Chair  
Oscar P. Fitzgerald, Vice Chair  
Anne Paul, Treasurer  
Kathleen Schloeder, Secretary  
Gwendolyn Day-Fuller  
Richard R. G. Hobson  
Frank H. Fannon IV, Council

### Alexandria Library

Rose T. Dawson, Director  
Linden Renner, Deputy Director  
George Combs, Local History / Special Collections Manager  
Luis Labra, Kate Waller Barrett Branch Manager

### Alexandria City Public Schools

Dr. Morton Sherman, Superintendent  
Loretta Scott, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School Principal  
Tina Jobkar, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School Teacher

### Office of Historic Alexandria

J. Lance Mallamo, Director  
Amy Bertsch, Public Information Officer  
Audrey P. Davis, Alexandria Black History Museum Assistant Director



# Alexandria Library

## The 70th Anniversary of the Alexandria Library Civil Rights Sit-in

1939 - 2009



August 21, 1939, Barrett Library

August 21, 2009

10 am