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Contact: Teya V. Smith
Applause Public Relations
(678) 760-7816 or teya@applausepr.com

A DREAM FORSEEN: DEKALB COUNTY STUDENTS HONOR AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE *African American Read-In and Literary Exhibit to Celebrate Historic Works for Black History Month*

January 22, 2010 – Atlanta, GA – In celebration of Black History month and increased literacy rates in the African American community, twenty-five DeKalb County High School students will take part in a read-in on the evening of Thursday, February 4, 2010 that will honor the works of historic African American literary figures. The read-in is part of an unveiling of the **Splendid Torch Literary Exhibit** presented by former NBA player Mike “Stinger” Glenn, who owns the display of 50 of the most historically significant books by and about African Americans. During the read-in, aptly titled The Splendid Torch: An African American Read-In, each student will present information on the life of a chosen author and recite a passage from one of their writings.

Accompanying the readings will be an internationally-renowned Frederick Douglass presenter, who will dramatize an introduction of the former slave turned abolitionist and illustrious author. Preceding the Douglass presentation will be an enactment of Harriet Tubman reading the letter that Douglass penned to her as a word of commendation for her biography, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*, written by Sarah Bradford in 1869. To represent the legendary Black Cowboys, a renowned character performer will present U. S. Deputy Marshall, Bass Reeves - one of the first Black law men of the Oklahoma Territory who went on to amass an unparalleled resume. Mark Hayes from Fox 5 Atlanta’s Good Morning Atlanta will serve as master of ceremonies.

The Splendid Torch Read-In and Exhibit will take place at Arabia Mountain High School where the books will remain on display through February 11, 2010. As part of their Black History celebration, the 50 historically significant books will be on loan to Arabia Mountain High School from the Mike Glenn Collection – an anthology of thousands of historic African American books and artifacts. Glenn also partnered with DeKalb County Schools, The DeKalb County Council of PTAs, National Council of Teachers of English, and The Black Caucus to present the display for this year’s 21st annual African American Read-In Day. Dr. Jerrie Scott, Founder and National Director of the African American Read-In Chain states, “The African American Read-In Chain was created to make reading works authored by African Americans a traditional part of Black History Month celebrations.” She concludes, “The Black Caucus and the National Council of Teachers of English are proud to endorse this program.” Students are chosen from DeKalb County High Schools, to participate based on excellence in literature and composition.

The list of 50 books loaned to Arabia Mountain High School from the Mike Glenn Collection will include: Phillis Wheatley's *Poems on Various subjects Religious and Moral from 1773*, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass from 1845*, *Harriet: The Moses of her People from 1886*, *The Underground Railroad from 1872*, *The Souls of Black Folk from 1904*, *Their Eyes were Watching God from 1937*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings from 1969*, *Roots from 1974* among others. All of the books in the exhibit are rare and early edition printings with most being first edition artifacts.

(Continued)

Who: Mike "Stinger" Glenn of the Mike Glenn Foundation
What: The Splendid Torch: An African American Read-In and Literary Exhibition
When: Thursday February 4, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.
Where: [Arabia Mountain High School](#)
6610 Browns Mill Road
Lithonia, GA 30058
More: **To locate tickets or for information contact:**
Rosalind Young at Arabia Mountain High School
(678) 875-3619 or rosalind_young@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us
Advance tickets \$7.00 or \$10.00 at the door

For The Splendid Torch Read-In participation contact:
Matt Osborn at Arabia Mountain High School
(678) 875-3633 or matthew_r_osborn@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

The program's objective is to present inspiration for research, literacy, history, and academic achievement. By embracing the rich legacy and heritage of African American literary excellence, we hope to shine a positive light with the splendid torch provided by great Americans of letters.

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To schedule an interview or book an appearance with Mike Glenn, contact Teya Smith at (678) 760-7816 or teya@applausepr.com.