



# Green McAdoo Cultural Center

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## INFORMATIONAL USE ONLY

### **Green McAdoo Cultural Center and the Clinton 12 win National Education Association's 2010 Rosa Parks Memorial Award**

The Green McAdoo Cultural Center and the Clinton 12 have been selected to receive the National Education Association's (NEA) 2010 Rosa Parks Memorial Award. NEA presents the Rosa Parks Memorial Award to a nominee who inspires others to champion the cause of human and civil rights. The awards ceremony will take place on the evening of July 2, 2010, in the Grand Ballroom of the Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. Announcement of the availability of tickets for the ceremony will be in April.

To be eligible for this award, the nominee must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate the courage to challenge the status quo in order to achieve a just society for the disadvantaged.
- Exemplify a nonviolent philosophy in pursuit of a better life for more minorities.
- Inspire direct action in the cause of human and civil rights.
- Contribute to the establishment of laws and policies that promote equal opportunities for minorities and the disadvantaged.

"Because of the exemplary accomplishments of the Green McAdoo Cultural Center and the Clinton 12, both have been selected to receive the Rosa Parks Memorial Award," said Van Roeckel.

The committee of local educators was established in 2008 to compile information to submit to the NEA on behalf of the Center and Clinton 12. The committee members include Bob Stokes, Patsye Thurmon, Terri Kerley, and Carolyn Boswell. Committee member Boswell stated, "The committee thought this was Clinton's way of owning what happened and celebrating the heroism showed by those children, because that's what they were – children. Theresser Caswell, one of the Clinton 12 stated, "National recognition for an event that occurred more than 50 years ago is rewarding whenever it happens, but the only reward we were seeking was an education." Jo Ann Boyce (Los Angeles, CA) stated, "Inside the classrooms, during the 1956 integration of Clinton High School, it was our teachers we could most count on to try and maintain an environment of learning, to assist and to encourage ALL students during a most difficult time. It is therefore, because of the efforts of a group of teachers and educators the bestowing of the Rosa Parks Memorial Award on the Clinton 12 is made even more special. I offer my sincerest thanks to the members of the Anderson County NEA for believing in our merit and nominating us for this honorable award."

"I am pleased the NEA chose to honor the Clinton 12 and Green McAdoo Cultural Center with the Rosa Parks Memorial Award," said U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.). "The Clinton 12 bravely stood up and became the first students to enter a desegregated public high school in the South, and through the Green McAdoo Cultural Center, we're able to honor their importance in our nation's history." In 2007, Sen. Alexander introduced the Green McAdoo National History Site Study Act, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of designating the Green McAdoo School as a unit of the National Park System. The legislation passed in 2009 and the study is currently underway.

"The story of the Clinton 12 is one of progress, courage and the power of a small group of committed citizens who seized an opportunity to make their community and this country stronger. Today, through the work of the Green McAdoo Cultural Center, the Clinton 12 continue to remind us that we all have that same power to bring about positive change. I

congratulate the Clinton 12, the Green McAdoo Cultural Center and all of those involved for bringing this special recognition home to Clinton, Tennessee,” said U.S. Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn.).

U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp (R-Tenn. 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District), who has led the efforts to have the Green McAdoo Cultural Center designated as a National Historic Site in the U.S. House of Representatives, said, “It is deeply moving that the efforts of the courageous students known as the Clinton 12 and the efforts of the community leaders in Clinton, Tennessee, are receiving national recognition. There are important lessons to be learned from this significant part of our country's civil rights history and the movement to ensure equal educational opportunities to every American.”

"The Green McAdoo Center is very deserving of this distinguished recognition," said Senator Randy McNally (R-Clinton). The Center reminds us of the courage displayed by local citizens in the fight for equality and justice. I congratulate the Center for being honored for their excellence in preserving this heritage for future generations."

“It is with great pride that I congratulate the Green McAdoo Cultural Center and The Clinton 12 for being selected to receive the National Education Association’s 2010 Rosa Parks Memorial Award. Their effort to preserve Clinton’s past has created a venue for future generations to reflect upon with great pride Clinton’s place in history,” said Representative Jim Hackworth (D-Legislative District 33).

Steve Jones, Clinton City Manager and Green McAdoo board member said, "The Clinton 12 are true unsung American heroes and I am deeply moved by the National Education Association's recognition of them and the Green McAdoo Cultural Center that tells their story. The historical events that took place in Clinton in 1956-1958 were almost forgotten even though they are a significant part of this nation's history. I offer my sincere thanks to the NEA." Scott Burton (Clinton Mayor) stated, "The City of Clinton is proud of this recognition for the Green McAdoo Cultural Center and the Clinton 12. We have always felt the project and the people associated with it were worthy of national recognition and we appreciate the National Education Association making that a reality."

\*The National Education Association is the nation’s largest professional organization, representing 3.2 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers.