Appended to this release: schedule of events

Photos attached:  Headshots of Dr. Leon Bass & Prof. James M. McPherson
Actors Richard Brooks as Frederick Douglas in “The Abolitionists”
Firebombed bus shown in “The Freedom Riders”
Chain gang shown in “Slavery By Another Name”
Mildred & Richard Loving, subjects of “The Loving Story”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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David Library Presents “Created Equal,” Revisiting America’s Civil Rights Struggle in Partnership with the NEH and Gilder Lehrman

Film Series and Discussion Will Explore Quest for Equality

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA -- The David Library of the American Revolution is partnering with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to mark the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation by presenting “Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle,” a month-long program designed to encourage citizens to revisit the history of the civil rights movement, and to reflect on the ideals of freedom and equality that have helped bridge deep racial and cultural divides in the United States of America.

Over the month of February, which is Black History Month, the David Library will show four critically acclaimed documentary films about the history of civil rights in America, and on Sunday, February 23, will present a panel discussion on the topics raised in the films. The public is cordially invited to attend all of the scheduled events admission free. Panelists assembled to date for the discussion forum on February 23 at 2:00 include Prof. James McPherson of Princeton University, a scholar of the abolitionist movement, and Dr. Leon Bass, an educator and renowned lecturer on segregation in America, among others to be announced. The panelists will discuss civil rights from the perspective of history – how far we have come, and how far we have yet to go in achieving the ideal of “liberty and justice for all.” Audience participation in the discussion will be encouraged.
The film series includes *Slavery By Another Name*, which will be shown at the David Library on Saturday, February 1 at 2:00. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Douglas A. Blackmon, *Slavery By Another Name* tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the south after the Civil War, new systems of involuntary servitude took its place with shocking force and brutality. *The Abolitionists* will be shown on Saturday, February 8 at 11:45 AM. At 3 hours, it is the lengthiest film in the series, so it will be shown with two intermissions and refreshments will be offered. *The Abolitionists* interweaves drama with traditional documentary storytelling, bringing to life the intertwined stories of Frederick Douglas, William Lloyd Garrison, Angelina Grimké, Harriet Beecher Stowe and John Brown, and revealing how the abolitionist movement shaped history by exposing the fatal flaw of a republic founded on liberty for some and bondage for others. On Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 7:30 PM, the Library will screen *The Loving Story*, the definitive account of Loving vs. Virginia, the landmark 1967 Supreme Court decision that declared anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional. The final film in the series, *Freedom Riders*, will be shown on Saturday, February 22 at 2PM. The film is the first feature length documentary about the diverse group of activists who organized a series of bus trips through the American South in 1961 to protest segregation in interstate bus terminals.

“We encourage our audience to see as many of the films as possible before the panel event on February 23, although clips from the films will be shown at that event,” said Meg McSweeney, Chief Operating Officer of the David Library. She adds that the films will also be available for viewing at the David Library during regular business hours (Tuesday through Saturday, 10 – 5) throughout the month of February, where up to two individuals at a time may watch the films on a DVD viewer with headphones. For teachers and community groups who would like to incorporate “Created Equal” into classroom or group discussion, McSweeney notes that NEH and Gilder Lehrman have created discussion guides and classroom tools that the David Library will make available. For more information, call the administrative office at the Library, 215.493.6776 ext 106 or visit www.dlar.org/events.htm for greater detail about the “Created Equal” program.

The film screenings and the panel discussion will take place in Stone Hall at the David Library of the American Revolution, 1201 River Road, Washington Crossing, 1.3 miles north of the Washington Crossing Bridge. Reservations for each event are encouraged and can be made by calling 215.493.6776 ext 100 or sending an email to rsvp@dlar.org.
Schedule for the Created Equal Film Series

Saturday, February 1, 2014 - 2PM – *Slavery By Another Name* (90 minutes) – Narrated by Laurence Fishburne and based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Douglas A. Blackmon, the film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the south after the Civil War, new systems of involuntary servitude took its place with shocking force and brutality.

Saturday, February 8, 2014 - 11:45AM – *The Abolitionists* (3 hours – shown in 3 parts with two intermissions) – Interweaving drama with traditional documentary storytelling, The Abolitionists brings to life the intertwined stories of Frederick Douglas, William Lloyd Garrison, Angelina Grimké, Harriet Beecher Stowe and John Brown. Set in the most violent and contentious decades of American history, the film reveals how the abolitionist movement shaped history by exposing the fatal flaw of a republic founded on liberty for some and bondage for others. Refreshments will be available during the intermissions of this film.

Thursday, February 13, 2014 – 7:30 PM – *The Loving Story* (77 minutes) – The definitive account of Loving vs. Virginia, the landmark 1967 Supreme Court decision that declared anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional. Richard and Mildred Loving were married in Washington, D. C. in 1958, but were banished from their home state of Virginia where their marriage was declared illegal. Richard was white, and Mildred was black and Native American. Using newly-discovered film footage and first-person testimony by family members, The Loving Story documents a seminal moment in modern legal history.

Saturday, February 22, 2014 – 2PM – *The Freedom Riders* (2 hours) – In 1961, an integrated group of activists, mostly college students, launched the Freedom Rides, a series of bus trips through the American South to protest segregation in interstate bus terminals. These actions drew international attention to their cause, forcing the American public as well as the President of the United States to face the challenge of correcting civil rights inequalities. The Freedom Riders is the first feature-length film about this remarkable band of young people. It chronicles a chapter of American history that stands as astonishing testament to the accomplishment of youth and the power of personal courage and conviction.

Sunday, February 23, 2014 – 2PM – Panel & Community Discussion on the Created Equal Film Series – Led by a panel of distinguished historians and eye-witnesses to history, our Created Equal film series will culminate with a discussion of the equality in America. Short clips from each of the films will be shown, and the audience will be encouraged to participate in the conversation. Panel is still in formation, but it will include Dr. Leon Bass, an educator noted as an African-American soldier in World War II who witnessed the Buchenwald concentration camp. Since that time, he has been a lecturer on the subject of racism and the Holocaust, bringing his unique perspective as a witness of many forms of oppression during his lifetime; and Prof. James M. McPherson, the George Henry Davis ’86 Professor Emeritus of United States History at Princeton University. He received the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for *Battle Cry of Freedom*. Among his many other books are *The Abolitionist Legacy* and *The Struggle for Equality*. Additional panelists TBA.

The film series and panel discussion will all be held in the Feinstone Conference Center at the David Library of the American Revolution. To reserve a seat for any of the film screenings and/or the panel discussion, please call 215-493-6776 ext 100, or email rsvp@dlar.org. All events are admission free.