



The *Dos Amigos/Fair Rosamond*
SLAVE SHIP REPLICA PROJECT

• **Southern Office:** 80 NW 51st Street, Miami, FL 33127-2114, U.S.A.

Dinizulu Gene Tinnie, Co-Director T: 305-904-7620 E: dinizulu7@gmail.com

• **Eastern Office:** 900 Pine Street, Suite One, Wilmington, DE 19801, U.S.A.

Harmon R. Carey, Co-Director T: 302-562-4718 E: harmon.carey@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2017

Contacts: Altine: 786-260-1246; Dinizulu Gene Tinnie: 305-904-7620

‘SLAVE TRADE’ ANCESTORS REMEMBERED ON FATHERS’ DAY MORNING

A growing South Florida tradition, now in its 26th year, continues with the Annual Sunrise Ancestral Remembrance of the Middle Passage ceremony on Sunday, June 18 (which also happens, appropriately, to be Fathers’ Day), from 5:30 to 8:00 a.m. at Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, 4020 Virginia Beach Drive (off Rickenbacker Causeway; turn left at second traffic signal on Virginia Key, just before the Bear Cut Bridge to Key Biscayne), in Miami.

The ceremony honors the memory, and the heroism of the millions of individual human lives that matters, who endured the horrors of the Middle Passage, or so-called Atlantic “slave trade,” which lasted more than four centuries, during which most perished – nameless, faceless, and forgotten to history, but not to us as we remember them as well as those who somehow survived the unspeakable horrors of the ordeal, to give life and love to future generations, even in spite of the subsequent nightmare of enslavement.

Not to be forgotten in the ceremony are the countless generations of Indigenous Ancestors of this land, whose wise stewardship of it has allowed it to nourish and sustain us today, or those even more ancient African Ancestors who crossed oceans and came to the Americas centuries before Columbus and the barbaric human trafficking that is also known by the African term *Maafa*, signifying an overwhelming disaster.

The annual ceremony is one of a steadily growing number of such remembrances in cities around the United States and the world, and is held in Miami at sunrise on the Sunday closest to the summer solstice, which coincides, fortuitously, with the week of observing Juneteenth, also a nationally growing remembrance of the true end of legal slavery in the U.S., in east Texas on June 19, 1865, when the last of the enslaved population received word of the end of the Civil War and of their official Emancipation.

The Sunrise Ceremony begins with a Native American opening blessing, followed by a tradition African pouring of a libation and prayers from multiple spiritual traditions, and “Village Talk” – an open forum for sharing of thoughts, performances, etc., after which offerings of fruits, flowers, grains, and other appropriate items are welcomed to be placed on a raft of palm fronds and carried out to sea as a conclusion.

Its location at Historic Virginia Key Beach Park is also significant, as this was once Miami’s only official “Colored Beach” during the segregation era, which brought together all classes and neighborhoods, local residents and visitors, including celebrities, at a remarkably scenic location that is still fondly remembered in spite of the senseless restrictions..

Admission to the Remembrance is free and open to the public (although there is a vehicle toll for Rickenbacker Causeway).

It is strongly recommended that participants arrive early, as some lanes on the Causeway get blocked for a bicycle event later that morning.

For further information, call 786-260-1246 or 305-8904-7620.