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**ALABAMA NEGRO LEAGUE ASSOCIATION TO HOLD BANQUET IN HONOR OF BASEBALL
LEGENDS**

Banquet precedes ESPN Classic Negro Baseball Live game at Rickwood Field

BIRMINGHAM, AL (January 16, 2005) – The Alabama Negro League Association (ANLA) announced today that the organization's Annual Gala Fundraiser will take place Friday, February 24th at the Sheraton Civic Center, an event that kicks off an exciting weekend for Birmingham and the history of Negro League baseball.

The event will also showcase a silent auction that will include some baseball memorabilia and other items of interest, with all of the proceeds benefiting the ANLA in its efforts to establish the Negro League Museum Foundation, a fitting tribute to some of the game's unheralded athletes. The banquet also precedes a national event produced by ESPN Classic.

ESPN Classic, in association with ESPN Black History Month, will stage a live Vintage Baseball Game between a team representing the Birmingham Black Barons and the Bristol (Connecticut) Barnstormers at Rickwood Field on Sunday, February 26, 2006. This is an important event for the city of Birmingham and the state of Alabama, and will keep the game of vintage baseball alive on a national level.

The Alabama Negro League Association has been raising funds and awareness in regard to Birmingham's proud and lengthy history in Negro League Baseball since the organization's inception in 1997.

Points:

Friday, February 24, 2006 – 7:30 P.M.

Birmingham Sheraton Civic Center – East Ballroom

There are a limited number of banquet tickets available.

Sunday, February 26, 2006 – 1:00 pm.

Parade – neighborhood leading to Rickwood Field

Sunday, February 26, 2006 – 3:00 p.m

Live Broadcast – Rickwood Field

Game tickets can purchased at Rickwood Field on game day.

Confirmed Special Guest:

Country Singer – Charlie Pride – Banquet, Parade and Game

Teddy Gentry (from the Group “Alabama”) Banquet – not sure of Sunday

Master P (Rapper) – Sunday Game Only

Willie Mays – Sunday Game Only

Reverend William H. Greason of the 1948 Birmingham Black Barons Championship team is the President of the Alabama Negro League Association

James “Jim” Zapp of the 1948 team and of course Willie Mays.