

Delores M. Parks

Wyndmoor, PA 19038



July 19, 2012

*Gwendolyn Duncan, President
The 40th ACCORD, Inc.
P.O. Box 697
St. Augustine, FL 32085-0697*

My Dear Gwen:

It is with a great deal of humility and gratitude that I send this correspondence. First, I thank God for what I witnessed and experienced in St. Augustine, Florida on Monday, July 2, 2012 at Flagler College. What an appropriate location to celebrate the 48th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

It was an honor for me; to dine, fellowship and speak with Dr. Robert B. Hayling. He is a living legend. His sacrifices, dedication and commitment paid off. He fought a good fight and lived to witness and enjoy the rewards of his victories.

Thanks again for the unmerited honor you and ACCORD, Inc. bestowed on me. The honor belongs to God and ACCORD, Inc. for keeping the dream alive. Please, don't give up; continue to walk, talk, nurture and live out the dream. Whatever God place in your heart to accomplish his expected end, do! You are to be commended for the wonderful job you, your daughter, Ms. Tyson and all the others are doing.

I have enclosed a copy of the poem "Remember", which I wrote especially for the 48th anniversary luncheon. The poem was dedicated to Dr. Hayling, ACCORD, Inc. and all the men, women and children who played a part in the St. Augustine struggles; and all those who continue to promote dignity of all people.

Regards,

Delores Miller Parks



Remember

Do you remember the day you were born?

*The arms of your mother, father or loved one that carried you home
Do you recall that backwards crawl and wobbly first step
Your first words, first day of school or afternoon naps*

*Do you remember kindergarten, Murray High teachers and friends?
Encouraging words, discipline, criticism or Fountain Pens
Old fashion correction, failed grades, passing marks and more
That helped to mold you into the person we sometimes love and adore*

*Into your life they poured a sense of self worth and pride
That enabled you to stand strong and not just come along for the ride
They guided your life and fueled your righteous fight
To travel the straight and narrow as you treat others right*

*All men are created equal in America and supposedly free
Equal under the law, in spite of their race, gender or creed
Remember to remember your struggles, successes and defeats
Your fight was not only for you but all those that are eternally asleep*

*St. Augustine is known as our nation's oldest city-beautiful and quaint
It was here we fought for freedom and justice for all regardless of their state
Remember how we marched, picket lines, the slave market and prayed
Suffered oppression, degradation, humiliation and shame*

*Remember our fearless leaders as they led us in prayer on our knees
Stir up those things that are not yet as though they are indeed
Remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his example of peace
How his actions exemplified the messages he preached*

*Remember how far we have come realizing our journey is still to be run
Remember what you see here today and cherish it with all your heart
Don't take it for granted- If you fail to remember and preserve your past
This sense of freedom you experience today will never last*

?

***Dedicated to Dr. Robert B. Hayling
and The 40th ACCORD Inc.***

By: Delores Miller Parks 07.02.12

Not to be altered- copyright 2012 1-787151901