



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ASPIRING ARTISTS, S.H.E. AGENCY, AND I-85 CREATIVE GROUP TO HOST
8TH ANNUAL ALBERT EUGENE THOMAS MEMORIAL BASKETBALL GAMES IN
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

UPDATE: April 8, 2010

MONTGOMERY, AL---The 8th Annual Albert Eugene Thomas Memorial Basketball Games will be held Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 4:00PM at G.W. Carver High School Gymnasium. This event is an effort to promote awareness about Sickle Cell Trait/Sickle Cell Disease and HIV/AIDS to raise funds for the Albert Eugene Thomas Scholarship Funds, Sickle Cell Foundation of Greater Montgomery, Inc. and Montgomery AIDS Outreach, Inc.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells. People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that contain mostly hemoglobin S, an abnormal type of hemoglobin. Sometimes these red blood cells become sickle-shaped and have difficulty passing through small blood vessels. When sickle-shaped cells block small blood vessels, less blood can reach that part of the body. Tissue that does not receive a normal blood flow eventually becomes damaged. This is what causes the complications of sickle cell disease. There is currently no universal cure for sickle disease.

HIV is a virus that attacks the immune systems, the body's natural defense system. Without a strong immune system, the body has trouble fighting off disease. Both the virus and the infection it causes are called HIV. White blood cells are an important part of the immune system. HIV invades and destroys certain white blood cells that prevents the body from defending itself against infection. The last stage of HIV infections is AIDS. Those with AIDS get infections or cancers that rarely occur in healthy people and can be deadly. It takes a long time for HIV to progress to AIDS but with treatment, people with HIV are able to live long and active lives.

The community support for this event will allow these organizations to continue to promote public awareness of Sickle Cell Trait/Sickle Cell Disease and HIV/AIDS, to promote community education, to provide counseling and services, and to provide testing and medical treatments to patients. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. The tickets may be purchased online at <http://albertthomasmemorialbasketball.eventbrite.com/>.

This event is sponsored by Senator Quinton T. Ross, State Representative District 76 Candidate Maurice Rollins, CT Tax, Massey Memorial Funeral, State Farm Agent Willie Durham, Golden Shears, and Valerie Smedley, Attorney at Law.

For more information or request interviews, contact:

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