

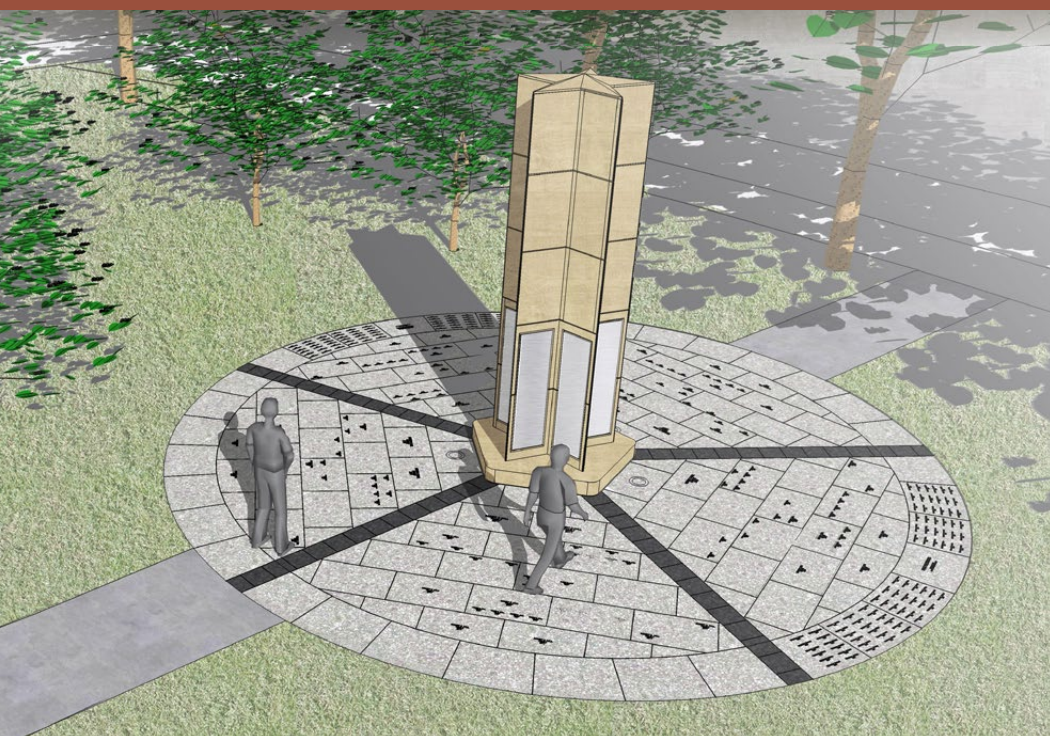


# NEWS

SUMMER 2017

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

*Dedicated to the recognition, preservation and restoration of Greater Kansas City's unique heritage.*

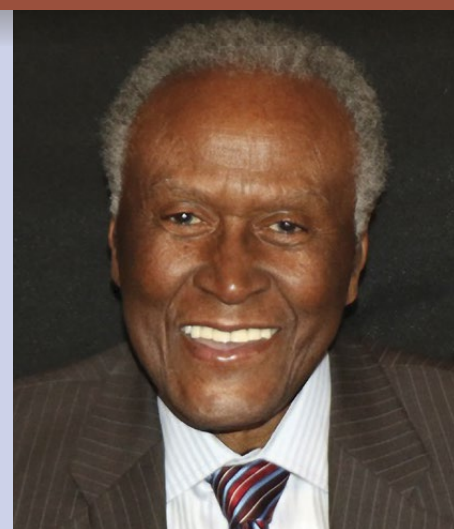


## The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Monument Project **HISTORIC GROUNDBREAKING EVENT** Thursday, July 13, 10:00 am

**F**ollowing four years of planning, design and investigation of four potential sites, the construction of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Monument will commence with a Groundbreaking Ceremony this coming July 13! The Monument project is one of the most significant projects our organization has initiated in decades and serves as a tribute to all those who have placed their hands upon the heritage of our Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. The Monument is to be erected on the west side of the 5.2 acre Ilus Davis Park located north of City Hall, at 10th and Oak Streets, Kansas City, Missouri.

The vision for such a Monument was presented to the NSDKC Board in the spring of 2013 by Mr. Carl DiCapo (2015 NSDKC President), and he designated 2010 NSDKC President Gary L. Hicks to create a conceptual design to reflect the heritage of our Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area, and to represent the mission of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. The valuable contribution NSDKC has made for 85 years toward the preservation of our region's

*MONUMENT continued on page 3*



## Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala, November 14

**O**ur honoree for 2017 is the Honorable Alvin Brooks, former head of Ad hoc Against Crime and a strong supporter of equality and peace in the Kansas City area. Mr. Brooks is the former Mayor Pro Tem and 6th District at-Large City Councilman. He was first elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2003. His accomplishments and civic involvements are endless. Mr. Brooks is a very special person and the evening promises to be one to remember.

Each of you has received a mailed announcement of this 2017 OKC event which provides further details on Mr. Brooks. It also explains how to be a sponsor and how to purchase seats and/or tables for this event. Please mark your calendar and come and join us to honor him and the Kansas City Crime Commission on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom.

*OKC GALA continued on page 5*



# The President's Message

## Dear members:

Our 85th year just get more and more exciting as you will learn from the articles in this newsletter.

We are moving very quickly on the construction of our new monument in Ilus Davis Park, and have been working hard putting together plans for the groundbreaking ceremony on July 13 (*see article on page 1*).

We are expecting a large number of our membership, board and officers, and local officials to be on hand, so please join us for this historical event.

Another event to celebrate our 85th anniversary will be held on Saturday, August 19 at 10:00 am. Arrangements have been made to visit the State Historical Society of Missouri in Newcomb Hall, located at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) campus to view our permanent archives! As an extra bonus, Associate Director Lucinda Adams has graciously offered to present a slide show that will demonstrate our history over the years, what records are available, and the process they are using to digitize records for future generations.

I find it very exciting to be able to see original papers and signatures from 1932 which show how we began, who was involved in putting our organization together, and the amazing contributions we have made to Kansas City and the 10 counties we represent.

Visit our website at [www.NSDKC.org](http://www.NSDKC.org) to see a list of holdings at the archives. We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful records available to us! It is an exciting time to be a member and we encourage you to ask your friends and family to join us.

Continue to celebrate our special year by attending the tours of the TWA Museum, and the new Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center. Date to be announced soon!

Sincerely,  
Diane Boos Pepper  
2017 NSDKC President



**President Diane Boos Pepper**



## OFFICERS & STAFF

Diane Boos Pepper  
*President*

Steve Noll  
*1st Vice President*

Nancy Elder  
*2nd Vice President*

Jim Flanagan  
*Treasurer*

John Dunnewind  
*Secretary*

Dick Retrum  
*Historian*

John Hess, Jr.  
*Immediate Past President*

*A list of all committees and committee chairs is available at NSDKC.org*

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## MISSION

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc. is dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, both in Missouri and Kansas, through advocacy, education and restoration. It also seeks to preserve and maintain archives of historical interest relating to the development of the Kansas City region and to recognize individuals who have resided therein and contributed to such development.



## CALENDAR

Thursday, July 13, 10:00 am, Groundbreaking for NSDKC Monument

Saturday, August 19, 10:00 am, UMKC Newcomb Hall  
NSDKC Archives Viewing

Date TBA, Tour of TWA Museum

Date TBA, Tour of Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center

September (TBA) Dedication of Coles Jr High NSDKC Marker

Wednesday, October 11, 6:00 pm, Annual Membership and Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 6:00 pm, Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala

Saturday, December 9, 11:00 am, Annual Brunch



## MONUMENT continued from page 1

past is integral to the Monument's design.

Community leaders across the region enthusiastically support this project. The Monument Project Committee, led by NSDKC Past President Carl DiCapo, includes members of NSDKC, representatives from J.E. Dunn Construction Co., and BNIM Architects, Inc.

The Monument's design includes the following primary elements:

- An imposing 16-ft high x five-pointed star-shape tower providing ten exposed faces around its perimeter represents the 10 regional counties which is the NSDKC focus area:
- Kansas counties (Leavenworth, Wyandotte, Johnson, Miami)
- Missouri counties (Platte, Clay, Cass, Ray, Jackson, Lafayette)
- Each of the five points of the tower's star-shaped design (5'-6" from 'point-to-point') represents the primary aspects of the NSDKC mission:
- Historical Preservation
- Education
- Advocacy
- Charity
- General welfare of the greater Kansas City region
- The 16-ft high tower will be constructed of precast concrete units formed in a classic five-pointed star-shape. The tower height reflects the character strengths and virtues embraced by our Greater Kansas City community found within Wisdom and Knowledge; Courage, Humanity, Justice, Temperance, and Transcendence.
- 10 laser-etched aluminum panels, installed on each face of the five-pointed star tower, are themed with the primary attributes of our community's heritage, including the early cultures and explorers, western expansion, transportation, agriculture, entrepreneurs, arts and education, science and research, sports, the distinct grandeur of our region, and a tribute to The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City.
- A landscaped plaza area with inscribed granite paving units feature themes such as recipients of NSDKC's Outstanding Kansas Citian Award; NSDKC's Past Presidents; NSDKC preservation projects; and its historical markers program. (note: granite paving units shall be available for sponsorship, similar to the many other 'sponsored brick programs' conducted in our region.

A wayside exhibit will be located adjoining the plaza area describing the features of the Monument, including a description of the Monument's design elements, recognition of significant project funding donors, and project committee

**Be part of Kansas City's History!**  
**Inscribe your name on the NSDKC Monument!**

**YOUR NAME  
HERE**

**Contact us today to be a patron  
at one of the following levels and sizes:**

**\$10,000 <= 1-1/2" tall name**  
**\$5,000 = 1-3/8" tall name**  
**\$1,000 = 1-1/4" tall name**  
**\$500 = 1" tall name**  
**\$200 = 5/8" tall name**

*The Native Sons and Daughters of  
Greater Kansas City is a 501(c) (3) organization  
Tax ID #48-085007*

**See [www.NSDKC.org](http://www.NSDKC.org) to contribute  
or call 913-207-3310**

members and sponsors.

The Monument will set in a visible and prestigious location within Ilus Davis Park, just north of the heroic bronze statue of Mayor Davis located at 11th & Oak Streets, allowing for appropriate walkway access with handicap accessibility, lighting, landscaping, and plantings. (note: Mr. Davis was Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri from 1963-1972.)

The July 13 Groundbreaking Ceremony will include public officials, community leaders, and members of the NSDKC organization turning the first shovels of dirt as the construction phase begins. Refreshments and music will be provided. **Limited curbside parking will be provided on Locust Street and additional parking will be available at the J.E. Dunn parking garage located east of the park at 1001 Locust Street.**

**All NSDKC members are encouraged to participate in supporting this worthy and historic project as funding donors or as sponsors through the purchase of inscribed bricks. Contact [www.NSDKC.org](http://www.NSDKC.org) or 913-207-3310 with your interest to be a project funding donor or as an inscribed stone paver sponsor.**

The Monument is in its final design stage with construction scheduled for completion this fall. At that time a formal dedication event will be planned to dedicate the Monument to past, present and future generations of our Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area!

**See you July 13 at the NSDKC Monument  
Groundbreaking Ceremony!**



# Strang Line Car Barn, NSDKC marker re-dedicated

On Friday, June 30 we re-dedicated a “Native Sons of Kansas City” plaque (right) that had been first installed in 1989 on the historic 1906 Strang Line Car Barn at 79th and Santa Fe Drive in downtown Overland Park, occupied today by Traditions Furniture. It had fallen off a few years ago and had been safely stored in the Strang Carriage House (built in 1915) at 8045 Santa Fe Drive, home of the Overland Park Historical Society (OPHS).

Dave Comer, Past President of OPHS arranged to have it restored and re-mounted. Traditions Furniture held a reception, sponsored by OPHS, after the ceremony.

About 32 people attended on a fine morning after all the heavy rains the previous two days.

Speakers at the event included Terry Happer-Scheier, Overland Park City Council Ward #1, and Florent Wagner (middle right) who is easily the most knowledgeable historian about Overland Park and the Strang Line that enabled Overland Park to develop. The last speaker was our own Gary L. Hicks (lower right), who talked about NSDKC and our markers program. Ross Marshall served as the M/C.

It is encouraging to see the importance that other people and organizations place on our historical markers!



Above, after unveiling the marker, is (l-r) NSDKC 2nd Vice President Nancy Elder and Marilee Ciardullo, long-time Overland Park Historical Society Board member.



## NSDKC 85 HISTORY

# NSDKC changes during 85 years

**D**uring 2017, each newsletter under the above heading will contain one or more short bullet points concerning our history.

In 2006 our membership voted to approve changing the organization's name from "The Native Sons of Kansas City, Missouri" to "The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City." At that time, women were given full membership in the organization and at that same event, Eileen S. Sullivan was installed as the first female president.

**In 2006, we became The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. Eileen S. Sullivan was installed as the first female president.**

Our organization was first named "The Native Sons of Kansas City" in 1932. Then in 1938, the name was changed to "The Native Sons of Kansas City, Missouri". Today, since our name has nine words in it, we quite often use the abbreviation "NSDKC".

As an additional note, President Diane Pepper has urged us to have a focus on this year being our 85th Anniversary. Accordingly, Diane, Dan Creasy, Gary Hicks and Ross Marshall met recently and discussed how we could produce an *85th Anniversary History Booklet* by the end of this year. So we, and anyone else who is interested, will be using our August 19 event at the UMKC Newcomb Hall as a launching date for researching our history to produce the *History Booklet*.

Anyone interested in helping, please contact us. We'll probably need it!



**(L-R) Paul Christiansen, John Hess, Jr., and Shirley Marshall after shooting lotsa basketball shots!**

## College Basketball Experience a slam-dunk for NSDKC members

By Ross Marshall

Despite heavy rain the morning of our Saturday April 29 event at the College Basketball Experience facility at the Sprint Center, we had a great experience walking through the Hall of Fame that displays pictures and bios of the many dozens of its members. Players, coaches, teams and media personalities were displayed. We learned about all the legends who have made the game great.

But it is not just a Hall of Fame. A small theater shows basketball videos. It is also a high-energy facility for those who want to shoot baskets in several settings or even play on a full-size court! And yes, my wife Shirley beat me!

We had a nice lunch together at Johnny's Tavern across the street and it was an enjoyable day.

### OKC GALA continued from page 1

This is an annual affair and one you will be very pleased to attend. We will have a silent auction of some fabulous destination certificates and special items (wine baskets, BBQ baskets, jewelry, sports memorabilia and other things) to tickle your fancy. We invite you to consider sponsorship of a table and invite your friends and family to join you for a very nice evening.

The Native Sons & Daughters of Greater Kansas City has a membership consisting of citizens of the Greater Kansas City Area who are interested in learning about the history of our area and preserving the same. Membership is very reasonable and we invite you to go to the website, [www.NSDKC.org](http://www.NSDKC.org), to learn more about the organization and access the application form.

Nancy Elder,  
2017 NSDKC 2nd Vice President  
Outstanding Kansas Citian Committee Chair.



The Missouri contestants for the NSDKC history award.

## NSDKC History Day winners tell compelling stories

### Missouri

At the Missouri State Historical Society's annual High School History Day competition in Columbia, Missouri on Saturday April 21, 2017, Mary Lee Sturdevant and Dan Sturdevant enjoyed the presentation of several high school contestants for the NSDKC history award.

The winner of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City award was a 15 minute performance by four Liberty High School students. *Writing History: The Mary Paxton Keeley Story* was performed by Harrison Frawley, Brianna Wagoner, Mary Shepherd and Christina Mackenzie. Our \$100 award was split four ways and each also received a NSDKC Certificate.

The four students moved seamlessly from one scene to another scene describing the life of this woman who had a fine career as a woman journalist. The last scene was the White House ceremony showing Ms. Keely receiving an award in 1989 from President George H. W. Bush. As an aside, earlier in her life she had been best friends with Bess Truman.

Ms. Keely in 1908 was the first woman admitted to the University of Missouri Journalism School and became the first female reporter in the Kansas City area. *The Kansas City Star* rejected her job application because she was a woman, but the *Kansas City Post* hired her.

A couple of her famous articles were *1910s, the Red Light District in Kansas City* and *Chillicothe, Missouri Training Center Exposé*.

### Kansas

The winner of The Native Sons and Daughters Award for the Kansas student high school competition, as judged by NSDKC member David Boutros, was student Marie Brockhoff for her exhibit at the Topeka, Kansas History Day in April. She won in the Junior Individual Exhibit category: *Nelly Don: Just Try One On!* Marie lives in Linwood, Kansas and goes to Bishop Seabury Academy.

## Trivia contest at Alexander Majors Barn

Four very 'smart characters' from NSDKC entered a Trivia Contest on the evening of May 25 at the Alexander Majors Barn at 83rd and State Line. These 'characters' were Dan Sturdevant, Gary Hicks, Joe Vaughan and Ross Marshall.

We were one of a dozen four-member teams who were asked 10 questions in five different rounds about Kansas City area history. These five rounds dealt with People, Places, Events, Freedom Frontier's Heritage Area, and Monuments and Memorials. Each team filled out their sheet (quiet whispers so that nobody could hear us!) and turned it in and the top three finishers were announced. We did this for each of five rounds.

When it was finished, the overall totals showed us tied with another group for first place! The only solution was to flip a coin and we lost!! We still got nice prizes.

One of the fun things before we started was that Dan played a recording of his song *We Didn't Start the Fire* that mentions about 80 different historical people, places and events in Kansas City history.

However, we had a great time and we weren't so dumb after all!

