

2021 NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Human and Civil Rights Award Winner

■ REGGIE JACKSON



Communicating the narrative of a community ensures that community's continued existence.

Acclaimed oral historian Reggie Jackson continues the legacy of Carter G. Woodson the "Father of Black History", by literally telling the story of a people.

Jackson is a Milwaukee-based educational legend, known as the go-to expert commentator on America's complex racial dynamic. From CNN to NPR, Jackson chronicles racism's systemic origins, and how those origins impact all cultures, while empowering communities to feel that through knowledge, they can rise above it all.

Reggie Jackson's most indelible mark on the culture is his longtime association with Milwaukee's storied America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM), one of few institutions specifically devoted to enlightenment about the original sin of slavery. Founded in 1984 in a humble storefront location, ABHM was the brainchild of Dr. James Cameron, the only known American survivor of a lynching. Jackson became Head Griot (oral historian/docent) of the organization in 2003, conducting hundreds of museum tours, and was charged with training new griots in the lost, but crucial art of person to person verbal connection.

Naval veteran Jackson became a member of the ABHM board of directors from 2005 to 2017, while also serving as an adjunct professor of Sociology at Concordia University, and a middle school special needs instructor. He's impacted public policy by being appointed to the City of Milwaukee's Equal Rights Commission in 2018. In that role Jackson held numerous forums with diverse audiences on the city's history of segregation, and how the de facto remnants of earlier times affect persons of color to this day.

Reggie Jackson is a nationally heralded independent scholar and much sought after speaker, researcher, writer, and consultant to the media on race relations. He helps institutions and individuals understand how our country's racial hierarchy developed historically, its impact on our lives today, and how we can realize America's promise for all its citizens. Reggie shares seldom-told stories and data about the experiences of African-Americans and other persons of color, past and present.

His dedication to building bridges of cultural understanding is as passionate as his love of history; his "warts and all" approach is the ultimate expression of the adage, "those ignorant of past mistakes are condemned to repeat them".

Executed in vivid detail, his storytelling enriches all races, and helps bring the humanity of all people to life. Thanks to Reggie Jackson's ongoing commitment to educating American society, every month is Black History Month.