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Contact: Jen Wallace at communications@dehistory.org or 302-295-2390
August 13, 2015

Delaware Historical Society Film Series Documenting the Stories of Prominent African American Leaders in Delaware Continues This Month

Voices of the Elders: Stories of African Americans in Delaware film series to feature James H. Gilliam, Sr.

Wilmington, DE — The Delaware Historical Society's Center for African American Heritage announces the August *Voices of the Elders* program highlighting the life and career of civil rights activist and community leader James H. Gilliam, Sr. Throughout 2015, the *Voices of the Elders* series has documented and shared the stories of a prominent African American leaders in Delaware through short films and mini-exhibitions. Past elders have included: Esthelda Parker Selby, Dr. Joseph E. Johnson, and Canon Lloyd Casson. The series continues in October and December.

WHAT: August *Voices of the Elders* program featuring James H. Gilliam, Sr.

WHO: James H. Gilliam, Sr. served as the first Director of New Castle County, Delaware's Department of Community Development and Housing until his retirement in 1990. Mr. Gilliam also served as spokesperson for the Delaware Cancer Society. He was a member of the Delaware Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights, the Judicial Evaluation Committee for the Family Court of Delaware, the Supreme Court of Delaware's Professional Responsibility Committee, and the Magistrate's Steering Committee. He assisted the chief judge of the Family Court in converting the Court into a single statewide operation.

Mr. Gilliam served with the 370th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division "Buffalo Soldiers," an African American division during WWII. He also served in the Korean Conflict as a Captain with the U.S. Army 147th Quartermaster Truck Company. In 2014, in recognition of his service, Mr. Gilliam received medals and other citations from U.S. Senator Chris Coons, including: two Bronze Stars, the American Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button, WWII.

Mr. Gilliam was also awarded the Order of the First State by Governor Pete du Pont in 1982.

WHERE: Christopher Ward Reading Room, Delaware Historical Society Research Library. 505 N. Market St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Free parking provided by Colonial parking in the 6th and Shipley St. lot.

WHEN: Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 6 pm. Future *Voices of the Elders* programs are planned for October and December.

Reservations are requested and can be made by calling (302) 655-7161 or deinfo@dehistory.org.

This program is a collaboration between the Delaware Historical Society's Center for African American Heritage, WITN22, and the City of Wilmington.

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an "American Treasure" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and The Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016. For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit www.dehistory.org.

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