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MPT presents *For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots*
Two-part, four-hour series is definitive account of America's forgotten soldiers

Owings Mills, MD – Maryland Public Television (MPT) is proud to present *For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots*, an inspiring, definitive and unprecedented look at the largely untold history of African-American participation in America's armed forces, from the earliest days of the Revolutionary War to the current conflict in Afghanistan. Executive produced by Academy Award winner Louis Gossett Jr., the four-hour documentary will be broadcast on public television beginning February 2010.

"In the face of tremendous obstacles, African-Americans have served with dignity and distinction in every military conflict in our nation's history," said Louis Gossett, Jr., executive producer. "These courageous men and women fought for the right to defend the freedoms they loved, but could not claim, while receiving little or no recognition for their contributions and sacrifices. *For Love of Liberty* gives these heroic African-Americans a voice, revealing the true price of liberty."

Ten years in the making, *For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots* sets the record straight once and for all. Introduced by General Colin Powell and hosted by Academy Award-winning actress Halle Berry, the film uses letters, diaries, speeches, journalistic accounts, historical text and military records to document and acknowledge the sacrifices and accomplishments of African-American service men and women. The film examines why, despite enormous injustice, these heroic men and women fought so valiantly for freedoms they themselves did not enjoy. The film was directed by Frank Martin and produced by Rudy Poe. The team worked together on *CBS: The First 50 Years* and *MGM: When The Lion Roars*.

"It is a wonderful story of a group of Americans who never lost their love of this country, never lost their faith in it or what the founding fathers had promised them," said General Colin L. Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State.

Overlooked by standard history books and contemporary film, the breadth of African-American service can be traced back to the dawn of the republic. More than 5,000 black soldiers fought in the American Revolution, though most were not recognized as citizens or even free men. The first man to give his own life for the cause of American independence was an escaped slave named Crispus Attucks who was shot by English soldiers while leading a protest in 1770. His story is representative of all African-Americans who risked their lives in defense of America, in the dual effort of preserving freedom for their country, while also attempting to acquire it for themselves.

Much more than a collection of historical facts and figures, *For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots* is about heroes. At its heart are the emotional, first-hand accounts of men and women who were in harm's way, brought to compelling sometimes heartbreaking and always inspiring life via dramatic readings by Morgan Freeman, Mel Gibson, Bill Cosby, Angela Bassett, John Travolta, Ossie Davis, Robert Duvall, Delroy Lindo, Sam Elliott, Danny Glover, Walter Cronkite, Isaac Hayes, John Goodman, Ice-T, James Garner, Robert Townsend, Donald Sutherland, Charles Dutton and many others.

Excerpts from the film can be viewed online at <http://www.Forloveofliberty.com>.

For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots is brought to public television stations in partnership with Eleventh Day Entertainment.

Corporate funding is provided by the United States Army, State Farm and U.S. Bank.

About Maryland Public Television

[Maryland Public Television](#) (MPT) is a leading producer and distributor of national public television programming in the United States and licenses programs worldwide. As a major content supplier to the 350 member stations of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), MPT boasts a 40-year legacy of groundbreaking and innovative contributions to national PBS and public television schedules nationwide. MPT's Emmy award-winning catalog of news, public affairs, how-to, documentary, performance and lifestyle programming includes: *America's Veterans: A Musical Tribute*, *In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great with Michael Woods*, *Primal Grill with Steven Raichlen*, *the National Geographic Bee*, *3 Mo' Divas*, *Wall Street Week*, *MotorWeek*, *Transformation Age*, *Cooking with Master Chefs with Julia Child* and *Improving Your Memory with Barry Gordon* among others.

In addition to national programming, MPT is one of the most prolific producers of regional programming in the U.S. public television system, serving a six-state area in the Mid-Atlantic region. Beyond broadcast, MPT creates instructional videos, develops training, and builds Internet sites that serve tens of thousands of students, teachers, and child-care providers annually. MPT outreach activities, especially relating to arts, culture, and history further fulfill MPT's mission to engage, enlighten, and entertain.

About Eleventh Day Entertainment

[Eleventh Day Entertainment's](#) HD facility is located in Los Angeles, California. The company's diverse production history includes over 200 hours of prime-time television programming for CBS, ABC, TNT, PBS, Showtime, Disney and Playboy TV. Non-broadcast projects include material for the Department of Defense, Army, Navy and the White House. Past productions include *CBS: The First fifty Years*, the Emmy Award winning mini-series *MGM: When the Lion Roars*, *Sex Censorship & the Silver Screen*, and the critically acclaimed documentary *John Huston* which won the prestigious Sundance Film Festival. Other projects include the Emmy Award-winning, two-hour PBS documentary, *Mr. K: A Common Man With Uncommon Vision* and *The Warner Brothers Story*.