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BLACK GAY MEN'S

LEGENDS *Ball*

JANUARY 23, 2016

7PM - UNTIL

HILTON LAX

5711 W. CENTURY BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045

Formal Attire

We honor you! We thank you! We owe you!

June 19, 2015

Dear Mr. Bates:

I've always felt a deep and reverent connection to the souls of Black people who came before me. Our African-American history made me keenly aware that the ground on which we travel so freely has been forged by the blood, sweat, intelligence, talent and courage of ancestors who could not have envisioned that the children of their grandchildren would have the lives that we are privileged to live today. I have fierce undying respect and reverence for those Black gay men whose names were recorded in history and the hundreds who were not—men who received no recognition, but who were resourceful, resilient and remarkable in their perseverance. They endured the horror of slavery, the indignity of segregation, and persecution of homophobia. They succeeded in spite of isolation and discrimination. Triumphed over countless humiliations. Each one of their lives is a bridge to our own. A bridge to now.

As a young Black gay boy, I had no sense of identity. I passionately immersed myself in literature that helped me to discover who I was—reciting speeches and memorizing monologues of Langston Hughes and James Baldwin. They were my secret mentors, encouraging me to be great and achieve the impossible.

Today we are privileged to reap the rewards of the countless sacrifices made on our behalf by brave men like Hughes and Baldwin. Black gay men paved the road to freedom, justice and equality. Great men like you.

Inspired by the famous Oprah Winfrey's Legends Ball of 2006, I, along with The Carn-Washington Foundation and N.F.E.S.M., we invite you Mr. Bates to be our honored guests at the 2016 Black Gay Men's Legends Ball in Los Angeles. We would like to pay

tribute and honor advocates and leaders who have made significant contributions to the welfare of the Black gay community and have been a Bridge to Now. You are admired and respected for all the work you have done on behalf of Black Gay Men locally, nationally, and internationally. We would be honored if you, Mr. Bates, accept this invitation as one of our esteem legends. We would count it an honor if you could join us in honoring and celebrating you and your life's work.

The weekend will mark a significant milestone in the Black Gay community as we convene the first Black Gay Men's Legends Ball. The weekend will include a special VIP Luncheon for the legends and will close with an evening Black-Tie Ball.

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We marvel at your determination. We celebrate your strengths. We rejoice in your perseverance. This celebration is for every Legend known and unknown to us then and now.

Please acknowledge your acceptance to me by email no later than July 31, 2015 at rearnsaesm@outlook.com. Thanks in advance for your prompt response. I look forward to seeing you in 2016.

We honor you. We thank you. We owe you!

Rudolph H. Carn

June 19, 2015

Dear Archbishop Bean:

I've always felt a deep and reverent connection to the souls of Black people who came before me. Our African-American history made me keenly aware that the ground on which we travel so freely has been forged by the blood, sweat, intelligence, talent and courage of ancestors who could not have envisioned that the children of their grandchildren would have the lives that we are privileged to live today. I have fierce undying respect and reverence for those Black gay men whose names were recorded in history and the hundreds who were not—men who received no recognition, but who were resourceful, resilient and remarkable in their perseverance. They endured the horror of slavery, the indignity of segregation, and persecution of homophobia. They succeeded in spite of isolation and discrimination. Triumphed over countless humiliations. Each one of their lives is a bridge to our own. A bridge to now.

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Dear Dr. Credle:

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Rudolph H. Carn

June 19, 201

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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June 19, 201

Dear Dr. Jordan:

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Rudolph H. Carn

June 19, 201

Dear Dr. Nero:

I've always felt a deep and reverent connection to the souls of Black people who came before me. Our African-American history made me keenly aware that the ground on which we travel so freely has been forged by the blood, sweat, intelligence, talent and courage of ancestors who could not have envisioned that the children of their grandchildren would have the lives that we are privileged to live today. I have fierce undying respect and reverence for those Black gay men whose names were recorded in history and the hundreds who were not—men who received no recognition, but who were resourceful, resilient and remarkable in their perseverance. They endured the horror of slavery, the indignity of segregation, and persecution of homophobia. They succeeded in spite of isolation and discrimination. Triumphed over countless humiliations. Each one of their lives is a bridge to our own. A bridge to now.

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Rudolph H. Carn

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Dear Mr. Ransom:

I've always felt a deep and reverent connection to the souls of Black people who came before me. Our African-American history made me keenly aware that the ground on which we travel so freely has been forged by the blood, sweat, intelligence, talent and courage of ancestors who could not have envisioned that the children of their grandchildren would have the lives that we are privileged to live today. I have fierce undying respect and reverence for those Black gay men whose names were recorded in history and the hundreds who were not—men who received no recognition, but who were resourceful, resilient and remarkable in their perseverance. They endured the horror of slavery, the indignity of segregation, and persecution of homophobia. They succeeded in spite of isolation and discrimination. Triumphed over countless humiliations. Each one of their lives is a bridge to our own. A bridge to now.

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Black Gay Men's Legends Ball in Los Angeles. We would like to pay tribute and honor advocates and leaders who have made significant contributions to the welfare of the Black gay community and have been a Bridge to Now. You are admired and respected for all the work you have done on behalf of Black Gay Men locally, nationally, and internationally. We would be honored if you, Mr. Ransom, accept this invitation as one of our esteem legends. We would count it an honor if you could join us in honoring and celebrating you and your life's work.

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Dear Dr. Simmons:

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