



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

August 13, 2010

Phyllis Barlow
Chairman of the Board
Alex Haley Museum Association
200 South Church Street
Henning, Tennessee 38041

Ms. Barlow,

On behalf of the great State of Tennessee, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to the participants and guests at the official dedication of the Alex Haley House Interpretive Center on August 13, 2010.

Nearly three decades ago since the Alex Haley Boyhood Home was opened as the first state historic site devoted to African American history. I was pleased to propose more than \$1.2 million for design and construction of the Alex Haley House Interpretive Center in my budget for Fiscal Year 2006. With strong support from House Finance Chairman Craig Fitzhugh and local officials, the Tennessee General Assembly concurred and passed a budget to fund this meaningful project.

Soon after final passage, I came to the Alex Haley House on August 10, 2005, along with Chairman Fitzhugh, to celebrate this milestone with members of the Museum Association and area residents. I recall a very warm day in Lauderdale County and lots of big smiles as we discussed the pioneering work of Alex Haley and what his own personal journey has meant to so many Americans.

Today, the new Alex Haley House Interpretive Center stands as a testament to the endurance and spirit of an authentically American experience. It is a most fitting way for this state historic site to honor the life, work and impact of a great Tennessean and to share his work with the entire world.

Please accept my congratulations on this important day. I wish all project participants and center visitors every success.

Warmest regards,

Phil Bredesen