

## Labor Day – The official launch of Pullman Porter museum's nationwide search for descendants to complete historic registry

*Are you a Descendant of a Pullman Porter? Or Dining Car Waiter? If So We need you! Pullman Porter Museum launches national effort to complete the National Historic Registry*

By **crusader** - August 28, 2017



Are you a Descendant of a Pullman Porter? Or Dining Car Waiter? If So We Are Looking For You! On August 25, 2017 the National A. Phillip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum celebrated the 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the nation's first Black union. Today, the Museum, who for 22 years has been preserving and presenting the legacy of Mr. Randolph and the Pullman Porters; announced it is taking those efforts one step further. *The nation's only Black labor history museum, that exclusively interpret the amazing story, announced the launch of a three-year campaign finally complete a national registry.*

The goal of this ambitious, national research campaign is to find and document 20,000 living descendants of African-Americans who worked on the railroad between 1869 thru 1979 during the golden era of railroad travel. The Museum began collecting descendant information in 2000 and wants to complete the historic registry by August 2020, according to the Museum's founder Dr. Lyn Hughes.

Pullman Porters were Black men whose superb service to railcar travelers in the 20th century earned them notoriety, as "international ambassadors of hospitality", and whose wages, tips and cross-country experiences fueled a burgeoning Black middle class. At one time, as many as

10,000 men belonged to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which was founded by Asa Philip Randolph. Randolph was a magazine publisher who had written about Porters' poor working conditions when he was enlisted by a group of Porters to organize a union and fight for fair wages and equal treatment.

"The NAPRPPM is launching this campaign to find the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other descendants of the African-American railroad employees," Dr. Hughes said. "With 7,000 names of descendants already in the national registry, we are certain that there are more than 15,000 others who have yet to register and tell their ancestors' stories."

Dr. Hughes added, "The registry is rich with oral-history anecdotes that reflect how working on the railroad affected these men and their families, and also created legacies that remain today. Preserving this piece of history is vitally important to maintaining a clear understanding and appreciation of ourselves as a people. Under Randolph's leadership, the motto Service Not Servitude of the Pullman Porters helped fuel and lay the foundation of a Black middle class that possessed a strong sense of self-pride, the self-imposed standard of excellence, and commitment to family, a foundation that I don't want to see vanish." Dr. Hughes says that descendants are known to live in 48 of the nation's 50 states.

The NAPRPPM is the only museum in the nation that exclusively honors the history of the Pullman Porters. Located at 10406 S. Maryland Ave, in a U.S. Department of Interior's Pullman National historic landmark district, that is also nestled in the Pullman National Monument, Chicago's first National Park, created by President Barack Obama in 2015.

For information on how to contribute to the registry, **call (612-4PORTERS)** or visit **[www.pullmanportermuseum.com](http://www.pullmanportermuseum.com)**,

**to add you and your descendant to the registry and to become a member of the museum.**

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