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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2018

Harris County Lynching Victim from 1947 Honored This Weekend

LaGrange, Ga. March 8, 2018 - ONE Harris County is partnering with The Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University School of Law and the family of Henry "Peg" Gilbert to organize a commemoration to honor the life and legacy of Gilbert.

Based on "Hope in the Cities" in Richmond, Va., and the Troup County Racial Trust Building Initiative, ONE Harris County is made up of citizens coming together to build trust between one another and bridge the gaps that create racial and cultural barriers between us.



Henry "Peg" Gilbert

The event will also re-dedicate the gravestone markers for Gilbert and his wife Mae Henry Davenport Gilbert.

On May 4th, 1947, Gus Davidson accidentally hit a calf in Troup County. The calf belonged to Olin Sands who confronted Davidson. According to Davidson, Sands pulled a gun on him and he shot in self-defense. The shooting took place near the Union Springs Baptist Church where Gilbert was a deacon. Davidson fled.

Officers from Troup and Harris counties and a group of people, searched for Davidson and in the process terrorized the African American community. W.H. Buchanan, Chief of Harris County Police, arrested Gilbert, a 42-year-old prosperous farmer who worked about 100 acres of his own land. He was married with four daughters.

On May 10th, descendants of the Gilbert family will be joined by members of the community to recognize this injustice. A civil rights marker and a new gravestone will be unveiled.

WHO: ONE Harris County and The Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University School of Law

WHAT: 1947 Harris County Lynching Victim Honored & Civil Rights Marker and a new gravestone will be unveiled

WHEN: Saturday, March 10th at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Union Springs Methodist Church, Jones Crossroads, 6710 Whitesville Road, West Point, Georgia 31833

Media Contact: Pam Avery, ONE Harris County Member, (706) 987-0988

Valerie West, ONE Harris County Member and Henry "Peg" Gilbert Family Member, (706) 298-3666 and (706) 333-9600

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