

## Foster Foundation and Florida A&M University

### Celebrates Dr. William P. Foster 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary

September 4, 2019

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**TALLAHASSEE** -- The 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dr. William P. Foster, whose legacy as creator and Chairman of Bands, 1946-1998, of the incomparable Florida A&M University Marching 100 Band lives on, will be celebrated on Thursday, September 12. The event, sponsored by the Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foundation) and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), will be at 6 p.m. at Lee Hall Auditorium on the FAMU Campus, and the public is invited.

The event is a tribute and birthday celebration to Dr. William P. Foster, Founder and Creator of the internationally renowned FAMU Marching 100 Band (*Marching 100*). Dr. Foster was Chairman and Director of Bands for over 50 years. This year, August 25<sup>th</sup> would have been his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Foster died at the age of 91, August 28, 2010.

Dr. Foster's memorabilia has been selected and chosen for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery (NPG). A representative from the Smithsonian NMAAHC will explain the role and mission of the NMAAHC, also providing an overview of its collection and on how Dr. Foster's memorabilia was selected and chosen for the NMAAHC. The collective memorabilia, donated by the Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation, will be on permanent display at the NMAAHC.

The NPG will show photographs of Dr. Foster that the NPG received as gifts from the Foundation and provide an overview of the NPG's history and its collection. The collective photographs, donated by the Foundation, will be on permanent display at the NPG.

The NMAAHC and the NPG are the centerpieces of the tribute and birthday of Dr. Foster. Dr. Larry Robinson, FAMU president, Anthony Foster, son of Dr. Foster, and CEO of the Foster Foundation, and other administrative officials will also honor Dr. Foster.

The Florida A&M University Marching 100 will perform selections. This year, the Marching 100 performed to more than 60 million people during the New Year's Day Rose Bowl Parade. Under Foster's leadership, and in 1985, the "Marching 100" was awarded the Sudler Trophy, the highest honor a collegiate marching band can receive. With the presentation, the "Marching 100" was the 4th band in the nation, the first Southern band, the first HBCU band, and first and only in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference to receive the award, which is considered by many to be the "Heisman Trophy for college bands." In addition, the Marching 100 has performed at the Walt Disney World Parade, the Super Bowl (on several occasions), the Summer Olympics, the inaugural parades for U.S. presidents, and was selected to be the official United States representative to the Bicentennial Celebration of the French Revolution in Paris, France.

## **About the Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation**

The Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foundation) promotes increased awareness of the life, career, values and legacy of Dr. William P. Foster and his contribution in creating the legendary incomparable Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's (FAMU) Marching 100 Band. He is known as the Maestro, the Law and the Legend. Through his creation, the Marching 100 became the brand of FAMU. The Foundation promotes the ideals, values, commitment to music education and historical legacy of Dr. Foster and further promotes greater civic engagement and recognition of integrity in the public arena. It financially supports students who participate in the Marching 100 Band and the Summer Band Camp. The Foundation supports permanent and changing exhibits designed to promote historical literacy, conferences, educational outreach and other programs, both scholarly and popular.

Dr. Foster authored two books, ***The Man Behind the Baton***, and ***Band Pageantry*** and are available through the Foundation's website at [www.drwpfosterfoundation.org](http://www.drwpfosterfoundation.org) . Proceeds help with the Foundation's mission to assist the Marching 100 Band, Summer Band Camp, and music education.

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**For additional information:  
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