

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Teya V. Smith
Applause Public Relations
(678) 760-7816 or teya@applausepr.com

ATLANTA ATHLETES TO CELEBRATE TOM MOLINEAUX – AMERICA’S FIRST GREAT ATHLETE *Commemorative Dinner will Celebrate the Bicentennial of his World Championship Boxing Match and Recognize Legacy of the African American Legend*

December 3, 2010 – Atlanta, GA – Former NBA player and African American historian Mike “Stinger” Glenn along-side fellow historians and celebrated athletes of yesterday and today will host a dinner and celebration on **Saturday, December 18, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.** at the **Holiday Inn Atlanta Capital** hotel to commemorate America’s first great athlete **Tom Molineaux** and the **bicentennial of his world championship boxing match.**

The **Tom Molineaux Recognition and Commemoration Dinner** intends not only to shed light on the athlete and his legacy which has been left out American History book pages, but will also honor continuing African American sports pioneers, with some taking the stage to share their stories in person. Glenn states, “Molineaux displayed athletic skills that gave credibility to American sports and left a legacy that should be honored.”

Born into slavery, Tom Molineaux fought his way to freedom with training from his father and twin brother, both fighters in their own right. Having won many bouts for his owner against other slaves, Molineaux earned his freedom and moved to New York where he defeated all worthy challengers. In 1908 Molineaux, coined the Champion of America, boarded a ship to England in pursuit of a World Heavyweight title. After defeating his first few contenders, Molineaux set the stage for one of the most anticipated fights in English history. On **December 18, 1810**, 10,000 English fans gathered to support their champion Tom Cribb, and despite a controversial outcome Molineaux became the first American to compete on the world stage for a title.

“He embodied the characteristics that would define American heroes of sports for centuries,” states Glenn who has celebrated the momentous match for years by placing newspaper clippings from his own collection of historic African American artifacts and publications on display for public viewing and education. In addition to highlighting this significant occasion in sports history, the **Tom Molineaux Recognition and Commemoration Dinner** will highlight the lives and careers of other African American trail blazers with first-hand accounts given by guest speakers **George Taliaferro**, the first African American football player to be drafted into the National Football League and All-American at Indiana University that led the Hoosiers to their only undefeated Big Ten Conference championship, and Sean Gibson who has dedicated his life to preserving the legacy of his great grand father, Hall of Fame legend **Josh Gibson** who baseball historians consider among the very best catchers and power hitters of any league, including the Major Leagues and who the Baseball Hall of Fame claims hit “almost 800” home runs in his 17-year career. **Nolan Richardson** will also be in attendance with his account of his record-breaking career as a National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Famer who lead the University of Arkansas men’s basketball team to win the NCAA Division 1 National Championship, the University of Tulsa to win a National Invitation Tournament, and Western Texas Junior College to win the Junior College National Championship – the only coach to achieve all three titles in a single career.

- more -

Special invited guests include **Isabelle Daniels Holston**, legendary member of the Tennessee State University “Tigerbelles” who ran alongside Wilma Rudolph to win the Bronze at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, and four-time World Heavyweight Champion **Evander “Real Deal” Holyfield** who has recently announced his March 5, 2010 re-entry into the ring (Denmark, AP).

Other African American sports pioneers that will be celebrated as America’s connection to a proud heritage and heroic spirit that started with Tom Molineaux are **James “Red” Moore**, the 93 year old former All-Star first baseman for the Atlanta Black Crackers and graduate of Atlanta’s Booker T. Washington High School that was inducted into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame in 2006, and 1993 Basketball Hall of Fame inductee **Walt Bellamy** named All American both his Junior and Senior years at Indiana University who went on to win a gold medal as part of the 1960 U.S. Olympic basketball team and named NBA Rookie of the Year in 1962; and

In addition to an evening of honors and legends, entertainment will be provided by seasoned Jazz drummer and grand nephew of Duke Ellington, Steve Ellington and his Jazz trio, and a boxing demonstration will be conducted by 16 year old “kitten” Carlos Monrow, a five-time Golden Glove Champion and a four-time Georgia Games Champion. Advanced tickets for the **Tom Molineaux Recognition and Commemoration Dinner** are available for \$40.00 per person by contacting Sharon Terrell 770-358-1706 and Robin Williams 770-827-9741 or at the door the day of the event for \$45.00 per person.

Who: Mike “Stinger” Glenn
What: **Tom Molineaux Recognition and Commemoration Dinner**
When: Saturday, December 18, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.
Where: Holiday Inn Atlanta Capitol
450 Capitol Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30312
Cost: Advanced sales \$40.00, door \$45.00
More: For further information or tickets contact Sharon Terrell at 770-358-1706 or Robin Williams at 770-827-9741

About Mike “Stinger” Glenn and the Mike Glenn Collection

Having embraced his passion for knowledge as well as sports at a young age, Mike “Stinger” Glenn is an exceptional athlete, personality and humanitarian. An avid collector of rare and historic books, newspapers, magazines and artifacts by and about African Americans Glenn shares his passion and knowledge through traveling exhibits and lectures – and as a writer, Glenn shares the inspirations and accomplishments of American heroes who faced obstacles of oppression, racism, bigotry, ignorance and hate. From his collection of more than thousands of artifacts came his first writing *Lessons from My Library Volume 1*. Currently, he has written eleven credible biographies on African American heroes of our past - not the most studied people of American history. Glenn’s objective is to present inspiration for research, literacy, history, and academic achievement by embracing the rich legacy and heritage of African American excellence and hopes to shine a positive light provided by great Americans. For more information on Mike Glenn and his collection visit www.mikeglenn.com.

###