



## Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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### **Local Civil Rights Activist Visits “Freedom’s Sisters Exhibit**

*Elizabeth Wilson Feels Her Story in the Lives of Other “Freedom Sisters”*

**Atlanta, GA.** – In 1962, Elizabeth Wilson, a mother of three children, felt it was unfair that not a single Black citizen in Decatur or DeKalb County, Georgia had a library card. “It just made sense that our children should have access to the library and to all of its resources,” she says. So she and three other women, two black and two white, decided that had to change. They were the first to integrate the library.

That same year, a pregnant Elizabeth Wilson tested the school system and Decatur High School was integrated.

Wilson went on to break new ground in the civil rights struggle, becoming the first African American commissioner in Decatur and later mayor.

This week, Elizabeth Wilson walked her granddaughter, Kristin Munson, through the “Freedom’s Sisters” exhibit at the Carter Presidential Museum. As she read the stories of the twenty African American women honored for their role in the civil rights movement, she felt her own story of struggle was being told. “I feel especially a big sense of pride to just be here to see and to see them have this recognition,” she said

Wilson hopes the stories of these courageous women will inspire others to take up their cause of equality for all. “We might not see the dogs anymore, attacking people,” she said. “We may not see the tests to keep people from voting, but there still are barriers and so that have to make sure that we never go back to that.”

“Freedom’s Sisters” is a compelling new interactive exhibition of twenty extraordinary women and their contributions to the struggle for equality and justice in America. Through their courageous actions, they changed the course of history. By defying their circumstances, they became American Heroes.

The exhibition was created by the Cincinnati Museum Center and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Travel Exhibition Service. National tour has been made possible by the Ford Motor Company Fund.

“Freedom’s Sisters” is on exhibit at the Carter Presidential Museum through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information, visit [www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov](http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov) or Freedom Sisters-Atlanta on Facebook.