



May 22, 2015

Jeffrey Aaron  
Jeff Hitchcock  
The Quakers

Dear Mr. Aaron and Mr. Hitchcock,

Congratulations to The Quakers for being selected as a Freedom Award Honoree for the Metuchen Edison Area Branch of the NAACP's 10th Annual Juneteenth Festival on Saturday, June 13, 2015, at the Edison Job Corps Site, located at 500 Plainfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08817. This year we will be celebrating New Jersey's Diverse Heritage as well as promoting community unity, business and cultural awareness. This free family festival is open to the public and is sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, AT&T, New Brunswick Cultural Center, Inc. and the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Being honored with you are the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission, New Brunswick Cultural Society, and the Quakers, for their role in the abolition of slavery. We are proud to recognize your role in the abolition of slavery in the United States of America. Middlesex County Freeholder Kenneth Armwood will be presenting the award to you.

We are grateful for what you contribute to our community and look forward to seeing you on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.

Sincerely,

*Reginald Johnson*

Mr. Reginald Johnson  
President  
Metuchen - Edison Area Branch  
NAACP  
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Statement by Jeffrey Aaron on receipt of the plaque, which will be displayed in the offices of New York Yearly Meeting:

In 1751, the Assembly of Pennsylvania celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the 1701 Charter of Privileges, which Quaker William Penn had granted his settlers to guarantee their liberty. To mark the occasion, the legislature ordered a great bell for the Pennsylvania State House. The inscription on it was taken by the Quaker Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly from Leviticus in the Bible. It reads:

“Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the inhabitants thereof.”

Today, what was known as the Great Quaker Bell is known as the Liberty Bell and the Pennsylvania State House is known as Independence Hall. That it is symbolic of freedom and liberty for all and known as a proud icon for *all* Americans is as Quakers would have wanted, for only in true freedom and true equal opportunity for all people will America find real internal peace and become the land of opportunity for all and the great example for all the world that was such an important part of the thinking and writings of the founders of our country. These goals are Quaker goals and they are the goals of the NAACP and of all other good people. We walk together toward a better America and a better world.