

Harriet Tubman Wax Figure Unveiled



Valery Ross Manokey (left), great-great niece and oldest living descendant of historic icon Harriet Tubman, wipes away tears of joy as she and other descendants see the wax figure of their extraordinary relative for the first time at the Presidents Gallery by Madame Tussauds in Washington, D.C.

Tubman descendants gather at museum exhibit

In celebration of Black History Month, 10 direct descendants and family members of historic icon Harriet Ross Tubman, visited The Presidents Gallery by Madame Tussauds to help unveil a new wax likeness of the renowned abolitionist and conductor of the Underground Railroad.

"Harriet Tubman was an incredible woman whose accomplishments and contributions played a pivotal role in the history of the United States, cementing her status as a true American icon," said Dan Rogoski, the gallery's general manager. "We are honored to have Harriet Tubman's descendants with us today for the unveiling and induction of her wax figure into our expanding Presidents Gallery — an interactive journey through America's history."

Harriet Tubman (born Araminta Ross, calling herself Harriet later in life) was an Af-

rican-American abolitionist, humanitarian and spy for the Union during the Civil War.

After escaping from slavery, into which she was born, she reportedly freed more than 300 slaves via the elaborate network of safe houses known as the Underground Railroad.

Tubman was born in Dorchester County, M.D., an area from which many of the descendants and family members attending the recent event currently reside.

"We are ecstatic and overjoyed to see Aunt Harriet being celebrated and receiving recognition for her contributions to humanity, which is long overdue," said Charles Ross, Tubman's great-great-nephew.

Children from Washington D.C.'s Harriet Tubman Elementary School were also on-hand to witness the unveiling of the figure of the historic woman for whom their school is named.

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