

University of the District of Columbia

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*"...a new day,
a new opportunity"*

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Survivors from Bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church to Address University of the District of Columbia Community

Washington, D.C. — During the early morning hours of Sunday, September 15, 1963, Robert Edward Chambliss, a member of the Ku Klux Klan, stood a few blocks away from the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. On this morning, five girls were changing into their choir robes in the church basement. At 10:19 a.m., a bomb exploded, killing four of the girls and injuring twenty people. The four girls who died were eleven-year old Denise McNair, and fourteen year olds Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley.

There were mothers, aunts and sisters traumatized and injured by the blast.

Ms. Sarah J. Collins Rudolph is one such relative. She is the sister of Addie Mae. Mrs. Rudolph lost an eye and had to give up her dream of a career in the military.

Junie Collins Peavy was born during segregation and came of age during the civil rights demonstrations of the 50s and 60s. On a dark Sunday in 1963, she became an unwilling witness to a pivotal event of that time: the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham Alabama.

As part of UDC Pride Week and the latest in a speaker series sponsored by the University's Office of Community Outreach and Involvement, Ms. Collins Peavy and Ms. Collins Rudolph will share memories of this historic event Thursday, February 16, 2006 on the campus of the University of the District of Columbia.

This bombing, executed in a desperate attempt to put a stop to the ever-growing civil rights movement, instead, gave it new life. Instead of scaring away those who came to fight for the privileges and rights of all U.S. citizens, the blast was heard around the world, as millions watched in horror and anger. The marches and rallies continued. People from around the country continued to come to Birmingham, Alabama to make their voices heard.

Ms. Collins Peavy and Ms. Collins Rudolph will address members of the University community beginning at 12:00 noon. The presentation will take place Building 44, Room A-03 on the UDC campus located at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street in Northwest Washington, DC.

The University of the District of Columbia is the fully-accredited sole public source for accessible, inclusive, affordable, and comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia and provides additional life-long learning opportunities. The University delivers quality instruction and uses student-centered approaches to empower and benefit both individuals and its local communities. The University, an urban land

grant institution, is a very diverse community, a gateway to the world, and a significant investment engine for the District of Columbia. The University is located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, and is conveniently located at the Van Ness/UDC stop on the Red Line of Metro. For more information on other University activities, contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and University Spokesperson at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at www.udc.edu.