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## **Local black history special wins national awards**

### **The Hermitage featured in award winning TV special**

Nashville, TN – May 13, 2013 – News Channel 2 (WKRN Nashville) received both a Telly Award and a Communicator Award for their February series, “Tennessee’s Black Heritage.” Andrew Jackson’s home, The Hermitage, was featured in the special.

“We are so proud that we get to tell these stories of Tennessee’s African American history,” said Jeff Davidson, special projects producer at Channel 2. “We are appreciative of the experts who lent their voices to help complete this project.”

The segment filmed at The Hermitage featured President and CEO Howard J. Kittell speaking about the Emancipation Proclamation and its effects on slaves living in Tennessee.

“The Emancipation Proclamation was directed at states in the confederacy,” said Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of The Hermitage. “Since Middle Tennessee had already been taken by the Union, it ‘technically’ did not apply here – but it did.”

“Tennessee’s Black Heritage” is hosted by WKRN’s Anne Holt and features historians from across the state. The stories from this and previous “Tennessee’s Black Heritage” programs are still available at:

<http://www.wkrn.com/category/160607/tennessees-black-heritage-black-history-month>

#### **About The Hermitage**

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. In 1856, the State of Tennessee purchased the property from the Jackson family, entrusting it to the Ladies’ Hermitage Association in 1889 to operate as one of America’s first historic site museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 30 historic buildings, including restored slave cabins. Thanks to efforts of this nonprofit organization, the mansion is the most accurately preserved early presidential home in the country. The Hermitage is a national model for authenticity, conservation, and historic preservation. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as archaeology and the history of slavery have enhanced the

experience of some 180,000 annual visitors, including 30,000 school children, from all 50 states and many foreign countries; in fact, we interpret The Hermitage mansion in five foreign languages. The property also receives 30,000 annual visits from the local community, including more than 1,000 children who play Little League baseball at The Hermitage’s Rotary Park. The Hermitage is a “Partner Place” with the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and a site along the National Park Service’s Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. For more information, visit [www.thehermitage.com](http://www.thehermitage.com).

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