

## OUR MISSION

**The Robert S. Abbott Race Unity Institute** (The Institute) was founded to support racial and religious harmony, advocate for social justice and foster relationships between people of multicultural backgrounds with the purpose of transcending divisions and ending discrimination based on differences.

## OUR VISION

**The Robert S. Abbott Race Unity Institute** envisions a community where healing and reconciliation are commonplace among people of all identities; social justice is upheld and honored; and people engage honestly in history to live more truthfully in the present.



**THE ROBERT S ABBOTT RACE UNITY INSTITUTE**

P. O. BOX 1834  
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521-1834

E-mail: [membership@theabbottinstitute.org](mailto:membership@theabbottinstitute.org)



“Fostering Relationships Between People”

**501(c)(3)**

**The Robert S. Abbott Race Unity Institute** is a 501c3 organization named for a son of former slaves who became among the most influential African American publishers. We advocate for Abbott’s vision of racial and religious harmony through a variety of programs, collaborations and events throughout the year.

Please visit our website  
[WWW.THEABBOTTINSTITUTE.ORG](http://WWW.THEABBOTTINSTITUTE.ORG)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

### **Board of Directors:**

*LaTanya Abbott-Austin, Donna Bassett, Lori Brooks, Carolyn Carver, Melinda Ennis-Roughton, Audrey Gibbons, Roxane George, Diane Knight, Andrea Lawson, Dominique Mack-Collins*

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GENERAL \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRIBUTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### VOLUNTARY INFORMATION

I identify my gender as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Native American / Alaskan

\_\_\_\_\_ Asian / Pacific Islander

\_\_\_\_\_ Black / African American

\_\_\_\_\_ White / European American

\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic / Latin American

### MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO

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## ROBERT S. ABBOTT

A native son of the Golden Isles, Georgia, he started a newspaper empire with a quarter. He influenced the lives of millions. His struggles to shine light on the principles of justice and righteousness, his education of his race to demand their right to equality, his ceaseless efforts to make the world aware of the atrocities his race endured; these battles he waged more than a century ago.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ROBERT'S LIFE

Born on November 24, 1868, on St. Simons Island, Georgia. His parents Thomas and Flora Abbott, were former slaves who had received their freedom from Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Abbott attended both Claflin College in Orangeburg, S.C. and Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) where he trained as a printer and graduated in 1896. He graduated from Kent College of Law in Chicago with a law degree in 1899. On May 5, 1905, he published the first edition of The Chicago Defender which consisted of four sixteen-by-twenty-inch pages. He elevated The Defender to national prominence with his entrepreneurial skills. By 1929, The Defender occupied a three-story building with its own printing press, a large production staff and a circulation of 250,000 copies weekly with readership across the country. It was once heralded as "The World's Greatest Weekly." Widely regarded even today as the greatest single force in African-American journalism, it also made Robert one of the first self-made millionaires of African-American descent.

Launched in 1929, the Bud Billiken Parade was quickly followed by the Bud Billiken Club, credited with significantly reducing juvenile crime in Chicago. Ninety+ years later, the parade still attracts thousands of participants each year and is ranked as the second largest parade in the United States. Robert was stricken with tuberculosis in 1935, which in combination with Bright's disease, led to his death on February 29, 1940 at the age of 71.

## ABBOTT INSTITUTE PROGRAMS:

- \* Monthly Luncheons with Speakers & Discussion Topics
- \* Annual International Festival with the College of Coastal Georgia
- \* Dialogue: Racism Workshop
- \* Establishment of Commemorative "Robert S. Abbott and his Newsboys" Bust at Fort Frederica National Monument