

Mt. Zion hosts Black Veteran's Day program at History Center



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sonya Armstrong of Charleston, West Virginia, portrays Harriet Tubman at the Southeast Ohio History Center on Veteran's Day, 2024.

TOM O'GRADY

For the Messenger

The Mt. Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society hosted its first annual Black Veteran's Day event at the Southeast Ohio History Center.

The event coincided with the opening of an exhibit dedicated to the Black veterans of Athens County.

Making a special appearance at the event was one of the better-known veterans of the American Civil War. Not a member of either the Union Army or the Confederate Army, Harriet Tubman was an activist in the cause of the abolition of slavery and made several trips into southern states to guide Black people to

freedom along routes well established by the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman was portrayed by Sonya Armstrong of Charleston, West Virginia.

As Tubman, Armstrong shared information about what it was like doing the dangerous work that she had undertaken during those years of strife in the 1860s. Tubman made at least 13 excursions into Confederate states to aid in the escape and repatriation of more than 70 individuals.

Tubman was recently made a one-star brigadier general in Maryland's National Guard. Tubman died in 1913 at the age of 91.

Tom O'Grady is director of outreach at the Southeast Ohio History Center.