



Black Box Theatre

INDIAN HEAD CENTER FOR THE ARTS

is proud to present a Special:

BBQ & Blues Jam

A Tribute To Richard "Mr. Bones" Thomas

Mike learned to play bones from "Mr. Bones"

Wednesday Evening
July 30th, 7 - 9 PM

Purchase tickets on our web site www.IndianHeadBlackBox.org
Or call 800-494-8497 to reserve.



\$15 with a reservation, \$18 at the door.
Musicians are highly encouraged to sign up to join in.

Richard "Mr. Bones" Thomas 1922 - 2002



Born in Pomonky, MD on July 30, 1922, Mr. Bones was a fixture in the Washington music scene for at least seven decades.

He developed an interest in the bones at the age of six, after seeing a vaudeville performance by Sammy Davis Jr. He crafted his first set of bones from a cigar box. He then began fashioning them from wood and finally settled upon using 6- to 7-inch beef rib bones -- a process that takes approximately nine months.

During World War II, he was drafted into the Army and was a member of the famous Red Ball Express. During the war, he earned four Battle Stars. After the war, he worked a series of jobs in both the private and public sector until his retirement.

Mr. Bones met Archie Edwards in 1989 at the recording of *Blues and Bones*. After making the recording, they performed at the Chicago Blues Festival,

and in 1997, they performed at the St. Louis Blues Festival.

His percussion on the bones -- which sounds similar to castanets and tap drums -- was compatible with a wide range of musical genres, including blues, jazz, folk, and Latin. He can be heard on *Blues and Bones* with Archie Edwards; he also recorded with Michael Roach on the CDs "Ain't Got No Home" and "The Blinds of Life."

His amazing talent on the bones and his winning personality made Mr. Bones a crowd favorite when he performed with members of the Barbershop. He was a hit at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Bull Durham Blues Festival, Blues in the Burg (where he was a featured performer), the DC Blues Society Festival, and other local festivals. He also performed community service benefit shows at hospitals, schools, and civic events.