



# Central Florida Urban League

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## **CFUL ANTICIPATES LONG AWAITED CLEMENCY OF GROVELAND FOUR**

**ORLANDO, JANUARY 8, 2019** – After decades of advocating on behalf of the Groveland Four and their families, the Central Florida Urban League is eagerly awaiting the meeting where newly-elected Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his cabinet are set to discuss a posthumous clemency for Earnest Thomas, Charles Greenlee, Samuel Shepherd and Walter Irvin.

“Only three days into his new administration, we applaud the Governor and the cabinet for making this issue a top priority,” said Glenton Gilzean Jr., President and CEO of the Central Florida Urban League. “While 70 years have passed since the Groveland Four were wrongfully accused, it is never too late to officially restore their reputations and right a tremendous wrong.”

“For many years, our organization has fought on behalf of civil rights on many fronts, including the Groveland Four and their clemency, this will hopefully provide closure for their families and turn the page on this dark period in Florida history,” added Dick Batchelor, Chairman of the Central Florida Urban League.

On Friday, January 18, the Central Florida Urban League will welcome Pulitzer Prize winning author Gilbert King to discuss his award-winning book detailing the infamous case.

In *Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America*, King offers a rare and revealing portrait of the first African American Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, in his days as an attorney, demonstrating how Marshall risks his own life to defend the wrongfully accused men.

Gilbert King will speak about his book in a panel discussion during the January 18<sup>th</sup> Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida, and later that evening will hold a book-signing at the Writers Block bookstore in Winter Park, Fl.