

## ***Supplemental Media Info for the Press Release:***

### **City of Arlington's first African American Mayor Releases Memoir: "Counting My Blessings"**

Launch Celebration – December 30, 2011  
Elzie Odom Athletic Center  
1601 Northeast Green Oaks Boulevard, in Arlington

#### **KEY LESSONS FROM THE BOOK:**

1. **Religious** - Inspirational Christian message. Teaches readers that when they depend on God and follow His teachings, they can accomplish great things.
  2. **Inspirational** - Lessons of Courage – Odom overcame racism and discrimination in Southeast Texas during the Great Depression and Civil Rights Eras.
  3. **Leadership despite obstacles** –
    - **Broke through racial barriers** – Faced racism and discrimination head on and was elected first black to serve the school board in Orange County Texas during the Civil Rights era. He was also instrumental in desegregating schools there.
    - **First black elected to Arlington City Council** when the black population was only 10% (of 221,000) and total minority population was only 22%. Served from 1990 – 1997.
    - **Elected Arlington's first African Mayor** from 1997 to 2003. No other blacks have served on City Council since his retirement in 2003.
1. **Community & Serving others** – "It takes a Village". Generations of Odoms have continued the legacy of community service and serving others:

**For More Information, Contact Pam Roach at [pam@pamroachpr.com](mailto:pam@pamroachpr.com), or call (817) 691-5560.**