Marian Anderson joins in Gettysburg ceremony

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GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Two noted Americans, one an international famous singer, the other a publisher, last week joined former President Dwight Eisenhower in rededication historic Gettysburg battlefield where Civil War President Abraham Lincoln made his immortal “Four Score . . .” speech.

Contralto Marian Anderson and Philadelphia Tribune publisher E. Washington Rhodes, both descendants of slaves, played major roles in the rededication ceremony on the century-old sunlit battlefield.

A crowd of 7,500 persons heard Rhodes declare that it was a high honor for him to participate “as a representative of the American Colored people at this time of racial tension and unrest.” Rhodes called on the nation’s leaders to lay aside political expediency and exert all their energies to conclude “the unfinished job” of granting full civil rights to all citizens.

“Were he to address this gathering here, Lincoln would declare that second-class citizenship with all of its attendant evils must end.” Mr. Rhodes told the crowd of 7,500 gathered on the battlefield where nearly 50,000 Confederate and Union soldiers fell.