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MEDIA CONTACT:

Ink & Legacy Publishing™

hello@inkandlegacypublishing.com

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**RETIRED POLICE OFFICER, CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE, AND
ENTREPRENEUR**

JOHN HENRY BATES RERELEASES HIS CELEBRATED MEMOIR

SOMERSET: SEASONS OF CHANGE

The Extraordinary Life of a Natchez, Mississippi Boy Who Became a Police Officer, Civil Rights Advocate, Entrepreneur, and Living Testament to the Resilience of the American Spirit

HOUSTON, TEXAS — June 8, 2026 — Ink & Legacy Publishing™ announces the rerelease of *Somerset: Seasons of Change* by John Henry Bates — a sweeping, deeply personal memoir that traces one man's extraordinary journey from the humble streets of Natchez, Mississippi, through the fire of the Civil Rights era, to a distinguished career in law enforcement, entrepreneurship, and a life that has touched generations.

The book is available now on Amazon and at www.inkandlegacypublishing.com.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Somerset: Seasons of Change is not just the story of one man. It is the chronicle of a community, a reflection of a tumultuous era, and an inspiring testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

John Henry Bates was born and raised in Natchez, Mississippi — a city steeped in history, shaped by the weight of the American South, and defined by the particular courage it took to grow up Black in a country that had not yet decided what to do with that courage. He came of age during the Civil Rights Movement, carrying the lessons of a community that refused to be erased and the determination of a man who understood from an early age that his life would be defined not by the obstacles placed in front of him but by how he chose to meet them.

He became a police officer — not despite the discriminatory norms of his era but in quiet, deliberate defiance of them. He served his community with a force and a dignity that spoke louder than protest signs, challenging from the inside what others challenged from the outside. He rubbed shoulders with Hollywood's elite. He forged alliances with notable political leaders. He built businesses. He built a family. He built a legacy.

Somerset: Seasons of Change takes readers through every season of that life — the seasons of learning, of struggle, of triumph, of love, and of the kind of quiet wisdom that only comes from having lived fully, honestly, and without apology. It is a book that readers have called “an absolute diamond in the rough” and a story that “mirrors the evolution of a nation.”

This is American history told from the inside. This is what the textbooks left out. And this is the story of a man who lived it all and then sat down and wrote every word of it down so that no one who came after him would have to wonder what it was like to be there.

WHY THIS BOOK — WHY NOW

At a moment when the conversation about civil rights, law enforcement, and the legacy of the American South has never been more urgent, *Somerset: Seasons of Change* arrives as a primary source. John Henry Bates did not observe these events from a distance. He lived them — as a Black man in Mississippi, as a police officer in an era of profound institutional change, as an entrepreneur navigating a world that was not designed to include him, and as a family man whose roots run deep and whose legacy stretches across generations.

His story is the story that bridges generations — the story that a grandfather tells a grandchild, that a great-grandfather tells a great-grandchild, that a community preserves not just in memory but in print. *Somerset* is that preservation. It is the record of a life that deserves to be documented, distributed, and

read by anyone who wants to understand what it has meant to be an American in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

The rerelease of this memoir under Ink & Legacy Publishing™ ensures that John Henry Bates' story reaches the widest possible audience — from civil rights scholars and law enforcement professionals to faith communities, family historians, and readers who believe that the most important stories are the ones that come from real lives, really lived.

WHAT READERS ARE SAYING

“An absolute diamond in the rough. This book is full of history and life experiences that one would enjoy. The author takes you on a journey that you would learn about his experience during the civil rights era and his rise to entrepreneurship.”

“I like the way you sprinkled in historical facts as you tell your story. As I read Somerset my mind is flooded with my own childhood memories of growing up in rural Mississippi. What a joy to read!”

“This book was engaging and rich. The author gives you a realistic view of his journey, while providing a rich history of knowledge. It’s a must read.”

COMPARABLE TITLES

- The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr. — Clayborne Carson
- Just Mercy — Bryan Stevenson
- Between the World and Me — Ta-Nehisi Coates
- All American Boys — Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- Black Boy — Richard Wright

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BOOK DETAILS

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Henry Bates is a retired police officer, entrepreneur, civil rights advocate, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather from Natchez, Mississippi. He came of age during one of the most turbulent and transformative eras in American history and met every season of that era with the quiet, enduring strength of a man who understood exactly what he was fighting for and exactly what he was building. His life has spanned generations of American change — and he has been present for, and participant in, more of that change than most people will ever witness.

Somerset: Seasons of Change is his memoir — the full account of a life that deserves to be read, remembered, and passed down. Published by Ink & Legacy Publishing™, it is the story of a community, an era, and a man who refused to let either be forgotten.

ABOUT INK & LEGACY PUBLISHING™

Ink & Legacy Publishing™ is an independent boutique publishing house based in Houston, Texas, dedicated to publishing stories that deserve to last. Founded on the belief that some stories are too important to wait for permission, Ink & Legacy exists for underrepresented authors who are ready to tell their stories and build a legacy that outlives them.

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MEDIA ASSETS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

- High-resolution author photo — print-ready 300 DPI
- Book cover image — print-ready 300 DPI
- Book excerpt
- Long form and short form author bio
- Speaking reel — available upon request

FOR ALL MEDIA INQUIRIES

John Henry Bates is represented by Ink & Legacy Publishing™ for all media appearances, speaking engagements, podcast appearances, and interview opportunities.

hello@inkandlegacypublishing.com

www.inkandlegacypublishing.com

Please include your publication name, outlet, and deadline in all inquiries. High-resolution photos and additional press materials are available upon request.

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