

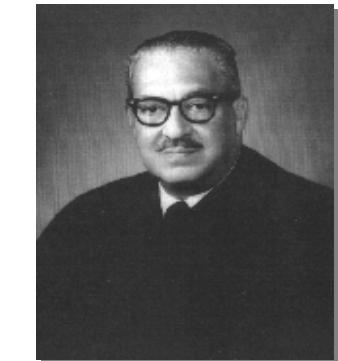
# The Ipet-Isut Historical Preservation Foundation

Presents

## Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Brown V. Board Of Education*



ATTORNEY CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON



THURGOOD MARSHALL, SUPREME COURT JUSTICE



ATTORNEY WILLIAM MEREDITH HOLLAND

*You have a large number of people who never heard of Charlie Houston. But you're going to hear about him. That man was the engineer of all of it... if you do it legally, Charlie Houston made it possible....*  
-- Thurgood Marshall

### *Historical Timeline of Black Education in Palm Beach County Florida*

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*“Discrimination in education is symbolic of all the more drastic discrimination in which Negroes suffer. In the American life, the equal protection clause in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment furnishes the key to ending separate schools.”*

Charles Hamilton Houston

Brown itself is made up of five cases. This collection of cases was the culmination of years of legal groundwork laid by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in its work to end segregation. None of the cases would have been possible without individuals who were courageous enough to take a stand against the segregated system.

**Briggs v. Elliot** The Briggs case was named for Harry Briggs, one of twenty parents who brought suit against R.W. Elliot, the president of the school board for Clarendon County, South Carolina. Initially, parents had only asked the county to provide school buses for the Black students as they did for Whites. When their petitions were ignored, they filed a suit challenging segregation itself. Reverend J. A. DeLaine, a school principal, was instrumental in recruiting the parent plaintiffs and enlisting the help of the NAACP. Thurgood Marshall, lead counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc., and Harold Boulware, a local lawyer, filed Briggs v. Elliot in the fall of 1950. A three-judge panel at the U.S. District Court was presented with substantial psychological evidence and expert testimony presented on African American school conditions. The court denied the plaintiffs' request to abolish school segregation. Instead, they ordered the school board to begin equalization of the schools. In a lone dissenting opinion, Judge Julius Waring adamantly opposed segregation in public education. Facing retaliation from irate segregationists, Waring left the state soon after. J.A. DeLaine and Harry Briggs also lost their jobs as a result of their involvement with the case.

**Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County** In April, 1951 Barbara Rose Johns, a high school student in Farmville, Virginia, organized a student strike to protest poor school conditions. Four hundred fifty African American students from Moton High School participated in the two-week protest. The student strike committee requested assistance from the NAACP branch office in Richmond, Virginia. The students believed that the deplorable conditions at the school deprived them of equal educational opportunities. Moton had no gymnasium, cafeteria, infirmary or teachers restrooms, and the overflow of students was housed in an old school bus and three buildings covered in tar paper. Local parents had repeatedly sought improvements from the local school board without success. In May 1951 Spottswood Robinson and Oliver Hill from the local NAACP filed suit on behalf of one hundred seventeen students. The plaintiffs asked that the state law requiring segregated schools in Virginia be struck down. A three-judge panel at the U.S. District Court unanimously rejected the students' request stating, “We have found no hurt or harm to either race.” The school board was ordered to proceed with plans to equalize the African American students' school. When the Supreme Court overturned the ruling and ordered desegregation, white Virginians launched a campaign of massive resistance. The Board of Supervisors for Prince Edward County refused to appropriate any funds for the County School Board for the period 1959 -1964, effectively closing the public schools rather than integrate them. Prince Edward County schools remained closed for five years.

**Bolling v. Sharpe** In 1947, Gardner Bishop and the Consolidated Parents Group, Inc. began a

crusade to end segregated schooling in Washington, D.C. At the beginning of the school term in 1950, Bishop attempted to get eleven young African American students admitted to the newly completed John Philip Sousa Junior High School. They were turned away, although the school had several empty classrooms. Charles Hamilton Houston, the special counsel to the NAACP, provided legal representation for the group. James Nabrit, Jr. a colleague from Howard University replaced Houston when he became ill. Nabrit did not present evidence that schools the plaintiffs attended were inferior to the facilities for white students. He felt the sole issue was that of segregation itself. It was a risky position. The U.S. District court dismissed the case on the basis of a recent ruling by the Court of Appeals in *Carr v. Corning* that segregated schools were constitutional in the District of Columbia. Nabrit filed an appeal and was awaiting a hearing when the Supreme Court sent word that it was interested in considering the case along with the other four segregation cases already pending. The U.S. Supreme Court rendered a separate opinion on *Bolling v. Sharpe* because the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was not applicable in the District of Columbia.

**Belton (Bulah) v. Gebhart** There were two separate cases in Delaware, but the issues were the same. Black families were frustrated with the inequitable conditions in schools reserved for African American children. *Belton v. Gebhart* was brought by parents in Claymont, who were forced to send their children to a run-down segregated high school in Wilmington rather than a school in the community. *Bulah v. Gebhart* was brought by Sarah Bulah, a parent who had made several attempts to convince the Delaware Department of Public Instruction to provide bus transportation for Black children in the town of Hockessin. Particularly galling was the fact that a bus for White children passed her house twice a day, but would not pick up her daughter. The parents sought representation from Louis Redding, a local lawyer who was the state's first Black attorney. He suggested that they petition their all-White neighborhood schools on behalf of their children. The children were denied admission and in 1951, the cases *Belton v. Gebhart* and *Bulah v. Gebhart* were filed. At the state's request the cases were heard at the Delaware Court of Chancery rather than the U.S. District Court. Jack Greenberg from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., assisted Redding with the case. In a groundbreaking decision, the Chancellor ruled that the plaintiffs were being denied equal protection of the law and ordered that the eleven children involved be immediately admitted to the White school. The board of education, however, appealed the decision. Delaware was the only case of the five that achieved relief for the plaintiffs at the state level. The decision did not strike down Delaware's segregation law.

**Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka** This case was initiated by members of the local NAACP chapter in Topeka, Kansas. Thirteen parents volunteered to participate. In the summer of 1950, they took their children to schools in their neighborhoods and attempted to enroll them for the upcoming school year. All were refused admission. The children were forced to attend one of the four schools in the city for African Americans. For most this involved traveling some distance from their homes. These parents filed suit against the Topeka Board of Education on behalf of their twenty children. Oliver Brown, a minister, was the first parent listed in the suit, so the case came to be named after him. Three local lawyers, Charles Bledsoe, Charles Scott and John Scott, were assisted by Robert Carter and Jack Greenberg of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. The case was filed in February 1951. The U.S. District Court ruled against the plaintiffs, but placed in the record its acceptance of the psychological evidence that African American children were adversely affected by segregation. These findings later were quoted by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1954 opinion.

**Legend:**

**Black – National History**

**Red – Palm Beach County History**

MAY 2004, MARKS THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF *BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION*, THE HISTORIC SUPREME COURT RULING THAT ENDED DEJURE (LEGAL) SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

*There were four historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) established before and during the Civil War.*

*Cheyney University (Cheyney, PA) 1837*

*Lincoln University (Lincoln, PA) 1854*

*Wilberforce University (Wilberforce, OH) 1856*

*Lemoyne-Owen (Memphis, TN) 1861*

1849 Benjamin Roberts tries on four separate occasions to enroll his 5 year-old daughter, Sarah, in an all-White primary school in Boston but was denied. He files suit based on a Massachusetts Law, which provides that any child “illegally excluded from the public school” might “recover damages against the city.” Roberts retains Charles Sumner, abolitionist and Radical Republican senator. The Massachusetts Supreme Court rules that segregated schools are permissible under the state’s constitution. (*Roberts v. City of Boston*) The U. S. Supreme Court will later use this case to support the “separate but equal” doctrine.

1857 With the *Dred Scott* decision, the Supreme Court upholds the denial of citizenship to African Americans and rules that descendants of slaves are “so far inferior that they have no rights which the White man was bound to respect.”

1861 Southern states secede from the Union. The Civil War begins.

1862 Congress passes the Morrill Act (Land Grant Act), which allows each state to build a college in which curriculum is related to agriculture and mechanical arts.

1863 President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves in the Confederacy. Because the Civil War is ongoing, the Proclamation has little practical effect.

1865 The Civil War ends; the Thirteenth Amendment is enacted to abolish slavery.

1865 Freedmen’s Bureau is established March 3<sup>rd</sup> to provide relief and help freedmen become self-sufficient in all areas of life.

1865 The Black Codes is a name given to laws passed by southern governments established during the presidency of Andrew Johnson. These laws impose severe restrictions on freedmen such as prohibiting their right to vote, forbidding them to sit on juries and limiting their right to testify against White men.

1866 The Civil Rights Act of 1866 guarantees Blacks basic economic rights to contract, sue and own property.

1867 Registered voters in Florida: 11,000 - Whites; 16,000 – Negroes.

1868 The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, guaranteeing “equal protection under the law”. Citizenship is extended to African Americans.

1868 Florida Memorial College (HBCU), formerly Florida Baptist Institute and Florida Normal Industrial Institute is established.

1868 Jonathan Gibbs, a Black Presbyterian minister is appointed Secretary of State and Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Florida.

1872 Florida Legislature passes the "Sheats Law," named for Representative William Sheats who served as Superintendent of Public Education for over 20 years, which mandates that Black and White students could not dine or lodge in the same building or receive instruction in the same classroom in any school in the state whether private, public or parochial.

1872 Cookman Institute for Boys is founded by Rev. D. S. B. Darnell in Jacksonville, FL

1872 The Florida Legislature establishes a school in Live Oak, FL, which later moves to Jacksonville and is named Edward Waters. This college is the oldest independent institution of higher education in Florida.

1875 Congress passes the Civil Rights Act of 1875, which bans racial discrimination in public accommodations.

1877 The presidential election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel Tilden is too close to call by the Electoral College. As a result of back room politicking the southern delegates vote in favor of Hayes with the promise that Hayes would remove the Union troops (provided through the Freedmen's Bureau) in the South which would allow the South to return to business as usual before they lost the Civil War.

1877 Rayford Logan of NC coins the term **Nadir**, which comes to mean and is widely regarded as the lowest point in African American existence with respect to constitutional laws.

1883 The Supreme Court overturns the Civil Rights Act of 1875 and declares that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment does not prohibit discrimination by private individuals or businesses.

1885 The Florida Constitution forbids Whites from teaching Blacks in the public and private schools of the state.

1885 On June 27, 1885, the Board of Education, Dade County, Florida meets to divide the county into school districts. District One: the land between the northern boundary and the Hillsboro Inlet; District Two: the land between Hillsboro Inlet and the south line section of the Jonathan Lewis Donation Grant (JLDG) or "Punch Bowl"; District Three: the mainland lying south of the JLDG to the southern boundary of the county; District Four: included Elliots Key and all the other islands or keys in the adjacent area.

1885 In September 1885, District Five is created. This district includes that part of Dade County lying between the northern boundary of the county and a point between Lake Worth and Jupiter, the present location of Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach.

1887 The practices of comprehensive racial segregation known as "Jim Crow" emerge, and racial segregation becomes entrenched.

1887 The Florida State Legislature established in Tallahassee the State Normal College for Colored students. In 1909 the school becomes a four-year college and is named Florida A & M College. FAMC becomes a university in 1953.

1890 Louisiana passes the first Jim Crow law requiring separate accommodations for Whites and Blacks.

1890 The Florida State Teachers Association (formerly the Association of Colored Teachers) is organized at St. James A.M.E Church in Tallahassee. Years later, James Weldon Johnson (Lift Every Voice and Sing) becomes president.

1892 Homer Plessy is arrested for sitting in the Whites only section of the railroad car in New Orleans, LA.

1894 According to the school board minutes dated September 19, 1894, "The trustees of the colored church, the present Tabernacle Baptist Church, then located on what is now Clematis Street in West Palm Beach, offered the use of their building for school purposes. J. E. Jones was appointed teacher. According to the records, this is the first school established for Negroes, which opened with 74 students. As a result of overcrowding, the superintendent arranged for two school terms of four months each. Half of the students attended the school the first four-month term, and the others came during the second four-month term.

1894 In October, a school at Linton, Florida is established and recorded as School Number Four, Delray Colored. B. F. James is appointed teacher. This school later becomes Spady Elementary and Carver High School.

1894 During the period from 1894 to 1909, with Palm Beach County still apart of Dade County opens 11 schools for Negro children are established.

1895 Charles Hamilton Houston is born on September 3, in Washington, D.C., the same year Frederick Douglass dies.

School Number	School Name	Date
	West Palm Beach (Tabernacle Church) Same as No.1	September 19, 1894
4	Delray Beach (Linton)	October 1895
3*	Palm Beach	December 8. 1896
	Boynton	September 7, 1896
1	West Palm Beach (moved from Tabernacle to school building)	September 7, 1896
2	Washington School	1900
7	Loxahatchee Colored (church)	1906
8	Pleasant City	March 2, 1906
9	Deerfield	1906
12	Hobe Sound (Riviera)	1906
35	West Jupiter (church)	1907
154	Beulah Land School (Baptist church-now Bryant)	1909

*This school was closed in October 1905, as a result of qualified teacher shortage and the students were transported by wagon to school No. 1. An explanation of the school numbering system was not available.*

1895 The Linton School becomes known as the Delray Colored School.

1896 Plessy v. Ferguson establishes the “separate but equal” doctrine that would become the constitutional basis for segregation. Justice John Marshall Harlan, the lone dissenter in Plessy, argued that forced segregation of the races stamped Blacks with a badge of inferiority. The same line of argument would become a decisive factor in the *Brown v. Board* decision.

1896 The Supreme Court authorizes segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson, finding Louisiana’s “separate but equal” law constitutional. The ruling, built on notions of White supremacy and Black inferiority, provides legal justification for Jim Crow laws in the Southern states.

1897 The school located at Tabernacle Baptist Church is named Clear Lake and in 1900 was renamed Lake Academy for grades 1-10 and James Mickens is appointed principal.

1899 The Supreme Court allows a state to levy taxes on Black and White citizens alike while providing a public school for White children only. (*Cumming v. Richmond (GA) County Board of Education*).

1899 The Supreme Court upholds a local school board’s decision to close a free public Black school due to fiscal constraints despite the fact that the district continues to operate two free public white schools.

1904 The Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Girls (later names Bethune-Cookman College) is founded by Mary McLeod Bethune.

1906 Lake Academy is renamed the West Palm Beach Colored School.

1906 The Washington School is renamed the Washington Grammar School.

1908 Thurgood Marshall is born in Baltimore, MD and later becomes the lead counsel in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case.

1908 The Supreme Court upholds a state’s authority to require a private college to operate on a segregated basis despite the wishes of the school. (*Berea College v. Kentucky*)

1909 The Boynton Colored School is renamed Boynton Negro Elementary.

1914 Industrial High School, located at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Division Avenue in West Palm Beach, opens for grades 1-12.

1914 Beulah Land School (Glades area) is renamed Azucar in 1914 and in 1946 renamed Bryant (Grades 1-8).

1914 The Delray Training School (formerly the Linton School) is established and in 1939 is renamed Carver High.

1916 The Yamato School is created and in 1929 renamed the Pearl City School.

1916 Hillsboro Elementary School opens and in 1922 is renamed Belle Glade Elementary.

1917 Bacon Point Road School (located in Canal Point) opens and is renamed Sand Cut (where the sand cuts into the muck) in 1948.

1918 Jupiter Elementary opens in the West Jupiter Church (Grades 1-6) and in 1957 is renamed Davis Elementary.

1920 The South Bay School opens and in 1931 is renamed Lake Harbor School.

1923 The Bean City School opens and in 1939 is renamed Ritta School.

1923 Cookman Institute and the Daytona Normal and Industrial School merge and become Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, FL.

1924 The Pahokee School opens and in 1954 is renamed East Lake School.

1925 The Hobe Sound School (Riviera Beach) is merged with the Washington Grammar School.

1925 Kelsey City Elementary opens in a church, is renamed Rosenwald in 1926 and merges with Washington Grammar in 1931.

1927 The Supreme Court finds that states possess the right to define a Chinese student as non-White for the purpose of segregating public schools. (*Gong Lum v. Rice*)

1927 D. E. Williams is appointed State Supervisor of Negro Schools.

### Supervisors of Negro Schools

1927-1935	Bernice Gordon Greene
1935-1936	Victoria Holmes
1936-1943	Anne Hogan Brewer (1944-1946) and (1947-1954)
1943-1944	Leslie Crane
1954-1957	Hazel M. St. Clair
1958-1967	Olivia H. Baldwin*

*\*Olivia Baldwin was the last Supervisor of Negro Schools. The assistant superintendent formerly held the title "General Supervisor of White Schools." Shortly after Olivia Baldwin was hired the White supervisor was given a new title and superiority over Baldwin.*

1930 Loxahatchee Colored, a one-teacher school is renamed Loxahatchee Elementary and was used as a church.

1930 Osborne Elementary (Grades 1-6) opens in the Methodist Episcopal Church and is renamed Lake Osborne Elementary in 1947.

1932 Alachua County has 49 Black Schools & 29 are one-teacher schools, 9 have two teachers, 5 have three teachers, and 5 have five or more teachers. The annual average salary is \$237.

1933 Washington Junior High opens and becomes Washington Elementary in 1943.

1935 The Pearl City School is renamed the Butts Farm School; in 1940 is renamed the Boca Raton School followed by the name of the Roadman School in 1957.

1935 The Boynton Rangeline School (State Road 7) opens for grades 1-3 and is renamed the Boynton renamed the Boynton.

1936 The Maryland Supreme Court orders the state's White law school to enroll a Black student, because there is no state-supported law school for Blacks in Maryland. (*University of Maryland v. Murray*)

1936 C. Spencer Pompey becomes "principal/teacher" of a Swannee County two-teacher school and teachers all subjects in grades 5 -8.

1937 Harry T. Moore and Ponce De Leon Williams organize a group in Brevard County who selects John Gilbert who files a lawsuit in 1938 for equal pay for Black and White teachers in Brevard County, Florida.

1938 The Supreme Court rules the practice of sending Black students out-of-state for legal training when the state provides a law school for Whites within its borders does not fulfill the state's "separate but equal" obligation. The Court orders Missouri's all-White law school to grant admission to an African American student. (*Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada*)

### Gaines V. Canada 1938

Lloyd Gaines, a college graduate, had been denied entrance to the law school at the University of Missouri because he was Black. Instead, Missouri offered to pay his expenses for law school outside the state. Atty. Charles Houston argued that Missouri was obligated to either build a law school for blacks equal to that of Whites or admit him to the University of Missouri. The Supreme Court agreed. The Gaines decision breached the walls of segregation. It meant that every state now had to either build a separate graduate school for Blacks or integrate. Houston knew that the Gaines decision was monumental. By extending the reasoning of the Gaines case, states would have to either build equal facilities for Blacks on every level or admit Blacks to White schools. The Gaines case would prove to be a major stepping-stone on the road to *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, the 1954 case that declared segregation in education unconstitutional. (*Gaines never showed up to attend law school and his family never heard from him again.*)

1938 Education in the Glades area schools only goes to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In order to complete high school, students must travel to West Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale or Miami. It was the general belief of decision makers that Blacks did not need more than an 8<sup>th</sup> grade education to harvest crops. The county's Board of Education decides not to establish a high school for Blacks in the Glades area. The Glades residents begin to petition the Federal Government to build a high school in the Glades area.

1938 In response to the Gaines decision, state officials in Missouri open a law school at the all-Black Lincoln University.

1939 Noah Griffin files a suit in Pinellas County to equalize teacher pay for Black and White teachers. He is later fired and banished from the state.

1940 Thirty percent of Americans believe that Whites and Blacks should attend the same schools.

1940 The Delmor Farms Schools opens and is merged with Boynton Rangeline and Spady Elementary in 1959.

1940 Everglades Elementary opens in Belle Glade (Grades 1-6 ).

1940 A federal court requires equal salaries for African American and White teachers. (*Alston v. School Board of City of Norfolk*)

1941 Vernon McDaniels, principal of Washington High School in Escambia County files a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court to equalize teacher pay for Black and White teachers.

1941 The Palm Beach County Teachers Association is established with C. Spencer Pompey as president, John Hector as vice president, Ellen Delancy as secretary and Thelma Reynolds as treasurer. A few of the other members were George H. Green, Howard Hadley, U. B. Kinsey, C. Spencer Pompey and Charles Stebbins. Former presidents were Ora D. Lee Taylor, Charles W. McCurdy, M.A. H. Williams, George Miles and S. B. McDonald.

1941 Everglades Vocational High opens in Belle Glade and in 1955 is renamed Okeechobee Elementary.

1941 The Everglades Camp School opens and in 1957 is renamed Everglades Elementary.

1941 Palm Beach County School Board grants a \$25 raise to teachers. The Palm Beach County Teachers Association challenges the raise and school superintendent, John I. Leonard, confirms that there will be no raises for Negro teachers.

**Earlier lawsuits had been filed in other Florida counties and in other states in the U. S. District Court for equalization of pay.**

**All of the cases were won.**

Vernon McDaniels – first plaintiff in the Escambia County Federal suit at Pensacola

Hilda Turner – first plaintiff in the Hillsborough County case at Tampa

George Starke – first plaintiff in the Marion County case at Ocala

B.C. Reynolds – first plaintiff in the Dade County case at Miami

Mamie Blocker – first plaintiff in the Duval County case in Jacksonville

Charles H. Stebbins – first plaintiff in the Palm Beach County case at West Palm Beach

*Later, teachers in Leon, Orange, Lake and other counties went into court. All persons filing suits were fired and in many cases teachers who participated were also terminated. The suits resulted in better equipment, more supplies, better buildings, and in some cases, new school buildings.*

1941 Charles H. Stebbins a third year social studies teacher at Industrial High School agrees to allow the class action lawsuit to be filed in his name by Atty. S. D. McGill (Stebbins, et al v. Palm Beach County Board of Public Instruction). Meetings are held in the homes of Henry Speed, John Bonner and Dr. J. H. Terrell with Atty. McGill of Jacksonville and with NAACP Counsel Thurgood Marshall. The trial is set for April 16, 1942.

1941 During the Stebbins v. Palm Beach County Board of Public Instruction, school board attorney C. D. Blackwell frequently used the term "nigger", to which Atty. Thurgood Marshall consistently objected; the Judge sustained the objection each time.

1945 The Children's Home is established and renamed Children's Home School (Grades 1-9) in 1959.

1946 June 4<sup>th</sup> the Brevard County School board fires both Harry and Harriette Moore after they lead a successful voter registration drive in 1945.

1947 In a precursor to the Brown case, a federal appeals court strikes down segregated schooling for Mexican American and White students. (*Westminster School District v. Mendez*) The verdict prompts California Governor Earl Warren to repeal a state law calling for segregation of Native American and Asian American students.

1948 Arkansas desegregates its state university.

## Virgil Hawkins

In April 1949 Virgil D. Hawkins, a former faculty member of Bethune Cookman College, applied for admission to the University of Florida's UF law school. The long road to achieving his life-long goal of becoming a lawyer would force him to persevere for 9 more years and overcome Florida's Jim Crow laws, which racially segregated its state universities. His journey would eventually open the doors of Florida's public universities to African Americans, although not to him. In May of 1949, UF, through the Florida Board of Control (later Board of Regents), denied his admission (as well as five other African-American graduate school applicants) based solely upon race. Mr. Hawkins sought relief through the Florida Supreme Court. The Court acknowledged that he possessed "all the scholastic, moral and other qualifications except as to race and color" for admission (*State ex rel. Hawkins*, 47 So. 2d 608, 609 (Fla. 1950)). He did not prevail due to the Court's finding that under the Equal Protection Clause, Florida would pay for his legal education in a different state or Florida would build a law school for Black students [at Florida A&M University]. In 1954 the United States Supreme Court ordered the public schools desegregated and in a 1956 companion decision ordered the University of Florida to admit Virgil Hawkins. However, Virgil Hawkins was still not admitted to UF. Petitioning for his admission to UF's College of Law, Mr. Hawkins eventually went before the Florida Supreme Court three times and the United States Supreme Court twice. After the U.S. Supreme Court ordered Florida to immediately enroll him in 1957, the Florida Supreme Court concluded that federal law could be superseded by state law in some instances (*the now-discredited "interposition" doctrine*). In 1958, Hawkins withdrew his application in exchange for a court order desegregating UF's graduate and professional schools. On September 15, 1958, George Starke was admitted to the College of Law, UF's first African-American law student. Mr. Hawkins' efforts to desegregate UF's law school led the way for the desegregation of the entire State University System in Florida. In 1962, W. George Allen became the first African-American to graduate from the University of Florida College of Law. Mr. Hawkins eventually received his J.D. from New England College of Law in Boston, 27 years after first applying to the University of Florida. Upon graduation he stated his goal was to offer legal assistance to "people, just barely making a living who don't qualify for legal aid, but still can't afford to hire an attorney." In 1976, he appeared before the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. His application to take the Florida Bar Examination had been denied because the Massachusetts law school from which he had graduated was not accredited by the American Bar Association, a formerly segregated organization. After a successful appeal, at the age of 69 Mr. Hawkins took his oath of office and became a member of The Florida Bar by special waiver. After years of serving the poor and under-represented in Lake County, Mr. Hawkins was brought before the Bar on ethics charges. Unable to afford a lawyer and facing discipline, Hawkins resigned from the Bar in 1985. Three years later, at age 81, Mr. Hawkins died. Virgil D. Hawkins' bar membership was posthumously reinstated by the Florida Supreme Court. On May 25, 1999, the Florida Supreme Court sat in special ceremonial session in response to a request by Florida's NAACP chapters to publicly honor the 50th anniversary of one of its landmark cases: Florida's first desegregation lawsuit, *State ex rel. Hawkins*, 47 So. 2d 608, 609 (Fla. 1950). After viewing the documentary narrated by former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan covering in detail Virgil D. Hawkins' story, Major B. Harding, Florida's chief justice, looked squarely at the audience and said, "*Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard about a regrettable and poignant moment in the jurisprudential history of this Court. We must learn from the lessons taught . . . hatred and discrimination will not triumph.*" In 2001, UF awarded its first posthumous honorary degree in its 150-year history to Mr. Hawkins, with the unanimous consent of the Faculty Senate and the Board of Regents.

- 1948 The Supreme Court orders the admission of a black student to the University of Oklahoma School of Law, a White school, because there is no law school for Blacks. (*Sipuel v. Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma*)
- 1949 Lake Shore Elementary in Belle Glade opens.
- 1949 Booker T. Washington Junior College (Pensacola) is the first Black junior college established in Florida.

1950 The Supreme Court holds that the policy of isolating a Black student from his peers within a White law school is unconstitutional. (*McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents for High Education*)

1950 The Supreme Court rejects Texas' plan to create a new law school for Black students rather than admit an African American to the state's White-only law school. (*Sweatt v. Painter*) The Supreme Court rules that learning in law school "cannot be effective in isolation from the individuals and institutions with which the law interacts." The decision stops short of overturning *Plessy*.

1950 Industrial High School is renamed Palmview Elementary and U. B. Kinsey is appointed principal.

1951 Roosevelt High School in West Palm Beach opens for grades 7-12 and Britton Sayles is appointed principal.

1950 Barbara Johns, a 16 year-old junior at Robert R. Moton High School in Farmville, VA organizes and leads 450 students in an anti-school segregation strike.

1950 Attorney Charles Hamilton Houston dies and five U. S. Supreme Court Justices attend his funeral.

1951 The Canal Point Migratory Camp School (formerly Sand Cut) opens and in 1959 is renamed the North Ridge Elementary School.

1951 In November the Florida state NAACP convention removes Harry T. Moore as salaried Executive Director of the Florida NAACP, and makes him the unpaid state coordinator.

1951 Christmas evening, a bomb was explodes under the bedroom of Harry T. Moore, killing him. His wife, Harriette, dies 9 days later on January 3<sup>rd</sup> of internal injuries from the bombing.

1952 The Supreme Court hears oral arguments in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Thurgood Marshall, who later becomes the first African American Supreme Court Justice who is the lead counsel for the Black school children.

1953 Earl Warren is appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

1953 The Supreme Court hears the second round of arguments in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

1954 In unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* overturns *Plessy v. Ferguson* and declares that separate schools are "inherently unequal." The court delays deciding on how to implement the decision and asks for another round of arguments.

1954 The Boynton Elementary School is renamed Poinciana.

1954 The Court rules that the federal government is under the same ruling as the states and must desegregate the Washington, D.C. schools. (*Bolling v. Sharpe*)

1955 In Brown II, the Supreme Court orders the lower federal courts to implement desegregation "with all deliberate speed."

1955 Atty. William Holland files a lawsuit to desegregate the golf courses in Palm Beach County.

1955 Between 1955 and 1960, federal judges hold more than 200 school desegregation hearings.

1955 The West Riviera Elementary School opens and is renamed Lincoln Elementary in 1959 (Grades 1-6 ).

1955 Lake Harbor and Ritta are merged into the new Rosenwald School.

1955 Lake Shore High School opens in Belle Glade.

1956 Forty -nine percent of Americans believe that Whites and Blacks should attend the same schools.

1956 Atty. William Holland attempts to enroll his 6 year-old son at Northboro Elementary School in West Palm Beach, FL but is denied.

1956 Clinton High School in Clinton, Tennessee Governor Frank Clement calls in the National Guard after White mobs attempt to block the desegregation of Clinton High School.

1956 A judge rules against Holland for his son to attend Northboro Elementary. An appeals court overturns the decision, but the school board still does not integrate the schools.

1956 Under court order, the University of Alabama admits Autherine Lucy as, its first African American student. White students and residents riot. Lucy is suspended and later expelled for criticizing the University.

1956 The Virginia legislature calls for “massive resistance” to school desegregation and pledges to close schools under desegregation orders.

1956 East Lake High in Pahokee opens for grades 7-12.

### The Magnificent Twelve

The State of Florida Community College System, as it exists today, evolved out of a merger between the formerly segregated African American and White junior colleges which co-existed in Florida between 1949 and 1966. The twelve Black junior colleges were established to provide the African American community with **equal** access to higher educational opportunities. Eleven of the magnificent twelve were established after the 1954 United States Supreme Court Brown v Board decision that confirmed that separate systems of public education for African Americans and Whites were unconstitutional. The founding of the Black junior colleges as separate systems of two-year colleges was based on recommendations to the state legislature by the Florida Community College Council, which indicated that there was a need for two-year institutions for African Americans. The Florida Legislature established the Community College Council in 1955 while at the same time America was preparing for the desegregation/integration of public education. With the backing of the State Constitution the council determined in 1957 that Black two-year colleges should be established and associated with Black high schools. The governor, Leroy Collins, who served from 1955-1961 did not pursue establishing integrated junior colleges nor did he attempt to have the constitution revised to eradicate the 1855 decision. Civil Rights organizations and African American leaders wanted to develop integrated institutions.

**Booker T. Washington Junior College – Pensacola (*Escambia*) - 1949 – 1965**  
**Gibbs Junior College – St. Petersburg (*Pinellas*) -1957 – 1965**  
**Hampton (formerly Howard) Junior College – Ocala (*Marion*) – 1958 – 1966**  
**Roosevelt Junior College – West Palm Beach (*Palm Beach*) – 1958 – 1965**  
**Rosenwald Junior College – Panama City (*Bay*) – 1958 – 1966**  
**Volusia County Community College – Daytona Beach (*Volusia*) – 1958 – 1966**  
**Suwannee River Junior College – Madison (*Madison*) – 1959 – 1967**  
**Carver Junior College – Cocoa (*Brevard*) – 1960 – 1964**  
**Collier-Blocker Junior College – Palatka (*Putnam*) – 1960-1966**  
**Jackson Junior College – Marianna (*Jackson*) – 1960 – 1966**  
**Lincoln Junior College – Fort Pierce (*St. Lucie*) – 1960 – 1966**  
**Johnson Junior College – Leesburg (*Lake*) – 1962 – 1965**

By 1967, all of the African American two-year colleges had been merged with the existing White Institutions. The name of the existing White institution became the name of the college, which evolved out of the merger. The president of each of the previously all White institutions became the president of the new institution and not one of the presidents of the former all Black institutions obtained a position of Vice President in the new college which evolved out of the merger.

Excerpt from [The Magnificent Twelve](#) by Walter Smith

1957 More than 1,000 paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division and a Federalized Arkansas National Guard protect nine Black students integrating Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

1957 Spady Elementary School opens in Delray Beach for grades 1-6.

1957 The New Carver High School in Delray Beach opens for grades 7-12.

1957 Roosevelt Elementary opens in West Palm Beach for grades 1-6 and Charles Munnings is appointed Principal.

1958 Attorney William Holland files a class action suit on behalf of all Blacks for school integration.

1958 The Supreme Court rules that fear of social unrest or violence, whether real or constructed by those wishing to oppose integration, does not excuse state governments from complying with Brown. (*Cooper v. Aaron*)

1958 The Florida Legislature passes a bill allowing districts to close schools rather than desegregate. Governor Leroy Collins vetoes it.

1958 West Riviera Junior High School opens and is renamed Lincoln High in 1959 (Grades 7-12).

1958 Ten thousand young people march in Washington, D.C. in support of integration.

1958 Roosevelt Junior College opens in the Roosevelt High School building five years after the Brown v. Board Decision. The building construction is completed in 1959 and Britton Sayles is appointed president. The Faculty Members include:

Paul G. Butler, Dean and Registrar

Ruby Bullock, Mathematics

Maxine B. Davies, Mathematics

Ana Maria Gonzalez, Foreign Languages

Novik M. Stubbs, Health and Physical Education

Benjamin L. Johnson, Health and Physical Education

Earley L. Vessell, General Business

Ineria H. Hudnell, English, French and Art

Margaret Brown Richardson, Librarian

Idella B. Wade, Librarian

William Dunn, Social Science

Carl W. McLendon, Social Science

Carrie G. Bridwell, English

Rachel Perry Jerry, English

Samuel H. Cooke, Science

1959 Twenty-five thousand young people march in Washington, D.C., in support of integration.

1959 Prince Edward County Virginia officials close their public schools rather than integrate them. White students attend private academies; Black students do not head back to class until 1963, when the Ford Foundation funds private Black schools. The Supreme Court orders the county to reopen its schools on a desegregated basis in 1964.

1960 In New Orleans, LA, federal marshals shield 6-year-old Ruby Bridges from an angry crowd as she attempts to enroll in school.

1960 North Carolina college students begin sit-ins at Whites-only lunch counters, and compels the nation to confront segregation in public facilities.

1961 Westward Junior High School opens in West Palm Beach (Roosevelt Estates) in 1961 for Grade 7 only to relieve the overcrowding at Roosevelt High.

1961 A federal district court orders the University of Georgia to admit African American students, Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter. After a riot on campus, the two are suspended. A court later reinstates them.

1961 The Palm Beach County School District begins token integration September 11, 1961, after a judge orders that secondary students be permitted to attend the schools nearest their homes if the student wished. Although 87 Black students applied to transfer to White schools, only five Black students were permitted to attend the White schools.

1961 The first five Black students to integrate Palm Beach County schools were Theresa Jakes Kanu and John Green (Lake Worth High); Iris Hunter Porter (Jupiter High); Yvonne Lee (Seacrest High); and Mary Warren (Palm Beach Junior College).

1961 Freedom Riders of various backgrounds and ethnicities travel the South in integrated buses and are met with violence, beatings and death.

1962 A federal appeals court orders the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, an African American student. Upon his arrival, a mob of more than 2,000 White people riot, 28 federal marshals are shot, 130 people are injured and reporter Paul Guilhard is killed.

1962 Cesar Chavez creates the United Farm Workers Association to conform the plight of California's Latino migrant farm workers.

1963 Sixty-two percent of Americans - seventy-three (73) percent of Northerners and thirty-one (31) percent of Southerners believe Blacks and Whites should attend the same schools.

1963 Two African American students, Vivian Malone and James A. Hood, successfully register at the University of Alabama despite George Wallace's "stand in the schoolhouse door" - but only after President Kennedy federalizes the Alabama National Guard.

1963 For the first time, a small number of Black students in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana attend public elementary and secondary schools with White students.

1963 Over 250,000 people from across the nation participate in the 196 March on Washington for jobs, housing and freedom.

1963 President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, TX.

1964 The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is adopted. Title IV of the Act authorizes the federal government to file school desegregation cases. Title VI of the Act prohibits discrimination in programs and activities, including schools, receiving federal financial assistance.

1964 The Reverend Bruce Klunder is killed protesting the construction of a new segregated school in Cleveland, OH.

1964 The Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) is established by Congress. The local liaisons are Maude Ford Lee, F. Malcolm Cunningham, M.A. Hall Williams, L.E. Buie, Charlie Ellington and Lillie Drayton.

1965 Cashus W. Richardson, II is hired as conciliator for a seven-state region for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and locates the first office in the state of Florida in West Palm Beach.

1965 Palm Beach County School District allows Black volunteers to transfer to white schools.

1965 The Community Action Council is established with Maude Ford Lee as director.

1965 Only a few of Broward's 18,600 Black students attend racially mixed schools. The school board closes all-Black Woodson Elementary and busses students. The Broward school district holds sensitivity classes for teachers, including lessons in pronouncing the word KNEEgrow , not "nigra."

1965 S. Bruce McDonald is appointed Administrative Assistant at Central Junior High School in West Palm Beach.

1965 Roosevelt Junior College is closed and six professor are transferred to Palm Beach Junior College who are Paul Butler, Ruby Bullock, Carrie Bridwell, Daniel Hendrix, Margaret Brown Richardson, and Idella Wade.

1965 The Selma-to-Montgomery March for voting rights turned into "Bloody Sunday, on March 7 when over 600 civil rights marchers were badly beaten by state and local lawmen on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

1966 Rogers Junior High in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Broward County), still has White and Colored bathrooms. Broward School Board declines 2.6 million in aid rather than follow guidelines to further desegregate.

1967 The Palm Beach County Teachers' Association merges with the White teachers' association. The new organization, the Palm Beach County Classroom Teachers' Association elects Dr. Joseph Orr as its first president followed by Charles Collier in 1979.

1967 The local court finds Broward school district guilty of gerrymandering boundaries to avoid desegregation. The Klu Klux Klan attends a School Board meeting and is assured that playing Dixie and waving the Confederate flags won't be banned.

1968 S. Bruce McDonald becomes the first African American to serve as principal of an all White school in Palm Beach. He is appointed principal of Boca Raton Junior High School and his office is housed at Boca Raton High to supervise the school construction.

1968 The Supreme Court orders states to dismantle segregated school systems "root and branch." The court identifies five factors – facilities, staff, faculty, extracurricular activities and transportation - to be used to gauge a school system's compliance with the mandate of Brown. (*Green v. County School Board of New Kent County*) In a private note to Justice Brennan, Justice Warren writes: "*When this opinion is handed down, the traffic light will have changed from Brown to Green. Amen!*"

1968 Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN.

1968 S. M. Fluellen becomes the first African American to serve on the Palm Beach Junior College Trustee Board.

1969 The Supreme Court declares the "all deliberate speed" standard is no longer constitutionally permissible and orders the immediate desegregation of Mississippi schools. (*Alexander v. Holmes County Board of Education*)

1969 Ft. Lauderdale lawyer. W. George Allen files suit on behalf of his sons, accusing the Broward School Board of violating the Brown decision. In 1970 the federal court orders desegregation.

1969 About 2,500 Black students in Palm Beach County boycott, protesting delays in making a desegregation plan.

1969 The Supreme Court rules that schools must desegregate "at once."

1970 The Palm Beach County School District is desegregated. Of the 13 all-Black schools, the desegregation plan leaves only one school above 90% Black.

1970 Daniel Hendrix becomes the first African American elected to the Palm Beach County School Board.

1970 The desegregation plan reduces the Black high schools (Roosevelt, Lake Shore, Kennedy and Carver) to junior high schools for grades 6-8. The White high schools remain in tact but some name changes are made: (Riviera Beach to Suncoast); (Palm Beach High to Twin Lakes); (Seacrest to Atlantic); (Belle Glade High to Glades Central High).

1970 Palm Beach County School District proposes busing 26,000 children. As school starts, students walk out in protest.

1971 The Court approves busing, magnet schools, compensatory education and other tools as appropriate remedies to overcome the role of residential segregation in perpetuating racially segregated schools. (*Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenberg Board of Education*)

1971 Members of the Klu Klux Klan bomb 10 school buses in Pontiac, MI in an effort to halt integration.

1972 The Supreme Court refuses to allow public school systems to avoid desegregation by creating new, mostly or all White "splinter districts." (*Wright v. Council of the City of Emporia; United States v. Scotland Neck City Board of Education*)

1972 Charles McCurdy files a discrimination suit against the Palm Beach County School Board after being passed over twice for the principalship of the new Glades Central High School. He had been principal of the all Black Lake Shore High since its opening. The court rules in his favor and he becomes principal of Glades Central High.

1972 The Palm Beach County Urban League is established with Percy Lee as president and CEO.

1972 Brown's legacy extends to gender. Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 is passed prohibiting sex discrimination in any educational program that receives federal financial assistance.

1973 The federal court rules in the Holland case that the Palm Beach County schools are integrated.

1973 Boca Raton High is closed for a day after race riots injure 17 students.

1973 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is passed prohibiting schools from discriminating against students with mental or physical impairments.

1973 The Supreme Court rules that states cannot provide textbooks to racially segregated private schools to avoid integration mandates. (*Norwood v. Harrison*)

1973 The Supreme Court finds that the Denver School Board intentionally segregated Mexican American and Black students from White students. (*Keyes v. Denver School District No. 1*) The Court distinguishes between state-mandated segregation (de jure) and segregation that is the result of private choices (de facto). The latter form of segregation, the Court rules, is not unconstitutional.

1973 The School District is declared unitary by the court.

1973 The Supreme Court rules that education is not a “fundamental right” and that the Constitution does not require equal education expenditures within a state. (*San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez*) The ruling has the effect of locking minority and poor children who live in low -income areas into inferior schools.

1974 The Supreme Court blocks metropolitan-wide desegregation plans as a means to desegregate urban schools with high minority populations. (*Miliken v. Bradley*) As a result, Brown will not have a substantial impact on many racially isolated urban districts.

1974 Non-English-speaking Chinese students file suit against the San Francisco Unified School District for failing to provide instruction to those with limited English proficiency. The Supreme Court rules that the failure to do so violates Title VI’s prohibition of national origin, race or color discrimination in school districts receiving federal funds. (*Lau v. Nichols*)

1978 A fractured Supreme Court declares the affirmative action admissions program for the University of California Davis Medical School unconstitutional because it set aside a specific number of seats for Black and Latino students. The Court rules that race can be a factor in university admissions, but it cannot be the deciding factor. (*Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*)

1980 Dr. Gerald Burke established the complimentary Fannie Lou Hammer Summer Institute in Mathematics for advanced instruction in Math.

1982 The Supreme Court rejects tax exemptions for private religious schools that discriminate. (*Bob Jones University v. U.S.; Goldboro Christian Schools v. U.S.*)

1986 For the first time, a federal court finds that once a school district meets the Green factors, it can be released from its desegregation plan and returned to local control. (*Riddick v. School Board of the City of Norfolk, Virginia*)

1987 Two parents at Suncoast High in Riviera Beach file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in Atlanta, saying the racial imbalance, curricula and facilities are inadequate at mostly Black schools. (Violations of Title V I.)

1988 School integration reaches its all-time high; almost 45 percent of Black students in the United States are attending majority-White schools.

1989 Palm Beach County creates magnets at S.D. Spady Elementary and Atlantic High schools in Delray Beach, Suncoast High in Riviera Beach and the School of the Arts in West Palm Beach.

1990 The Supreme Court rules that districts may end forced busing. The U. S. Department of Education says Palm Beach County allowed Black students to bear the brunt of busing and has re-segregated. It gives the county two years to fix the problem, then extends the deadline to 1995.

1990 The Office for Civil Rights notifies the Palm Beach County School District that it was “in violation of Title VI as it relates to the assignment of students to schools and the provision of educational services at predominantly Black schools.” Magnet programs are established to correct the violation.

1991 Emphasizing that court orders are not intended "to operate in perpetuity," the Supreme Court makes it easier for formerly segregated school systems to fulfill their obligations under desegregation decrees. (*Board of Education of Oklahoma City v. Dowell*) After being released from a court order, the Oklahoma City school system abandons its desegregation efforts and returns to neighborhood schools.

1991 U. S. Supreme Court allows school districts to declare themselves desegregated, end integration efforts and return to neighborhood schools.

1991 Palm Beach County School officials unveil programs to create integrated neighborhoods so schools can become racially balanced without busing.

1992 The Supreme Court further speeds the end of desegregation cases, ruling that school systems can fulfill their obligations in an incremental fashion. (*Freeman v. Pitts*)

1992 The Supreme Court rules that the adoption of race-neutral measures does not, by itself, fulfill the constitutional obligation to desegregate colleges and universities that were segregated by law. (*United States v. Fordice*)

1995 The Supreme Court sets a new goal for desegregation plans: the return of schools to local control. It emphasizes again that judicial remedies were intended to be "limited in time and extent." (*Missouri v. Jenkins*)

1995 OCR advises the School Board that the District would not be certified for a federal magnet grant unless it committed to a comparability study to evaluate facilities and programming in racially identifiable elementary schools. The District complies and is awarded a federal magnet grant for 10.7 million.

1996 A federal appeals court prohibits the use of race in college and university admissions, ending affirmative action in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. (*Hopwood v. Texas*)

1996 Controlled open enrollment legislation (F.S. 228.057) passes in the Florida Legislature

1999 The Office for Civil Rights stops monitoring schools in Palm Beach County, saying the district had taken appropriate steps.

2000 The District's open enrollment plan was implemented as the "Riviera Beach Community Choice Plan."

2001 White parents in Charlotte, N.C., schools successfully seek an end to the desegregation process and a ban to the use of race in making student assignments.

2002 Palm Beach County school district stops busing Black students from Delray Beach and Boynton Beach into the suburbs, eliminating the last remnant of the 1970s desegregation efforts.

2002 A report from Harvard's Civil Rights Project concludes that America's schools are re-segregating.

2003 The Supreme Court upholds diversity as a rationale for affirmative action programs in higher education admissions, but concludes that point systems are not appropriate. (*Grutter v. Vollinger; Gratz v. Bollinger*)

2003 A federal district court case affirms the value of racial diversity and race-conscious student assignment plans in K-12 education. (*Lynn v. Comfort*)

2003 A study by Harvard's Civil Rights Project finds that schools are more segregated in 2000 than in 1970 when busing for desegregation began.

2004 The nation marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*.



## National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

**The Brown Decision:** *"We come then to the question presented: Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does. We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate but equal has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment."* The Glades Branch of the NAACP is committed to making sure that the **Brown Decision** is uplifted in each endeavor we advocate on behalf of the community. The traveling Brown v. Board exhibit will be a permanent part of our archives.

Linda Johnson, President, Glades Branch of NAACP, Chartered 1969

**Brown v Board of Education** represents one of the greatest decisions of the Supreme Court and served to redirect unjust and inhumane interpretations of the American constitution. Without any hesitancy, the Brown case is deserving of considerable reflection and commemoration. However, we must remain cautious and not celebrate a 50-year victory in illusory terms. **Brown** was the result of an enormous social and political movement. A 60 year history of legal battles preceded **Brown** plus another 30 years ensued to enforce desegregation laws. This legal remedy could not by itself achieve the main purpose of repairing the profound effect of discrimination and hatred against Blacks in America. For this reason, the struggle for "equality" still exists. Issues of inferior schools and "unequal" access to meaningful education still echo throughout the Black community. We must reaffirm the strategies of the historical movement that began more than 100 years ago. Let us recommit and stay progressively diligent until the tenets of Brown are completely realized.

Romaine Semeah, President, South Palm Beach County Branch of NAACP, Chartered November 8, 1943

The West Palm Beach Branch of NAACP has worked diligently in the community to ensure that the most significant piece of American jurisprudence of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Brown v. Board of Education which toppled the doctrine of "separate but equal," and mandated that states provide students an equal opportunity to a quality education is continually the major focus of the Branch Education Committee. As we commemorate 50 years of Brown, much progress has been made but the NAACP must finish the work of Brown!

Maude Ford Lee, President, West Palm Beach Branch of NAACP, Chartered April 10, 1939

## Acknowledgments and Credits

The Hudnell Historical Archives – Ineria E. Hudnell

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Like A Mighty Banyan

More Rivers to Cross by C. Spencer Pompey

Our Schools in Palm Beach County –Growth of Education for Negroes in Palm Beach County

The Magnificent Twelve by Dr. Walter Smith

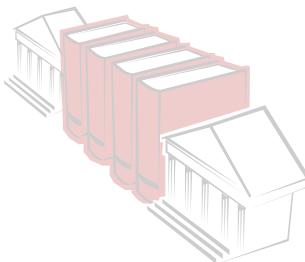
The College Board Review, Fall 2003

# EQUAL EDUCATION

## Little Rock Nine

The Little Rock Nine also played an important role in the fight for equal education. They were nine high school students who were the first black students to attend Little Rock Central High School. The Governor of Arkansas tried to stop them from entering the school; but with the help of President Kennedy, the students won their fight for an equal education.

Ernest Green  
Elizabeth Eckford  
Jefferson Thomas  
Dr. Terrence Roberts  
Carlotta Walls Lanier  
Minnijean Brown Trickey  
Gloria Ray Karlmark  
Thelma Mothershed-Wair

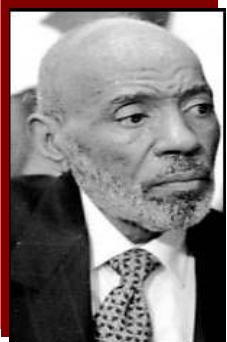


A snapshot from the Maryland State Archives, taken during Houston's years at Howard. A very young *Thurgood Marshall* is standing at the left. *Houston* is writing, seated at the right. The man in the center is *Donald Murray*, who was to become the first black student admitted to the University of Maryland School of Law.



## Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune

A famous person who helped black students get a better education was *Mary McLeod Bethune*. She played a role in the fight for equal education by creating schools for Blacks, such as the one she started in Daytona Beach, Florida. She also taught black students and worked with several presidents to fight to make sure every child in the U.S. received a good education.



## James Meredith

In the fall of 1962 Meredith risked his life when he successfully applied the laws of integration and became the first black student at the University of Mississippi, a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement which sparked riots on the Oxford campus that left two people dead.



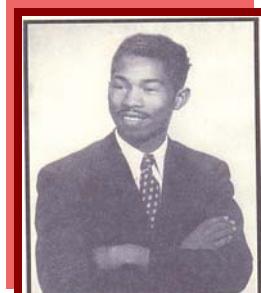
## RUBY BRIDGES

Like Linda Brown, *Ruby Bridges* was a black girl who wanted a good education. The difference is that Ruby Bridges went to an all-white. After the government said she was allowed to attend the school, most of the parents of white kids did not want their kids sitting next to a black person. Read about how brave Ruby Bridges was to stand up to all the people who did not want her at the school.



## MEDGAR EVER

He was another phenomenal person who was also involved in the fight for equal education. He helped his black friend get into an all-white college. *Medgar Evers* was killed as he fought for equal education, voter education/registration for everyone.



## Attorney William Holland

Attorney William Holland files a class action suit on behalf of all Blacks for school integration.

