

MASSACHUSETTS CHURCH ANNIVERSARY MERGES WITH OBSERVANCE OF *BROWN*

As part of a year-long celebration of the Myrtle Baptist Church's 130th Anniversary, the congregation plans a very special observance of the 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* in the form of an Educators Honor Roll. The program, which is free, open to the public, and accessible to the disabled will take place on Saturday, April 10, 2004, from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., at Myrtle Baptist Church in West Newton, Massachusetts. Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., will be the keynote speaker followed by a book signing reception and salute to educators.



Myrtle was established in October 1874 by freed men and sons of former slaves who settled in West Newton outside of Boston. For additional information on the year-long Anniversary Celebration visit the [Myrtle Baptist Church](#).

***BROWN* CONTEST DEADLINES NEAR**

- National History Day (NHD), in cooperation with the 50th Anniversary Commission, invites students in grades 6 - 12 to participate in a national essay contest. The essay must relate to the 2003-2004 NHD theme, "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History." A student whose essay qualifies for the state NHD contest should submit three copies of the essay by April 1, 2004, directly to: National History Day, *Brown v. Board* Essay Contest, 0119 Cecil Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. For all the rules visit [National History Day](#).

Winning essay writers will be informed in early May 2004. The official announcement will be made on May 17, 2004, at a *Brown v. Board* 50th Anniversary ceremony. The first place winner will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500 and third place will receive \$350. Travel to attend the anniversary ceremony will be provided for the first place winning student and parents.

- The Association for the Study of African American Life and History presents its 15TH Annual Essay Contest. Deadline for submission is April 30, 2004. Notification of winners will be July 31, 2004. Mail or deliver essay entries to: ASALH Essay Contest, C.B. Powell Building, 525 Bryant Street, N.W., Suite 130, Washington, DC 20059. For more information call (202) 865-0053.

COMMISSIONER PROFILE

Commissioner Roger Wilkins has been the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History and Culture at George Mason University since 1988. A University of Michigan alumnus (A.B. and LL.B.), Mr. Wilkins has been influential in the areas of journalism, philanthropy, government and law. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the Pulitzer Prize, and is the author of "Jefferson's Pillow: The Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism."



"For those of us born in segregation, the day of the Brown decision was the day the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the Gettysburg Address and the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th Amendments were finally delivered. Up to then we had known that these principles were fundamental to this country but were withheld by our government from us. However, it was also the day the contours of the continuing struggle began to emerge because we began learning of the immense power that culture has to undermine law and how central racism is in American culture. So, the commemoration of Brown should be both a celebration of a great achievement and a rededication to the enormous struggles in which we are still engaged."

INTERESTING **BROWN** LINKS

- [Michigan State University](#)
- [Rossville Junior High School](#)

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