

THE UNITED STATES HONORS CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEERS

The date has yet to be set, but the United States Congress is poised to praise 4 heroes. In November of last year lawmakers voted to bestow Congressional medals to the group for their efforts in the *Briggs v. Elliott* case from Clarendon County, South Carolina. *Briggs* was the first case filed challenging the separate but equal doctrine as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and it was the first to reach the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court returned the case to the lower court for a review of the progress made by the state of South Carolina toward equalizing "colored" schools and when it returned to the Supreme Court it was joined by cases from Kansas, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The honored individuals are: [Rev. Joseph Armstrong De Laine, Sr.](#), credited with the effective leadership role of making *Briggs v. Elliott* a Clarendon County, South Carolina reality; [Mr. Levi Pearson](#), a farmer, was the sole petitioner in a bus transportation lawsuit that spawned the genesis of *Briggs v. Elliott*; [Mr. Harry Briggs, Sr.](#), the first of twenty plaintiffs in the *Briggs v. Elliott* case and his wife [Mrs. Eliza Briggs](#).

BROWN V. BOARD ESSAY CONTESTS

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

MOTON SCHOOL RENOVATION

[The Robert Russa Moton Museum](#): A Center for the Study of Civil Rights in Education, has received \$400,000 in grants and matching funds to restore the 65-year old school. Site of a 1951 strike by 450 students in Prince Edward County, VA, against the policy of separate but equal, this was the only *Brown* suit that grew out of direct student action.

SPECIAL BROWN EVENTS

The Communications Museum at the College of Charleston presents the film, "Modjeska Simkins: Making a Way Out of No Way" at 7pm on Wednesday, February 18, 2004. This event is part of their film and discussion series, "Civil Rights: The People Behind the Movement".

The film details Mrs. Simkins' work with the South Carolina branch of the NAACP, and her work with *Briggs v. Elliott*, which later became part of the *Brown* cases presented to the high court.

For information about the event, contact the John Rivers Communications Museum, College of

Charleston, at (843) 953-5810.

TRAVELING EXHIBIT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SCHOOL INTEGRATION

Looking for a way your community might celebrate the impact of *Brown*? You can book "Stony the Road: Desegregating America's Schools," a traveling exhibit. For more information contact: [Curatorial Department of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia](#), (804) 780-9093.

ALSO, "Courage: The Carolina Story that Changed America" Exhibit opens this weekend at the Levine Museum in Charlotte and runs to August '04 .

COMMISSIONER PROFILE

Daniel D. Holt, Commissioner representing the state of Kansas. Dan Holt is the first native Kansan to direct the Eisenhower Center. Commissioner Holt received his BA from Washburn University and his MA from Emporia State University. An expert in military history, Dan Holt has authored two books and published numerous scholarly articles.



"For African - Americans, the Brown cases split the history of the United States into "B.C." and "A.D.". Pre-Brown history was an unbroken chain of governmentally sanctioned racial oppression in the form of slavery and legalized segregation. The Brown cases changed all that and set the stage for our Nation to live up to its ideals. It was our moment of truth, and it has yet to be fully realized."

INTERESTING *BROWN* LINKS

- [New York University Legal Defense Fund](#)
- [American Bar Association](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)

As a service to our readers we periodically list articles, books, videos or other publications that may be of interest. The inclusion of such materials and publications does not constitute endorsement of or agreement with the content, views, and/or opinions of such materials and publications by the *Brown v. Board* 50th Anniversary Commission, the U.S. Department of Education, or the U.S. Department of Justice. The views and opinions expressed in any such publication are solely the views and opinions of the authors.

If you would like the newsletter to describe commemorative activities in your area or profile your website, please [contact the Commission](#).

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