



50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

**AND NOW WHAT?:
THE CONUNDRUM OF ACHIEVING
RACIAL EQUALITY AFTER THE
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III, Chairman

The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, Vice Chairwoman

Together With the

THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA
800 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

JULY 2, 2014
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III, Chairman
The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, Vice Chairwoman
The Honorable C. Matthew Fariss
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke
Honorable Delores L. McQuinn
The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr.
The Honorable William M. Stanley, Jr.
The Honorable Roslyn C. Tyler
The Honorable Thomas C. Wright, Jr.
The Honorable Joseph R. Yost
Reverend Ricardo L. Brown
Dr. Ronald L. Carey
The Honorable William C. Cleveland
LTC (R) Wesley H. Motley, Jr. SAI
Kirk T. Schroder, J.D., Ph.D.
Dr. Robert C. Vaughan, III
Mr. Charles Withers
Ms. Juanita Owens Wyatt

INVITED GUESTS

Reverend Wyatt T. Walker
Former Chief of Staff for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Mr. Herbert V. Coulton
Former Field Director for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Dr. Willis L. Barnett, Choral Director, Virginia Union University

AND NOW WHAT?: THE CONUNDRUM OF ACHIEVING RACIAL EQUALITY AFTER THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964



THE PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, Vice Chairwoman

GREETINGS

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Robert C. Scott, Member, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Dwight C. Jones, Mayor, City of Richmond

Dr. Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia

INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS

Dr. Lauranett L. Lee, Curator of African American History
Virginia Historical Society

PANELISTS

The Honorable William Ferguson Reid, M.D.,
Former Member, Virginia House of Delegates

Ms. Elaine R. Jones, Esquire, Former President and
Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Dr. John T. Kneebone, Associate Professor and History
Department Chair, Virginia Commonwealth University

Henry L. Chambers, Jr., Esquire, Professor of Law,
University of Richmond Law School

Moderator, Dr. Lauranett L. Lee, Curator of African
American History, Virginia Historical Society

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

FINAL COMMENTS OF PANELISTS

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia

The Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III, Chairman

RECEPTION



BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS



Professor Henry L. Chambers, Jr., teaches and writes in the areas of constitutional law, criminal law, law and religion, employment discrimination, evidence, and sexual harassment. His scholarship has appeared in the *Journal of Law and Religion*, *Maryland Law Review*, *Emory Law Journal*, *Georgia Law Review*, and *Alabama Law Review*, among other venues. Professor Chambers has been a member of the American Law Institute since 2002 and is active in the Virginia State Bar, including serving as chair of its Section on the Education of Lawyers from 2007-

2009. Professor Chambers has served as Special Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia since 2011. He also frequently lectures on constitutional law through the “We The People” program, which provides civic education instruction to school teachers and the public. (Source: University of Richmond)



Elaine R. Jones served as the President and Director-Counsel of LDF from 1993 to 2004, and the first woman to do so. When Ms. Jones took the helm of the Legal Defense Fund in 1993, she became the first woman to head the organization. She brought with her vast experience as a litigator and civil rights activist, as well as a passion for fairness and equality that dates back to her childhood. Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Ms. Jones learned about the realities of racism and the importance of idealism from her mother, a college-educated school teacher,

and her father, a Pullman porter and a member of the nation’s first black trade union. From the age of eight, she knew she wanted to be a lawyer and to commit her life to the pursuit of equal justice. After graduating with honors in political science from Howard University, Ms. Jones joined the Peace Corps and became one of the first African Americans to serve in Turkey. This began a long series of “firsts” in her career. Following her two year Peace Corps stint, she became the first black woman to graduate from the University of Virginia School of Law, and subsequently the first African American to serve on the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association. (Source: NAACP LDF)



Dr. John T. Kneebone is the author of *Southern Liberal Journalists and the Issue of Race, 1920-1944*. He was for many years the director of the Virginia Colonial Records Project at the Library of Virginia and a senior editor of the Dictionary of Virginia Biography project. His current research project has the working title, “Secret Nurseries of Opinion: The Anti-Catholic Underground and the Rise and Fall of the Second Ku Klux Klan,” and he has been awarded a research fellowship to the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at Notre

Dame University. (Source: Virginia Commonwealth University)



Dr. Laurant L. Lee, Curator of African American History at the Virginia Historical Society, is a native of Chesterfield County. After graduation from high school, she attended Pivot Point Cosmetology School in Chicago and became licensed in the state of Illinois. Lee then pursued further education at Mundelein College, receiving a B.A. in communications. She holds a M. A. in American history from Virginia State University and a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Virginia. Dr. Lee has been the founding curator of African American history at the

Virginia Historical Society and has taught history at Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Union University. She consults and lectures on a variety of independent projects. Her book, commissioned by the City Council of Hopewell, *Making the American Dream Work: A Cultural History of African Americans in Hopewell, Virginia*, was published in August 2008. In September 2011, the Virginia Historical Society launched *Unknown No Longer, A Database of Virginia Slave Names*, with 1500 names, under her leadership. A year later, the database includes 10,000 names. Dr. Lee’s interest in public history enables her to interact with a broad public and to share the study of the past in different and thought-provoking ways. (Source: www.yourunitedway.org)



William Ferguson Reid (1925-) was the first African American elected to the General Assembly in the twentieth century. A medical doctor and community leader in the city of Richmond, Reid was one of the founders of the Crusade for Voters, organized in 1955 and one of the most formidable political organizations in the state. It lobbied for voter registration among African Americans, conducted get-out-the-vote drives, and enabled Reid to win a seat in the House of Delegates from the city of Richmond in 1967 on his second try. Reid served three terms in the assembly.

Afterward he was a regional medical officer for the United States Department of State. Reid was the only African American in the General Assembly when he took office in 1968. (Source: Library of Virginia)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 387 (2014)

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 5, 2014

Agreed to by the Senate, March 7, 2014

WHEREAS, on July 2, 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law, legislation proposed by President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and the most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, after the abolishment of slavery, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, commonly referred to as the Reconstruction Amendments, were adopted to end slavery, grant equal protection under the law, and extend the right to vote to all citizens without regard to race, color, or previous servitude; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was preceded by other legislative attempts, including the Civil Rights Acts of 1866, 1870, 1871, and 1875, which bestowed upon African Americans the right to sue and be sued, to give evidence, and to hold real property and personal property and other social rights; and

WHEREAS, after Reconstruction, the rights previously afforded African Americans were stripped away by state constitutions, “Black Codes,” and “Jim Crow” laws designed to circumvent and thwart the newfound freedoms of former slaves and their descendants; and

WHEREAS, under the doctrine of “separate but equal,” established in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896), public schools, housing, drinking fountains, public services and accommodations, bus stops and transportation, courtrooms, restaurants, entertainment, the military, and other facilities were segregated; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, the historic United States Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), in which the doctrine of “separate but equal” was ruled unconstitutional, acted as one of the catalysts for the Civil Rights Movement, and African Americans were joined by many civil rights supporters throughout the nation, who endured attacks by dogs and high-pressure water hoses; brutal beatings; tear gas; illegal searches and arrests; threats; lynchings; bombings; mysterious disappearances of relatives,

friends, and allies; decades of literacy and voter qualification tests and other illegal barriers to the right to vote; and invidious racism and unspeakable indignities to secure their freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 people participated in the March on Washington, D.C., to demonstrate their support of civil rights for African American citizens, and the mass demonstration, as well as the violent attacks on peaceful demonstrators in Birmingham, Alabama, in the spring of 1963, galvanized support for national legislation against segregation, causing a cataclysmic change in the political and social order in America; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the nation will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans segregation on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin at all places of public accommodation and prohibits discrimination by employers and labor unions and the use of federal funds for any discriminatory program; and

WHEREAS, the Act subsequently has been amended by Congress to extend the protections of the law to disabled Americans, the elderly, and women in collegiate athletics programs; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended legal segregation, and it is fitting and appropriate that the enactment of this historic legislation be commemorated in the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 hereby be commemorated and the citizens of the Commonwealth be encouraged to observe this important occasion in the history of the nation; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Education, the Executive Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the presidents of the Virginia Bar Association and the Old Dominion Bar Association, the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Virginia State Chapter, and the chairman of the Virginia chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, requesting that they further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

CONTACT STAFF

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WEBSITE

<http://mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov/>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/VAMLKCommission>

THANK YOU

Division of Legislative Automated Systems
General Assembly Legislative Bill Room
Library of Virginia

Ms. Valerie Braxton-Williams,
Legislative Assistant to Senator Henry L. Marsh, III

Ms. Betsy S. Barton, History Specialist,
Virginia Department of Education

Dr. Willis L. Barnett, Choral Director, Virginia Union University
Discovery Cafe

POWER ON: OUT OF BONDAGE...INTO FREEDOM

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

SESQUICENTENNIAL 1863-2013

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission
Virginia General Assembly