



Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

“50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965: PROTECTING, EXTENDING, AND ENSURING THE FRANCHISE”



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, *Governor of Virginia*

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, *Chairwoman*

The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, *Vice Chairwoman*

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

AUGUST 3, 2015
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

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

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Dr. Robert C. Vaughan, III

Mrs. Juanita Owens Wyatt



HONOREES

The Honorable William Ferguson Reid, M.D.

The Reverend Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker

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THE PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, *Chairwoman*
Dr. Sandra G. Treadway, *Librarian of Virginia*

GREETINGS

The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, *Vice Chairwoman*
Other State and Local Dignitaries

RECOGNITION OF HONOREES

The Honorable William Ferguson Reid, M.D.
The Reverend Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker
by
The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan

INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS

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

PANELISTS

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

Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, J.D.
Executive Director, ACLU of Virginia

The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan
Virginia House of Delegates

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

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

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

FINAL COMMENTS OF PANELISTS

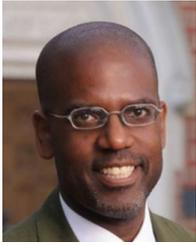
CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Sandra G. Treadway, *Librarian of Virginia*
The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, *Chairwoman*

RECEPTION



BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS



Professor Henry L. Chambers, Jr., J.D., is professor of law at the University of Richmond Law School. He 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)



Claire Guthrie Gastañaga J.D., is the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the ACLU of Virginia on June 1, 2012, she was the principal of CG2 Consulting, a consulting firm that specialized in providing strategic governance, management and public policy advice to colleges and other not-for-profit organizations and trade associations, and of a law firm, CG2 Legal Strategies, PLC, that provided strategic legal counsel to not-for-profit organizations and

women and minority owned businesses. A graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, Ms. Gastañaga started her career as a federal civil rights attorney and later served as assistant university counsel and assistant secretary of the corporation at Princeton University, where she staffed several committees of the Board of Trustees and lectured in the politics department. As assistant general counsel and associate director of the Office of Federal Regulatory Affairs at the American Council on Education, she managed a variety of federal regulatory issues affecting higher education including affirmative action, gender equity in athletics, unrelated business income tax, human subject research, small producer hazardous waste and reasonable accommodation of disabled students, faculty and staff. While in private practice at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells), Ms. Gastañaga represented and advised public and private colleges and universities on accreditation matters, faculty tenure issues, academic freedom, governance issues, health care provider questions, environmental issues, export/import problems, building design and construction problems, government contracts and audit issues, Title IX compliance and student personnel matters. Ms. Gastañaga, a trustee of Chatham College from 1981-1987, served as the College’s interim president during the 1982-1983 academic year in which the College overcame a serious budget deficit, reduced the size of its faculty and staff and implemented a new core curriculum.

Ms. Gastañaga served as Chief Deputy Attorney General of Virginia in 1993-1994 and as Deputy Attorney General of the Human and Natural Resources Division from 1986-1993. She is the first woman ever to serve as Virginia’s Chief Deputy. As Chief Deputy, Ms. Gastañaga supervised the legal work, shared responsibility for the budget and day-to-day operations, guided the legislative activities of the Office of the Attorney General, served as the Office’s “hiring partner,” supervising attorney recruitment and hiring, and managed the legal representation of state agencies in the Human Resources, Natural Resources and Higher Education Secretariats. She has also argued cases in the United States Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Virginia, led a nation-wide recall of Ford E350 ambulances, and helped shut down a rayon manufacturing plant that was polluting ground, air and water in Northwest Virginia. In *Wilder v. Virginia Hospital Association* 496 U.S. 498 (1990), she shared oral argument time in the U.S. Supreme Court with now Chief Justice John Roberts and was opposed by former Solicitor General Walter Dellinger in his first Supreme Court appearance.

Ms. Gastañaga is a former director of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) and was honored as one of the first two “Fellows” of the Association in recognition of her contributions to higher education law. In 2002, the Governor of Virginia appointed Ms. Gastañaga to a four-year term as one of Virginia’s Commissioners on the Education Commission of the States. In 2007, she was appointed by the Governor to the Virginia Small Business Advisory Board, and in 2010, she was named as one of 50 Virginia Women of Influence by Virginia Lawyer’s Weekly. (Source: Richmond Times Dispatch; <http://valawyersweekly.com/2010/05/06/claire-guthrie-gastanaga/>; <http://www.cg2consulting.com/about.html>)



Laurantt L. Lee, Ph.D., 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. Dr. 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. Her 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)



The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates since 2006, represents the 71st House District which consists of parts of the city of Richmond and the County of Henrico. She earned her bachelor of arts degree at the University of Richmond and is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law. She is assistant General Counsel for Verizon Communications. As a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, she has introduced and/or supported legislation pertaining to public education, health care,

women's rights, civil rights, affordable housing, crime prevention, restoration of rights for non-violent felons, higher education, and child care and protective services. In the House of Delegates, she is also the Minority Caucus First Vice Chair and serves as a member of the House Committees on Commerce and Labor, Courts of Justice, and Education. She is also a member of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and chairs the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission. Delegate McClellan is active in several professional and community organizations, among them, the Democratic National Committee, the Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute, the board of Johnston-Willis Hospital, Metro Richmond Boys & Girls Club, Richmond SPCA, State Board of the Sorensen Institute of Political Leadership, the Farm Team, Virginia League of Planned Parenthood, Virginia Premier Health Plans, Robert Russa Moton Museum Board, Virginia Bar Association Pro Bono Task Force, and the Junior League of Richmond. (Source: Virginia House of Delegates; <https://votesmart.org>)



Congressman Robert C. ("Bobby") Scott, is currently serving his twelfth term in Congress as the representative of the Third House Congressional District in the House of Representatives. Congressman Scott was born on April 30, 1947 in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Newport News, Virginia. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Boston College Law School. After graduating law school, he returned to Newport News and practiced law from 1973 to 1991.

He received an honorable discharge for his service in the Massachusetts National Guard and the United States Army Reserve. Prior to his service in Congress, he was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1978 to 1983 and a member of the Senate of Virginia from 1983 to 1993. During his tenure in the Virginia General Assembly, Congressman Scott successfully sponsored laws critical to Virginians in education, employment, health care, social services, economic development, crime prevention and consumer protection. Congressman Scott has the distinction of being the first African American elected to Congress from the Commonwealth of Virginia since Reconstruction and only the second African American elected to Congress in Virginia's history. Having a maternal grandfather of Filipino ancestry also gives him the distinction of being the first American with Filipino ancestry to serve as a voting member of Congress.

Congressman Scott currently serves as the Ranking Member on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, a committee he has served on since his arrival to Congress in 1993. In his capacity as the most senior Democrat on the Committee, he is leading the fight for access to quality early, secondary and higher education for all of America's children with an emphasis on solving the growing problem of student debt, closing the achievement gap, dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline, and passing comprehensive juvenile justice reform and crime prevention legislation. Additionally, he is focused on ensuring that millions of Americans have the opportunity to go to work every day and know that they will be treated fairly, paid a decent and living wage, given a safe environment in which do their jobs and provided access to affordable health care.

In Congress, Congressman Scott is a known champion of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, fighting to protect the rights and civil liberties of all Americans. As the former Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman Scott is also a leading advocate for reforming our nation's broken criminal justice system. He sponsored the Death in Custody Reporting Act, which was originally signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 2000 and its subsequent reauthorization was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2014. The law requires state and local law enforcement agencies to report to the U.S. Department of Justice how many individuals die each year while in police custody or during the course of an arrest. In 2010, Congressman Scott successfully led efforts in the House to pass the Fair Sentencing Act, one of the first successful reductions in a mandatory minimum sentence in decades. The law reduced the unfair sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine. Having served for a total of six years on the House Budget Committee, Congressman Scott has also developed a reputation as a deficit hawk. He is dedicated to restoring fiscal sanity to the federal budget process in order to balance the federal budget. Congressman Scott is also a strong supporter of our nation's military readiness as well as our troops and their safety. He is a leading advocate for improving and increasing funding for veterans' benefits and health care, especially mental health care. In 2010, *The Hill*, a Capitol Hill newspaper, recognized Congressman Scott as one of the 25 hardest working members of Congress, and in 2012, as one of Capitol Hill's 50 most beautiful people. (Source: U.S. House of Representatives)

HONOREES



William Ferguson Reid, native of Virginia, was educated in the Richmond public schools during Jim Crow. He earned his undergraduate degree from Virginia Union University and his medical degree from Howard University School of Medicine. With very few hospitals in the United States accepting African Americans, he interned and was a surgical resident at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis before entering the military. In 1955, Dr. Reid established a private surgical practice in Richmond where he practiced for 27 years prior to serving as a regional medical officer with the United States Department of State. As the first African American

surgeon in Richmond, he faced many barriers to practice his profession, was rejected for membership in the medical society due to his race and was denied staff privileges at area hospitals. Dr. Reid led the fight to desegregate the medical profession in Richmond, which opened doors for other African Americans to membership in local, state, and national medical education associations and societies. During Massive Resistance, he continued his struggle against racial injustice by working with others to register and elect more African Americans. As a result of his efforts, the Crusade for Voters was established from which candidates emerged who were willing to stand for election as city council and school board members, Congress, and the Virginia General Assembly.

Dr. Reid became the first African American elected to the General Assembly since Reconstruction. The Crusade for Voters lobbied for voter registration among African Americans and conducted get-out-the-vote drives, which enabled him to win a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates from the city of Richmond in 1967 on his second try. As a member of the General Assembly, he was a member of the House Committees on Chesapeake and Its Tributaries, Corporations, Insurance and Banking, General Laws, and Labor and Commerce. Dr. Reid served three terms in the House of Delegates. He was the only African American in the General Assembly when he took office in 1968. (Source: HJ 139 (2008); Virginia House of Delegates; <http://www.richmond.com/special-section/black-history/article>; Library of Virginia)



Reverend Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, former pastor of historic Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg and Pastor Emeritus of Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in New York, author, civil rights activist, and former chief of staff for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also known as “The Harlem Preacher,” is a graduate of Virginia Union University, where he earned his B.S. degree in Chemistry and Physics, magna cum laude, in 1950, and the Master of Divinity degree in 1953. He earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in

1975. As president of his local NAACP chapter and state director of the Congress of Racial Equality, Dr. Walker became heavily involved with the Civil Rights Movement. He met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at an interseminary meeting, where a strong bond was forged between the men that continued until Dr. King’s assassination in 1968. Reverend Walker, together with Dr. King, founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957. He served as the organization’s third Executive Director in 1960 and helped Dr. King organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He concerned himself deeply with the apartheid struggle in South Africa as founder of the Religious Action Network of the American Committee on Africa in 1988. Dr. Walker served ten years as “Urban Affairs Specialist to Governor Nelson Rockefeller where he quieted racial tensions that accompanied school desegregation and labor disputes. In 1975, he joined the Board of Directors of Freedom National Bank, the nation’s largest and most profitable minority-owned bank, on which he

served for ten years with three terms as Chairman of the Board.” Dr. Walker is the nation’s foremost authority on African American worship music, particularly the meter music of the African American religious tradition. He was a personal eyewitness to the events of the free election in South Africa. He was named as one of Ebony magazine’s “15 Greatest Black Preachers” in 1993. (Source: The History Makers; Encyclopedia Virginia; MLK Commission files; <http://www.omega-baa.org>)

VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

Eighty-ninth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fourth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five*

An Act

To enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States,
and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act shall
be known as the "Voting Rights Act of 1965".

Sec. 2. No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard,
practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or
political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of
the United States to vote on account of race or color.

Sec. 3. (a) Whenever the Attorney General institutes a proceeding
under any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amend-
ment in any State or political subdivision the court shall authorize
the appointment of Federal examiners by the United States Civil
Service Commission in accordance with section 6 to serve for such
period of time and for such political subdivisions as the court shall
determine is appropriate to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth
amendment (1) as part of any interlocutory order if the court deter-
mines that the appointment of such examiners is necessary to enforce
such guarantees or (2) as part of any final judgment if the court finds
that violations of the fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief
have occurred in such State or subdivision: *Provided*, That the court
need not authorize the appointment of examiners if any incidents of
denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of race or color
(1) have been few in number and have been promptly and effectively
corrected by State or local action, (2) the continuing effect of such
incidents has been eliminated, and (3) there is no reasonable proba-
bility of their recurrence in the future.

(b) If in a proceeding instituted by the Attorney General under
any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in
any State or political subdivision the court finds that a test or device
has been used for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridg-
ing the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account
of race or color, it shall suspend the use of tests and devices in such
State or political subdivisions as the court shall determine is appro-
priate and for such period as it deems necessary.

(c) If in any proceeding instituted by the Attorney General under
any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in
any State or political subdivision the court finds that violations of the
fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief have occurred within
the territory of such State or political subdivision, the court, in
addition to such relief as it may grant, shall retain jurisdiction for
such period as it may deem appropriate and during such period no
voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice,
or procedure with respect to voting different from that in force or
effect at the time the proceeding was commenced shall be enforced
unless and until the court finds that such qualification, prerequisite,
standard, practice, or procedure does not have the purpose and will
not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on
account of race or color: *Provided*, That such qualification, pre-
requisite, standard, practice, or procedure may be enforced if the
qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure has been
submitted by the chief legal officer or other appropriate official of
such State or subdivision to the Attorney General and the Attorney
General has not interposed an objection within sixty days after such

S. 1564-10

Sec. 17. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to deny, impair, or
otherwise adversely affect the right to vote of any person registered to
vote under the law of any State or political subdivision.

Sec. 18. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums
as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

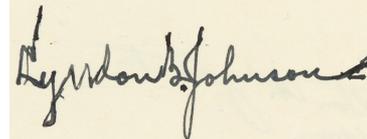
Sec. 19. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to
any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the Act
and the application of the provision to other persons not similarly
situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.


Speaker of the House of Representatives.


Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.

APPROVED

AUG - 6 1965



CONTACT STAFF

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THANK YOU

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Division of Legislative Automated Systems
Legislative Bill Room
Discovery Café Catering
Craig Keeton, Idea Stations

POWER ON: OUT OF BONDAGE...INTO FREEDOM

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

SESQUICENTENNIAL 1863-2013

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