



January 15, 2004
Vol. 2

VIRGINIA HONORS BROWN AND HOSTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION

The *Brown v. Board* 50th Anniversary Commission is meeting with the Virginia General Assembly and Governor Mark Warner to hear resolutions from the floors of the Virginia House and Senate. In addition to the public Commission meeting, January 15, 2004, at 2:00 PM in Senate Hearing Room A, this 3-day visit includes the following activities:

-Friday, January 16, 2004, the Commission travels to Farmville, Virginia, where *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* began.

-Commission will visit historic sites such as the [Robert Russa Moton Museum](#), Prince Edward County High School, Prince Edward Courthouse, and the First Baptist Church.

-Attend a fellowship breakfast Saturday, January 17, at 8:00 a.m., hosted by Commissioner Dr. Benjamin W. Robertson, Sr., and his Church.

The Commissioners representing Virginia are Dr. Benjamin W. Robertson, Sr., and Lacy B. Ward, Jr., and representing the Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable Roger L. Gregory.

COURAGE: THE CAROLINA STORY THAT CHANGED AMERICA, JANUARY 30, 2004 THROUGH AUGUST 15, 2004

Plan a sojourn to the Carolinas to see follow the history of *Brown* in art form at the Levine Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina. This major exhibit opens with a weekend of discussions on the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education* featuring FOX News analyst Juan Williams, De Laine family members, and a conversation with esteemed historian John Hope Franklin. Two Southerners and two non-Southerners discuss how the case that began in Clarendon County, SC, has reshaped America since 1954. Meet Dr. Alex Sanders, Harvard Kennedy School, Congressman James Clyburn, Olga Vives of the National Organization for Women, and Rev. Susan Andrews, National Moderator of the Prebysterian Church. [Additional information](#)

Interested in the progress toward full integration since the 1954 *Brown v. Board* decision? See the [timeline](#) produced by the National Education Association.



HOW LONG AFTER BROWN DECISION BEFORE CHANGE?

THE COMMISSIONS' BOOK BAG

In all of our visits over the last year, scores of authors and descendants have shared their written words related to one or all of the Brown cases, the cast of characters over the last two centuries, the plaintiffs and lessons for our children. We open our up our book bag of suggested readings:

A Certain Blindness: A Black Family's Quest for the Promise of America, by Paul L. Brady

Clarendon County (Images of America: South Carolina), by Marguirite De Laine, F.S. Corbett, and Cecil J. Williams

Simple Justice, by Richard Kluger

They Closed Their Schools: Prince Edward County, Virginia, 1951-1964, by R.C. Smith

Thurgood Marshall-American Revolutionary, by Juan Williams

COMMISSIONER PROFILES

This issue profiles Steve Adams and Josephine Robertson.

Steve Adams, Superintendent, *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site:

"The Brown v. Board of Education decision by the United States Supreme Court was the beginning of the modern struggle to change American society so that legal rights were reflected in social and civil rights. America is immeasurably richer in diversity of culture, of thought, of individual contribution because of Brown, and I believe that very diversity will allow the dialog necessary to continue on the journey to true equality."

Josephine Robertson, Public School Teacher, Arthur Sullivan Middle School, Worcester, Massachusetts (representing the State of Massachusetts):

"The school setting where children work and play together is an ideal place to model and practice racial tolerance and acceptance. This opportunity must not be squandered. We must inspire our youth to excellence and challenge our nation to champion equitable legal, political and educational systems for all."

INTERESTING BROWN LINKS

- [Brown v. Board 50th Anniversary Coalition](#)
- [Longwood University](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)

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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