



Conference Room A  
14343 Civic Drive  
Victorville, CA  
[www.victorvilleca.gov](http://www.victorvilleca.gov)

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Special Meeting Agenda  
Monday, November 18, 2025**

**4:00 p.m. Special Session**

The Community Services Advisory Committee holds its business meetings in public in accordance with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, its established policies and procedures, and its adopted parliamentary authority. The Community Services Advisory Committee strives to carry out its meetings in an atmosphere of professionalism with full participation by members of the body and the public. As such, the Presiding Officer is empowered to govern Committee meetings to foster the efficient and fair administration of City business and reserves the right to enforce (or cause to be enforced) the Meeting Rules of Conduct and Decorum as set forth in Resolution No. 13-049, Adopting Rules and Procedures for the Various Advisory Committees.

The Community Services Advisory Committee welcomes and encourages public participation and invites the community to attend in person. Participants are invited to address the Committee on agendized and non-agendized items at the beginning of the meeting. Public comments will be no longer than three (3) minutes per community member. Should a speaker conclude their comments prior to the expiration of three (3) minutes, the speaker waives the right to speak for any remaining amount of time. Members of the public may submit comments electronically to [csadmin@victorvilleca.gov](mailto:csadmin@victorvilleca.gov) before 2:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to be distributed to the Committee. If your comment does not apply to a specific Agenda Item, please write General Public Comment in the subject line.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the office of the City Clerk at 760.243.1969 no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Introduction to Public Comments**

**Public Comments**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Minutes of the August 18, 2025, Regular Community Services Advisory Committee Meeting

**Recommendation:**

That the Community Services Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 18, 2025.

2. Civil Rights Memorial Essay Contest Winner

**Recommendation:**

That the Community Services Advisory Committee review and score the submitted essays and select a winner for the 2025 Civil Rights Memorial.

3. Park Adoption Reports from Committee Members (Oral Report)
4. Community Services Department (Oral Report)
5. Community Services Director (Oral Report)
6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Upcoming Agenda Items
7. Reports from Committee Members

## **Adjournment**



Item Number: 1

**Community Services Advisory Committee**

**New Business**

**Meeting of: November 13, 2025**

**Submitted By:**

Donna Meester, Community Services Director

**Subject:**

Minutes of the August 19, 2025, Regular Community Services Advisory Committee meeting.

**Recommendation:**

That the Community Services Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 19, 2025.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Attachments:**

A. Minutes of the August 19, 2025, Regular CSAC Meeting

Attachment A  
Minutes of the August 19,  
2025, Regular Meeting



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## Community Services Advisory Committee

**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 18, 2025**

**4:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

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**Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Community Services Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Smith at 4:02 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Smith, Vice Chair McDonald, Member Mehrhof

**Absent:** Member Temple, Member Amaral

### **Public Comments**

No Public Comment

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Approve Minutes of May 19, 2025, Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve Minutes of May 19, 2025, Regular Meeting

Motion: Member Mehrhof

Second: Chair Smith

Motion passed 3-0

Ayes: Chair Smith, Vice Chair McDonald, Member Mehrhof

Absent: Member Temple, Member Amaral

### **2. Approve the Cancellation of Regular Meeting of October 20, 2025**

Motion to approve the Cancellation of Regular Meeting of October 20, 2025

Motion: Member Mehrhof

Second: Vice Chair McDonald

Motion passed 3-0

Ayes: Chair Smith, Vice Chair McDonald, Member Mehrhof

Absent: Member Temple, Member Amaral

### **3. Approve a Special Meeting for November 17, 2025**

Motion to approve Special Meeting for November 17, 2025

Motion: Vice Chair McDonald

Second: Chair Smith

Motion passed 3-0

Ayes: Chair Smith, Vice Chair McDonald, Member Mehrhof

Absent: Member Temple, Member Amaral

#### **4. Approve Annual Meeting Dates of February, May, August, November of 2026**

Motion to approve Annual Meeting Dates of February, May, August, November of 2026, and continue to be the third Monday of the month.

Motion: Member Mehrhof

Second: Vice Chair McDonald

Motion passed 3-0

Ayes: Chair Smith, Vice Chair McDonald, Member Mehrhof

Absent: Member Temple, Member Amaral

#### **5. Community Services Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Highlights**

Community Services Director, Donna Meester, reported on the budget; personnel staff and total expenses of \$17,304,668, divided in four categories: personnel, operations and maintenance, non-operation, and capital. The support from measure P is \$3.5 million. Budget is available on city website.

#### **6. Community Services Fiscal Year 2025-26 Projects & Program Reports**

Community Services Staff oral reports as follows.

Arnold Castro, City Librarian: Reported Summer Reading Program Highlights including monetary support from the Friends of the Library, Grand Opening for New Library, personnel update, moving dates, new evening programming.

Ed Sohm, Park's Supervisor: Reported personnel updates, completed park's projects including donated materials, park incidents and maintenance, parking lot resurfacing, and supported Measure P projects.

Liset Lagunas, Recreation Manager: Reported registration statistics for summer kids camp, concerts in the park, free lunch program, Outdoor Adventure Program, personnel updates, upcoming expansion of preschool, fall/winter special events.

Eddie Gleason Facilities Manager: provided a written handout.

Donna Meester, Community Services Director: Reported on marketing of special events, and coordination of efforts with the schools.

#### **7. Committee Member Park Adoption Reports:**

Chair Smith: Commended the improvements at Center Street and Hook Park lighting.

Member Mehrhof: Nothing to report everything looks good and will turn in report soon.

#### **Adjournment**

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.



Item Number: 2

**Community Services Advisory Committee**

**New Business**

**Meeting of: November 17, 2025**

**Submitted By:**

Donna Meester, Community Services Director

**Subject:**

Civil Rights Memorial Essay Contest

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommend the review and selection of a winner of the Civil Rights Memorial Essay Contest.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Discussion:**

Essay submissions were due on November 10, 2025, and sixteen (16) essays were submitted for consideration, six (6) were eliminated that did not meet essay guidelines. Therefore, you have a total of ten (10) essays for consideration. Please read and select your winning essay.

**Attachments:** Attachment A: Essays

# Attachment A

## Civil Rights Memorial Essays



### Current Plaques

Asa Philip Randolph  
 Cesar Chavez  
 Claudette Colvin  
 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
 Frances EW Harper

### Current Plaques

Federick Douglass  
 Harriet Tubman  
 Katherine Johnson  
 Lucy Burns  
 Jackie Robinson

## Criteria for Judging 2025 Civil Rights Memorial Essays:

Representatives of the Community Services Advisory Committee will read and evaluate essays based on the criteria listed below:

- A. Understanding of the topic.
- B. Original thinking relative to the topic.
- C. Effectiveness in presenting a personal point of view.
- D. Literary style, grammar and spelling.

**Cast Your Vote at the Next  
 CSAC Meeting  
 November 17, 2025**

### Select Top Three Essays:

ID #	Student Name	Civil Rights Leader	School	Grade	#1	#2
1	Ashley [REDACTED]	Ella Baker	Galileo Academy	5th		
2	Ian [REDACTED]	Ruby Nell Bridges Hall	Galileo Academy	5th		
3	Ivan A. [REDACTED]	Lyndon B. Johnson	Morgan Kincaid	5th		
4	Jack [REDACTED]	James Farmer	Morgan Kincaid	5th		
5	Javier [REDACTED]	Fred Shuttlesworth	Morgan Kincaid	5th		
6	Nora [REDACTED]	Elizabeth Cady Stanton	Morgan Kincaid	5th		
7	Daleyza [REDACTED]	Pauli Murray	Morgan Kincaid	5th		
8	Ciara [REDACTED]	Ruby Bridges	Morgan Kincaid	5th		
9	Joiah [REDACTED]	Walter Philip Reuther	Morgan Kincaid	5th		
10	Dominic [REDACTED]	John Lewis	Morgan Kincaid	5th		

## Ella Baker

Ashley [REDACTED]

“Strong people don’t need strong leaders.” That is one of Ella Baker’s famous quotes she said during a speech around 1950 to 1960. Ella Baker worked with many famous organizations such as Young Negroes Cooperative League and many more. She also mentored other civil rights leaders such as Diane Nash, Stokely Carmichael, and Bob Moses. Additionally she worked with many known civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and women in the black community hoping to stop racism. People believe she is mainly known for these reasons.

Ella Baker was born in Virginia, on December 13, 1903 but she grew up in North Carolina for the rest of her childhood. Ella Baker was deeply influenced by her grandmother’s stories about being a slave and how badly colored people were treated just because of the color of their skin and heritage. Some of the horrible conditions that her grandmother had to go through as slaves were that they had to work all day just to get little to no money in very bad living conditions. These stories helped her understand what social injustice meant and why people wanted to fight against other individuals who would judge others just because of their skin. Even after knowing what Ella’s grandmother had to go through just because she was black her family were still very proud of their skin color and their heritage. Ella had 3 siblings and both her parents were around during her childhood. Sadly Ella’s dad wasn’t at home too much due to work. Ella’s childhood wasn’t hard but she was very determined to make the world a better place for the black community.

Ella Baker went to Shaw University and faced many unfair school policies, such as her not being able to walk to campus with boys and not being allowed to wear silk stockings. Thankfully not soon after these challenging rules Ella Baker graduated as valedictorian in 1927. After Shaw Ella moved to New York and joined the Young Negroes Cooperative League hoping to provide goods and services. Ella became a secretary for the National Arrangement of Colored People and soon after upgraded to the director. Years later she helped form SCLC and worked as its executive director. In 1960 Ella left SCLC to help students organize SNCC acting as its mentor and advisor.

Unfortunately, Ella Baker passed away on December 13 1986, in New York on her 83rd birthday due to complications with Alzheimer's. Ella's funeral service was held at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City. This happened on Friday December 19 1986. She was buried in Oakland, California with many mourning her death. Sadly not too many people at this time knew who she was and what she did because she chose to work behind the scenes and let others into the spotlight.

Ella Baker inspired me because she worked very hard for black women and their communities so they can have all their needs and the same services and supplies like everybody else. Some important things she did were making male dominant companies be more gender inclusive, she worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr to try and stop racism, and she participated in the Prayer Pilgrim for Freedom. She is also empowering to others because she is helpful and kind to many black women and their communities. The most important thing I will remember about Ella Baker is that her grandmother's stories inspired her so much to help black

communities so much that she actually did make that happen. I will help Ella's legacy to carry on by telling many people about her.

To conclude Ella Baker was an empowering woman. She was very important to American history and she helped shape the world to what it is today. She worked with many people and organizations to stop a big problem in the world. Even though she was important not too many knew how she was due to her not wanting to take away from others moments. I hope that as time goes by that more people see and know all the amazing work she did for different people who were treated unfairly.

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## Pioneering Desegregation

Ian N [REDACTED]

September 8th, 1954 laid there a child who was born a legend. Her name is Ruby Nell Bridges Hall. She was born in Tylertown, Mississippi. Ruby first went to an all white school called William, Frantz elementary at 6 years old.

Ruby's early life was full of dedication, determination, and a whole lot of hard work. When this amazing little girl went to that school they created a massive crowd and her body guards had to protect her. They created that ugly mob because her skin color was darker than theirs, but Ruby didn't care she just prayed and said, "Please dear God, forgive them because they don't know what they're doing." She was the first person to integrate William Frantz, the desegregation of public schools.

Bridge's mid life was just a bit different compared to her early ages. Instead of dedication it was more like determination. Ruby Bridges became a determined civil rights activist for being the first dark skinned person to integrate William Frantz, and to promote tolerance as she once said, "Each and every one of us are born with a clean heart, and racism is a grown up disease we must stop our children from spreading it."

Her later life was being an amateur travel agent and she married Malcolm Hall. Then soon raised four children then she became a full time parent they later moved to New Orleans to live a happy nice life after all that she has been through as a young child she once was. Ruby has had a dedicated life to become wealthy. She has done it! She has risen out of racial inequality.

Ruby is now 71 years old, still alive and now working for the Ruby Bridges Foundation which was made to stop racism for good. Giving speeches and messages to stop racism. In conclusion, Bridges had the most dedicated life which inspired me by her determination, hard work, and dedication. Making racism stop will be the next hard journey of America. And I want to help stop inequality of desegregation to end it no matter what it takes. Ruby Nell Bridges had a hard life to help stop racism so I will make sure to help continue her journey!

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Lyndon B. Johnson

By: Ivan [REDACTED]

Morgan Kincaid School of Integrated Studies

Early life:

Lyndon B Johnson was the 36th U.S. president. He was born on August 27, 1908, in Stonewall Texas. Lyndon's family did not have enough money. They lived on a farm with no electricity. Lyndon went to college in 1927. He was smart and liked talking to people. Lyndon worked for his college newspaper. He was also on the debate team. A debate team is a group of students from a school or college who compete against other teams in formal structured discussion.

Young Adult:

Lyndon worked as a teacher during and after college. Many of his students were poor. Lyndon wanted to help them make a better life for themselves. Lyndon liked politics. In 1931 Lyndon worked for a congressman in Washington D.C. He learned a lot about how the government worked. Three years later Lyndon married Claudia Taylor. They had two daughters. Their first daughter's name was Lynda Bird Johnson she was born on March 19 1944. Their second child's name was Lucy Baines Johnson was born on July 2, 1947.

Life in Washington, D.C. :

In 1937 Lyndon was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He became a U.S. senator twelve years later. In 1961 Lyndon became U.S. vice president under president John F. Kennedy. President Kennedy was shot and killed on November 22, 1963. Then Lyndon became the new U.S. president. Lyndon had to be a strong leader. Lyndon helped poor people during that hard time.

President Johnson :

As president Lyndon started programs to help the poor. One of the programs was (HUD) (HUD-housing urban development.) He also signed laws that gave people equal rights. In 1964 Lyndon was elected president for four years. Lyndon had many challenges as president. The United States was fighting in the Vietnam war. They fought in the war because they wanted them to prevent the spread of communism. (communism-Communism is a political and economic ideology) (1959-1975). Many people did not like the war. Americans were also struggling over civil rights. Lyndon decided not to run for president again. Lyndon moved back to Texas. Lyndon died on January 22, 1973. Lyndon is remembered for helping the poor. He also wanted equal rights for all.

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**James Farmer**

**Childhood inspiration**

**By: Jack [REDACTED]**

Morgan Kincaid School of Integrated Studies

Born in Marshall, Texas, in 1920. Farmer was a witness to the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation from a young age. A childhood incident, in which his mother was unable to buy him a soda at a drugstore because of his race, fueled his lifelong commitment to fighting inequality according to Encyclopedia Virginia.

**Debate champion:** At age 14, Farmer attended Wiley College, an historically Black college in Texas, where he joined the debate team. If you don't know what a debate team is, it is usually a group of students that compete against other schools making a persuasive argument, specifically high school. The story of the team's upset victory over the University of Southern California in 1935 was later featured in the 2007 film *The Great Debaters*.

James Farmer was important as a pivotal leader of the American civil rights movement, a co-founder of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the organizer of the 1961 "Freedom Rides". He championed nonviolent protest tactics to desegregate public transportation and other facilities, influencing the movement and forcing the federal government to enforce desegregation laws. Farmer's work established him as one of the era's "Big Four" leaders and earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

**Led the Freedom Rides:** As the national director of CORE in the 1960s, Farmer was the main organizer of the 1961 "Freedom Rides". Activists rode interstate buses into the segregated South to challenge non-enforcement of federal laws against segregation, leading to confrontations that compelled the federal government to act.

**A key civil rights leader:** Farmer was a central figure in the movement alongside Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young, and Roy Wilkins. He also participated in the 1963 March on Washington.

**Influenced legislation:** His activism and the protests organized by CORE directly pressured the government to enforce desegregation in interstate travel, contributing to the passage of landmark civil rights legislation.

**Post-activism contributions:** After leaving CORE, he continued his public service by serving as an Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in the 1970s. He also became a respected professor and author, publishing his autobiography, Lay Bare the Heart, in 1985

,encyclopedia virginia

**Religious training:** He later attended Howard University School of Theology, where he was exposed to Gandhian principles of nonviolent protest. He ultimately declined ordination as a Methodist minister due to his opposition to the segregated nature of the church.,encyclopedia virginia

James Farmer was a pivotal leader pivotal means of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else. of the American Civil Rights Movement who co-founded the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and organized the 1961. He also organized Freedom Rides to desegregate interstate bus travel. He was a pioneer of nonviolent protest, which he used to fight racial segregation and discrimination, and continued his work through education and political appointments after his time with CORE.

His activism and advocacy for nonviolent action inspired future generations of activists fighting for the organizer of the 1961 "Freedom Rides". He championed nonviolent protest tactics to desegregate public transportation and other facilities, influencing the movement and forcing the federal government to enforce desegregation laws. Farmer's work established him as one of the era's "Big Four" leaders and earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

Farmer died in July 9, 1999 (age 79 years), in Fredericksburg, VA.

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## FRED SHUTTLESWORTH

By: Javier [REDACTED]

Morgan Kincaid School of Integrated Studies

Introduction: Fred Shuttleworth was a well known civil rights leader that had helped the world and tried to end segregation which means the action or state of setting someone or something apart from others and he did it after two whole entire months. For

For example, black people were segregated from white people. There used to be schools for white kids and other schools for black kids in the South.

Fred Shuttleworth's life was harsh as a kid, his childhood was marked by poverty and Farmer life in Alabama, where he was raised by his mother, Alberta Robinson and stepfather, William Shuttleworth who was a farmer and a coal miner.

Born Freddie Lee Robinson, he was one of eight children in his family that had grown up poor on his stepfather's farm land.

He attended a Farming elementary school and later graduated from high school in 1940. Farming Elementary school back in the day were, a one room with only one teacher for every single grade, with wood desks in rows with a chalk board and a potbelly stove for heating in the back of the classroom.

His childhood experiences instilled in him a strong, threatening personality and aggressive, unfriendly, and hostile appearance, where an individual is quick to fight or argue, both communicative and sometimes physically, that would later serve him in the Civil Rights Movement.

So Fred Shuttlesworth had to face hard crucial moments and challenges in his life, like being in poverty which also means living on the streets or being poor. Also experiencing the physical and emotional abuse of his stepfather, who had beaten Fred many times. He physically would throw punches at his own mom and the eight young children in his family. One whipping had left a permanent scar on Fred's hip. He also had to deal with constant threats because of racial discrimination back in the day. The threats he had to deal with were his stepfather, his house and his church getting blown up by a bomber. He was also arrested thirty-five times and sprayed by multiple fire hoses during protests

Fred Shuttlesworth was an important civil rights leader who achieved landmark law-making victories and helped organize major campaigns against segregation. He ended racism at Birmingham, Alabama, and later in Cincinnati, Ohio, He accomplished many goals in his life. He changed the world by ending racial discrimination and ending segregation and making the world equal to all people no matter what color you are.

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## **Title: The amazing story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton**

**By: Nova V [REDACTED]**

Morgan Kincaid School of Integrated Studies

### **Introduction:**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was known for creating women's rights Elizabeth Cady Stanton. In 1869 Elizabeth's brother died at the age of 20. Elizabeth wanted to act like her brother so her father won't be sad. Elizabeth desperately wanted to marry a man she found named Henry, though her father didn't accept it. But Elizabeth married him anyway.

### **Early Life:**

When Elizabeth was 15 years old she graduated high school with her grades so high. Elizabeth asked her father if she can go to college, Elizabeth also said that she wants to read books and learn about the world. Although, her father didn't accept it. Though Elizabeth often visited her cousin named Gerrit Smith. Elizabeth thought that women had a legal right to vote, but Elizabeth also thought that no men would care. Elizabeth went to a convention and saw a woman making a speech about how it's not far to own a person. The lady's name was Lucreita Month.

### **Major Accomplishments:**

Elizabeth tried hard and hard and often Lucreita didn't agree too much. Word wasn't spreading quickly but Elizabeth tried her hardest, making a women's rights convention. Elizabeth wrote down all the rights women should have. On July 19, 1848 people went to the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls rights convention. There Elizabeth read the Declaration of Sentiments, although being a mother and having to care for children was a lot more work. Americans were fighting in

the civil war. But the amendments didn't include women's rights. Elizabeth and a lady named Susan often went to big crowds of people and sometimes small. Elizabeth making speeches. When Elizabeth died, people felt bad for her making signs about "women's rights". In 1920 the 19th Amendment passed. And the law gave women's rights.

### **Challenges and Struggles:**

Throughout Elizabeth's struggles and challenges. Elizabeth worked hard with Susan to make women's rights possible. Elizabeth made her speeches powerful and letters.

### **Legacy and Impact:**

Sadly of Elizabeth's death she is no longer able to make speeches. But she made women's rights possible as Elizabeth wished for.

### **Conclusion:**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton worked hard for her speeches and letters, with the help of Susan. Elizabeth was married to Henry and had children, it was difficult making more letters but her mother insisted on babysitting her children. Elizabeth was a kind, hard working lady who made speeches and letters to achieve women's rights.

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## **Award-Winning Essay on Pauli Murray**

### **Pauli murray: A Voice for Farm Worker**

**Daleyza** [REDACTED]

Morgan Kicaid School of Integrated Studies

Pauli Murray was an important leader who fought for the rights of farm workers in the United States. Pauli Murray was Born on November 20, 1910, in Baltimore, Maryland, and died in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on July 1, 1985.

Where Pauli Murray worked: Pauli Murray was an American civil rights activist, advocate, legal scholar and theorist, author and later in life an Episcopal priest.

What Pauli Murray's childhood was like: Paulie Murray's childhood in Durham, North Carolina, was shaped by being orphaned at age three and raised by her maternal grandparents and aunts, who instilled values of duty, hard work, and honor. Pauli Murray's parents struggled with financial hardship, mental illness, and racial violence.

Her father, William Murray, was a college educated teacher but was left to raise six children after their mother, Agnes Fitzgerald Murray, died suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage when Paulie was three.

Paulie Murray believed in the interconnectedness of race and gender, and the pursuit of equality for all through legal and social action. Murray was a trailblazer for civil rights, women's rights, and LGBTQ+ rights, using their legal mind to challenge segregation and discrimination.

Pauli Murray was a lawyer, activist, scholar and priest with numerous accomplishments, including being the first African woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest and a co-founder of the National Organization for Women now.

Pauli Murray taught us that discrimination based on race, gender and other identities is interconnected, a concept that laid the groundwork for modern intersectionality. Her work demonstrated how these various forms of prejudice overlap to create unique forms of inquiry and injustice. She also taught the importance of strategic legal action, community organizing, and the power of persistent, hopeful advocacy for social change.

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## Award-Winning Essay on Ruby Bridges

Ciara [REDACTED]

Morgan Kincaid School of Integrated Studies

Ruby Bridges has four orphaned nieces and she has her own business called the bridges foundations. She was given a grammy award, then she went to the NAACP. She was the only black girl to attend an all white school.

Ruby Bridges was a pioneering figure. This means someone who is among the first to explore, develop and innovate in a new field often leading the way for others. A pioneering figure is becoming the first African American child to desegregate at William Frantz Elementary school in New Orleans in 1960. On her first day she was escorted by U.S. Marshals and faced an angry mob of protesters. Despite the hostility of being the sole student in her classroom that year, Bridges' resilience became a symbol of the movement and paved the way to her future school integration.

Ruby Bridges' work was the foundation which promotes tolerance and racial equality through education, a far reaching breaking into William Frantz Elementary school. Her story connects deeply in today's society, serving as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equality and justice. In a world still grappling with racial and social disparities, Ruby Bridges' actions demand our attention. Her courageous journey and unwavering commitment to equality in the face of intense

adversity continues to inspire individuals to challenge discrimination advocate for equal rights and work towards a more inclusive society.

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Walter Philip Reuther

By: Joziah E [REDACTED]

Morgan Kincaid School of Integrated Studies

Walter Phillip Reuther was born in Wheeling W.V. on September 1, 1907. He received an early education in socialism and union politics from his father. He dropped out of Wheeling high school at 16 and became an apprentice; he eventually earned his high school diploma at age 22.

In 1935 The United Automobile Workers (UAW) was formed and Reuther became the key leader in the 1930s though he was not the founder. Reuther turned the UAW into one of the most progressive labor unions in American history.

Walter P. Reuther was one of America's great labor leaders He was also living proof that one person can make a difference. Reuther was president of the united automobile workers union between 1946 and 1970. Under his leadership the American and Canadian members of the uaw obtained their share of the enormous wealth they produced and were able to restore dignity to the industrial work they performed.

Reuther's work however went well beyond contract negotiations and union organizing. He stood beside Martin Luther King Jr. He was not only an advocate for workers rights he also advocated for civil rights, women's rights, universal health care, public education and affordable housing.

The United Automobile Workers grew to more than 1.5 million members becoming one of the largest unions in the United States. In 1968 out of frustration he pulled the UAW out of the AFL-CIO and formed Alliance for Labor Action. Before the new group could launch any initiatives, Reuther, his wife and two others were killed in a private plane crash. Reuter left a legacy of reform minded unionism, civil rights activism and social justice idealism which the labor movement continues to draw from currently.

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## **John Lewis: An American Civil Rights Activist**

Dominic [REDACTED]

Morgan Kicaid School of Integrated Studies

John Lewis was an important leader who fought for the rights of black Americans in the United States. Born on February 21, 1940, in Pike County, AL, John Lewis experienced the struggles of poor working conditions from a young age. His parents were poor, which meant they moved from place to place to find work. This gave John Lewis a deep understanding of the challenges that people faced.

As he grew older, John Lewis realized racial segregation and discrimination. They worked long hours for very little pay, and often, they were not given enough food or safe places to live. John Lewis believed that everyone deserved to be treated with respect and dignity. He wanted to change, ensure equal voting rights, and achieve broader social justice, including advocating for healthcare reform, education improvements.

In 1960, John Lewis co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Together, they organized protests and strikes to demand better pay and working conditions. One of their most famous protests was the Delano Grape Strike, which lasted for five years! During this time, Lewis encouraged people to boycott grapes. This meant that people would refuse to

buy grapes until the workers got better treatment. The boycott was very successful, and it brought national attention to the struggles of farm workers.

Lewis also believed in non-violent action. He used peaceful protests, marches, and hunger strikes to show the importance of his cause. One of his most famous hunger strikes lasted for 25 days! He wanted to show that he was serious about fighting for workers' rights. His dedication inspired many people to join the movement, and together, they made a difference.

In 1970, the UFW won its first major contract for farm workers, which meant they would get better pay and working conditions. John Lewis' efforts changed the lives of many people and paved the way for future generations. Today, we celebrate his legacy every year on John Lewis Day, July 17th.

John Lewis taught us that standing up for what is right is important. He showed us that even one person can make a big difference in the world. By fighting for the rights of farm workers, he helped bring justice and equality to many people. His story inspires us to continue working for civil rights and to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.