

## Resolution

In 1956 Massive Resistance was adopted by Virginia's state government to block the desegregation of public schools mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, a conservative Democrat and former governor of Virginia, coined the term Massive Resistance, reflecting the racial views and fears of Byrd's power base in Southside Virginia as well as the former governor's disdain for federal government intrusion in state affairs.

As part of the Massive Resistance policy, a Pupil Placement Board was created, invested with the power to assign students to schools in the state. In order to transfer from one school to another, students had to make application to the Pupil Placement Board.

**Whereas**, Fred "Crack" Harris and his daughter, Crystabel Harris and M.W. "Teedy" Thornhill, Sr., and his son, M.W. "Butch" Thornhill, Jr. both at separate times applied to the Pupil Placement Board to be transferred from Dunbar High School to E.C. Glass High School. Both applications were rejected.

**And whereas**, both rejections necessitated a lawsuit, Jackson, et. al. v. Lynchburg City School Board, to require the Lynchburg City School Board to adhere to the ruling of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. The lawsuit was filed by the parents of Cecelia Jackson, Brenda Hughes, Lynda Woodruff and Owen Cardwell.

**And whereas**, on January 29, 1962, Lynda Woodruff and Owen Cardwell, Jr. entered the doors of E.C. Glass High School as the first two African-Americans to attend the previously all-white high school, thus desegregating Lynchburg city schools. Brenda Hughes and Cecelia Jackson were arbitrarily assigned to attend E.C. Glass in the beginning of the next school year. The arbitrary decision was made because of "so-called" IQ scores. All four African-American students scored higher than 95% of the white students with whom they would be attending school.

**And whereas**, Crystabel Harris, M.W. "Butch" Thornhill, Jr., Cecelia Jackson, Brenda Hughes, and others who are not often mentioned in the telling of the story represent forgotten heroes.

**And whereas**, March 27, 2022 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invitation by Dr. Virgil Wood and the Lynchburg Improvement Association to Martin Luther King, Jr. to city of Lynchburg in support of the school desegregation efforts and his historic speech at E.C. Glass auditorium.

**And whereas**, January 29, 2022, is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the desegregation of schools in the city of Lynchburg

**Be it resolved**, that 2022 be observed in LCS as the year of forgotten heroes of the Lynchburg Civil Rights Movement and part of the proud history that makes the City of Lynchburg the city that it has become.