

Kitsap County Chronicle

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Voice of the African American Community

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Dr. Claudia Thomas Receives Award From Governor's Council

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners recently presented Dr. Claudia Thomas, one of eleven individuals, one business and one community from the Kitsap area, with the "FACE IT" Recognition Award from the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse. The award was given for her contributions to the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse in her respective community.

Thomas came to the Bremerton School District as director of instruction in August, 1983, after having served as teacher and administrator in the Kent School District for over twenty years. In 1985, her title was changed to assistant superintendent with responsibilities for curriculum, instruction, staff development, and evaluation of principals.

She received her master's degree and administrative credential from Seattle University, and her Ph.D. from Union Graduate School in San Francisco, California.

For many years, she has been

very active in human relations activities with young people and adults, in trying to bring about ethnic awareness and positive human relationships among all races.

During her tenure here in Bremerton, Dr. Thomas has:

- Restructured the program for gifted children;
- Implemented a staff development program and model;
- Initiated a comprehensive drug and alcohol program;
- Initiated a collaboration of social agencies to serve children;
- Established a network with the college for advanced placement of high school students;
- Served on the following committees: State HIV/AIDS Curriculum Development Committee, Olympic College's Educational Advisory Committee, Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Head Start/ECAP Policy Council, and chaired Lion's Quest Program;
- Established and coordinated a

multicultural advisory council;

- Implemented Alternative Programs at both middle and high school levels for students at risk; and

- Conducted three school district facility studies with community representation to ascertain housing needs for students.

Thomas continues to be committed to equal opportunity and access for all students. Her belief is that all students can learn what is successfully taught—and in order for students to learn, the school and parents must work cooperatively as a team to ensure the highest possibility of success for students.

She is an active member and director of christian education in Allen AME Methodist church, a member of the Urban League, NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha Society, Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the American Association of School Administrations.



DR. CLAUDIA THOMAS

Memorial Services Planned For Thurgood Marshall

A memorial service is planned for Thurgood Marshall, the first African American US Justice, on Sunday, February 7, 3 p.m. at Emmanuel Apostolic Church, 1023 Sixth Street in Bremerton. The public is invited.

Marshall, 84, died January 23 of a heart attack at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. He retired from the Supreme Court in October 1991 because of ill health. He devoted his life to championing the rights of the poor and racially oppressed.

Because of ill health, he declined the request of Al Gore to swear him in as vice president last month.

The great-grandson of a slave, Marshall was born July 2, 1908 in Baltimore. His father was William Canfield Marshall, first a Pullman car steward, then a waiter and steward at the exclusive Gibson Island Club on Chesapeake Bay. His mother taught in Baltimore's segregated schools.

Marshall graduated with honors in 1930 from Lincoln University, Lincoln Union, Pennsylvania, where he had envisioned becoming a dentist. Because he was refused admittance to the University of Maryland Law School because of his race, he took law classes at Howard University in Washington, DC.

"My father," Marshall would recall, "never told me to become a lawyer. But turned me into one by teaching me to argue, to prove every

statement I made, and by challenging my logic on every point."

Marshall's first wife, Vivian Burey Marshall, died of cancer in 1955. He later married Hawaiian-born Cecelia Suyat, whom he met while working in the NAACP office. They have two sons, Thurgood Jr., and John William. He was an Episcopalian and a 33rd degree Mason.

His civil rights career began upon taking a job in 1936 with the NAACP in New York, after a stint of private practice. He served on the Second US Circuit Court of Appeals, based in New York, from 1961-65.

He was nominated in 1967 by President Lyndon Johnson to succeed Justice Tom Clark on the high court, where Marshall consistently voted to expand civil rights. Prior to his appointment, Marshall was successful in persuading the Supreme Court in 1954 to strike down school desegregation laws in Brown vs Board of Education.

During a rare interview in 1987, it was said that Marshall ranked Reagan at the bottom of US presidents for his civil rights policy. And during the administration of President Reagan, Marshall vowed to outlast him, so as not to be replaced by a conservative justice. It is said that he told his clerks, "If I

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Five Blind Boys of Alabama to Perform at Backstage

Gospel legends, Clarence Fountain and The Five Blind Boys of Alabama will perform Thursday, February 4, 8:30 p.m. at The Backstage, 2208 NW Market Street in Seattle. Celebrating over 50 years on the Gospel road—The year was 1937; Clarence Fountain & Johnny Fields were elementary school students singing in the glee club at the Talladega Institute for the Deaf & Blind. The year is now 1993, and though the glee club no longer exists, the Five Blind Boys are still delirious-ising audiences. For ticket information, call 781-2805 or Ticketmaster, 628-0888.

OC Celebrates Black History Month