

## Talking Points

### Key Milestones in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States

Dr. John Telford was born in 1936, 11 years before Jackie Robinson would become the first African American major league baseball player.

As a young man in the 1950's and 1960's, Telford lived through a tumultuous period in race relations in this country and his professional career was shaped by these events.

1954- Brown vs. the Board of Education. The U.S. Supreme Court declared school segregation unconstitutional after a Kansas school board refused to let a black child attend a nearby school for whites.

1955- Rosa Parks, a black seamstress from Alabama, refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white rider.

1956-The Supreme Court asserted that the segregation of public transportation was as unconstitutional as school segregation.

1962- James Meredith became the first black student to attend the all-white University of Mississippi.

His enrollment sparked riots on the Oxford campus and required President John F. Kennedy to send federal troops and marshals.

James Meredith graduated in the summer of 1963.

1967 - President Lyndon Johnson appointed the National Commission on Civil Disorders and charged it with investigating urban riots in the United States.

1967 - In Loving v. Virginia, the Supreme Court ruled that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional.

Sixteen states that still banned interracial marriage at the time were forced to revise their laws.

1968 - The Commission on Civil Disorders released its report and its findings were that

the riots resulted from black frustration at lack of economic opportunity. It warned: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal."

1968- President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing

1968 –Martin Luther King, political activist, Baptist minister and leader of the American Civil Rights Movement was assassinated

1971 -The Supreme Court, in *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, upheld busing as a legitimate means for achieving integration of public schools. Although largely unwelcome (and sometimes violently opposed) in local school districts, court-ordered busing plans in cities such as Charlotte, Boston, and Denver continued until the late 1990s.

2003 - The Supreme Court (5–4) upheld the University of Michigan Law School's policy, that race can be one of many factors considered by colleges when selecting their students because it furthers "a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body."

2008 - Senator Edward Kennedy introduced the Civil Rights Act of 2008. Some of the proposed provisions include ensuring that federal funds are not used to subsidize discrimination, holding employers accountable for age discrimination, and improving accountability for other violations of civil rights and workers' rights.

2009- Barack Obama is sworn in as President of the United States.