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## Desegregation Linked to Closing Achievement Gap

By Jazelle Hunt  
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Year after year in measure after measure, Black, Latino, and Native American students trail their White peers in educational outcomes. These gaps were at their lowest in 1988, the same year public schools hit peak integration levels - and long-term data shows that this was no coincidence.

"As long as we have schools and classrooms that have concentrated the most disadvantaged children together, there's no way that schools can overcome the disadvantage, because every student can't get special attention. So the level of instruction has to decline," said Richard Rothstein, a research associate at the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute.

"The only way that we're ever going to raise the achievement of African American children living in ghettos, substantially, is to desegregate those ghettos. Make sure that more children are attending schools that are predominantly middle-class."

Schools with student bodies of color aren't inherently inadequate - there are plenty around the country that graduate bright, motivated Black and brown scholars. Still, it is the better distribution of resources, not merely the presence of White students, that make integration necessary.

"We know that there's inequitable access to advanced coursework, for example, so we know that many African American and Latino students attend schools where they can't take algebra II or chemistry, or they don't have advanced placement courses," said John King, delegated deputy secretary of the Department of Education. "To the extent that we can integrate schools by race and class, we're likelier to reduce those inequities."

The way schools are funded can also worsen the effect. Most districts are funded through property taxes, other state taxes, and federal money (through grants or as part of a larger budget given to each state). Often, needy schools are left at the bottom of the list when it's time to distribute these funds, forcing them to rely more heavily on already-meager property taxes. And as individual schools make cuts to stretch the money, they are unable to attract and keep highly effective teachers, and provide students enriching extracurricular activities, challenging classes, and first-class facilities.

"It's not because they're sitting next to a White child, it's because they're not in an environment where children with serious disadvantages are so concentrated that the school can't focus on grade level instruction," said Rothstein.

"[Funding] varies enormously by state. Most of the special money that is needed to address the problems of low-income schools is because of the concentrations there. You need so much more money in such a school."

White flight, class politics, and gentrification also play a major role - if neighborhoods are racially and economically segregated, the local public school system is likely to reflect that.

"It wouldn't be fair to say that schools can't produce great outcomes for kids if they don't have White students or if they don't have middle-income students," said King. "But I think it is fair to say that, for a variety of complex political and historical reasons, resources often have been inequitably distributed based on race and class."

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Julian Bond speaks during the "Vietnam: The Power of Protest" rally at the Martin Luther King Memorial on May 2, 2015 in Southwest Washington, D.C. (Roy Lewis/Washington Informer)

## Julian Bond Praised for Unselfish Devotion to Human Rights

By Freddie Allen  
NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Julian Bond, a founding member and communications director of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and immediate past board chairman of the NAACP, is being praised for his lifelong human rights contributions by people ranging from President Obama and his former civil rights colleagues to ordinary people who have benefited from his courage and advocacy.

Bond, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), died Saturday night, August 15, at the age of 75. He served as the president of the SPLC, a legal advocacy organization that promotes equality and tracks hate groups, from 1971 to 1979 and later on the board of directors, according to a statement issued by the group.

"With Julian's passing, the country has lost one of its most passionate and eloquent voices for the cause of justice," SPLC said in a statement announcing Bond's death. "He advocated not just for African Americans, but for every group, indeed every person subject to oppression and discrimination, because he recognized the common humanity in us all."

The statement continued: "Not only has the country lost a hero today, we've lost a great friend."

President Obama said in a statement, "Julian Bond was a hero and, I'm privileged to say, a friend. Justice and equality was the mission that spanned his life - from his leadership of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, to his founding role with the Southern Poverty Law Center, to his pioneering voice in the Georgia legislature and his steady hand at the helm of the NAACP. Michelle and I have benefited from his example, his counsel, and his friendship - and we offer our prayers and sympathies to his wife, Pamela, and his children."

Obama added, "Julian Bond helped change this country for the better. And what better way to be remembered than that."

Denise Rolark Barnes, Chairperson of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and publisher of The Washington Informer, said: "On behalf of the members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association - the Black Press of America - we are extremely saddened to learn of the recent death of Julian Bond, a stalwart of the Civil and Human Rights Movement. His lifelong dedication and commitment to political and economic empowerment, journalistic diversity and integrity, and educational quality served as a beacon for others to follow. His presence and voice will be sorely missed, but his words remain true for the NNPA: 'Good things don't come to those who wait. They come to those who anticipate!' Julian Bond, thank you. Now may you rest in peace!"

NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis said, "On behalf of the National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA), we mourn the passing of civil rights leader Julian Bond. The enduring impact of Bond's legacy was his long-term dedication to fight for freedom, justice and equality. As an effective chairman of the NAACP, co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Georgia State Senator, college professor and columnist for the NNPA, Julian Bond was a gallant warrior who championed the interests of Black America."

Horace Julian Bond was born Jan. 14, 1940, in Nashville, Tenn. His father, Horace Mann Bond, was a prominent educator, serving as president of Fort Valley State University in Georgia and the first Black president of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, his alma mater.

During his time with SNCC, Julian Bond protested against segregation of public facilities in Georgia and was arrested during a sit-in at Atlanta's City Hall.

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## NCNAACP PREPARES FOR AUG. 29<sup>TH</sup> 'JOURNEY' LEG

By Cash Michaels

The NC NAACP is urging all to take part in the North Carolina leg of "America's Journey for Justice," scheduled to come through the state starting August 29<sup>th</sup>.

A national coalition led by the national NAACP and its President/CEO Cornell William Brooks, "America's Journey for Justice" is a 40-day, 860-mile protest march which began in Selma, Ala. on August 1<sup>st</sup> - the fiftieth anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act - from the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge, where civil rights marches were beaten and attacked by Alabama state troopers as they marched for voting rights in March 1965.

The modern-day Journey for Justice is routed from Alabama, through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, finally arriving in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. The North Carolina leg of the march is scheduled to reach the state August 29<sup>th</sup> through Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, before it moves on to Virginia.

Marchers from nationwide will say to the nation and world family, "Our lives, our votes, our jobs, and our schools matter," the NAACP, a major coalition in the march, says. With each state stopped in, a designated issue of concern to African-Americans - like fairness in the criminal justice system, jobs with sustainable wages, improved public education, and protection of voting rights - is addressed.

In North Carolina, according to NCNAACP Pres. Rev. William Barber, the issue is voting rights because the state has become "the national battleground for voting rights."

In an effort to challenge a regressive southern legislature and Congress' failure to act on strengthening the Voting Rights Act, the NC NAACP, the Forward Together Moral Movement, and other justice-loving North Carolinians from across the state will join the march and continue on across the Virginia state line, "Rev. Barber said in a statement.

Thus, a major "Rally for Voting Rights" featuring Rev. Barber and President Brooks, among others, will be held at the State Capitol in Raleigh on Thursday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, with activities beginning at 5 p.m.

Leading up to that, Pres. Brooks will take part in a Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> Moral Monday Livestream online to promote the Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> rally. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, marchers are expected to enter North Carolina from South Carolina at U.S. Highway 1 near Rockingham County at the state line.

Later that evening there will be a Journey for Justice Youth and Cultural Artist Teach-in, 7:30 p.m. at Southern Middle School, 717 Johnson Street in Aberdeen. On Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m., the Journey for Justice Voting Rights Teach-in at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, 1801 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh, and on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. at various congressional offices across the state, simultaneous press conferences on voting rights action.

Supporters from across the state seeking to join the Journey for Justice March while its in North Carolina may sign up by logging onto [www.naacpc.org](http://www.naacpc.org), and click onto the American Journey for Justice tab, or call 919-682-4700

## Recording of MLK's 1st 'I Have a Dream' speech discovered

By Martha Waggoner

RALEIGH (AP) - Before the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Washington in 1963, he fine-tuned his civil rights message before a much smaller audience in North Carolina.

Reporters had covered King's 55-minute speech at a high school gymnasium in Rocky Mount on Oct. 27, 1962, but a recording wasn't known to exist until English professor Jason Miller found an aging reel-to-reel tape in a town library. Miller played it in public for the first time at North Carolina State University.

"It is part civil rights address. It is part mass meeting. And it has the spirit of a sermon," Miller said. "I never before heard Dr. King combine all those genres into one particular moment."

King used the phrase "I have a dream" eight times in his address to about 2,000 people at Booker T. Washington High School in Rocky Mount, eight months before electrifying the nation with the same words at the March on Washington.

He also referred to "the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners," saying he dreamed they would "meet at the table of brotherhood." On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, King changed that "sit down together at the table of brotherhood." In both speeches, "Let Freedom Ring" served as his rallying cry.

"It's not so much the message of a man," the Rev. William Barber, president of the state chapter of the NAACP, said. "It's the message of a movement, which is why he kept delivering it. It proves once again that the 'I have a dream' portion was not a good climax to a speech for mere applause, but an enduring call to hopeful resistance and a nonviolent challenge to injustice."

Miller discovered the recording while researching "Origins of the Dream," his book exploring similarities between King's speeches and the poetry of Langston Hughes. His ah-ha moment came when he learned through a newspaper story about a transcript of the speech in state archives. If there's a transcript, then there must be a recording, he thought.

He sent emails and made calls until he eventually heard back in the fall of 2013 from the Braswell Public Library in Rocky Mount, where staff said a box with the recording had mysteriously appeared on a desk one day. Handwriting on the box described it as a recording of King's speech, and said "please do not erase."

Before listening to the recording, Miller confirmed that the 1.5-millimeter acetate reel-to-reel tape could be played safely. He brought it to an audio expert in Philadelphia, George Blood, who set it as close to its original levels as he could. Then Blood, whose clients include the Library of Congress, digitized the tape.

It proved fortunate for King that he had practiced the dream part of his speech in Rocky Mount and later in Detroit, because it wasn't part of his typewritten speech in Washington. Historians say the singer Mahalia Jackson shouted "Tell them about the dream, Martin!" as he reached a slow point in his prepared text. King then improvised, and lit up the audience with phrases very similar to those he had delivered in that gymnasium.

Three people who were in the audience that day in 1962 listened again Tuesday as the recording was played at the university's James B. Hunt Library. Herbert Tillman, who was about 17 years old at the time, recalled how happy they were to see and hear such an inspiring leader.

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