

2071 02941

WILS 08/20/95 \*\*CHILL  
WILSON LIBRARY  
N C COLLECTION - UNC-CH  
P O BOX 8890  
CHAPEL HILL NC 27515-8890

# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

VOLUME 95 - NUMBER 19

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 50 CENTS

## Lynch: NC transgender law part of civil rights struggle Likens Republican HB2 to Jim Crow

By Eric Tucker and Jonathan Drew

WASHINGTON (AP) - In suing the state where she was born and raised for discriminating against transgender people, Attorney General Loretta Lynch invoked the defining civil rights struggles of the last century and made clear that the federal government sees its dispute with North Carolina as about far more than bathrooms and showers.

Lynch, the first black woman to hold the job, elevated the profile of the Justice Department's potentially epic clash with North Carolina over its new bathroom law by placing it in the context of America's Jim Crow era - when signs above water fountains and restaurants fostered race discrimination - as well as more recent efforts to deny gay couples the right to marry.

"Instead of turning away from our neighbors, friends and colleagues, let us instead learn from our history and avoid repeating the mistakes of our past," Lynch said at a news conference May 7 announcing the lawsuit, directly addressing North Carolina residents. "Let us reflect on the obvious but neglected lesson that state-sanctioned discrimination never looks good and never works in hindsight."

Her remarks, in unusually forceful and personal language, came as North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory refused to back down over a law that requires transgender people to use the public restroom corresponding to the gender on their birth certificate. The Justice Department says the measure violates civil rights laws and is seeking a court order to block it.

Lynch's announcement of a lawsuit - and her reassurance to the transgender community that "We see you" - brought tears to Stephen Wiseman, a 37-year-old social worker and transgender man in Asheville, who praised Lynch for giving "historical examples that people can relate to."

He said it was a historic moment to have the attorney general stand behind a podium and offer transgender people such affirmation.

"That sort of acknowledgment and validation is huge when the other side is saying: 'you're nobody. You're making all this up,'" he said.

(Continued On Page 3)



The Friends of the Stanford L. Warren Branch Library and Friends of Durham County Library hosted a "Lunch and Learn with Dr. Crystal R. Sanders." The conversation and book signing centered on her recently published book, "A Chance for Change: Head Start and Mississippi's Black Freedom Struggle." The program was held at Stanford Warren Library. For more on programs at Stanford Warren Library call 919-560-0270.



ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA LYNCH

## Widow, daughters of slain Charleston senator receive posthumous degree

By Meg Kinnard

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - When he, along with eight of his parishioners, was slain last summer at the historic black church he pastored, Clementa Pinckney was working on his thesis for a Doctorate of Ministry degree.

On May 9, that goal came to fruition, as Pinckney's widow, Jennifer, and their two daughters accepted his posthumous diploma during commencement ceremonies for Wesley Theological Seminary at Washington National Cathedral.

Pinckney was among the nine people gunned down last June during a Wednesday night Bible study at the church he pastored, Emanuel AME.

During the ceremonies, Wesley president David McAllister-Wilson said Pinckney had finished his coursework and was, at the time of his death, working on a thesis dealing with his dual role as public servant and minister.

Jennifer Pinckney, who said she had planned to come alone to accept the honor, ending up bringing her children because her husband was a family man and would want them to share in the occasion.

"Clementa, you did it," she said during the ceremony. "You accomplished a goal that many people dream of. And even though you're not here to walk with your fellow classmates physically, I know that you're here with us spiritually."

The school's faculty voted unanimously to confer the degree posthumously, officials said. The slayings, which stunned the nation, reignited discussions about race relations and led to the removal of a Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina Statehouse.

Dylann Roof, who is charged in the shootings, had previously posed for photos with a rebel flag. After his arrest, several relatives of those killed at the church told Roof they forgave him for his alleged crimes.

"The outpouring of grace from that church community and the fall of the Confederate flag in the capital was evidence of the fruit of his ministry," McAllister-Wilson said, of Pinckney's legacy.

The seminary president also read a letter from President Barack Obama, who eulogized Pinckney at his funeral in Charleston last year. In the letter, Obama praised Pinckney's accomplishments and encouraged his fellow graduates to continue to learn from his example of studying dual tracks of public service and faith leadership.

"He did not view these novel callings as working in conflict with one another but as working in concert with one another," McAllister-Wilson read from the letter. "I pray his example endures in your ministry, and I congratulate you all."

## North Carolina NAACP wants federal probe in Harnett County

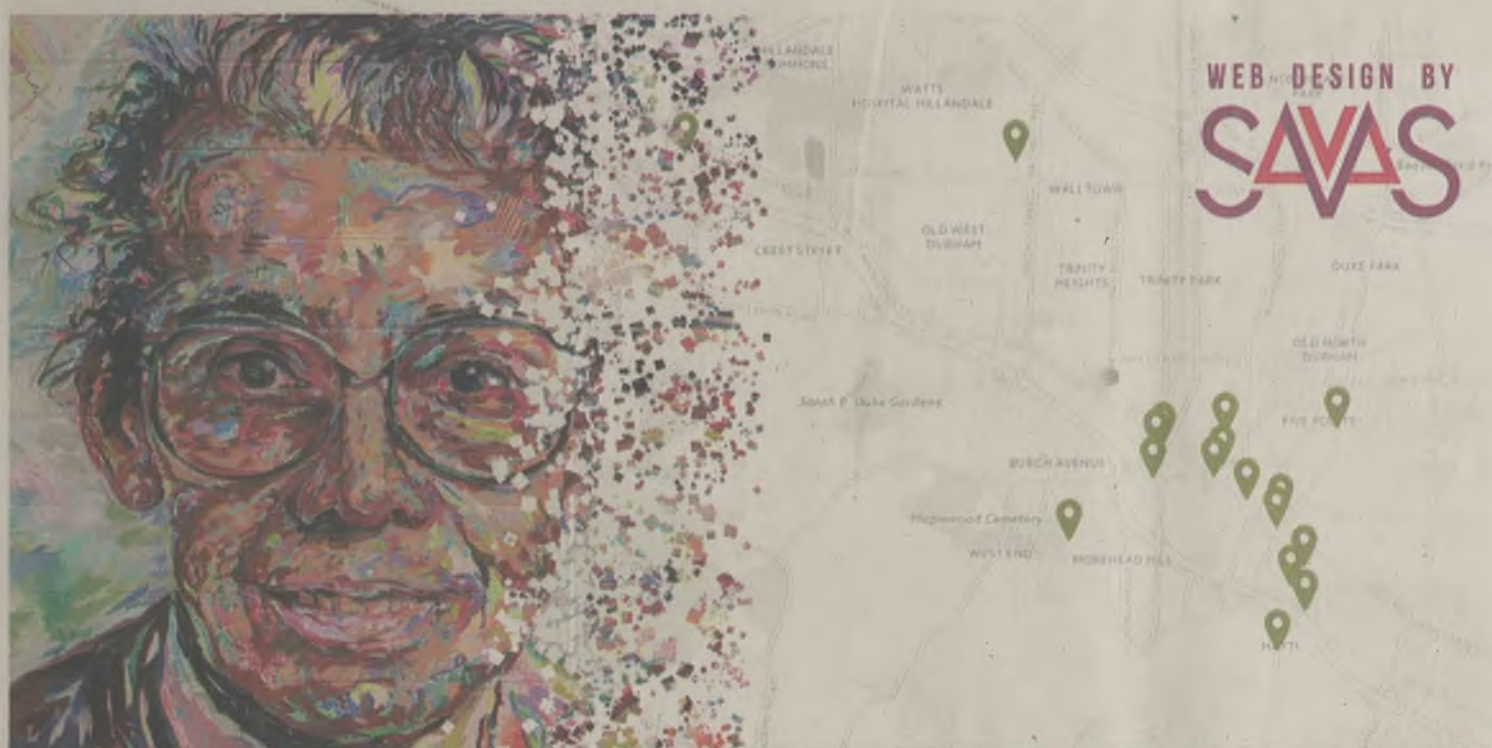
LILLINGTON (AP) - The North Carolina chapter of the NAACP is seeking a federal investigation of "abuses and possible crimes" in the Harnett County Sheriff's Office.

Officials with the state and Harnett County chapters say they plan to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice for an investigation following a series of stories in The News & Observer of Raleigh.

Residents told the newspaper that Harnett County sheriff's deputies have battered and harassed them. The newspaper reports that two men died while others have been assaulted.

NAACP leaders called for the investigation during a news conference May 9 in Lillington.

The Justice Department has already opened an inquiry into at least two cases in Harnett County. NAACP leaders say that sort of limited review is not enough.



PAULI MURRAY PROJECT'S  
DURHAM CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS MAP  
WEB RE-LAUNCH EVENT [WWW.DURHAMCIVILRIGHTSMAP.ORG](http://WWW.DURHAMCIVILRIGHTSMAP.ORG)

14 SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 10:00AM - 12:00PM

313 FOSTER STREET @ PAULI MURRAY TRUE COMMUNITY MURAL



## Web Launch - Durham Civil & Human Rights Map CELEBRATION PLANNED MAY 14 - 10 A.M. - 12 NOON

The Pauli Murray Project and Savas Labs are excited to announce the launch of a redesigned online resource, the **Durham Civil & Human Rights Map**. Everyone is invited to explore the map at our launch party on May 14 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon at the Pauli Murray True Community Mural, 313 Foster Street. Check out one marker or create your own walking tour!

The site, [www.durhamcivilrightsmap.org](http://www.durhamcivilrightsmap.org) focuses on our community's history of activism and struggle for social justice and equality for everyone. From anti-KKK rallies to lunch counter sit ins, draft resisters during the Vietnam War era to the desegregation of the Durham Athletic Park; the map explores historic liberation struggles based on race, gender, sexual orientation and more.

Each map point is based on research by a Duke or UNC-CH student who has been enrolled in a documentary studies course taught by Barbara Lau. The map was originated in 2009 and grows each year as students write and narrate new markers. "The site embodies the mission of the Pauli Murray Project, shared director Barbara Lau, "to connect history to contemporary activism and we are pleased that it, will also be accessible through our website."

The map is intended as a community resource for teachers, students, residents and anyone interested in social justice history. We are excited to work with educators and community members to develop additional projects based on the map and map research.

The Savas Labs team, including Kosta Harlan, Tim Stallmann and Anne Tomasevich invested their time and expertise to rebuild the site as a pro bono contribution to Durham and to the Pauli Murray Project. Savas Labs feels it is important to remember and celebrate the legacy of Pauli Murray. The team finds it especially relevant to espouse values of community, tolerance, acceptance and love given recent actions of the state legislature. Pauli Murray's appreciation of diversity while simultaneously respecting the rights we all share aligns perfectly with the values at Savas Labs.