

The Richmond Crusade For Voters

Founders Scholarship Initiative

About Richmond Crusade 4 Voters

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously overturned "separate but equal," the racist doctrine allowing Virginia and other states to maintain segregated schools that shortchanged black students for years to come.

In 1956, the Richmond Crusade for Voters was founded to give implementation to the decision.

The Richmond Crusade for Voters grew out of an interracial group called The Council to Save Public Schools that was formed to oppose a January 1956 statewide referendum that would have allowed local governments to block integration of public schools.

The measure passed statewide by about a 4-1 margin. Black voters turnout in Richmond was disappointing, with less than a 50 percent turnout of approximately 8,500 blacks then registered.

About one dozen blacks from the Council To Save Public Schools decided after the referendum that a voter education organization devoted to black people was needed in Richmond. Thus the Richmond Crusade for Voters was founded.

The "founding" meeting was held at the Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church on North First Street in Jackson Ward. In attendance were Dr. Williams S. Thornton, Dr. William Ferguson Reid, and Mr. John M. Brooks. They were thereafter known as the "founders" of the organization.

In 1956, the objectives of the organization were:

1. Increase the Negro votes in Richmond, Virginia through year-round voter registration activities.
2. To increase Negroes political awareness.
3. To study the records of candidates and give recommendations.
4. To push for equal job opportunities in City Hall.

Since its inception, the Crusade for Voters gained prominence for increasing the political influence and voting strength of African-Americans. Today, the struggle continues, and the

Crusade for Voters remains diligent in opening closed doors, challenging voter suppression, and educating citizens on the power of the vote.

About the Scholarship Initiative

The Richmond Crusade for Voters Scholarship Initiative is an effort to support the growth and development of Richmond Scholars by providing financial support in their academic endeavors by attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Our scholarship recipients are people living in fragile communities and they are members of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and religions.

Scholarship Overview

The Richmond Crusade for Voters is proud to offer a scholarship to undergraduate students attending a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). Up to 2 scholars will be selected to receive a scholarship of up to \$1,000.00 for the upcoming academic school year which can only be applied to verifiable costs associated with average tuition and usual fees.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be an upcoming graduating Richmond High School senior.
- Current cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- Must be accepted into a four year institution of higher learning.
- Demonstrate leadership abilities.
- Be a U.S. Citizen or legal permanent resident with a valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551.

How to Apply

All Applicants Must:

- Provide a copy of acceptance letter from college or university.
- Provide the transcript (official or unofficial) for your most recently completed academic term-this should include your cumulative GPA.
- Provide two letters of recommendation from:
 - One high school instructor
 - A community leader who can speak to your community involvement.

- Answer the following (Maximum of 750 words):
 - Tell us about yourself
 - Your purpose for furthering your education.