

August 17, 2004 - The Times Dispatch, Walnut Ridge, AR, Hoxie integration is due prominent place in history - Viewpoints Copyright 2000 ~ 2004 The Times Dispatch, P.O. Box 389 ~ Walnut Ridge, Arkansas 72476

Hoxie integration is due prominent place in history

The integration of the Hoxie School District in 1955 was the first "challenged" desegregation to occur after the landmark Supreme Court decision, Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954. This ruling invalidated the previous "separate but equal" doctrine and began the era of desegregation of public schools that were previously segregated on the basis of race.

Fayth Hill Washington of Memphis was one of the 21 African-American students who first integrated the Hoxie School in 1955. Now, 49 years later, she is heading up the steering committee to plan the Sept. 4-5 reunion and recognition celebration for the Hoxie 21.

Ms. Washington aptly put into words the significance of the 1955 integration and the forthcoming celebration. She writes, "After years of verbally telling the story, I am grateful to Professor David Appleby, University of Memphis, for the filmed documentary "Hoxie: The First Stand." Without the film, I don't believe any of this would be happening.

"I am also appreciative to State Rep. Don House. The reunion is the starting point of actually putting the Hoxie history officially into historical record. The events of Hoxie were unique, and I feel the success of this entire story needs to be told. I feel the Hoxie story can add value to the cause and effect, change and thought processes of many of the concerns today. The unique size, location and culture of Hoxie, considering the era, clearly reflect the element of the success ~ the people.

"It is time to celebrate with official ceremony and say thanks to all, for all of their efforts!"

I agree with Ms. Washington and believe this celebration and reunion will help further bring about awareness of this extraordinary part of our history.

[News](#) | [Sports Scene](#) | [Education](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Viewpoints](#) | [Records](#) | [Community](#) | [Games](#) | [Archives](#)
[Businesses](#) | [Weather](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Staff](#) | [Message Board](#) | [Guestbook](#) | [Reprints](#) | [Contact Us](#)

E-mail the Online Editor: askimahorn@thetd.com

E-mail the editor: editor@thetd.com

Website designed by: [Kier Heyl](#)



Hosted by
BSC-Net