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# STURGIS AND CLAY:

## Showdown for Desegregation in Kentucky Education



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## Introduction

In the 1954 decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled segregation unconstitutional, thus desegregating public schools nationwide. This decision reversed the Supreme Court's 1896 ruling supporting the traditional concept of "separate but equal" facilities. However, there was much resistance to the desegregation of public schools and the full implementation of desegregation in Kentucky's schools took many years.

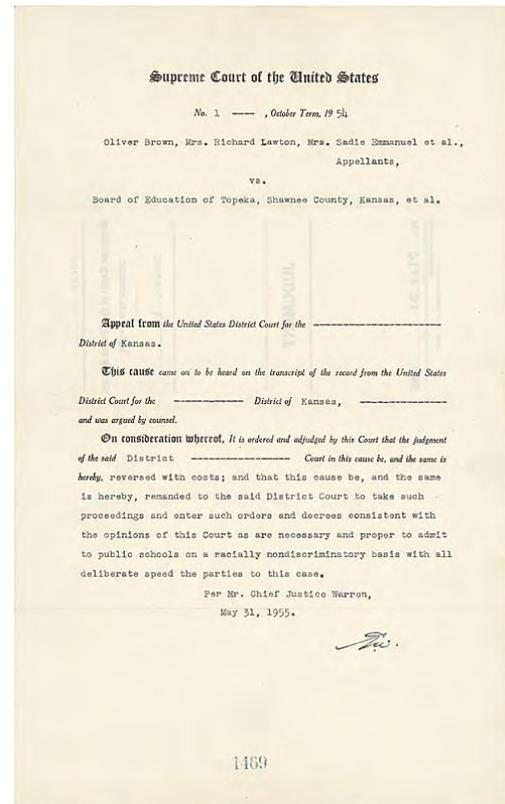
Though the desegregation of Kentucky's public schools proceeded with a minimum of difficulty, there were some trouble spots. In the first days of school in 1956 at Sturgis, in Union County, Kentucky, nine African American students attempted to attend the all-white high school. Turned back by a jeering mob, they appealed to Governor A. B. "Happy" Chandler, who activated the Kentucky National Guard and the Kentucky State Police, their mission, to maintain law and order, and ensure that all students had the opportunity to attend public school.

The following morning Guard and State Police personnel held back the crowd as nine black students entered the school at Sturgis. At the same time, a similar confrontation was taking place at Clay in Webster County, Kentucky. There almost all the white students boycotted the grade school when two black students enrolled. The National Guard and State Police kept order outside an almost empty school.

On 13 September, State Attorney General Jo M. Ferguson ruled that since the Webster County School Board had made no provisions for an "orderly process" of school desegregation, the black students could not be admitted until the School Board made adequate plans. After several days in which black students attended classes in Sturgis with National Guard and State Police support, Ferguson ruled on 19 September, that the Clay ruling could apply to Sturgis also.

Louisville NAACP lawyer James A. Crumlin immediately filed suit against the school systems at Sturgis and Clay in the Federal District Court. The suit asked the court to enforce desegregation of these schools.

On 12 December 1956, U. S. District Judge Henry L. Brooks directed the two school boards to file their desegregation plans with the court by 4 February 1957.



Both school boards established desegregation procedures. The following September, Sturgis High School and the schools of Webster County were open to black students.<sup>1</sup>

From 5 September until 22 September 1956, (eighteen days) units of the Kentucky Army National Guard and Kentucky State Police Troopers restored and maintained law and order, removing the peril to life and property and guaranteeing the right of all pupils to attend public schools in the communities of Sturgis and Clay, Kentucky. During this time these two rural communities in Western Kentucky grabbed headlines across the country. Today the events which occurred in Sturgis and Clay in September 1956 have been all but forgotten from our collective historical memory, except by those who participated.

The following is the story that captured the nation's interest for eighteen days in the early autumn of 1956.

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<sup>1</sup> *Gordon, et al. v. Collins, et al.* (Webster Co.) (WD Ky., #720.) and *Garnett, et al. v. Oakley, et al.* (Union Co.) (WD Ky., #721.) Both cases gave the respective county the opportunity to present a new plan for integrating their school districts in 1957. Both cases were represented by James A. Crumlin, Sr. and J. Earl Dearing.

# **Governor Chandler's Executive Order**

## **Activating the Kentucky Guard for Sturgis and Clay**



### **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

#### **KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD**

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has by mandate prohibited the racial segregation of pupils in the nation's public schools, and

WHEREAS, Civil disturbances have arisen in certain areas of the Commonwealth of Kentucky when local authorities sought to comply with the mandate of the Supreme Court by integrating public schools, and

WHEREAS, local authorities in these areas have been unable to deal with these civil disturbances in a manner which will maintain law and order, remove the peril to life and property, and guarantee the right of all pupils to attend the public schools unmolested,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, A. B. CHANDLER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby direct the Adjutant General of Kentucky, Major General J. J. B. Williams, to order to active state duty any number of units or individuals of the Kentucky National Guard that he deems necessary to restore and maintain law and order, remove the peril to life and property, and guarantee the right of all pupils to attend the public schools.

s/ A. B. Chandler

A. B. Chandler, Governor

s/Thelma L. Stovall  
Secretary of State

## STURGIS AND CLAY: Showdown for Desegregation in Kentucky Education

On Tuesday, 4 September 1956, a crowd of white farmers and miners confronted nine black schoolchildren at Sturgis Consolidated School and prevented them from attending classes.

At approximately 9 the next morning, Lieutenant Colonel Taylor Davidson received a phone call from Governor Chandler, who was trying to contact Adjutant General J. J. B. Williams. Davidson referred the call to Somerset, the General's hometown. Twenty minutes later, Williams called Davidson and ordered him to alert Major William E. Hall of the 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. Hall was to take two jeeploads of his staff to Sturgis and report to Colonel Paul Smith, Director of the Kentucky State Police. Williams had been ordered by Chandler to fly to Sturgis to survey the situation. He would meet Hall there.<sup>2</sup>

After conferring with Mayor J. B. Holeman and other officials in Sturgis City Hall, Williams was convinced that local authorities could not guarantee the safety of the students. He ordered four National Guard units to Sturgis. Companies A, B, and C of the 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion arrived from Owensboro, Livermore, and Henderson. Louisville's Headquarters & Service Company was also ordered to state



active duty. Company C arrived first and bivouacked on the school grounds. Major Hall made it clear to the alarmed townspeople that martial law had not been declared and that his troops were merely bivouacked until local authorities needed their help.<sup>3</sup>



The next morning, 210 National Guardsmen patrolled the small coal-mining town armed with M-1 rifles with fixed bayonets. Additional weaponry included 20-mm and .30-caliber machine guns, submachine guns, carbines and tear-gas guns. The 20-mm and .30-caliber guns were mounted on M-47 tanks. The tanks were also set with 90-mm cannon.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Taylor Davidson, "Sturgis Emergency File," handwritten record of events, 5 September 1956, State active duty history files, KyDMA, Military Records and Research Branch (MRRB) Frankfort, KY.

<sup>3</sup> Harry Bosler, "Negroes Under Guard Enter Sturgis School," *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 7 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 1, cols. 5-7.

The formidable presence of the Guard was encouraging to the black students. They returned to school that day, walking from their homes in the black community of “Boxtown.” They were met three blocks from the school building by state police. Surrounded by troopers and armed Guardsmen, they continued down the middle of the street leading to the school. Signs tacked to trees threatened them with “Go back home, you n.....s” and “Go back to Dunbar [a black school in nearby Morganfield] where you belong.” One of the tamer ones said “The white people of Sturgis don’t want Negroes to go to white schools.” Another was ugly: “Go back to the jungle.”

The situation became increasingly tense. As the procession reached the school entrance the shouts and jeers of the 800 people became deafening. They began to surge forward and Guardsmen raised their bayoneted rifles to hold them back. General Williams had told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that the Guard would not physically escort students into the building because, “A child legally entitled to enter school doesn’t need an escort.” Now the Guardsmen were forced to extend their protection into the hallways of the school as the mob began to challenge them. Outside, one man grabbed a state trooper and a brief scuffle ensued. Seven men were eventually arrested on breach-of-peace charges.<sup>5</sup>



After the students were inside the school, Williams ordered an M-47 tank to the front of the building, forcing the crowd to retreat to the far side of the grounds. Minutes later, the crowd began chanting for the white students to leave the school. In a matter of moments, students began to evacuate the building amid applause and cheers from the crowd.<sup>6</sup>



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<sup>4</sup> Harry Bosler, “Sturgis Blames Educators, Chandler, Williams, Rabble Rousers for Integration Troubles,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 9 September 1956, sec. 4, p. 1, cols. 3-6.

<sup>5</sup> Harry Bolser, “Negroes Under Guard Enter Sturgis School,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 7 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 1, cols. 5-7.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*



It was midmorning before order could be restored. In the meantime, many parents had taken their children home. When classes were dismissed that afternoon, the black students left by a rear door. National Guardsmen hustled them into waiting automobiles, to be escorted by state police. The crowd surged into the street and tried to halt the cars, but National Guardsmen quickly cleared a path for them.<sup>7</sup>

After the day's events, General Williams called integration a "showdown" for the state of Kentucky. The *Courier-Journal* quoted him as saying integration was, "A matter of principle whether the Supreme Court is the law of the land or not." He emphasized that the National Guard would remain in Sturgis until the students could safely attend the school of their choice.<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, Sturgis citizens claimed it was the presence of the National Guard that upset them. Union County School Superintendent Carlos Oakley, who had made every effort to comply with the Supreme Court's order to integrate with "deliberate speed," said, "I think it's ridiculous that the National Guard was moved into Sturgis. This has been a peaceful county."<sup>9</sup>

In defense of his actions, Governor Chandler issued a statement on 6 September saying that it was necessary to call in the National Guard to guarantee equal rights to Kentucky's citizens. "When the Governor takes office," he said, "he puts one hand on the Bible and takes an oath before God to protect the humblest citizen. What we did today is in keeping with the oath I took."<sup>10</sup> Chandler further exhorted the people of Sturgis to "go about their own businesses," saying they just might find out that "the children wouldn't mind [integration]."<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> "Guard To Stay At Sturgis If Necessary," *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 7 September 1956, sec. 2, p. 1, col.

7.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

The citizenry had another reason to resent National Guard presence: an agreement of sorts had already been reached between the students, their parents, and the school board. Under this agreement, the students would attend Dunbar for one more year until an integration program could be sanctioned for next year.<sup>12</sup> When Governor Chandler ordered in troops to allow the students to attend the school of their choice, the parents reneged on their decision and the plan was ruined.



Southland—U. S. A.

On Thursday night, 1,000 people turned out to cheer speeches by segregationists flown in from Louisville. Predictably, the speakers condemned the Supreme Court's decision. Millard Grubbs, Chairman of the Board of the Kentucky Citizens Council, suggested "the white people take over."<sup>13</sup> He accused Chandler of opposing the rights of city and county officials in not letting them decide how to handle things.<sup>14</sup>

A local White Citizens Council was formed after the segregationists accused the National Guard of being a political tool. W. W. Waller was elected president of the Council. He told the crowd that he believed the National Guard was ordered into Sturgis "by certain politicians who wanted to look good in the eyes of New York." Waller averred that Sturgis citizens were "put at

gun point... because of somebody's political ambitions."<sup>15</sup>

As Sturgis citizens circulated appeals for Chandler's impeachment, the Kentucky Federation of Labor praised the governor's swift action. In a telegram to Chandler, Secretary-Treasurer Samuel W. Ezelle III said that, "Experience in the field of intergroup tension...shows that when the authorities act swiftly and firmly, the forces of lawlessness grow discouraged and the mob quickly disintegrates...You have demonstrated by action in the Sturgis case that you intend to stick to your pledge that Kentucky will comply with the Supreme Court decision...and that mobs will not rule in our state."<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Harry Bosler, "Negroes Under Guard Enter Sturgis School," *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 7 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 1, cols. 5-7.

<sup>13</sup> Millard D. Grubbs, member of the KKK, headed a racist group called the American White Brotherhood. Grubbs filed suit to prevent integration in Kentucky's Public Schools. Grubbs, et al v. Gov. Chandler, et al. (Franklin County Circuit Court).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> "Labor Lauds Chandler For Actions at Sturgis," *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 7 September 1956, sec. 2, p. 1, cols. 7-8.

The *Courier-Journal* also came out in support of Chandler. In a 6 September editorial, Sturgis was called, “a situation where delay might spell disaster,” and Chandler was cited for “commendable promptness” in preserving law and order in the state.



outbreaks of violence.

If Chandler was excused for his actions, there were many who questioned those of Adjutant General Williams. The retired Army Colonel and war hero was criticized for “playing soldier” and being “trigger happy.”<sup>17</sup> “Did you ever see a prettier movement of troops under darkness than that one last night?” he was reportedly overheard asking.<sup>18</sup> Newspapers questioned the “martial display” he ordered, which had grown to six hundred troops with fixed bayonets on patrol in a town of 2,300 people. Derision is implicit in this description of a scene in nearby Clay, where attempts to integrate two students at Clay Consolidated School were marked by similar

There were many guns in sight. The Guardsmen lined the street. Several hundred pup tents were lined up in back of the school on the football field; in the playing yard were scores of jeeps, National Guard trucks and patrol cars. Men walked with bared bayonets and with submachine guns, ready for action.<sup>19</sup>

The “action” at Clay had begun on 7 September, when a crowd of one hundred people blocked the street leading to Clay Consolidated School and turned back a car driven by Mrs. Louise Gordon, who was trying to enroll her two children in the all-white school. On 10 September, the crowd surrounded and rocked Mrs. Gordon’s car:

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<sup>17</sup> Williams was General Patton’s artillery officer during World War II and chief of staff of the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. His decorations included the Belgian Order of Leopold with palm, the Croix de Guerre with palm, the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit. He saw action in five campaigns in WWII, and gained world-wide press fame during the Battle of the Bulge by riding on top of a tank in an attack near Bastogne.

<sup>18</sup> Harry Bosler, “Sturgis Blames Educators, Chandler, Williams, Rabble Rousers for Integration Troubles,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 9 September 1956, sec. 4, p. 1, cols. 3-6.

<sup>19</sup> “Some Teachers Join In Boycott At Clay School,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 14 September 1956, sec. 2, p. 1, cols. 6-7. Williams’ policies would again come under public scrutiny. In December 1956, the *Courier-Journal* revealed that Private Robert Rowley of Company C, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, had been discharged from the National Guard because of public support of the Union County Citizens Council, which peacefully opposed racial integration in public schools. General Williams officially discharged Rowley for “incompatible occupation,” which he said was a mere detail incident to an honorable discharge. Williams felt that future integration disturbances were possible and that Rowley might experience a conflict of interest were he called to active duty again. *Courier-Journal* writer Allen Trout protested the action, saying “new and lower standards of human rights” would be in order if the discharge were allowed to stand. He wrote: “The General Assembly should not rest until it writes peacetime law that will bring the Adjutant General’s power within the reasonable bounds of basic rights.” See *Courier-Journal*, 20 December 1956, sec. 1, p. 13, cols. 3-6.

she told reporters they had tried to overturn it.<sup>20</sup> The crowd also became hostile to reporters, threatening them and following them about town.



General Williams conferred with Clay officials, who advised him they could handle the situation. It could not be doubted that they were apprised of matters: Mayor Herman Z. Clark had been among those who rocked the car that morning. Clark, an outspoken integration opponent, warned the National Guard to keep out of town. He encouraged citizens to boycott the school and led the town in following a policy of “passive resistance” to integration. Alluding to the state’s outdated law requiring racial segregation in the schools; he said “The Supreme Court may say that integration is the law of the land, but as far as I’m concerned...the law of the State of Kentucky is the law here.”<sup>21</sup>

Back in Sturgis, the 243<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion arrived to reinforce the 240<sup>th</sup>. The next day, Headquarters and Headquarters & Service Company, Company B, and Company C of the 201<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion were all summoned to Sturgis to relieve the 240<sup>th</sup>.<sup>22</sup>

On Monday, 10 September, seven of the nine black students returned to Sturgis to attend school.<sup>23</sup> The *Courier-Journal* reported that “hundreds” of extra troops had been ordered in for the expected “showdown.”<sup>24</sup> General Williams, however, defused the situation by ordering the Guardsmen to pick the students up at 7:30 a.m., an hour before classes began. By the time the expectant crowd formed, the students in question were watching from inside the school building.

Only 50 of 310 white high school students attended school that day. Though integration of the black students was the main cause of low attendance, many parents kept their children home because of the presence of the National Guard. Several

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<sup>20</sup> John D. Morris, “Clay Crowd of 100 Bars 2 Negroes From School,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 11 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 14, cols. 1-2.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Biennial Report of The Adjutant General, 1 July 1955 to 30 June 1957 (Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, n.d.), 46-48.

<sup>23</sup> Harry Bosler, “7 Negroes Attend Class At Sturgis,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 11 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 1, col. 5.

<sup>24</sup> Ronald Butler, “More Units Of Guard Sent To Sturgis,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 9 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 10, col. 8.

parents said they would not allow their children to attend school as long as men were standing guard with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets.<sup>25</sup>

On Wednesday, 12 September, National Guardsmen opened the school to the Gordon children at Clay. Troops bivouacked behind the school on the football field. On 13 September, boycotting of the Clay school spread as nearly 600 students stayed home to protest integration. Ten of seventeen teachers failed to report to work and two resigned. One of those who resigned, Minvil L. Clark, who was also pastor of the General Baptist Church, said he opposed integration on the grounds that it led to intermarriage.<sup>26</sup> “We’d soon be a mongrel race,” he said.<sup>27</sup>

State police cars escorted Mrs. Gordon to the school. General Williams took her two children by the hand and led them onto the school ground an hour and a half before classes began. He told one of the state troopers, “Let them go in the front door when it opens, just like white schoolchildren.”<sup>28</sup>

On 15 September, Chandler conferred with Attorney General Jo M. Ferguson,<sup>29</sup> Superintendent of Public Instruction Robert R. Martin, and Executive Secretary Harry G. David about withdrawing the troops from Clay. They decided to wait until Monday and see what happened when the school re-opened. The Governor told the press that he would keep Guardsmen at Clay and Sturgis as long as it was necessary to maintain law and order.<sup>30</sup> Meanwhile, the 241<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion was summoned to active duty.

One administration official said troops would remain at Clay and Sturgis indefinitely, because even if the black students didn’t show up, newspapermen would, and Clay citizens had been just as hostile to them. Whether the controversy centered on students or reporters, the Guard would remain to prevent disorder of any kind.<sup>31</sup>

On 15 September, W. W. Waller suggested in a meeting at the American Legion Hall that there be a white boycott of the Sturgis School. Waller said that boycotting the school as Clay had done was the only way to “back up” what he termed the “original opposition” of Sturgis to integration. Though some students had stayed away since the first day of the disturbances, Waller’s speech marked the beginning of a trend which culminated on 18 September, when only 253 of 1,120 students attending classes.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Harry Bosler, “7 Negroes Attend Class At Sturgis,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 11 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 1, col. 5.

<sup>26</sup> Reverend Minvil L. Clark, 1910-1980.

<sup>27</sup> “Some Teachers Join In Boycott At Clay School,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 14 September 1956, sec. 2, p. 1, cols. 6-7.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> Jo M. Ferguson served as Kentucky’s Attorney General 1956-1960.

<sup>30</sup> Paul R. Jordan, “Chandler, Aides Confer On Pulling Out Guard,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 16 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 1, cols. 3-4.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> Harry Bolser, “School Board Bars Negroes At Sturgis,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 19 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 1, cols. 7-8.

No violence had erupted since September 6 as the black children attended school under guard. By 18 September, only 30 troops, augmented by eight state policemen, were actively on duty at Sturgis.<sup>33</sup>

Late on the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup>, however, the Union and Webster County Boards of Education rekindled the controversy by voting to officially bar black students from their schools. This came on the strength of an opinion by Attorney General Jo M. Ferguson. Ferguson ruled that the Negro students were enrolled illegally, since neither Webster nor the Union County school boards had implemented an integration program. Ferguson added that although Mrs. Gordon had enrolled her children at Clay prematurely, she could probably prove in court that the Webster County Board of Education was not integrating with deliberate speed.<sup>34</sup>

On 19 September, black students attempting to enter Sturgis High School were stopped on the front steps by Principal H. Earl Evans. There, surrounded by students and reporters with tape recorders and cameras, Evans read a statement saying the students were illegally enrolled and could not attend classes. They left quietly as a crowd of 150 onlookers cheered. An immediate end to the boycott was observed.<sup>35</sup> Whereas only 253 students had attended school the day before, 702 of the school's 1,120 students returned to class, and the next day attendance was back to normal.

The help of a Louisville attorney, James Crumlin, was enlisted to help overturn the school boards' ruling.<sup>36</sup> Because of the promising length of seeking a permanent injunction, Governor Chandler ordered the withdrawal of all troops from Sturgis and Clay. The troops were withdrawn 22 September. Fear had won the first round in the fight for racial equality.



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<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Harry Bolser, "Crowd Cheers As Sturgis Bars Negroes," *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 19 September 1956, sec. 1, p. 1, col. 1.

<sup>36</sup> James A. Crumlin, Sr. 1914-2004. Appealed to the Kentucky Legislature to amend thye state law to admit African American doctors and nurses to state hospitals for training. In 1948 the bill was passed while he was president of the Louisville NAACP. Crumlin was also one of the lawyers for the plaintiff in the lawsuit to integrate the University of Kentucky.

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*Los Angeles* [CA] *Times*.  
*The Louisville* [KY] *Defender*.  
*Madisonville* [KY] *Messenger*.  
*The New York Times*.  
*The State Journal*, Frankfort, KY.  
*Sturgis* [KY] *News*.

*Union County Advocate*, Morganfield, KY.  
*The Washington [DC] Post and Times Herald*.

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## **Appendix A – Names of black students at Sturgis and Clay, Kentucky.**

### *Sturgis (Union County), Kentucky*

James Beasley (age 14)  
Shirley Beasley (age 16)  
Dudley Bishop  
Rodney Bishop  
Nathaniel Dixon  
Tommy Dixon  
Margaret Garnett  
Kenneth Greenwell  
Kenneth Hayden  
James Howard (age 13)

### *Clay (Webster County), Kentucky*

Bobby Carl Copeland (age 12)  
Samuel Lee Copeland (age 14)  
James Gordon (age 10)  
Teresa Gordon (age 8)

**Appendix B – KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD UNITS  
ACTIVED FOR STATE ACTIVE DUTY  
(05-23 September 1956)**

**240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion**

Company A – Owensboro	05-12 September 1956
Company B – Livermore	05-12 September 1956
Company C – Henderson	05-12 September 1956

**241<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion**

Hqs, Headquarters & Service Company – Barbourville	15-23 September 1956
Company A – London	15-23 September 1956
Company B – Somerset	15-23 September 1956
Company C – Williamsburg	15-23 September 1956

**243<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion**

Hqs, Headquarters & Service Company – Bowling Green	08-17 September 1956
Company A – Russellville	08-17 September 1956
Company B – Hopkinsville	08-17 September 1956
Company C – Madisonville	08-17 September 1956

**201<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion**

Hqs, Headquarters & Service Company – Owensboro	11-16 September 1956
Company B – Paducah	11-16 September 1956
Company C – Owensboro	11-16 September 1956

149 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Float Bridge) – Paducah	11-16 September 1956
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## **Appendix C – KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AT STURGIS AND CLAY, KENTUCKY**

Following the events at Sturgis and Clay the Kentucky National Guard recognized the service of the soldiers involved. A total of eight Kentucky Distinguished Service Medals (KyDSM); five Kentucky Medal for Merit (KyMM); and 153 Kentucky Commendation Ribbons with “V” device for valor (KyCR w/“V”) were issued to members of the Kentucky Army National Guard.

### **Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal**

LTC Robert L. Bell – Hqs, 149<sup>th</sup> Armor Group  
MAJ Lester L. Rownd, Hqs, 149<sup>th</sup> Armor Group  
MAJ William E. Hall – Hqs, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion  
MAJ Gerald F. Price – Hqs, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion  
CPT Ted N. Yeiser – Hqs, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion  
CPT Robert M. Fiorella – Co. A, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion  
1LT James R. Hoover – Co. B, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion  
CPT Thomas E. Lett, Jr. – Co. C, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion

### **Kentucky Medal for Merit**

LTC Clarence O. Burch – Hqs, 241<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion  
MAJ Luther M. Greer – Hqs, 243<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion  
MAJ William H. Hightower – Hqs, 243<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion  
MAJ John R. Somerville, Jr. – Hqs, 201<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion (C) (A)  
1LT Herman M. Kessler, Jr. – Hqs, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion

### **Kentucky Commendation Ribbon with “V” Device**

#### **Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Company, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion:**

CPT Paul R. M. Miller	MSG Lawrence W. Shireman
1LT Horace H. Catinna, IV	MSG Leonard H. Shouse
1LT James S. Duncan	MSG Edward F. Stevens
1LT Billy M. Hedges	SFC James F. Brenzel
1LT Roger W. Montgomery	SFC Samuel B. Kelley
1LT Frank L. Savage	SFC William C. Merzweiler
2LT Jon A. Dean	SFC Francis E. Metzmeier
2LT John A. Keefe	SFC Ronald D. Todd
2LT Robert M. Shreve	SFC Rudolph P. Vester
WO1 Glen S. Rhoades	SGT Robert P. Baumgarten
MSG Walter N. Fletcher, Jr.	SGT Berlin F. Cook
MSG Jack L. Herman	SGT Ted L. Dean

SGT Clifford L. Dunaway  
SGT George W. Haffler  
SGT George D. Lawson  
SGT Russell T. Lawson  
SGT Joseph L. Miller  
SGT James T. Paxton, Jr.  
SGT James E. Robinson  
CPL David F. Totten  
CPL Bruce A. Willis  
CPL Theodore M. Zeitz, Jr.  
SP2 Walter E. Alpiger  
SP2 Bobby J. Bowers  
SP2 Eugene P. Coates  
SP2 Charles R. Ernst  
SP2 Fred R. Fisher  
SP2 Harold S. Melone  
SP2 Joseph S. Ramsey  
SP2 Morris D. Skiles  
SP2 John K. Tully  
SP2 Robert F. Veech, Jr.  
SP3 Thomas J. Bernardy  
SP3 James T. Carfield  
SP3 Thomas Haffler  
SP3 James P. Gilmore

SP3 James E. Davis  
SP3 James D. Large  
SP3 Alvin R. McLane  
SP3 Alvir R. Meador, Jr.  
SP3 Edwin L. Rafferty  
SP3 Harold D. Ramsey  
SP3 Kenneth R. Routon  
SP3 John C. Schagene  
SP3 Walter L. Scott  
SP3 Fred Sower, Jr.  
SP3 Charles T. Stasel  
SP3 Harold L. Risinger  
SP3 David E. Taylor  
SP3 Delmar L. Tidwell  
SP3 Ronnie L. Veech  
SP3 Norman F. Zable  
PFC Julius L. Carfield  
PFC William M. Ellis  
PFC James L. Greene  
PFC Kenneth G. Holbrook  
PFC Marvin J. Kyser  
PFC Richard D. McLane  
PFC Henry C. William, Jr.

**Company A, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion:**

2LT William B. Bickwermert  
2LT Douglas L. Gipe  
2LT Wayland J. Nalley  
MSG Wilbur L. Gibson  
SFC William L. Elliott  
SFC James R. Griffin  
SFC Paul F. Hodskins  
SFC Carl J. Martin  
SGT James Allen  
SGT William E. Aud  
SGT Joseph M. Howard  
SGT Gilbert O. Moore  
SGT Thomas C. Morton  
SGT Herbert D. Patterson  
SGT James B. Payne  
SGT Willie W. Wells, Jr.  
CPL James W. Peveler  
CPL Lee J. Poston  
SP2 Max G. Cambron  
SP2 Donald F. Chapman

SP2 Onie L. Eagan  
SP2 Joseph F. Green  
SP2 Leon W. Hamilton  
SP2 Miles H. Simmons  
SP2 Charles E. Taylor  
SP2 Wayne R. Woodward  
PV1 Joseph H. Christian  
PV2 Charles D. Simmons  
PV2 Teddy Huff  
PFC Robert L. Wethington  
SP3 William N. Able  
SP3 Larry G. Bidwell  
SP3 Robert W. Bowlds, Jr.  
SP3 Terrel B. Cornelius  
SP3 Joseph D. Crisp  
SP3 Carroll C. Ferguson  
SP3 Charles F. Graham  
SP3 William C. Greenlee  
SP3 Carl L. Hults  
SP3 Gerald R. Mullen

SP3 Freddie J. Newton  
SP3 Billy J. Smith  
SP3 Thomas E. Sparks  
SP3 John W. Tipmore, III  
SP3 Hershel B. Whitaker  
SP2 John O. Williams  
SP3 Louis H. Woodall  
PFC Douglas R. Bean  
PFC Ronald L. Bidwell  
PFC Joseph C. Burns, Jr.  
PFC Gerald L. Clark

PFC Gary L. Ford  
PFC Raymond L. Hines  
PFC Drye H. Holden  
PFC Jackie H. Leibfried  
PFC Carroll Nave  
PFC Patrick I. O'Flynn  
PFC William M. O'Flynn  
PFC Donald R. Owen  
PFC Donald J. Thompson  
PFC Milton L. Weikel  
PFC David M. Wells

**Company B, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion:**

1LT Ellis A. Price  
2LT Albert G. Humphrey  
2LT James E. Searcy  
2LT Ernest G. Sutherlin  
CW2 Lester D. Willis  
MSG Raymond M. Frizzell  
MSG Gilbert E. Girvin  
MSG James C. Hamilton  
SFC Samuel F. Durham  
SFC Bobbie W. Ford  
SFC Wesley M. Frizzell  
SFC Paschall L. Owen  
SFC James F. Vertrees  
SGT Vernon L. Frashure  
SGT Junior W. Slinker  
SP2 Vernon L. Austin  
SP2 Arthur V. Bates  
SP2 Roy F. Bell  
SP2 Ray F. Frashure  
SP2 Darrell Kassinger  
SP2 Orval C. Owen  
SP2 Winfield R. Prindle  
SP2 John P. Puckett  
SP2 Benjamin F. Quigg, IV  
SP2 Charles R. Rule  
SP2 Gary Sartain  
SP2 Winford S. Shockiee  
SP2 Jerry M. Shultz  
SP2 Little J. St. Clair  
SP2 Otis C. St. Clair

SP2 Harold R. Stewart  
SP2 Edward M. Trunnell  
SP2 Jerry D. Wigginton  
SP3 Franklin F. Beller  
SP3 Robert B. Carman  
SP3 Donald B. Ford  
SP3 Billy R. Frizzell  
SP3 Fred E. Girvin  
SP3 Medley Hoover  
SP3 Hubert G. Humphrey  
SP3 Jerry W. Jenkins  
SP3 Julian L. Johnson  
SP3 William B. Lacefield  
SP3 Billy R. McDowell  
SP3 Eddie R. Whitaker  
SP3 Robert E. West  
SP3 Carl W. Colburn  
PFC Rondle L. Evans  
PFC Elbert R. Frashure  
PFC Ralph E. Loyd  
PFC Edgar W. St. Clair  
PFC Billy R. Taylor  
PFC Jerry G. Willoughby  
PFC James V. Woodburn  
PV2 Carl E. Ashton  
PV2 James D. Kinney  
PV2 Donnie C. Layton  
PV2 Bobby J. Rager  
PV2 Tommie L. St. Clair  
PV2 Roy E. Taylor

**Company C, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion:**

MSG Henry Z. Bantly

MSG Buel D. McGuffey

MSG Noah G. Murphy  
SFC Robert C. Dalton  
SFC James D. Jones  
SFC Leo Oglesby  
SFC John A. Thompson, Jr.  
SFC James H. Walker  
SGT Carroll Lockridge  
SGT Albert R. Schwallier  
SP2 Larry J. Johnston  
SP2 William L. Locke, Jr.  
SP2 Martin F. Pike  
SP2 Tommy D. Powell  
SP2 James H. Rutledge  
SP2 Arnold R. Young  
SP2 Billy G. Young  
SP3 Robert J. Christian  
SP3 Terry C. Clement  
SP3 Herbert L. Farmer, Jr.  
SP3 George E. Goodson  
SP3 Lilburn K. Knight  
SP3 Thomas Long, Jr.  
SP3 David S. Pike  
SP3 William E. Pirtle  
SP3 Elvin D. Pruitt  
SP3 Woodrow Ransom, Jr.

SP3 Charles H. Roberts  
SP3 Robert L. Rowley  
SP3 Earnest Walker, Jr.  
PFC Roy Adams, Jr.  
PFC Hoyt L. Ball  
PFC Hubert L. Hawkins  
PFC Alvie E. Lord  
PFC Jackie A. Nunn  
PFC J. B. Oglesby  
PFC Henry F. Ransom  
PFC Charles A. Shelton  
PFC Donald G. Walker  
PFC Carroll W. Weldon  
PFC Richard C. Williams  
PV2 Walter T. Barron  
PV2 Bobbie W. Caton  
PV2 Curtis R. Hawkins  
PV2 Eugene M. Littlepage  
PV2 Forrest J. Meuth  
PV2 Robert N. Simpkins  
PV2 Paul S. Thrasher  
PV2 Robert E. Townsend  
PV1 Leven E. Dunn  
PV1 Noble H. Jones  
PV1 Jackie E. Williams

**Medical Detachment, 240<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion:**

2LT Townsel E. L. Adams  
SP2 Floyd T. Curd  
SP3 Eric S. Forrister  
PFC George T. Oeswein  
PFC Davey L. Philpott  
PV2 Gary G. Grawmeier  
PV2 Neil N. Claycomb  
PV2 Kenneth L. Shelton

# Appendix D - GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

## Proclamation

by

Ernie Fletcher  
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

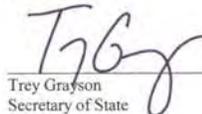
- WHEREAS, In 1954, the United States Supreme Court, by mandate, prohibited the racial segregation of students in our nation's public schools; and
- WHEREAS, When local authorities attempted to comply with the mandated integration of the public schools, civil disturbances arose in the communities of Sturgis and Clay; and
- WHEREAS, At the beginning of the school year in 1956, nine black students were barred from attending Sturgis High School in Union County and four black students were barred from attending school in Webster County; and
- WHEREAS, On September 5, 1956, Governor A. B. "Happy" Chandler ordered the Kentucky National Guard and State Police to these communities; and
- WHEREAS, These Guardsmen and Troopers were on duty in Sturgis and Clay from September 5-22, 1956 and restored and maintained law and order, by removing the peril to life and property and by guaranteeing the right of all pupils to attend public schools; and
- WHEREAS, September 22, 2006 marks the 50th Anniversary of the removal of Kentucky National Guard and State Police personnel from Sturgis and Clay, and the peaceful resolution for a planned desegregation of the schools in 1957;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERNIE FLETCHER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2006, as

### THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STURGIS AND CLAY INTEGRATION EMERGENCY DAY

in Kentucky, and urge all citizens of the Commonwealth to make special recognition of this anniversary and to reflect upon the strides made in the Commonwealth to end segregation and discrimination, to ensure that all citizens have an equal chance by prohibiting discrimination against any citizen on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, age or handicap. We can be proud of the progress we have made in securing the civil rights and equal opportunities for all Kentuckians.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Six and in the 215<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

  
ERNIE FLETCHER  
GOVERNOR

  
Trey Grayson  
Secretary of State



