STURGIS AND CLAY:
Showdown for Desegregation in Kentucky Education
CONTENTS

List of Illustrations 3

Introduction 4

Governor Chandler’s Executive Order 6
Activating the Kentucky Guard for Sturgis and Clay

Sturgis and Clay: Showdown for Desegregation in Kentucky Education 7

Bibliography 15

Appendixes

A – Names of black students at Sturgis and Clay, Kentucky. 17

B – Kentucky National Guard Units Activated for State Active Duty (05-23 September 1956). 18

C – Kentucky National Guard Personnel Recognized for Their Participation at Sturgis and Clay, Kentucky. 19

D – Governor’s Proclamation 23
List of Illustrations

Kentucky National Guardsmen escort a student at Sturgis High School.  
(AP Wirephoto) This photograph appeared in various newspapers on 8 September 1956.  

Brown v. Board of Education.  
(Americans.net – Historical Documents)  

Albert B. “Happy” Chandler, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.  
(A. B. “Happy” Chandler Foundation, Lexington, KY)  

Kentucky National Guardsmen escorting students at Sturgis High School.  
(Corpus Christie [TX] Caller-Times, 16 January 2006)  

M47 Tank stands guard in front of Sturgis High School.  
(AP Wirephoto) Photograph appeared in various newspapers on 8 September 1956.  

Kentucky State Trooper takes individual into custody that had started  
a fight in front of Sturgis High School.  
(AP Wirephoto) Photograph appeared in numerous newspapers across the nation  
on 7 September 1956.  

Crowd control at Sturgis.  

Crowd control at Sturgis.  

Political cartoon: Southland—U. S. A.  
This cartoon by political cartoonist Don Hesse appeared on various dates in newspaper  
across the nation.  

(Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, Military Records and Research Branch)  

Kentucky Guardsman asks Linda Spencer (age 6) if she wants to attend  
Clay School.  
(AP Wirephoto) Photograph appeared in newspapers on 15 September 1956.  

Back to Segregation: Black students listen to Principal H. Earl Evans  
reading county school board order barring them from Sturgis High School.  

Logos of the Kentucky National Guard and Kentucky State Police  
Back
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.¹

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.

¹ 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
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 240th 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.²

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 240th 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.³

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.⁴

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.5

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.6

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6 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.7

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.8

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.”9

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.”10 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].”11

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7 Ibid.  
8 Ibid.  
9 Ibid.  
11 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. 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.

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.” He accused Chandler of opposing the rights of city and county officials in not letting them decide how to handle things.

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.”

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.”

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14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
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.

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.”17 “Did you ever see a prettier movement of troops under darkness than that one last night?” he was reportedly overheard asking.18 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 outbreaks of violence.

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.19

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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17 Williams was General Patton’s artillery officer during World War II and chief of staff of the 11th 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.
19 “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, 240th 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.\textsuperscript{20} 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.”\textsuperscript{21}

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

On Monday, 10 September, seven of the nine black students returned to Sturgis to attend school.\textsuperscript{23} The \textit{Courier-Journal} reported that “hundreds” of extra troops had been ordered in for the expected “showdown.”\textsuperscript{24} 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

\textsuperscript{21} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{22} Biennial Report of The Adjutant General, 1 July 1955 to 30 June 1957 (Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, n.d.), 46-48.
parents said they would not allow their children to attend school as long as men were standing guard with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets.  

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. “We’d soon be a mongrel race,” he said.

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.”

On 15 September, Chandler conferred with Attorney General Jo M. Ferguson, 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. Meanwhile, the 241st 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.

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.

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28 Ibid.
29 Jo M. Ferguson served as Kentucky’s Attorney General 1956-1960.
31 Ibid.
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.33

Late on the afternoon of the 18th, 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.34

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.35 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.36 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.

33 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
36 James A. Crumlin, Sr. 1914-2004. Appealed to the Kentucky Legislature to amend theye 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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Books


Official Documents


Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, Military Records and Research Branch, various orders, documents, unit records, and after-action reports pertaining to activation of Kentucky National Guard Troops in support of operations at Sturgis and Clay, Kentucky, September 1956.

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), 163 U.S. 537.

Periodicals and Newspapers


The following newspapers were researched (1-30 September 1956) in preparation for this article:

The Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY.
Los Angeles [CA] Times.
The Louisville [KY] Defender.
The State Journal, Frankfort, KY.
Union County Advocate, Morganfield, KY.

Misc.

Film, Living the Story: A Documentary of the Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky (Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 2001).
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 ACTIVATED FOR STATE ACTIVE DUTY (05-23 September 1956)

#### 240th Tank Battalion
- Company A – Owensboro 05-12 September 1956
- Company B – Livermore 05-12 September 1956
- Company C – Henderson 05-12 September 1956

#### 241st Tank Battalion
- Hq, 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

#### 243rd Tank Battalion
- Hq, 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

#### 201st Engineer Battalion
- Hq, Headquarters & Service Company – Owensboro 11-16 September 1956
- Company B – Paducah 11-16 September 1956
- Company C – Owensboro 11-16 September 1956
- 149th Engineer Company (Float Bridge) – Paducah 11-16 September 1956
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, 149th Armor Group
MAJ Lester L. Rownd, Hqs, 149th Armor Group
MAJ William E. Hall – Hqs, 240th Tank Battalion
MAJ Gerald F. Price – Hqs, 240th Tank Battalion
CPT Ted N. Yeiser – Hqs, 240th Tank Battalion
CPT Robert M. Fiorella – Co. A, 240th Tank Battalion
1LT James R. Hoover – Co. B, 240th Tank Battalion
CPT Thomas E. Lett, Jr. – Co. C, 240th Tank Battalion

**Kentucky Medal for Merit**

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

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

*Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Company, 240th Tank Battalion:*

CPT Paul R. M. Miller
1LT Horace H. Catina, IV
1LT James S. Duncan
1LT Billy M. Hedges
1LT Roger W. Montgomery
1LT Frank L. Savage
2LT Jon A. Dean
2LT John A. Keefe
2LT Robert M. Shreve
WO1 Glen S. Rhoades
MSG Walter N. Fletcher, Jr.
MSG Jack L. Herman

MSG Lawrence W. Shireman
MSG Leonard H. Shouse
MSG Edward F. Stevens
SFC James F. Brenzel
SFC Samuel B. Kelley
SFC William C. Merzweiler
SFC Francis E. Metzmeier
SFC Ronald D. Todd
SFC Rudolph P. Vester
SGT Robert P. Baumgarten
SGT Berlin F. Cook
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 Alvin 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
SPC Julius L. Carfield
SPC William M. Ellis
SPC James L. Greene
SPC Kenneth G. Holbrook
SPC Marvin J. Kyser
SPC Richard D. McLane
SPC Henry C. William, Jr.

Company A, 240th 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
PFC William N. Able
PFC Larry G. Bidwell
PFC Robert W. Bowlds, Jr.
PFC Terrel B. Cornelius
PFC Joseph D. Crisp
PFC Carroll C. Ferguson
PFC Charles F. Graham
PFC William C. Greenlee
PFC Carl L. Hults
PFC Gerald R. Mullen
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<td>Joseph C. Burns, Jr.</td>
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<td>Milton L. Weikel</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>Gerald L. Clark</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>David M. Wells</td>
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**Company B, 240th Tank Battalion:**

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**Company C, 240th Tank Battalion:**

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**Medical Detachment, 240th 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 Guardmen 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 15th day of September, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Six and in the 215th year of the Commonwealth.

Ernie Fletcher
GOVERNOR

Treby Gibson
Secretary of State