

BMA LIVE

~~Barbara~~
Josh Gottheimer
0903196

urgent

f a c s i m i l e

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Pages: 2
Date/Time: 11/18/98 2:32:26 PM
Subject: John Hope Franklin's 84th Birthday Celebration

Good afternoon Capricia,

I hope you are well. Please submit this request to President Clinton ASAP.

thanks,
paula

To Nancy H. -
Not sure
Paula Williams is
for your consideration
e -

BMA LIVE
CABLE CHANNEL 18
1419 M BRIAR CREEK ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28205

(704) 568-0480

Capricia Penavic Marshall
Social Secretary, Deputy Assistant to the President
Co President William Jefferson Clinton

Re: John Hope Franklin's 84th birthday celebration

Dear Mr. President:

I hope all is well. The Black Media Association is sponsoring a birthday celebration for renowned historian John Hope Franklin, Ph.D. on January 7, 1999. This unprecedented event will take place at the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center hosted by Maya Angelou, Ph.D. Dr. Franklin submitted a wish list of friends and performers that he would like to participate in his 84th birthday celebration. In addition, of course, you are on his list.

We need you to appear in Charlotte on January 7, 1999 to deliver warm wishes at Dr. Franklin's request. Bill Cosby, Sidney Poitier, Gregory Hines, Phylicia Rashad, classical pianist Awadagin Pratt, Debbie Allen, and Oprah Winfrey are also on the wish list.

President Clinton, in order to ensure that Dr. Franklin's 84th birthday celebration is one to remember we need you to be here in Charlotte on January 7, 1999. Please have Capricia telephone me at (704) 568-0480 with your response. I await your call.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Williams

Producer

*Too See -
Stephanie
We should
probably do a
video
Not*

[Text Version]



One America

Initiative Announcement

The President's Initiative on Race

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN DIEGO COMMENCEMENT

Rimac Field
University of California at San Diego
San Diego, California

10:47 A.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the first thing I would like to say is that Coleen spoke so well -- (laughter) -- and she said everything I meant to say -- (laughter) that I could do us all a great favor by simply associating myself with her remarks and sitting down. (Applause.)

I would also like to thank Dr. Anagnostopoulos for reminding us of the infamous capacity of faculty members to be contrary with one another. (Laughter.) Until he said it, I hadn't realized that probably 90 percent of the Congress once were on university faculties. (Laughter.)

Let me say to Chancellor Dynes and President Atkinson, to the distinguished regents and faculty members, to the students and their families and friends who are here today, I'm honored to be joined by a number of people who reflect the kind of America that Coleen Sabatini called for: Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Dan Akaka from Hawaii; your Congressman, Bob Filner; Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; Congresswoman Patsy Mink; Congressman Jim Clyburn; Congressman John Lewis, a great hero of the civil rights movement; Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald; Congressman Carlos Romero-Barcelo from Puerto Rico; your Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis; the Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater; of Labor, Alexis Herman; of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown; of Education, Dick Riley; our distinguished Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson; our distinguished Administrator of the Small Business Administration, Aida Alvarez, the first American of Puerto Rican descent ever to be in a Presidential Cabinet.

I would like to ask them all to stand along with the members of the White House staff who are here, including Thurgood Marshall Jr. whose father has a college named for him at this great university. Would you please stand? (Applause.)

And I can't help but noting that there's another person here that deserves some special recognition -- the University of California at San Diego Class of 1977 -- a

Filipino-American woman that became the youngest Captain of the Navy and my personal physician, Dr. Connie Mariano. Where is she? (Applause.)

I want to thank you for offering our nation a shining example of excellence rooted in the many backgrounds that make up this great land. You have blazed new paths in science and technology, explored the new horizons of the Pacific Rim and Latin America. This is a great university for the 21st century.

Today we celebrate your achievements at a truly golden moment for America. The Cold War is over and freedom is now ascendant around the globe, with more than half of the people in this

old world living under governments of their own choosing for the very first time.

Our economy is the healthiest in a generation and the strongest in the world. Our culture, our science, our technology promise unimagined advances and exciting new careers. Our social problems, from crime to poverty, are finally bending to our efforts.

Of course, there are still challenges for you out there. Beyond our borders, we must battle terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the prospect of new diseases and environmental disaster.

Here at home, we must ensure that every child has the chance you have had to develop your God-given capacities. We cannot wait for them to get in trouble to notice them.

We must continue to fight the scourge of gangs and crime and drugs. We must prepare for the retirement of the baby boom generation so that we can reduce that child poverty rate that Coleen talked about. We must harness the forces of science and technology for the public good, the entire American public.

But I believe the greatest challenge we face, among all those that Coleen talked about, is also our greatest opportunity. Of all the questions of discrimination and prejudice that still exist in our society, the most perplexing one is the oldest, and in some ways today, the newest: the problem of race. Can we fulfill the promise of America by embracing all our citizens of all races, not just at a university where people have the benefit of enlightened teachers and the time to think and grow and get to know each other within the daily life of every American community. In short, can we become one America in the 21st century?

I know, and I've said before, that money cannot buy this goal, power cannot compel it, technology cannot create it. This is something that can come only from the human spirit -- the spirit we saw when the choir of many races sang as a gospel choir.

Today, the state of Hawaii, which has a Senator and a Congresswoman present here, has no majority racial or ethnic group. It is a wonderful place of exuberance and friendship and patriotism. Within the next three years, here in California no single race or ethnic group will make up a majority of the state's population. Already, five of our largest school districts draw students from over 100 different racial and ethnic groups. At this campus, 12 Nobel prize winners have taught or studied from nine different countries. A half-century from now, when your own grandchildren are in college, there will be no majority race in America.

Now, we know what we will look like, but what will we be like? Can we be one America respecting, even celebrating, our differences, but embracing even more what we have in common? Can we define what it means to be an American, not just in terms of the hyphen showing our ethnic origins but in terms of our primary allegiance to the values America stands for and values we really live by. Our hearts long to answer yes, but our history reminds us that it will be hard. The ideals that bind us together are as old as our nation, but so are the forces that pull us apart. Our founders sought to form a more perfect union; the humility and hope of that phrase is the story of America and it is our mission today.

Consider this: We were born with a Declaration of Independence which asserted that we were all created equal and a Constitution that enshrined slavery. We fought a bloody civil war to abolish slavery and preserve the union, but we remained a house divided and unequal by law for another century. We advanced across the continent in the name of freedom, yet in so doing we pushed Native Americans off their land, often crushing their culture and their livelihood. Our Statue of Liberty welcomes poor, tired, huddled masses of immigrants to our borders, but each new wave has felt the sting of discrimination.

In World War II, Japanese Americans fought valiantly for freedom in Europe, taking great casualties, while at home their families were herded into internment camps. The famed Tuskegee Airmen lost none of the bombers they guarded during the war, but their African American heritage cost them a lot of rights when they came back home in peace.

Though minorities have more opportunities than ever today, we still see evidence of bigotry -- from the desecration of houses of worship, whether they be churches, synagogues or mosques, to demeaning talk in corporate suites. There is still much work to be done by you, members of the class of 1997. But those who say we cannot transform the problem of prejudice into the promise of unity forget how far we have come, and I cannot believe they have ever seen a crowd like you. (Applause.)

When I look at you, it is almost impossible for me even to remember my own life. I grew up in the high drama of the Cold War, in the patriotic South. Black and white southerners alike wore our nation's uniform in defense of freedom against communism. They fought and died together, from Korea to Vietnam. But back home, I went to segregated schools, swam in segregated public pools, sat in all-white sections at the movies, and traveled through small towns in my state that still marked restrooms and water fountains "white" and "colored."

By the grace of God I had a grandfather with just a grade school education but the heart of a true American, who taught me that it was wrong. And by the grace of God, there were brave African Americans like Congressman John Lewis, who risked their lives time and time again to make it right. And there were white Americans like Congressman Bob Filner, a freedom rider on the bus with John Lewis, in the long, noble struggle for civil rights, who knew that it was a struggle to free white people, too.

To be sure, there is old, unfinished business between black and white Americans, but the classic American dilemma has now become many dilemmas of race and ethnicity. We see it in the tension between black and Hispanic customers and their Korean or Arab grocers; in a resurgent anti-Semitism even on some college campuses; in a hostility toward new immigrants from Asia to the Middle East to the former communist countries to Latin America and the Caribbean --even those whose hard work and strong families have brought them success in the American Way.

We see a disturbing tendency to wrongly attribute to entire groups, including the white majority, the objectionable conduct of a few members. If a black American commits a crime, condemn the act -- but remember that most African Americans are hard-working, law-abiding citizens. If a Latino gang member deals drugs, condemn the act -- but remember the vast majority of Hispanics are responsible citizens who also deplore the scourge of drugs in our life. If white teenagers beat a young African American boy almost to death just because of his race, for God's sakes condemn the act -- but remember the overwhelming majority of white people will find it just as hateful. If an Asian merchant discriminates against her customers of another minority group, call her on it -- but remember, too, that many, many Asians have borne the burden of prejudice and do not want anyone else to feel it.

Remember too, in spite of the persistence of prejudice, we are more integrated than ever. More of us share neighborhoods and work and school and social activities, religious life, even love and marriage across racial lines than ever before. More of us enjoy each other's

company and distinctive cultures than ever before. And more than ever, we understand the benefits of our racial, linguistic, and cultural diversity in a global society, where networks of commerce and communications draw us closer and bring rich rewards to those who truly understand life beyond their nation's borders.

With just a twentieth of the world's population, but a fifth of the world's income, we in America simply have to sell to the other 95 percent of the world's consumers just to maintain our standard of living. Because we are drawn from every culture on earth, we are uniquely positioned to do it. Beyond commerce, the diverse backgrounds and talents of our citizens can help America to light the globe, showing nations deeply divided by race, religion and tribe that there is a better way.

Finally, as you have shown us today, our diversity will enrich our lives in non-material ways -- deepening our understanding of human nature and human differences, making our communities more exciting, more enjoyable, more meaningful. That is why I have come here today to ask the American people to join me in a great national effort to perfect the promise of America for this new time as we seek to build our more perfect union.

Now, when there is more cause for hope than fear, when we are not driven to it by some emergency or social cataclysm, now is the time we should learn together, talk together and act together to build one America. (Applause.)

Let me say that I know that for many white Americans, this conversation may seem to exclude them or threaten them. That must not be so. I believe white Americans have just as much to gain as anybody else from being a part of this endeavor -- much to gain from an America where we finally take responsibility for all our children so that they, at last, can be judged as Martin Luther King hoped, "Not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." (Applause.)

What is it that we must do? For four and a half years now, I have worked to prepare America for the 21st century with a strategy of opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and an American community of all our citizens. To succeed in each of these areas, we must deal with the realities and the perceptions affecting all racial groups in America.

First, we must continue to expand opportunity. Full participation in our strong and growing economy is the best antidote to envy, despair and racism. We must press forward to move millions more from poverty and welfare to work; to bring the spark of enterprise to inner cities; to redouble our efforts to reach those rural communities prosperity has passed by. And most important of all, we simply must give our young people the finest education in the world.

There are no children who, because of their ethnic or racial background, who cannot meet the highest academic standards if we set them and measure our students against them, if we give them well-trained teachers and well-equipped classrooms, and if we continue to support reasoned reforms to achieve excellence, like the charter school movement. (Applause.)

At a time when college education means stability, a good job, a passport to the middle class, we must open the doors of college to all Americans and we must make at least two years of college as universal at the dawn of the next century as a high school diploma is today.

In our efforts to extend economic and educational opportunity to all our citizens, we must consider the role of affirmative action. I know affirmative action has not been perfect in America -- that's why two years ago we began an effort to fix the things that are wrong with it -- but when used in the right way, it has worked. (Applause.)

It has given us a whole generation of professionals in fields that used to be exclusive clubs -- where people like me got the benefit of 100 percent affirmative action. There are now

more women-owned businesses than ever before. There are more African American, Latino and Asian American lawyers and judges, scientists and engineers, accountants and executives than ever before.

But the best example of successful affirmative action is our military. Our armed forces are diverse from top to bottom -- perhaps the most integrated institution in our society and certainly the most integrated military in the world. And, more important, no one questions that they are the best in the world. So much for the argument that excellence and diversity do not go hand in hand. (Applause.)

There are those who argue that scores on standardized tests should be the sole measure of qualification for admissions to colleges and universities. But many would not apply the same standard to the children of alumni or those with athletic ability. (Applause.)

I believe a student body that reflects the excellence and the diversity of the people we will live and work with has independent educational value. Look around this crowd today. Don't you think you have learned a lot more than you would have if everybody sitting around you looked just like you? I think you have. (Applause.)

And beyond the educational value to you, it has a public interest because you will learn to live and work in the world you will live in better. When young people sit side by side with people of many different backgrounds, they do learn something that they can take out into the world. And they will be more effective citizens.

Many affirmative action students excel. They work hard, they achieve, they go out and serve the communities that need them for their expertise and role model. If you close the door on them, we will weaken our greatest universities and it will be more difficult to build the society we need in the 21st century. (Applause.)

Let me say, I know that the people of California voted to repeal affirmative action without any ill motive. The vast majority of them simply did it with a conviction that discrimination and isolation are no longer barriers to achievement. But consider the results. Minority enrollments in law school and other graduate programs are plummeting for the first time in decades. Assuming the same will likely happen in undergraduate education. We must not re-segregate higher education or leave it to the private universities to do the public's work. (Applause.)

At the very time when we need to do a better job of living and learning together, we should not stop trying to equalize economic opportunity. To those who oppose affirmative action, I ask you to come up with an alternative. I would embrace it if I could find a better way. And to those of us who still support it, I say we should continue to stand for it, we should reach out to those who disagree or are uncertain and talk about the practical impact of these issues, and we should never be thought unwilling to work with those who disagree with us to find new ways to lift people up and bring people together. (Applause.)

Beyond opportunity, we must demand responsibility from every American. Our strength as a society depends upon both -- upon people taking responsibility for themselves and their families, teaching their children good values, working hard and obeying the law, and giving back to those around us. The new economy offers fewer guarantees, more risks, and more rewards. It calls upon all of us to take even greater responsibility for our education than ever before.

In the current economic boom, only one racial or ethnic group in America has actually experienced a decline in income -- Hispanic Americans. One big reason is that Hispanic high school drop-out rates are well above -- indeed, far above -- those of whites and blacks. Some of the drop-outs actually reflect a strong commitment to work. We admire the legendary willingness to take the hard job at long hours for low pay. In the old economy, that was a responsible thing to do. But in the new economy, where education is the key,

responsibility means staying in school. (Applause.)

No responsibility is more fundamental than obeying the law. It is not racist to insist that every American do so. The fight against crime and drugs is a fight for the freedom of all our people, including those -- perhaps especially those -- minorities living in our poorest neighborhoods. But respect for the law must run both ways. The shocking difference in perceptions of the fairness of our criminal justice system grows out of the real experiences that too many minorities have had with law enforcement officers. Part of the answer is to have all our citizens respect the law, but the basic rule must be that the law must respect all our citizens. (Applause.)

And that applies, too, to the enforcement of our civil rights laws. For example, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has a huge backlog of cases with discrimination claims -- though we have reduced it by 25 percent over the last four years. We can do not much better without more resources. It is imperative that Congress -- especially those members who say they're for civil rights but against affirmative action -- at least give us the money necessary to enforce the law of the land and do it soon. (Applause.)

Our third imperative is perhaps the most difficult of all. We must build one American community based on respect for one another and our shared values. We must begin with a candid conversation on the state of race relations today and the implications of Americans of so many different races living and working together as we approach a new century. We must be honest with each other. We have talked at each other and about each other for a long time. It's high time we all began talking with each other.

Over the coming year I want to lead the American people in a great and unprecedented conversation about race. In community efforts from Lima, Ohio, to Billings, Montana, in remarkable experiments in cross-racial communications like the uniquely named ERACISM, I have seen what Americans can do if they let down their guards and reach out their hands.

I have asked one of America's greatest scholars, Dr. John Hope Franklin, to chair an advisory panel of seven distinguished Americans to help me in this endeavor. He will be joined by former Governors Thomas Kean of New Jersey and William Winter of Mississippi, both great champions of civil rights; by Linda Chavez-Thompson, the Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO; by Reverend Suzan Johnson Cook, a minister from the Bronx and former White House Fellow; by Angela Oh, an attorney and Los Angeles community leader; and Robert Thompson, the CEO of Nissan U.S.A. -- distinguished leaders, leaders in their community.

I want this panel to help educate Americans about the facts surrounding issues of race, to promote a dialogue in every community of the land to confront and work through these issues, to recruit and encourage leadership at all levels to help breach racial divides, and to find, develop and recommend how to implement concrete solutions to our problems -- solutions that will involve all of us in government, business, communities, and as individual citizens.

I will make periodic reports to the American people about our findings and what actions we all have to take to move America forward. This board will seek out and listen to Americans from all races and all walks of life. They are performing a great citizen service, but in the cause of building one America all citizens must serve.

As I said at the President's Summit on Service in Philadelphia, in our new era such acts of service are basic acts of citizenship. Government must play its role, but much of the work must be done by the American people as citizen service. The very effort will strengthen us and bring us closer together.

In short, I want America to capture the feel and the spirit that you have given to all of us

today. I'd like to ask the board to stand and be recognized. I want you to look at them, and I want you to feel free to talk to them over the next year or so. Dr. Franklin and members of the board. (Applause.)

Honest dialogue will not be easy at first. We'll all have to get past defensiveness and fear and political correctness and other barriers to honesty. Emotions may be rubbed raw, but we must begin.

What do I really hope we will achieve as a country? If we do nothing more than talk, it will be interesting but it won't be enough. If we do nothing more than propose disconnected acts of policy, it would be helpful, but it won't be enough.

But if ten years from now people can look back and see that this year of honest dialogue and concerted action helped to lift the heavy burden of race from our children's future, we will have given a precious gift to America.

I ask you all to remember just for a moment, as we have come through the difficult trial on the Oklahoma City bombing, remember that terrible day when we saw and wept for Americans and forgot for a moment that there were a lot of them from different races than we are.

Remember the many faces and races of the Americans who did not sleep and put their lives at risk to engage in the rescue, the helping and the healing. Remember how you have seen things like that in the natural disasters here in California. That is the face of the real America. That is the face I have seen over and over again. That is the America, somehow, some way we have to make real in daily American life. (Applause.)

Members of the graduating class, you will have a greater opportunity to live your dreams than any generation in our history, if we can make of our many different strands, one America -- a nation at peace with itself bound together by shared values and aspirations and opportunities and real respect for our differences.

I am a Scotch-Irish Southern Baptist, and I'm proud of it. But my life has been immeasurably enriched by the power of the Torah, the beauty of the Koran, the piercing wisdom of the religions of East and South Asia -- all embraced by my fellow Americans. I have felt indescribable joy and peace in black and Pentecostal churches. I have come to love the intensity and selflessness of my Hispanic fellow Americans toward la familia. As a Southerner, I grew up on country music and county fairs and I still like them. (Laughter.) But I have also reveled in the festivals and the food, the music and the art and the culture of Native Americans and Americans from every region in the world.

In each land I have visited as your President, I have felt more at home because some of their people have found a home in America. For two centuries, wave upon wave of immigrants have come to our shores to build a new life drawn by the promise of freedom and a fair chance. Whatever else they found, even bigotry and violence, most of them never gave up on America. Even African American, the first of whom we brought here in chains, never gave up on America.

It is up to you to prove that their abiding faith was well-placed. Living in islands of isolation -- some splendid and some sordid -- is not the American way. Basing our self-esteem on the ability to look down on others is not the American way. Being satisfied if we have what we want and heedless of others who don't even have what they need and deserve is not the American way. We have torn down the barriers in our laws. Now we must break down the barriers in our lives, our minds and our hearts.

More than 30 years ago, at the high tide of the civil rights movement, the Kerner Commission said we were becoming two Americas, one white, one black, separate and unequal. Today, we face a different choice: will we become not two, but many Americas,

separate, unequal and isolated? Or will we draw strength from all our people and our ancient faith in the quality of human dignity, to become the world's first truly multi-racial democracy. That is the unfinished work of our time, to lift the burden of race and redeem the promise of America.

Class of 1997, I grew up in the shadows of a divided America, but I have seen glimpses of one America. You have shown me one today. That is the America you must make. It begins with your dreams, so dream large, live your dreams, challenge your parents and teach your children well.

God bless you and good luck.

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John Hope Franklin

John Hope Franklin is the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History, and for seven years was Professor of Legal History in the Law School at Duke University. He is a native of Oklahoma and a graduate of Fisk University. He received the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Harvard University. He has taught at a number of institutions, including Fisk University, St. Augustine's College, North Carolina Central University, and Howard University. In 1956 he went to Brooklyn College as Chairman of the Department of History; and in 1964, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, serving as Chairman of the Department of History from 1967 to 1970. At Chicago, he was the John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor from 1969 to 1982, when he became Professor Emeritus.

Professor Franklin's numerous publications include *The Emancipation Proclamation*, *The Militant South*, *The Free Negro in North Carolina*, *Reconstruction After the Civil War*, and *A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Ante-bellum North*. Perhaps his best known book is *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, now in its seventh edition. His Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities for 1976 was published in 1985 and received the Clarence L. Holte Literary Prize for that year. In 1990, a collection of essays covering a teaching and writing career of fifty years, was published under the title, *Race and History: Selected Essays, 1938-1988*. In 1993, he published *The Color Line: Legacy for the Twenty-first Century*. Professor Franklin's most recent book, *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*, is an autobiography of his father that he edited with his son, John Whittington Franklin. His current research deals with "Dissidents on the Plantation: Runaway Slaves."

Professor Franklin has been active in numerous professional and education organizations. For many years he has served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Negro History*. He has also served as President of the following organizations: The American Studies Association (1967), the Southern Historical Association (1970), the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa (1973-76), the Organization of American Historians (1975), and the American Historical Association (1979). He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Fisk University, the Chicago Public Library, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

Professor Franklin has served on many national commissions and delegations, including the National Council on the Humanities, from which he resigned in 1979, when the President appointed him to the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. He has also served on the President's Advisory Commission on Ambassadorial Appointments. In September and October of 1980, he was a United States delegate to the 21st General Conference of UNESCO. Among many other foreign assignments, Dr. Franklin has served as Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at Cambridge University, Consultant on American Education in the Soviet Union, Fulbright Professor in Australia, and Lecturer in American History in the People's Republic of China. Currently, Professor Franklin serves as chairman of the advisory board for One America: The President's Initiative on Race.

Professor Franklin has been the recipient of many honors. In 1978, *Who's Who in America* selected Dr. Franklin as one of eight Americans who has made significant contributions to society. In the same year, he was elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He also received the Jefferson Medal for 1984, awarded by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. In 1989, he was the first recipient of the Cleanth Brooks Medal of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, and in 1990 received the Encyclopedia Britannica Gold Medal for the Dissemination of Knowledge. In 1993, Dr. Franklin received the Charles Frankel Prize for contributions to the humanities, and in 1994, the Cosmos Club Award and the Trumpet Award from Turner Broadcasting Corporation. In 1995, he received the first W.E.B. DuBois Award from the Fisk University Alumni Association, the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Alpha Phi Alpha Award of Merit, the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1996, Professor Franklin was elected to the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame and in 1997 he received the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. In addition to his many awards, Dr. Franklin has received honorary degrees from more than one hundred colleges and universities.

Professor Franklin has been extensively written about in various articles and books. Most recently he

was the subject of the film *First Person Singular: John Hope Franklin*. Produced by Lives and Legacies Films, the documentary was featured on PBS in June 1997.

[*John Hope Franklin Research Center* | *Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library* | Duke University]
November 1997

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/franklin/>

Curriculum Vitae: John Hope Franklin

DATE AND PLACE**OF BIRTH:** January 2, 1915; Rentiesville, Oklahoma.**EDUCATION:** A.B. Fisk University, 1935; M.A. Harvard, 1936; Ph.D., 1941.**TEACHING****CAREER:**

1936-37: Instructor in History, Fisk University.
 1939-43: Professor of History, St. Augustine's College.
 1943-47: Professor of History, North Carolina College.
 1947-56: Professor of History, Howard University.
 1956-64: Chairman, Department of History, Brooklyn College.
 1964-82: Professor of American History (Chairman, Department History, 1967-70; John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor, 1969-82; Emeritus, 1982-pres.), University of Chicago.
 1982-85: James B. Duke Professor of History, Duke University.
 1985-pres: James B. Duke Professor of History Emeritus.
 1985-92: Professor of Legal History, Duke University Law School.

VISITING**APPOINTMENTS:**

1962-63: Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, Cambridge University, England.
 Visiting Professor at Australian and New Zealand universities; Harvard University, University of Wisconsin, Cornell, University of California, Berkeley, and University of Hawaii.

PROFESSIONAL**MEMBERSHIPS:**

American Historical Association (Executive Council, 1959-1962 and 1970-73; President, 1979); Southern Historical Association (President, 1970-71); Organization of American Historians (President, 1974-75); Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History; American Academy of Arts and Sciences; American Studies Association (President, 1966-67); American Philosophical Society; Member of the Senate of Phi Beta Kappa (1967-82) and President of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa (1973-76); Massachusetts Historical Society; Illinois State Historical Society; North Carolina Literary and Historical Society; Fellowship of Southern Writers; American Scholar Editorial Board.

CIVIC**MEMBERSHIPS:**

Alzheimer's Association; American Philosophical Society; Cosmos Club; Duke Library Advisory Board; NC Museum of History Associates, Board of Directors; Society of American Historians; NC Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution Convention (1986-87); NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Twenty-first Century Commission on African-American Males (1991-92).

PUBLIC**OFFICES:**

Member, Board of Trustees, Fisk University, 1947-84 (Chairman 1966-73); Member of the Board of Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, 1968-80; Chicago Public Library, 1969-78; Illinois Bell Telephone Company, 1972-80; Orchestral Association of Chicago 1976-80; Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, 1976-82; National Humanities Center; National Council on the Humanities, 1976-78; Presidential Advisory Board on Ambassadorial Appointments, 1977-81; U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, 1978-81; Board of Foreign Scholarships (1962-1971).

**HONORS AND
AWARDS:**

Edward Austin Fellowship and Julius Rosenwald Fund Fellowship, Harvard University; post-doctoral research awards; Brown University President's Fund; Social Science Research Council; Guggenheim Memorial Foundation; Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences; Senior Mellon Fellow, National Humanities Center; Lincoln Lecturer for the Board of Foreign Scholarships (1973); Nora and Edward Ryerson Lecturer of the University of Chicago (1974); Wilma and Roswell Messing Jr. Award of Associates of St. Louis University Libraries for Contributions to Literature (1974); Jules Landry Award of Louisiana State University Press for Best Manuscript Submitted in History, Literature of Biography (1975); 1976 Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities (selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities); one of eight Americans cited by Who's Who in America in 1978 for Significant Contributions to Society; Oklahoma Hall of Fame (1978); Jefferson Medal Award of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (1984); Public Humanities Award, Illinois Humanities Council (1984); Oklahoma Afro-American Hall of Fame (1984); Clarence L. Holte Literary Prize (1985); Tulsa Hall of Fame (1986); UCLA Medal (1986); Schomburg Medal of New York Public Library (1986); John Hope Franklin Publication Prize, to be awarded annually by the American Studies Association (1986); John Hope Franklin Distinguished Lecture, inaugurated by Adelphi University (1987); Blackbook's Humanitarian Award (1987); Great Educators Award, Miller Brewing Co. (1988); Cleanth Brooks Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Southern Letters, Fellowship of Southern Writers (1989); Encyclopaedia Britannica Award (1990); Charles Frankel Prize for Contributions to the Humanities (1993); North Carolina Award in the Humanities (1993); APEX Distinguished Historian (1993); Bruce Catton Award, Society of American Historians (1994); Sydney Hook Award of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (1994); Trumpet Award from Turner Broadcasting Corporation (1994); Cosmos Club Award (1994); Kelly M. Alexander, Sr. Humanitarian Award (1994); W.E.B. Du Bois Award from Fisk University Alumni Association (1995); Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement (1995); Alpha Phi Alpha Award of Merit (1995); NAACP Spingarn Medal (1995); Presidential Medal of Freedom (1995); Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement (1995); Named Historian of the Century by Duke, NC State University, NC Central University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1996); Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame (1996); Booker T. Washington High School Hall of Fame (1997); Johnson C. Smith Circle of Honor Award (1997); Dr. Benjamin A. Quarles Memorial Lecturer, Morgan State College (1997); Helmerich Award (Dec. 1997).

**HONORARY
DEGREES:**

American University; Arizona State University; Atlanta University; Bard College; Bates College; Berea College; Boston College; Brandeis University; Brooklyn College; Brown University; Bryant College; Cambridge University; Carnegie-Mellon University; Catholic University of America; Columbia College; Columbia University; University of Connecticut; Dickinson College; Elizabeth State University; Elmira College; Emory University; Fisk University; Furman University; Georgetown University; George Washington University; Governors' State University; Grand Valley College; Hamline University; Harvard University; Hope College; Howard University; Illinois State University; University of Illinois, Chicago; Indiana State University; Indiana University; Johnson C. Smith University; Kalamazoo College; Lake Forest College; Lane College; Lincoln College; Lincoln Memorial University; Long

Island University; Loyola University; Manhattan College; Marquette University; University of Maryland; University of Massachusetts; University of Miami; Miami University; Michigan State University; University of Michigan; Morehouse College; Morgan State College; College of New Rochelle; Graduate Center of the City University of New York; University of the State of New York; State University of New York, Albany; State University of New York, Binghamton; North Carolina State University; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; University of North Carolina, Charlotte; University of North Carolina, Greensboro; University of North Carolina, Wilmington; North Carolina Central University; North Carolina Wesleyan College; Northern Michigan University; Northwestern University; University of Notre Dame; University of Oklahoma; Oregon State University; University of Pennsylvania; Princeton University; Queens College, Charlotte; Queen's College, New York; Rhode Island College; Ripon College; Roosevelt University; Rutgers University; St. Augustine's College; St. Olaf's College; University of San Francisco ; Shaw University; Seattle University; University of the South; Southern Methodist University; Suffolk University; Temple University; University of Toledo; Tougaloo College; Trinity College; Tufts University; Tulane University; University of Tulsa; Tuskegee University; Union College; University of Utah; Virginia State College; Wake Forest University; Washington College; Washington University; Washington and Lee University; Wayne State University; Whittier College; Wilkes College; Williams College; Wilmington College; Winston-Salem State University; Yale University.

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NPR

SHOW: WEEKEND SUNDAY (NPR 12:00 am ET)

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HEADLINE: John Hope Franklin

GUESTS: Dr. John Hope Franklin

BYLINE: Liane Hansen, Washington, DC

HIGHLIGHT:

Liane speaks with Dr. John Hope Franklin, historian and Jame B. Duke professor emeritus at Duke University about his work and his lifelong efforts to promote racial equality and understanding. Dr. Franklin was, this past week, appointed Chairman of President Clinton's Advisory Panel on Race.

BODY:

LIANE HANSEN, HOST: Joining us is the new chairman of the president's advisory board on race.

John Hope Franklin's landmark work, "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans," was published 50 years ago. The celebrated scholar has spent his life trying to promote mutual respect and understanding between blacks and whites.

A documentary about John Hope Franklin airs this week on the PBS program "First Person Singular." Professor Franklin, it's a pleasure to talk to you.

DR. JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, HISTORIAN AND JAMES B. DUKE PROFESSOR, DUKE UNIVERSITY: It's really great to be here, Liane.

HANSEN: This start with the news of the weekend, the advisory panel. It's to spark discussion around the country on the issue of race. What needs to start that conversation? How do we begin this conversation on race?

FRANKLIN: I think we begin this conversation on race by observing that, like the poor, it has always been with us, and that we have had to confront it, in one way or another, since 1619.

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Of course, since that time the question has broadened to involve others than African-Americans. But it began then, and I think that's where we begin.

HANSEN: As part of this initiative there'll be a series of town meetings around the country. What can be achieved in meetings like this?

FRANKLIN: Oh, I think that we can achieve a lot -- laying the problems out where people can see them, examine them, and maybe even analyze them. And in analysis you might even find that they are not nearly as intractable as they appear to be, that they can be solved -- or at least they can be ameliorated. And that might lead to some really effective and successful solution down the road.

If we can get people to talk about their own problems and the problems of their neighbors, and the problems of their enemies, and so forth, and this plan -- I think it might be a helpful thing.

It means, too, that if we have real opportunity in this country, if we have real equality, and if we believe in the individual fulfilling his own destiny, then I think we have to reexamine our whole system of the administration of justice. And when we see that there are more black young men in prison than there are in college,

there's something not wrong merely with black men who are in prison, there's wrong -- something wrong with our society that creates the climate in which that's possible.

HANSEN: Do you think it's possible to have any discussion about race without looking at the current immigration policy?

FRANKLIN: The problem of race in this country began without -- without there being an immigration policy. But you see, as we have had large numbers of people coming into the country from parts of the world other than Africa, as well as from Africa, they have become a part of a larger problem of race, since most of them are not white. And therefore they -- they become, in some instances, special objects of discussion and even action so that they become a part of the larger problem of race.

And as I was traveling through Oklahoma a few days ago, and my seat mate, fortunately, was a very distinguished Hispanic-American -- he regards himself as a person of color. He felt that there was a kinship among people of color because of the problems which they experience in one way or another, either as immigrants with discrimination against them, or as persons who have been in this country but who, for one reason or another -- as in the case of the Japanese -- had special attitudes developing towards them, or as in the case of Native Americans, who simply were not ever counted in as citizens, despite their early naturalization.

HANSEN: What do you think is needed for this new initiative by the President for it to succeed?

FRANKLIN: Well the first thing they need to have is the -- the modulation, if not the elimination, of the kind of cynicism that feels -- that insists that nothing good can happen. And I've heard that expressed already.

We need to look at this initiative as we do -- as we should to other

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initiatives, and say, well, let's see what -- what can come of it. Let's not -- let's not condemn it before it begins. Let's -- let's -- let's give it a chance. Let's -- let's -- let's be willing to -- to -- to concede that something needs to be done.

Maybe this is it, maybe it's not. But don't prejudge it before it comes into existence.

HANSEN: Our conversation with the new chairman of the president's advisory board on race, historian John Hope Franklin, will continue after this break.

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June 12, 1997, Thursday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 10A

LENGTH: 987 words

HEADLINE: Q & A;

'We are not just dealing with the remnants of slavery';
John Hope Franklin is the James B. Duke Professor of History Emeritus at;
Duke University. Now 82, Franklin has written many books, including;
"Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans," a definitive work on the
black experience. Tuesday at 8 p.m., WPBA--Channel 30 will air;
"First Person Singular: John Hope Franklin," an hourlong profile of;
Franklin's life narrated by Charles Kuralt.

BYLINE: Gary M. Pomerantz; STAFF WRITER

BODY:

This is an interview with John Hope Franklin is the James B. Duke Professor
of History Emeritus at Duke University.

Q: Are you optimistic about the future of race relations in this country?

A: Only moderately so. The climate now is so inhospitable to a favorable view
of race relations and to favorable actions on the race relations front. There
was a time in the '60s and probably the early part of the '70s when it ceased to
be respectable to be hostile to the climate of race relations. It ceased to be
respectable to be anti-black.

Q: Do you think the cross-racial idealism of the 1960s is gone?

A: It's gone. It's really gone. Here's an example: I doubt very seriously
that you would have had the kind of fight to redistrict the congressional seats
if that had come up in the '60s and '70s. We were all trying to earnestly do
something then.

But now we don't really care. We are letting whites say, 'Well, let the
blacks fend for themselves. We are not going to spend our time trying to improve
this thing. We have done enough. We've got this legislation, the Civil Rights
Act, and this, that and the other. That's enough.' Even some of the more liberal
(whites) say, 'Let's have affirmative action 10 more years and then cut it off.'
I don't know if 10 more years can overcome 300 years.

Q: Three hundred years of slavery?

A: Not just slavery. You see, my view is that it wasn't just slavery, it was
what underlay slavery. For example, the justifications for slavery were such
that they imbued this country, and poured on this country, some notion of black
inferiority, of black bestiality, of black laziness, of black inability to
reason, to use (Thomas) Jefferson's term, and of blacks 'smelling bad,' to use
Jefferson's term again. You can't wipe that out with emancipation.

The Atlanta Journal, June 12, 1997

So what happened is after emancipation you had these same (notions) hanging on. And they hang on into the 20th century. If you somehow could have connected those things with slavery, they might have ended. But they were connected with a group of people, as opposed to slavery, and so when they became so-called free, they still didn't smell good, they still were inferior, and they still couldn't, in the words of Jefferson, 'I have not yet found one of them who could solve the geometrical problems of Euclid.' How many of his Blue Ridge white neighbors could solve the problems of Euclid?

That's the man who wrote the Declaration of Independence. I refuse to believe, as some believe, that he was simply a man of his time. He went out of his way to nail these principles and make them so tenable and tenacious and that's what we are dealing with today. We are not just dealing with the remnants of slavery.

Q: On Saturday, President Clinton will announce his race initiative in a speech in San Diego. How much can we rightfully expect from a president, in terms of being able to turn around frayed race relations?

A: Well, I don't know. That's a toughie. But I'd say that it was, in part, turned around ---the other way ---by former presidents. Reagan was so clearly opposed to any kind of initiative in this area. He was even opposed to the rewriting of the voting rights bill, the modification of the civil rights bill. He was opposed to the enforcement of EEOC and he appointed people who were committed not to enforce it. Bush was opposed to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He cannot be whitewashed by saying he belonged to the United Negro College Fund. These people helped to create the kind of climate that we are talking about, and to undo what was done in the '60s and '70s.

Now, the office of the president, in spite of the way it's been maligned in recent years ---people don't separate the office from the person ---has enormous prestige, there is the bully pulpit still. And there is the initiative that the president can use through executive orders, and all that stuff, even without legislative action, to do something.

And then there is the healing process which could stand some ministering. I think (Clinton) can function in that area.

Q: Are you going to be a member of President Clinton's new race relations panel?

A: It is rumored that I am.

Q: Has the White House contacted you about it?

A: Yes, they have contacted me. But nothing is final.

Q: The disparate groups in America seem to be turning inward, away from the larger society. Whites and blacks alike. Do you see it this way or differently?

A: This is one of the most tragic trends that I can see, the inward trend. It is to be explained: the Ward Connerlys of this world, who are trying to run blacks out of the so-called historically white schools and the spurious argument that somehow affirmative action is unhealthy and un-American and preferential. (Connerly, a black University of California regent, headed the successful campaign in his state for the anti-affirmative action Proposition 209.)

The Atlanta Journal, June 12, 1997

It wasn't for 300 years! When I couldn't go to the University of Oklahoma when I graduated, and where my father was paying taxes, nobody said that white people who went to the University of Oklahoma were getting 'preferential treatment.'

These trends toward what might be called 'exclusiveness,' turning in among themselves and turning their backs on the larger community, they are the result of that sort of thing, the Ward Connerlys.

Q: Could Americans ever grasp the notion of a raceless society?

A: They ought to be able to grasp it. The state of Virginia has changed the definition of Negro three times this century. We are not talking about back in the 16th and 17th century. And three times!

From one-fourth to one-tenth to a mere trace, or something like that. . . . Any state in the nation that can shift ground like that ought to be able to come to grips with the notion that there is no such thing as race, if they can manipulate it as they do. It's utterly ridiculous.

GRAPHIC: John Hope Franklin.

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