

**National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People:  
Black History Presentation**

Richmond Branch, El Cerrito Branch, and East County Branch



# 2023 Theme: Black Resistance

To study the history of Black Americans' responses to establish safe space, where Black life can be sustained, fortified, and respected.

# RICHMOND

In 1944 the Richmond Branch of the NAACP was started by Cleophas Brown, Margaret Starks, Juanita Wheeler, William McKinney, and others in the Harbor Gate wartime housing projects. Born out of the fight to end segregated shipyard auxiliary unions the Richmond Branch would go on to fight alongside groups like the United Negroes of America to combat housing discrimination and poor conditions in wartime housing. In 1945 in an effort to fight poor housing the Richmond Branch drafted a resolution condemning the Richmond Housing Authority and supported a no-rent strike when the housing authority tried to unjustly evict thousands of Black tenants.



Boilermaker's Union Auxiliary A-36  
at 1600 Barrett Avenue



Richmond shipyard workers



Harbor Gate

# RICHMOND



**MOVING** Members of the White Gary family, pictured above, expect to complete moving into their newly purchased home in White, 12 Mrs. Gony, England, 18 months from now. Pictured above they are shown in their new home which was built in the year 1952.

1952 Richmond NAACP provides support to Gary family after whites in Rollingwood try to prevent him from moving into the neighborhood.



Man protesting outside of Lucky's, 1949

In 1947 the Richmond Branch led the fight against the “Negro Patrons Not Wanted” signs that were in shop windows along Macdonald Ave., San Pablo Ave, and Cutting Blvd. After pressuring the businesses via the local paper the signs came down.

In 1949 the Richmond Branch, along with the Richmond Council on Intergroup Relations authored and got city council to pass Richmond’s fair employment practice ordinance- Ordinance 1303.

**SUPPORT!** **ATTEND!**

**MONTGOMERY, ALA. BUS PROTEST**

**"A Day of Prayer"**

**All Faiths!** **All Races!**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1956**  
3:00 P.M.

**Oakland Auditorium Arena**  
126 and Folsom St. - Oakland, California

**HEAR:**  
**DR. J. W. HAYES**  
(ONE OF 26 MINISTERS ARRESTED)

**"Report from Montgomery, Alabama"**  
- MUSIC BY -  
**Mass Choirs - East Bay Churches**  
**PUBLIC INVITED - FREE!**

**SPONSORED BY:**  
International Ministerial Alliance and Baptist Minister's Union of East Bay Cities, Richmond and the Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland and Richmond Branches of the N. A. A. C. P.

1956 Richmond NAACP, along with other Bay Area Branches, support Montgomery Bus Boycott.

# PORT CHICAGO



**Sailors at Port Chicago**



**Sailors handling ammunition at Port Chicago**



**Article in famous Black newspaper, Chicago Defender**

July 1944, Black sailors who were trained for combat but instead used for labor were forced to work quickly by white officers, with little to no regard for their safety, loading ammunition onto warships. This resulted in a huge explosion killing 320 men, two-thirds of which were Black. Black survivors were ordered to clean up the wreckage and return loading ammunitions at Mare Island Ammunition Depot in Vallejo.

Several men refused and after a military trial the Port Chicago 50 were all convicted to 15-years in prison. It wasn't until after the war that the men were released and it wasn't until the 1990s when then Rep. George Miller led Congress to look into what really occurred.

# BAYSIDE KNOLLS

In the 1940s Black/ African American residents of Pittsburg were not able to purchase homes. After years of organizing- the Bayside Knolls homes were developed. Making it the first homes in the area where Black/ African Americans could purchase.

*'I ain't going nowhere'*



In Bayside Knolls, Herb White is surrounded by a PG&E plant and the Stewart Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and he says he wouldn't trade it for any other neighborhood in California. In the 1940s, White, then head of the local NAACP, helped organize blacks to buy their own property when whites wouldn't sell to them.

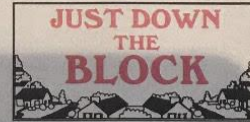
Staff photo/  
Curtis Corlew

## *Bayside Knolls: It's 'heaven' in Pittsburg*

By Ken Maryanski  
Staff Writer

PITTSBURG — Henry Milburn calls himself “a newcomer” to his Bayside Knolls neighborhood. He’s lived there only 24 years.

Ask Milburn and his neighbors how the quiet enclave of homes east of the PG&E plant has changed over the years, and most



In the 1940s, a group of black people in East County had a dream — the American Dream. They wanted to buy new homes, but the unwritten rule said they couldn't.

So they took matters into their own hands. And after years of struggle, they got Bayside Knolls — the first homes built here for blacks — said White and others.

“Our dreams finally came true. We were in heaven,” said White, the city's first black

Herb White: NAACP Leader & 1st Black Mayor of Pittsburg

# EL CERRITO

Event Chairperson, Patricia Durham said "this peaceful protest began in 1989 on the back streets of El Cerrito because of the City's refusal to acknowledge King's birthday as a federal holiday. Members of St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME) (the city's only African-American church), and the El Cerrito Branch of the NAACP, in true Dr. King style, took to the streets. The City eventually came around and acknowledged the peaceful and powerful works of Dr. King."

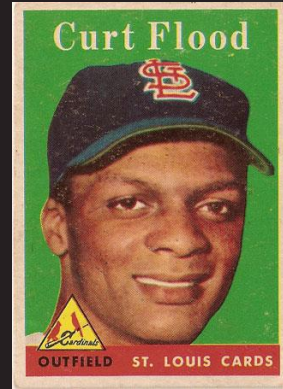
"El Cerrito's birthday celebration of MLK is one of the longest-standing parade and rally in the Bay Area," she added.



- In 1989 the City of El Cerrito refused to recognize MLK Day, which was first celebrated as a federal holiday in 1986. In response, the El Cerrito Branch of the NAACP, along with St. Peter CME church, organized a peaceful protest. This protest led to the city officially recognizing Dr. King's birthday as a federal holiday and to one of oldest MLK Day parade and rally.

# Alamo

In the 1964 when Oakland Native and MLB legend, Curt Flood, decided to move his family into a home in Alamo they were met with armed resistance by the white property owner. Flood, having already paid for the home, sued the property owner for the right to move in, was granted a temporary injunction, and was able to move in with armed guards by his family's side.

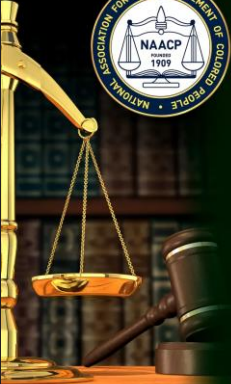
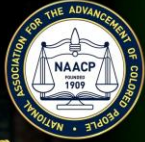


MARTINEZ, Calif., Nov. 9 (AP)—Curt Flood, center fielder for the St. Louis Cardinals, dropped his injunction suit today against persons who threatened to keep him out of his rented home in the East San Francisco Bay suburb of Alamo. The 26-year-old Negro athlete signed a lease for the \$35,000 house. A real estate agent threatened to prevent Mr. Flood from moving in when he found that Mr. Flood was a Negro. The athlete, his wife and their four children moved in Oct. 27 with the sheriff's protection.





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Information  
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NAACP RICHMOND BRANCH PRESENTS



**COVID Conversations**

AN ENGAGING WEBSERIES  
EXPLORING TOPICS RELATED TO  
THE PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT  
ON OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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**THANK YOU!**