

Celebrating Roxbury: Today and In Historical Memory

“Is it the Roxbury puddingstone; the natural cement-looking rock feature in the area? Could it be the central location in the city of Boston? There is such a diversity of people, architecture and opportunity. Roxbury is a magnet and challenges all who pass through its boundaries [to realize] that there is more we can do in the community and the country for understanding the human experience.”

Artist Anthony W. Lanier



Anthony W. Lanier has been taking photographs in Roxbury for over 20 years. Most of his images are for reference in his drawings. In 2000, Lanier exhibited a series of graphite drawings of people waiting for the bus in the Dudley MBTA bus terminal. A Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant was awarded for the work in 2002. In 2007 the Boston Public Library purchased fifteen of his original graphite drawings for their permanent collection.

This exhibit is the first display of some of the historic images from the past two decades taken by the artist. The Commonwealth Museum is pleased to feature these photos in an exhibit that celebrates one of the oldest communities in Massachusetts and highlights its history, diversity, and vitality.



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William Francis Galvin, *Secretary of the Commonwealth*

The First Church in Roxbury



ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

The First Church was founded by English Puritans in 1632 and several meetinghouses have occupied the site. The 200th anniversary of the present church building was celebrated in 2004.



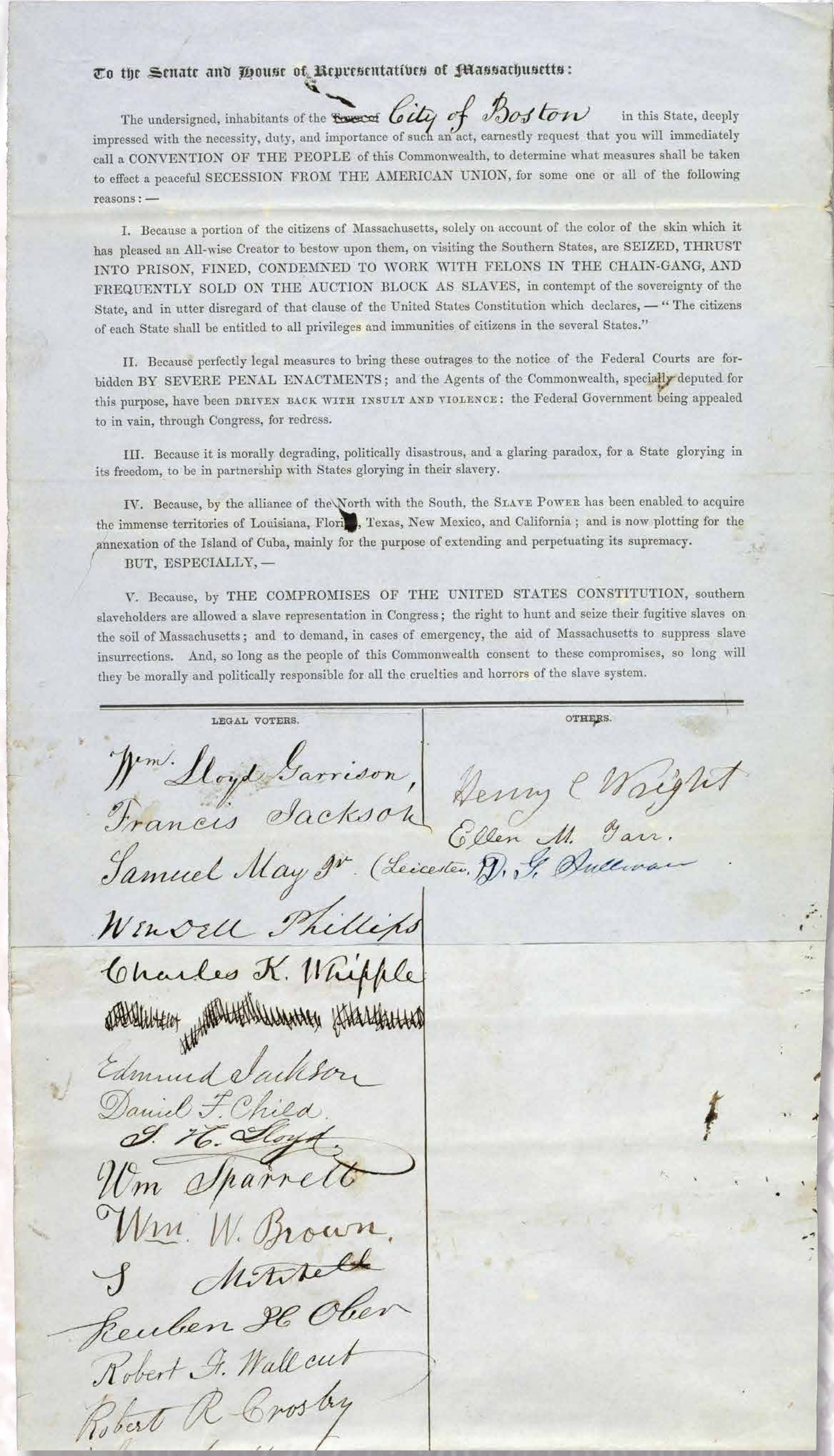
Representative Byron Rushing, a past director of the Afro-American History Museum, at the 200th anniversary commemoration. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



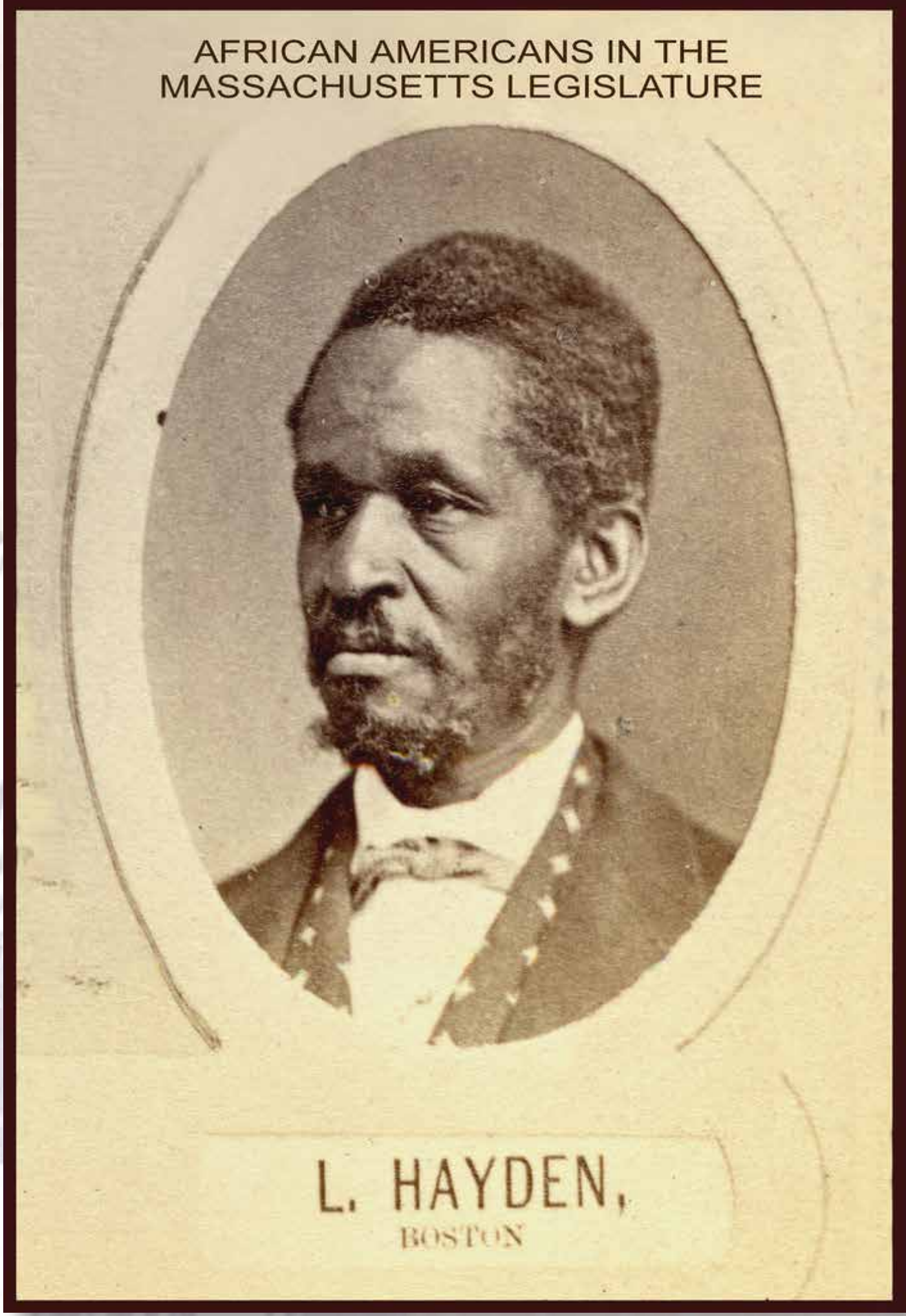
ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Historic Roxbury
The most famous early minister in Roxbury was Reverend John Eliot, often called the “Apostle to the Indians.” In April, 1775 William Dawes departed from the church to join with Paul Revere on his “Midnight Ride” before the battles at Lexington and Concord. The present building dates to 1804 and reflects the Federal style, popular after the Revolution.

Yesterday and Today
Roxbury’s First Church is the site of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. It offers education enrichment programs for young students, job training, shelter for battered women and children, and support for people who have been imprisoned.



William Lloyd Garrison

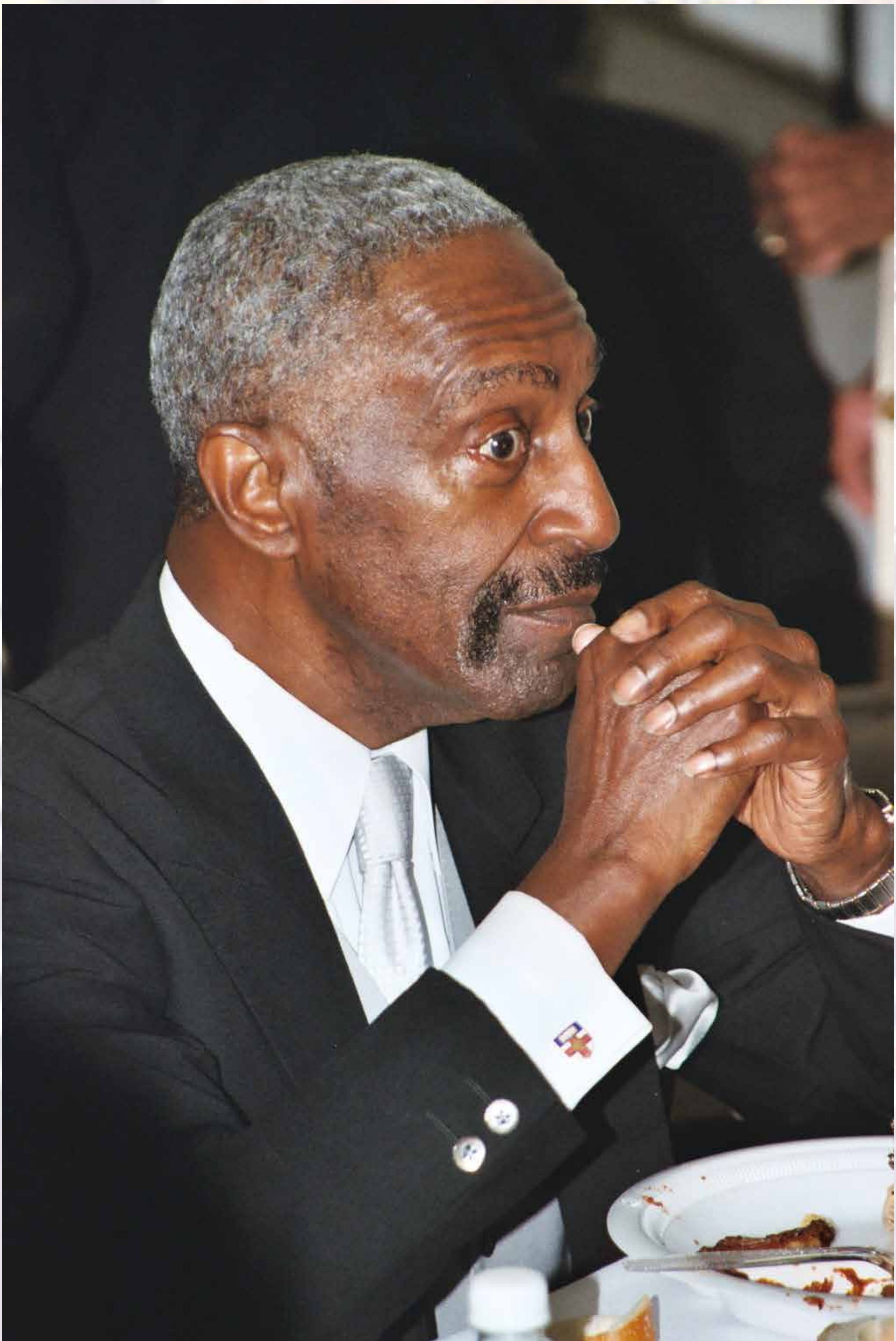


Lewis Hayden

In 1879 the First Church was the site of the funeral of William Lloyd Garrison who devoted his life to the abolition of slavery. Pallbearers included Lewis Hayden, one of Boston’s preeminent nineteenth century black activists.

William Lloyd Garrison signed this 1849 petition to the Massachusetts legislature, advocating withdrawal from the union because the U. S. Constitution sanctioned slavery. MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES

Historic Twelfth Baptist Church

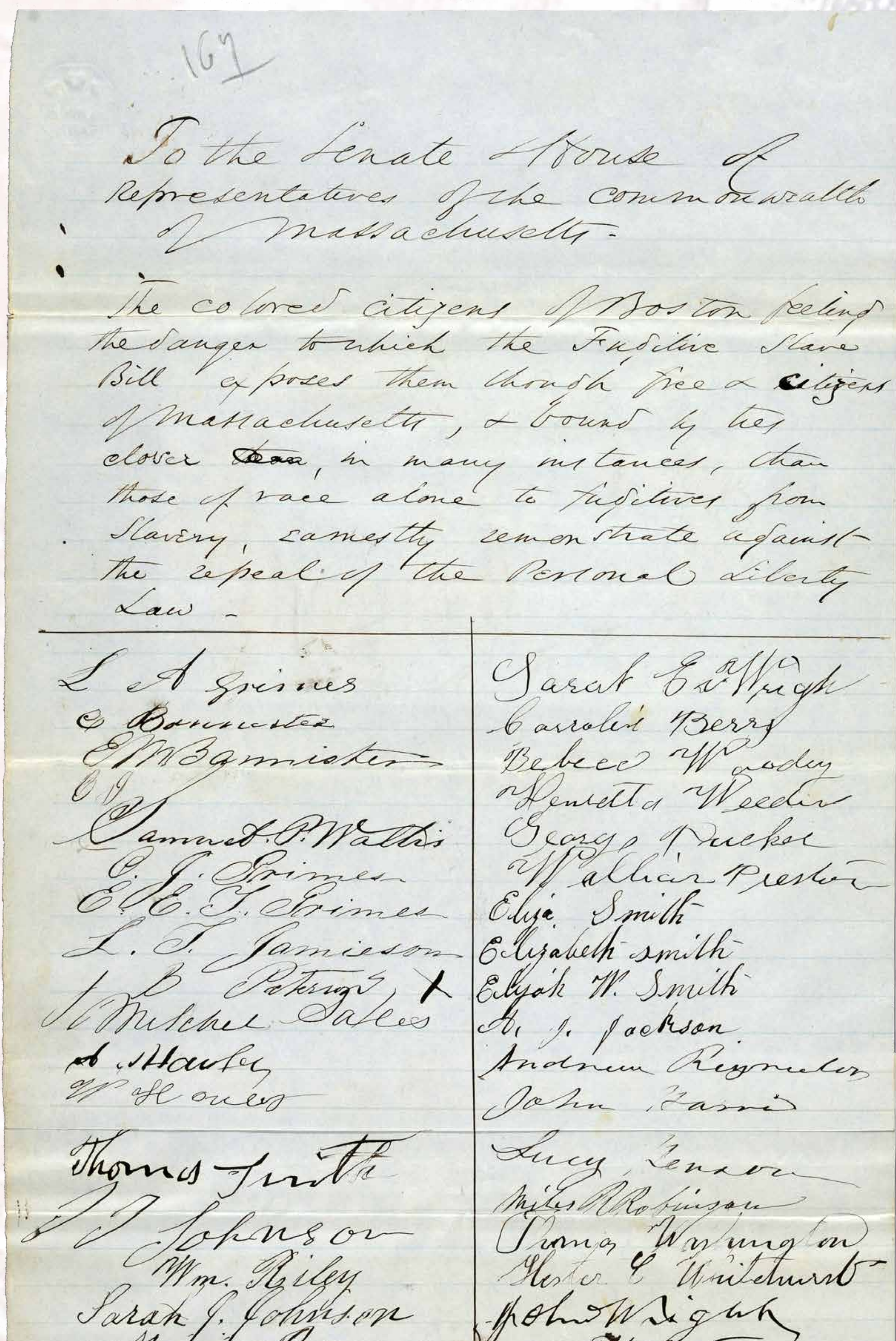


Reverend Michael E. Haynes: a lifetime of service.
ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Reverend Michael E. Haynes

Born in Barbados, Michael Haynes grew up in Boston and served as minister of the Twelfth Baptist Church from 1964 – 2004. In 1965 he organized the Boston contingent participating in the historic Selma to Montgomery march for voting rights. Reverend Haynes also served three terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Reverend Grimes name appears at the top of this 1861 petition to the Massachusetts legislature urging opposition to the federal Fugitive Slave Law and preservation of a Massachusetts statute offering protection. MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES



“Although he had preaching appointments at several other black churches, he always considered Twelfth Baptist his ‘Boston home church.’”

Reverend Michael E. Haynes on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reverend Michael E. Haynes served as pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church for thirty years and cherished a friendship with Dr. King.



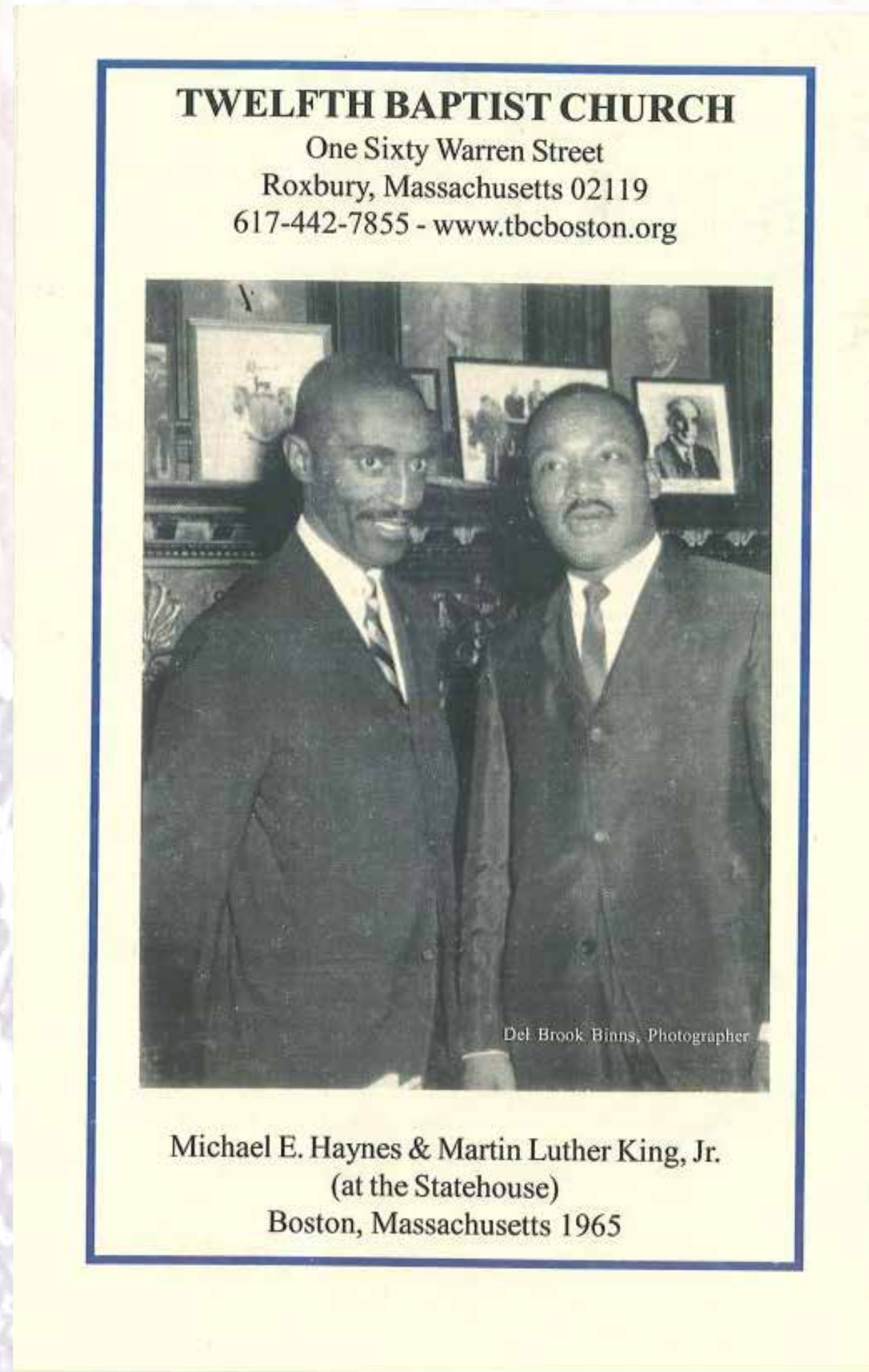
Reverend Haynes addresses the congregation on the occasion of his retirement.
ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the 1950’s, Martin Luther King, Jr. lived near the hub of African-American nightlife while working on his doctoral thesis at Boston University. As a student, he preached frequently at Twelfth Baptist Church. Church Secretary Mary Powell introduced Dr. King to his future wife Coretta Scott King. Dr. King befriended the pastor and preached one of his last sermons in New England from this pulpit.

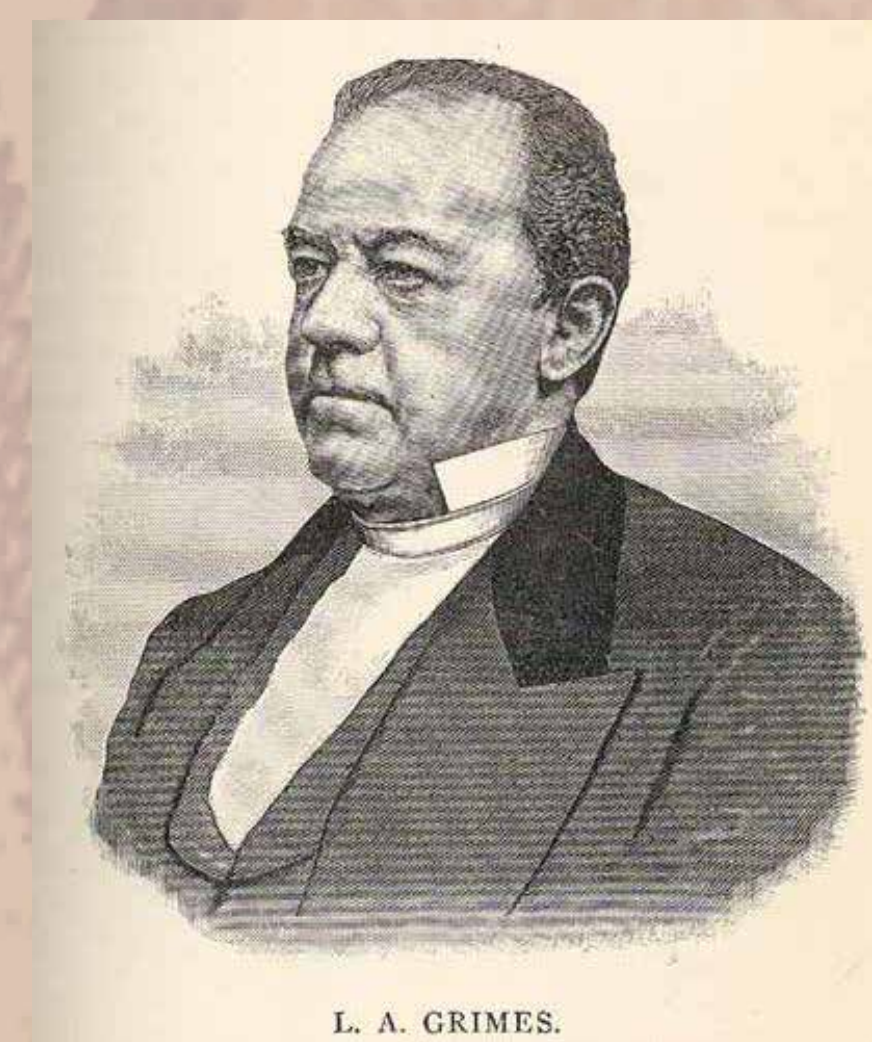
As a state representative Michael Haynes was instrumental in arranging a visit to Boston by Dr. King, including an address to the legislature in 1965. Program booklet - Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation and Pre-Inauguration Celebration, Twelfth Baptist Church, January 12, 2009.

DEL BROOK BINNS, PHOTOGRAPHER



A Distinguished History

Founded in 1840 on Beacon Hill, the Twelfth Baptist Church was known as the “Fugitive’s Church” because pastor Leonard Grimes assisted runaway slaves including parishioner Anthony Burns. In a notorious incident, Burns was captured in Boston and forcibly returned to slavery under the Fugitive Slave Law.



Reverend Leonard A. Grimes

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3 Commemorating the Selma to Montgomery March



Former State Representative and mayoral candidate Mel King, greets Congressman John Lewis. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

“You are a light... Never let anyone — any person or any force — dampen, dim, or diminish your light.”
Congressman John Lewis

John Lewis

John Lewis displayed rare physical courage and impressive leadership as a young man. He endured multiple arrests, for “sit ins” at segregated lunch counters and for “freedom rides” challenging segregation on interstate bus lines. He was beaten unconscious and left for dead at an Alabama bus terminal and spent 44 days in a Mississippi jail. At the age of 23 he was the youngest speaker (and organizer) at the 1963 March on Washington sharing the platform with Dr. King during his “I Have a Dream Speech.”



The view from the First Church belfry as marchers gather. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Reenacting the Selma march. Congressman Lewis with former Senator and Secretary of State John Kerry and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Raising the issue of voting rights today. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

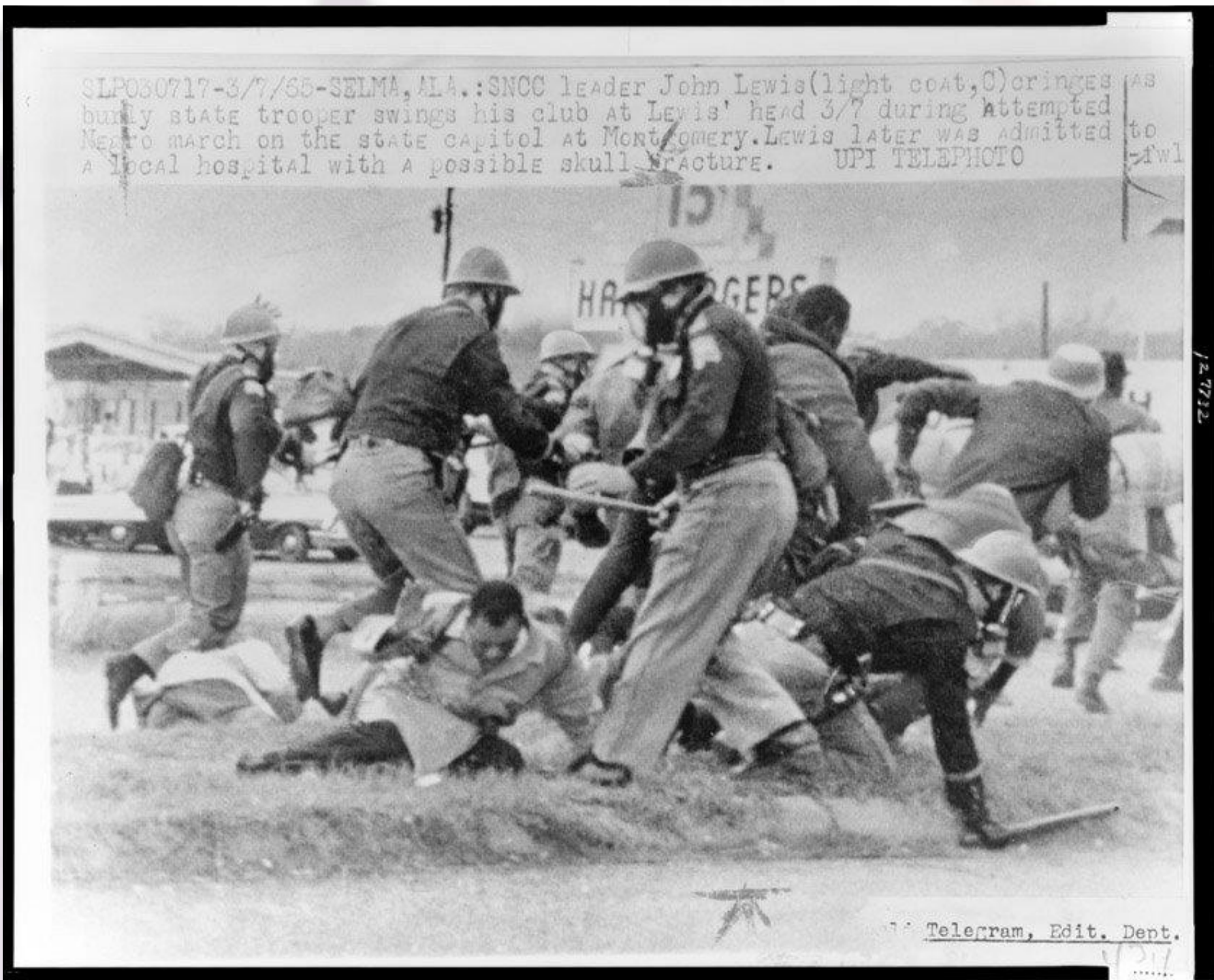
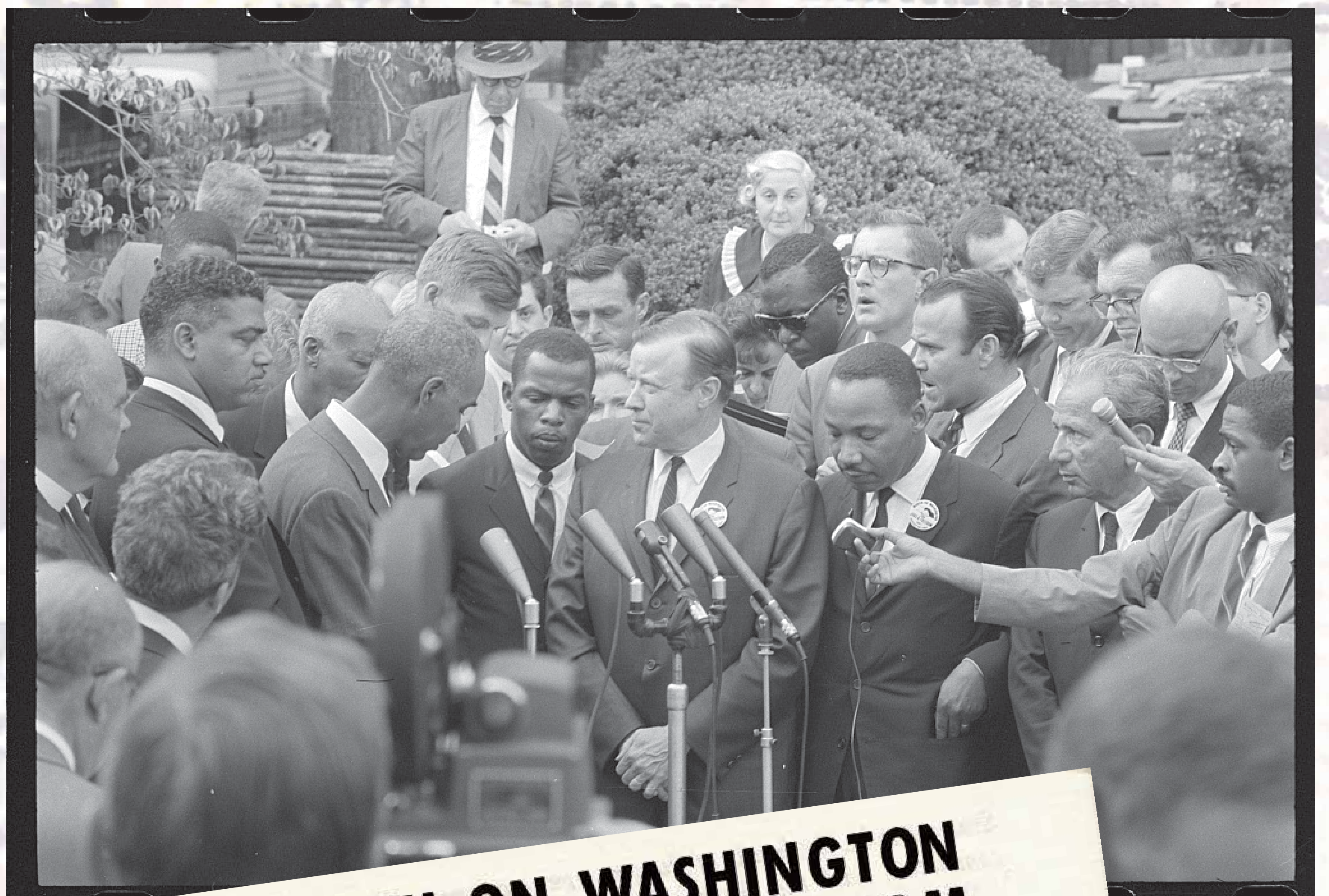


ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Iconic Moments in the Life of John Lewis

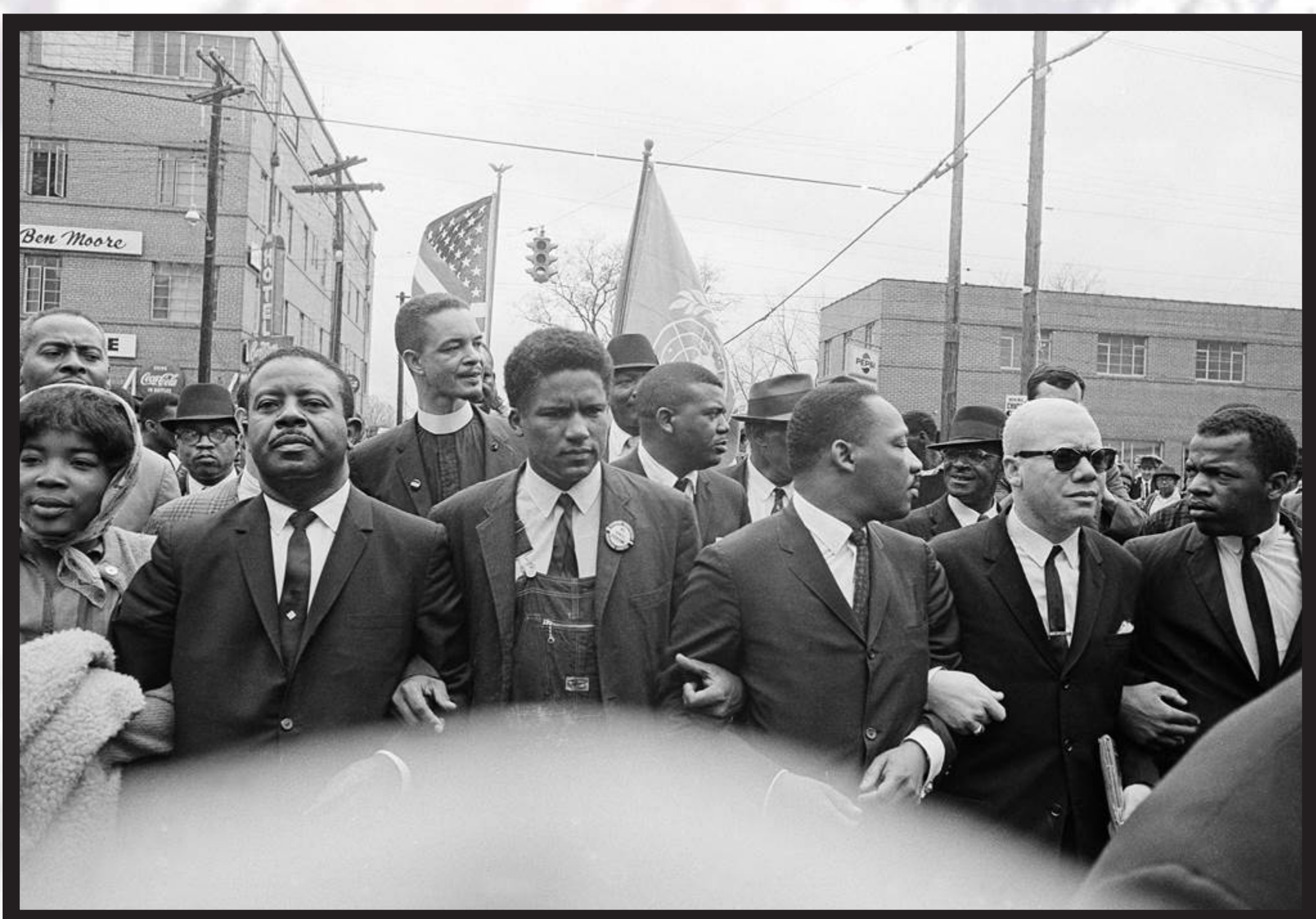
Washington, D.C., August 28, 1963

Twenty three year old John Lewis was the youngest speaker to share the platform with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the day of his “I Have a Dream” speech. Lewis is shown at a press conference with Dr. King the day of the event.



Selma, Alabama, March 7, 1965

Bloody Sunday: The attack on peaceful voting rights demonstrators at Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge shocked the nation in 1965 and helped fuel passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act. John Lewis sustained a fractured skull from this beating during the incident.



Selma, Alabama, March 21, 1965

John Lewis joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the Selma to Montgomery March for voting rights. Thousands of people walked twelve hours a day, arriving in Montgomery, the state capital, on March 25th. Federal troops and nationalized units of the Alabama National Guard protected the marchers.



Washington D. C., February 14, 2011

President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, to Congressman John Lewis.

MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM AUGUST 28, 1963 LINCOLN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

1. The National Anthem
2. Invocation
3. Opening Remarks
4. Remarks

Led by Marian Anderson.

The Very Rev. Patrick O’Boyle, Archbishop of Washington.

A. Philip Randolph, Director March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, Stated Clerk, United Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A.; Vice Chairman, Commission on Race Relations of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Mrs. Medgar Evers

5. Tribute to Negro Women Fighters for Freedom
Daisy Bates
Diane Nash Bevel
Mrs. Medgar Evers
Mrs. Herbert Lee
Rosa Parks
Gloria Richardson
6. Remarks

John Lewis, National Chairman, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Walter Reuther, President, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, AFL-CIO; Chairman, Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO.

James Farmer, National Director, Congress of Racial Equality.

Eva Jessye Choir
Rabbi Uri Miller, President Synagogue Council of America.

Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League.

Mathew Ahmann, Executive Director, National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice.

Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Miss Mahalia Jackson
Rabbi Joachim Prinz, President American Jewish Congress.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

A Philip Randolph

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President, Morehouse College.

“WE SHALL OVERCOME”

The program for August 28, 1963 including the name of John Lewis.



Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick greets Congressman John Lewis, who represents Georgia’s Fifth District (including Atlanta.) ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

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August Wilson



Thirteen months before his death, two-time Pulitzer winner August Wilson appeared at Roxbury Community College and reflected on his plays about African-American life in the twentieth century.

August Wilson shares thoughts about his celebrated ten play series, one play was set in each decade of the twentieth century.

ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

“Have a belief in yourself that is bigger than anyone’s disbelief.” August Wilson

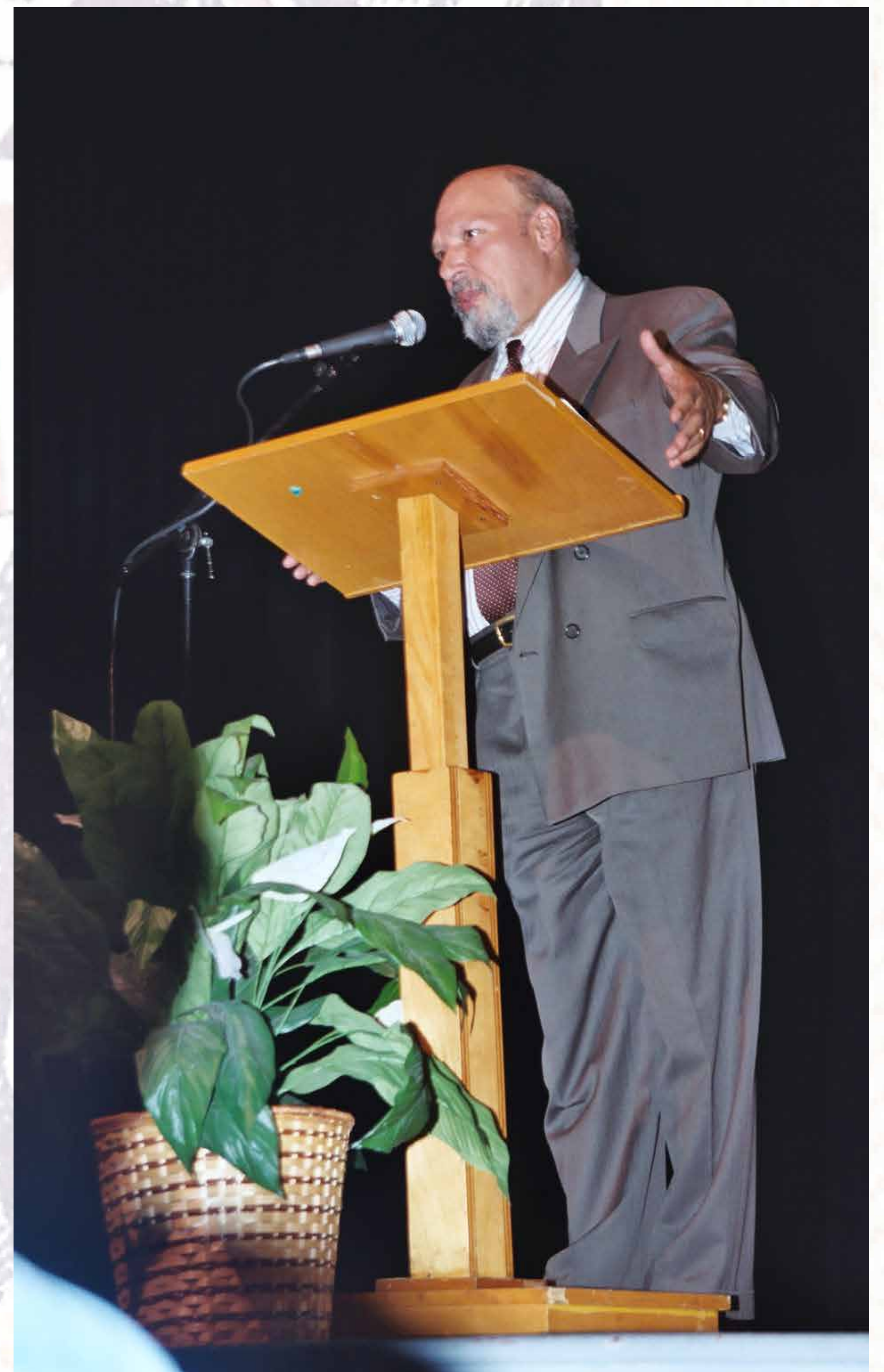
Natural Genius

Born in Pittsburgh, August Wilson dropped out of high school in the tenth grade. Working a variety of menial jobs he gained experiences that helped create characters in his later career as a playwright, often writing ideas on paper napkins. He spent hours at the public library eventually surpassing peers who had more formal education. His plays “Fences” and “The Piano Lesson” were awarded Pulitzer Prizes.



Wilson insisted in speaking at Roxbury Community College.

ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

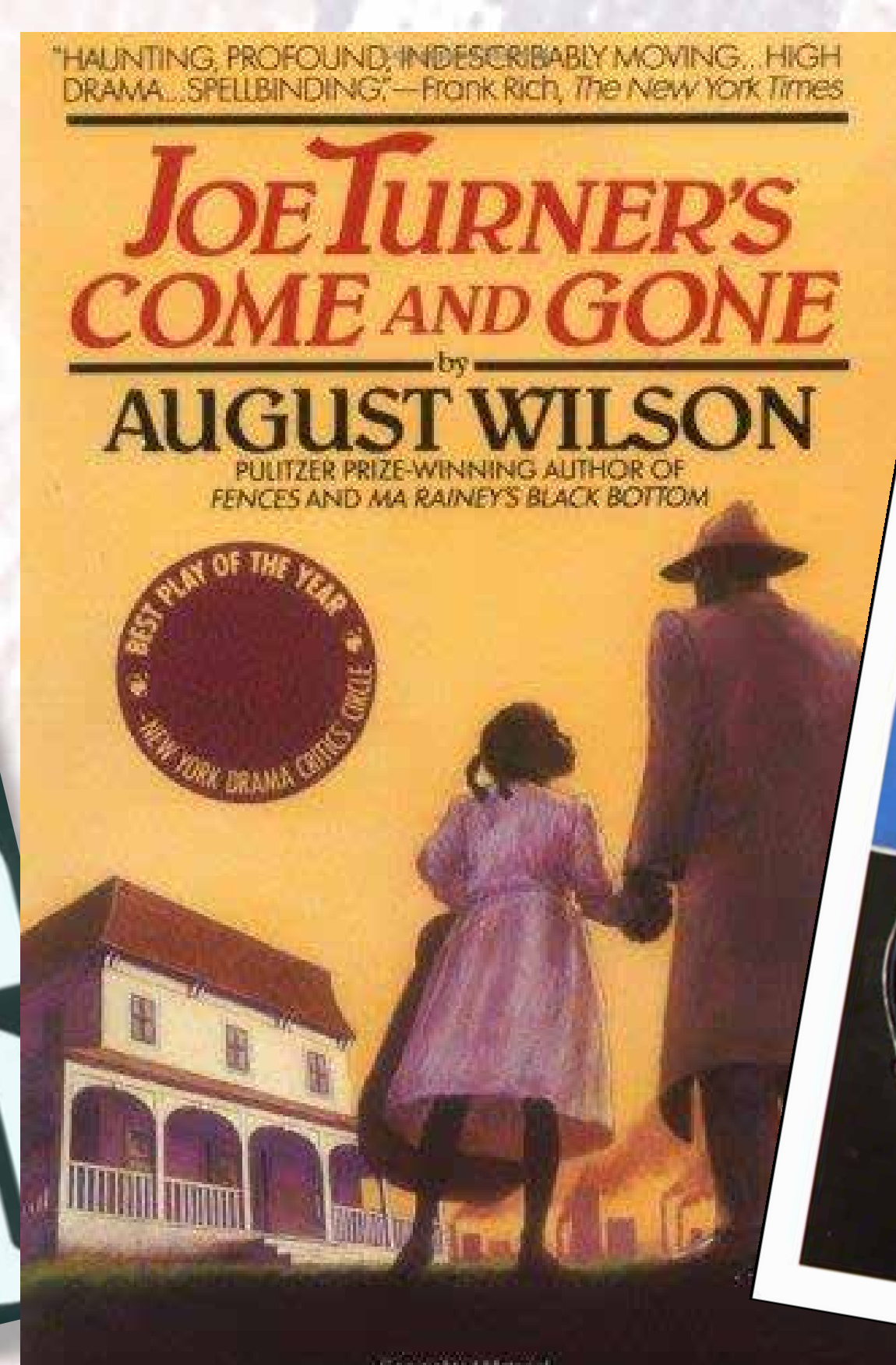
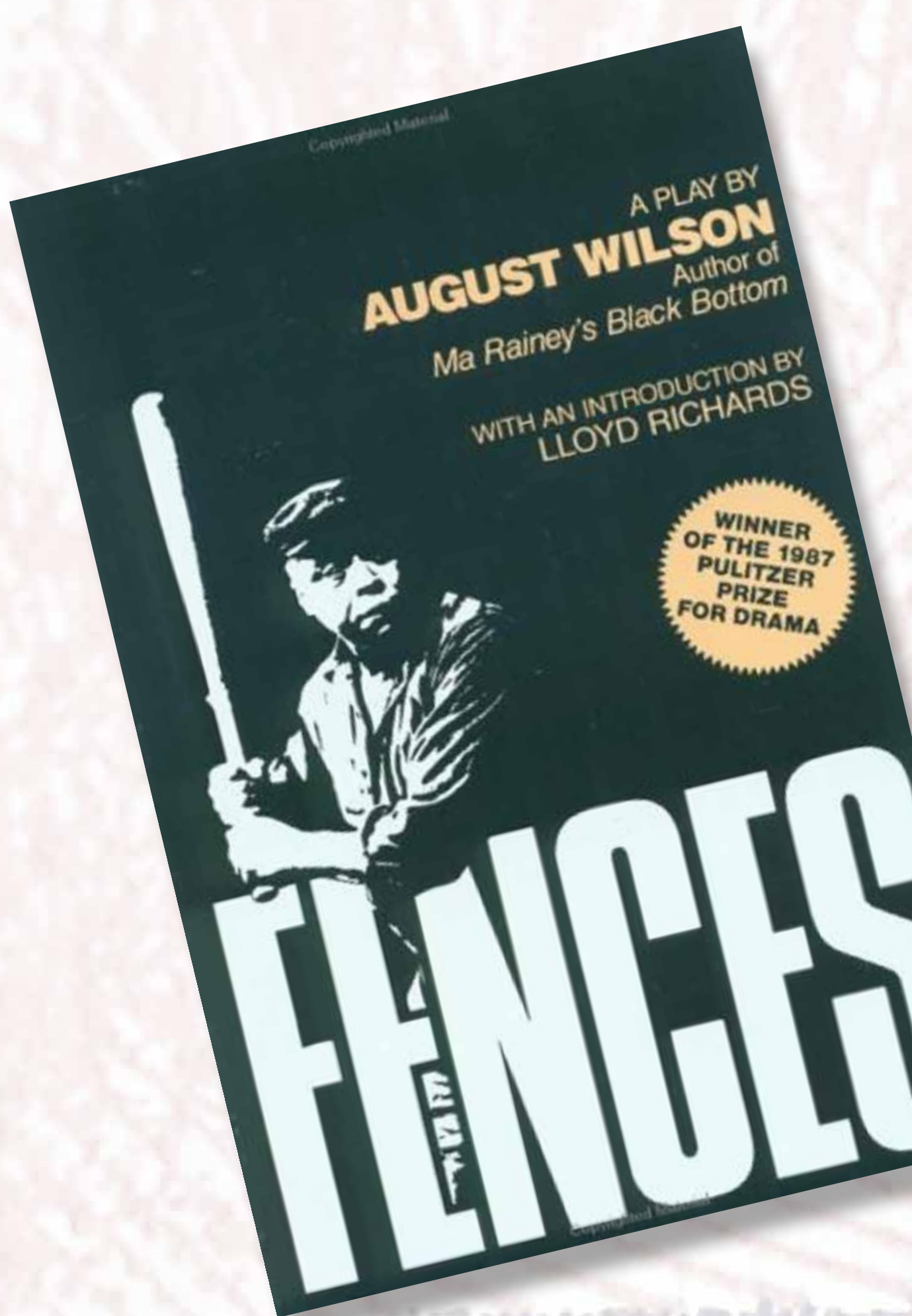


In His Own Words

“I think my plays offer (white Americans) a different way to look at black Americans,”... in Fences they see ...a [poor] person they don’t really look at...By looking at Troy’s life, white people find out that the content of this black [man’s] life is affected by the same things – love, honor, beauty, betrayal, duty. Recognizing that these things are as much part of his life as theirs can affect how they think about and deal with black people in their lives.”



Denzell Washington, pictured with co-star Viola Davis, directed and starred in the film version of “Fences.”



Playbills reflect the work of the prolific August Wilson.

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Hip Hop Summit

In Boston and other cities, the Hip Hop Summit network coordinated voting registration drives among young people in the African-American community.

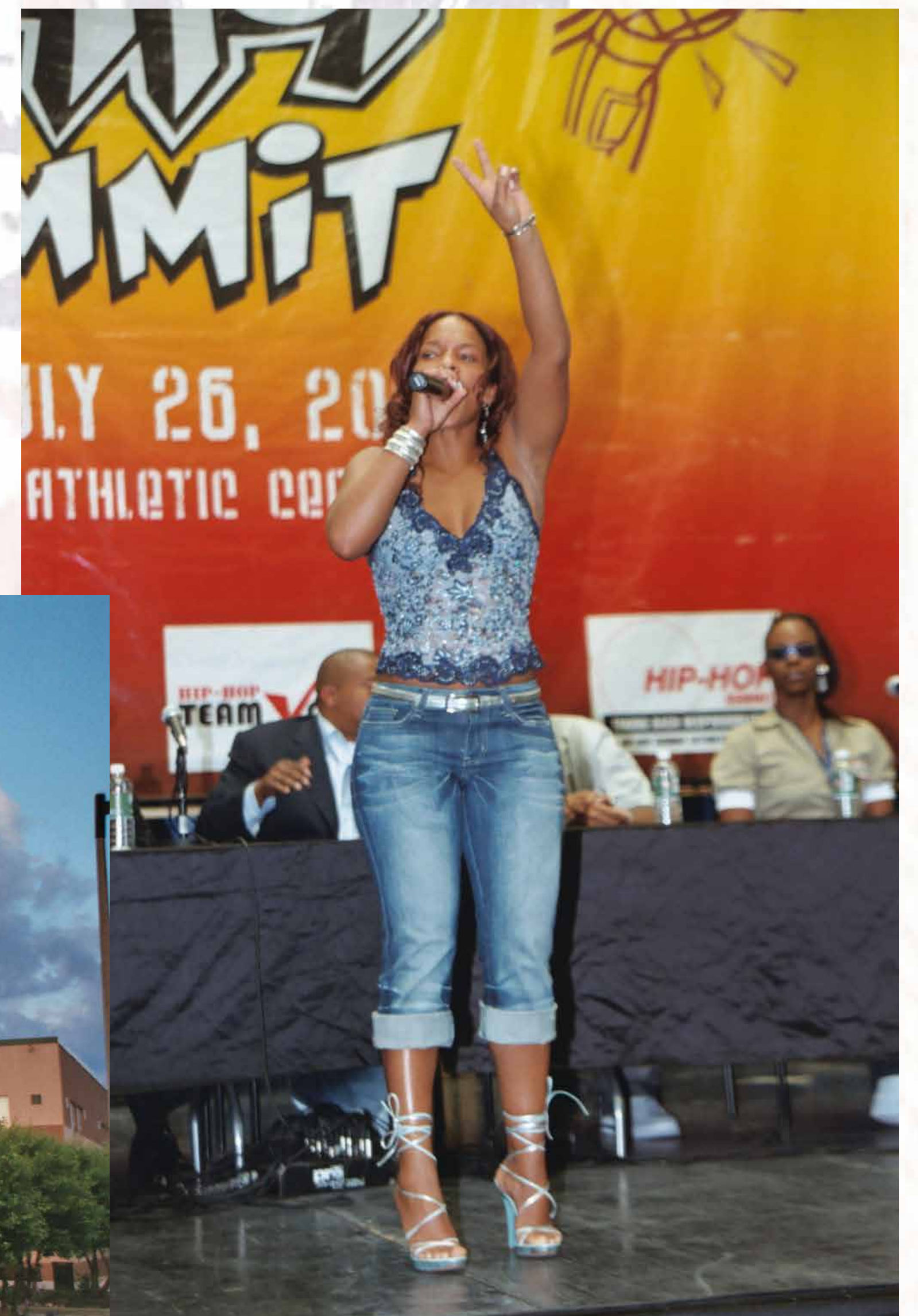


Dr. Benjamin Chavis and Minister Don Mohammed.
ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Boston 2004

The 2004 Democratic National Convention was held in Boston and nominated John Kerry for President. On the first day of the convention, the Boston Hip-Hop Summit Youth Voter Registration Event was held in Roxbury, one of several events in 23 cities that registered nearly one hundred thousand new voters.

“Free,” an entertainer from Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood, at the Hip Hop Summit.
ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



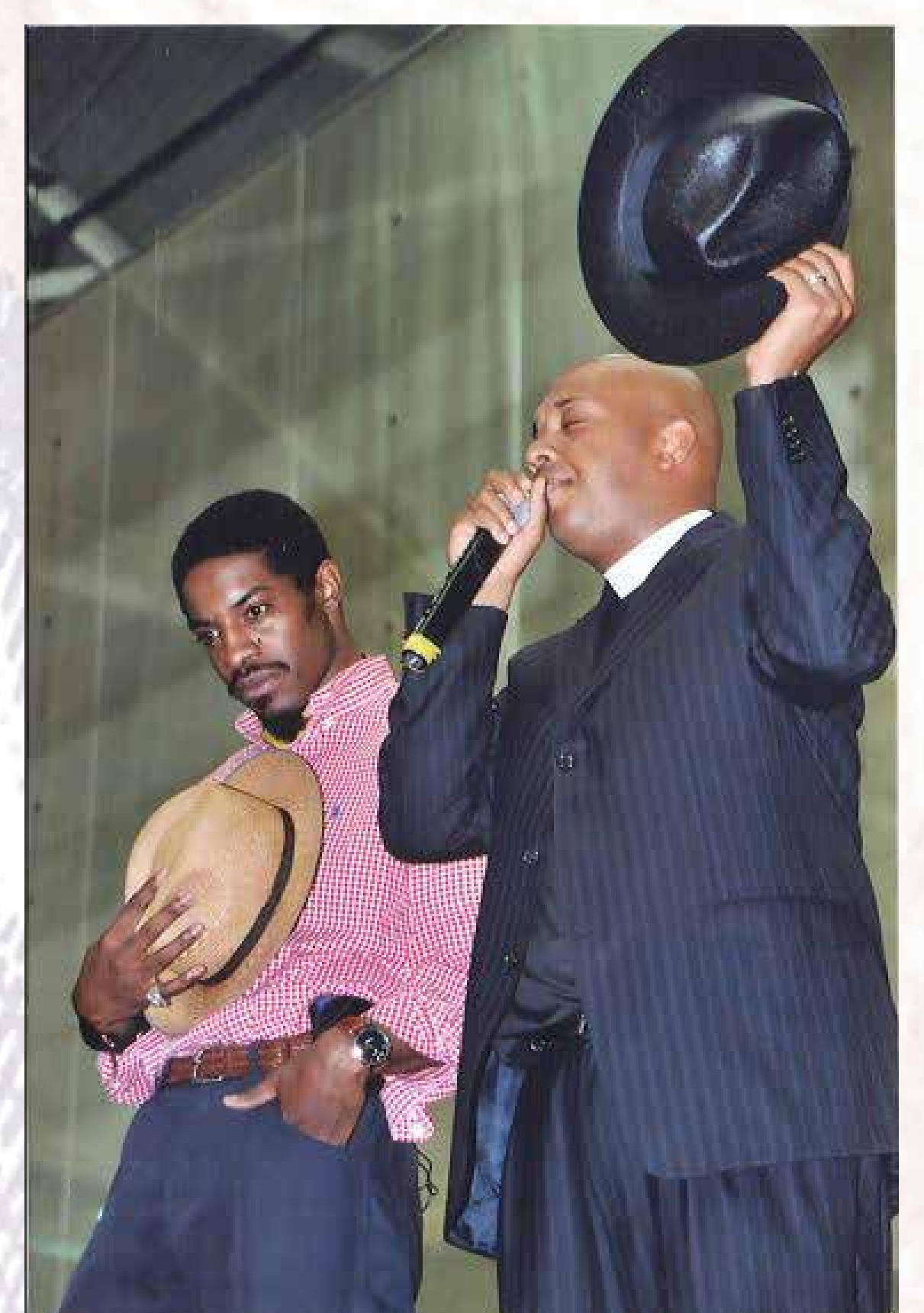
The Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center at Roxbury Community College, site of voter registration activities. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Congresswoman Maxine Waters of California visited Boston to encourage voter registration.
ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



The Hip Hop Summit Network

The Hip Hop Summit network was founded in 2001 to leverage the influence of Hip Hop music and artists in the cause of social change. In Boston the Hip Hop Summit organization worked with the local voter registration organization Dunk the Vote as well as the NAACP, and the Urban League to register voters between the ages of 18 and 35.



Star Power: The registration event featured appearances by Andre 3000 of the band Outkast that won a Grammy for the 2003 song “Hey Ya!” and “Reverend Run.” A member of the influential and ground breaking hip-hop group “Run-DMC,” Joseph Simmons became a minister and acquired a new persona as Reverend Run. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Hip Hop Summit events included appearances in various cities by Beyonce, Eminem, Will Smith, LL Cool J, P Diddy, Jay-Z, Alicia Keys, Mariah Carey, Snoop Dogg, Kanye West, and Ice Cube.

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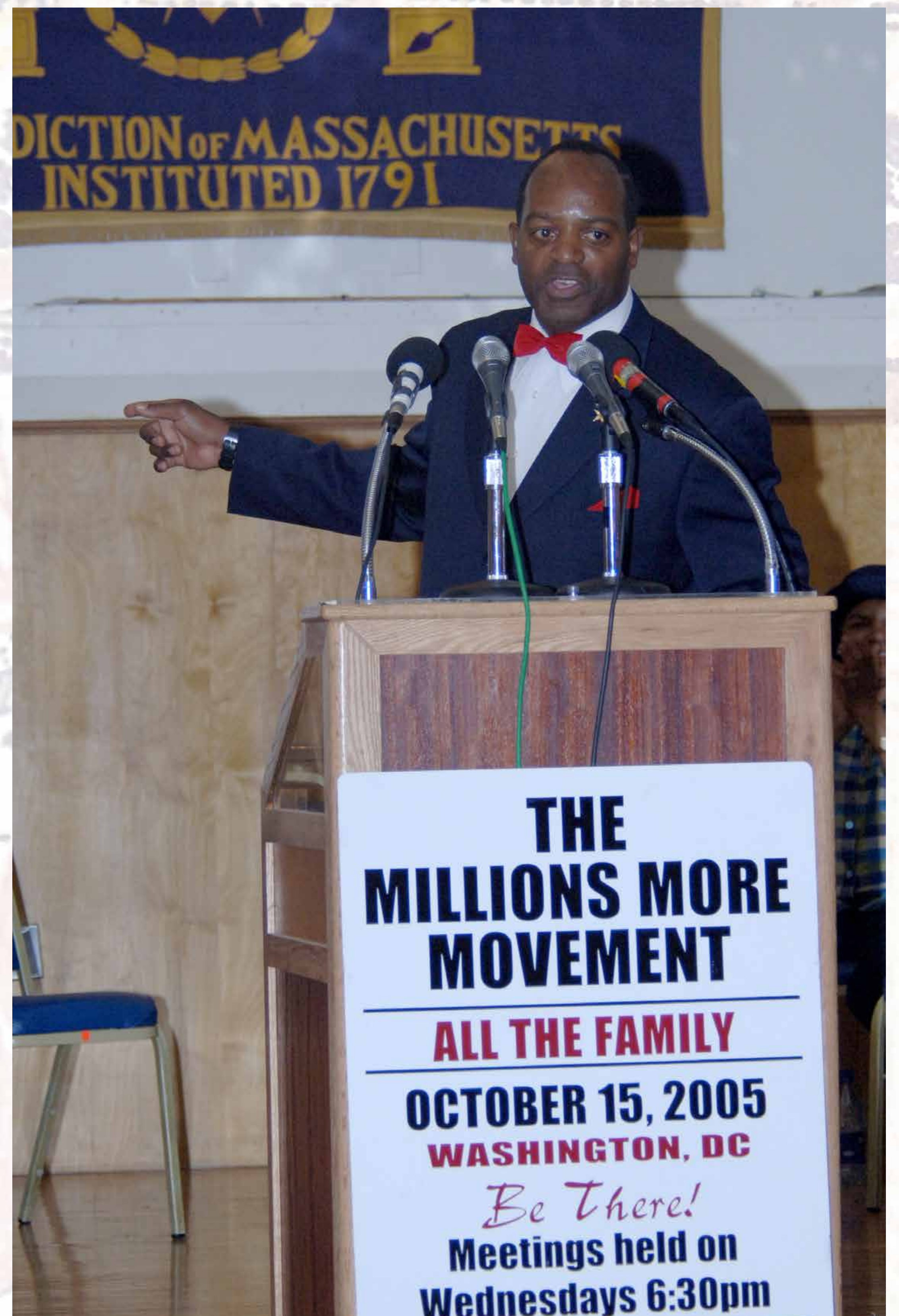
William Francis Galvin, *Secretary of the Commonwealth*

Millions More Movement

In 2005 plans were made to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Million Man March on Washington, D.C. As the “Millions More Movement” it invited men, women, and children to convene once again in the nation’s capital.



Minister Don Mubammad stands with Million Man March organizer and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan at a press conference in Mosque No. 11 during the planning of the 10th anniversary event in Washington DC in 2005. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



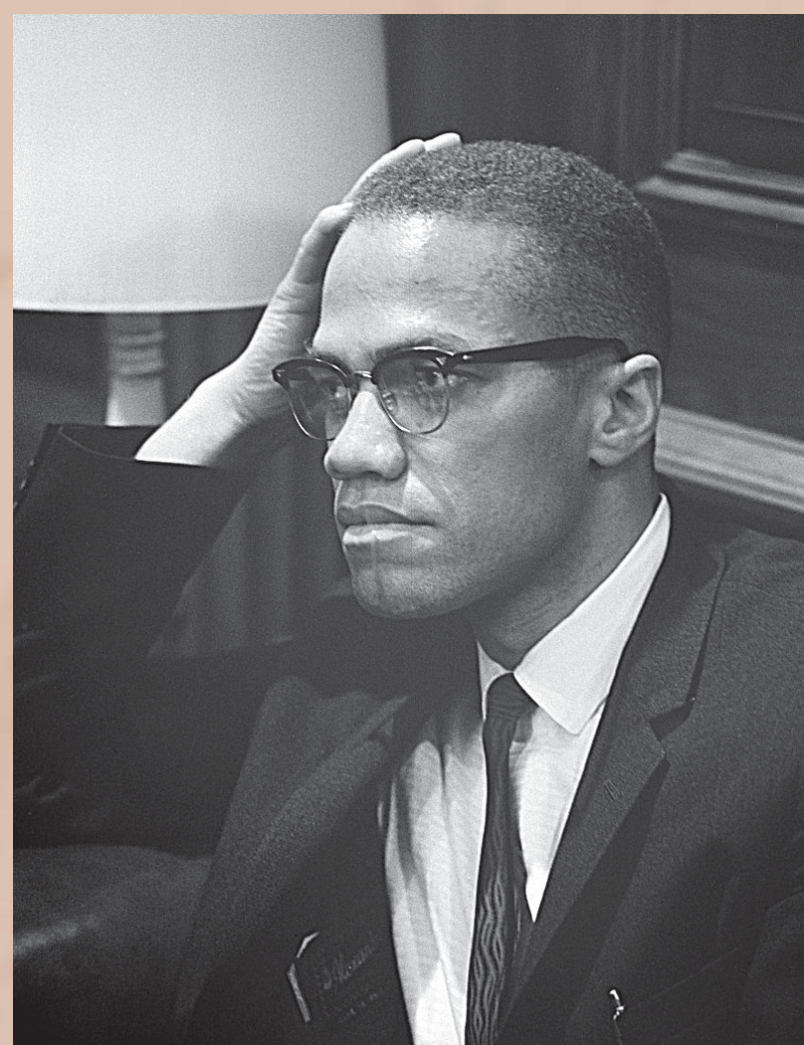
Minister Rodney Mubammad at the podium at the William E. Reed auditorium of the Prince Hall lodge in 2005. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Mosque No.11

True to the name, Mosque No. 11 in Boston is the eleventh mosque opened in the United States by the Nation of Islam, and has existed since the late 1950's. Malcolm X and Minister Louis Farrakhan have served as leaders. (Note: This building site is not the original location.)



Louis Farrakhan



Malcolm X



The “Faces of Dudley” mural was created in 1995 by the Mural Crew of the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps. This part depicts the early life of Malcolm X wearing a zoot suit and his profile in a hat. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

The Million Man March October 16, 1995

At the initiative of Nation of Islam leader Lewis Farrakhan, black men from many backgrounds and religious denominations staged a march on Washington D.C. in 1995. Participants pledged to work on rebuilding communities, rejecting violence, drugs and alcohol, and improving family relationships. Speakers included: Reverend Jesse Jackson, Maya Angelou, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King III. Among many goals, there was an emphasis on voter registration and participation in the black community.



ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

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The Berklee Beantown Jazz Festival

A major cultural festival, the Berklee Beantown Jazz Festival, fills several city blocks in late September.



IMAGES BY ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Beantown Jazz

A major cultural festival founded in 2001 by businessman Darryl Settles, the Berklee Beantown Jazz Festival fills several blocks in late September. The free festival features jazz, Latin and blues performances by professional musicians in partnership with the Berklee College of Music. Along with music, there are food and drink vendors and unique features including an “instrument petting zoo” and “Kid’s Jam” for younger visitors.



Born in Roxbury, Sarah Ann Shaw was the first female African-American reporter on Boston television, working for WBZ-TV from 1969-2000. Before and after her television career she has been a community activist and a regular patron of Roxbury events.

ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

State Representative Gloria Fox was awarded the National Caucus of Black Legislators Lifetime Achievement Award and is a familiar presence and supporter of community events.

ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



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Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center

Photographer Anthony Lanier's images chronicle the building of the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center.

"The simplicity of brick and engineered stone of the Islamic Society of Boston Center was riveting to watch during the construction with bright copper sheeting applied to the central dome and the top of the minaret." Anthony Lanier



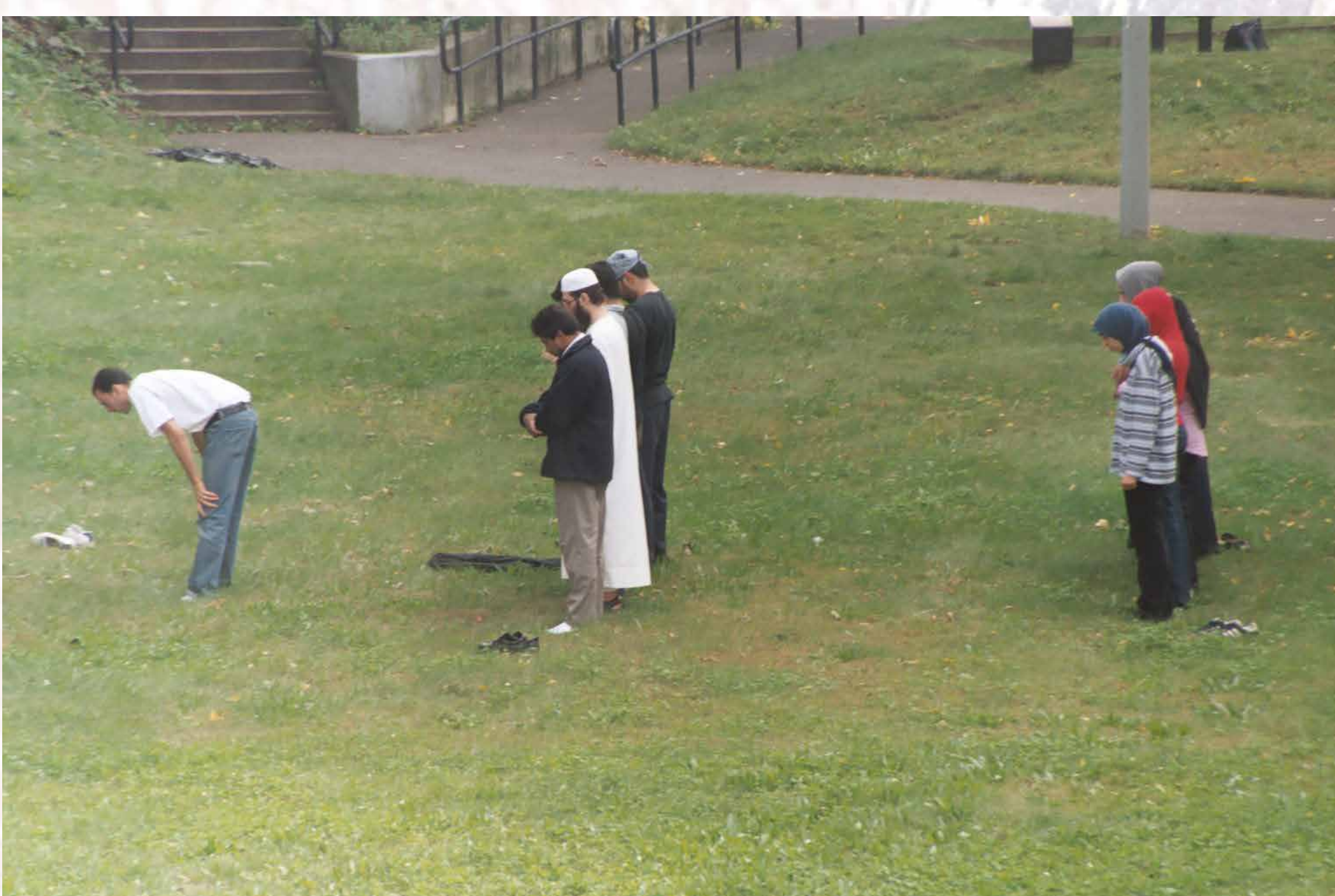
IMAGES BY ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



The ISBCC

Opened in 2009, adjacent to the campus of Roxbury Community College, the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center is the largest in New England. As a mosque and community center it serves over 1500 congregants at the weekly Friday services and also offers space for a variety of community programs. Representatives of sixty four nationalities attend the mosque.

Ready for opening, 2009.
ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Congregants pray at the site, before the opening of the mosque. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



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Robert Gould Shaw Memorial 100th Anniversary

“To my dying day, I will not forget that I became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff because of the men of the 54th Regiment.” Colin Powell



The Robert Gould Shaw Memorial GETTYSBURG DAILY

Retired General Colin Powell spoke at the 100th anniversary commemoration of the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial in 1997.

Speaking at the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial General Colin Powell addressed the legacy of the 54th Regiment. He later served as Secretary of State during the administration of President George W. Bush.
UNITED STATES ARMY



Fifty-fourth Regiment re-enactors fire the modern imagination.
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Glory!

The Shaw memorial, across Beacon Street from the Massachusetts State House, commemorates the African-American 54th Regiment, one of three black regiments recruited in Massachusetts during the Civil War. Featured in the film *Glory!*, many are familiar with its story and its tragic assault on Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina, in 1863.

Historical Justice

Augustus Saint-Gaudens sculpted the memorial dedicated to Robert Gould Shaw, the white colonel who died leading the regiment and was buried in a common grave with his men. For decades, the men in the regiment remained anonymous. In 1984 the monument was restored and the names of its African-American soldiers were added.

Restoration

Speaking to a group of school children at the Shaw Memorial, State Representative Byron Rushing asked, “What color are those men?” When the children answered “green” he initiated a restoration project to return the bronze sculpture to its original color.



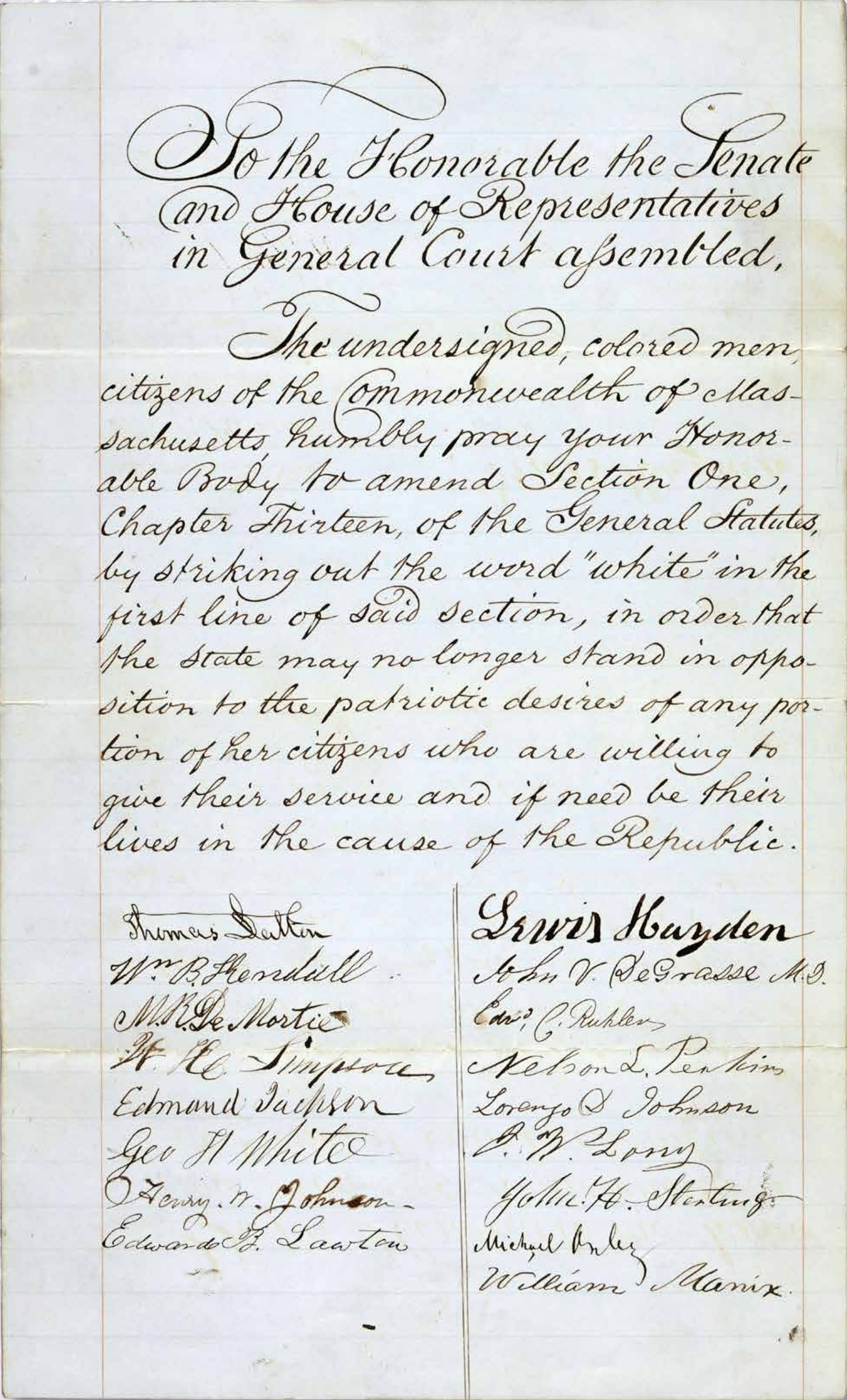
State Representative Byron Rushing
ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



The names of African-American soldiers now appear on the monument. GETTYSBURG DAILY



This 1863 petition to the Massachusetts House of Representatives requests that the word “white” be stricken from legislation that restricted recruitment of black men for military service. Many petitions of this kind preceded the authorization to recruit the 54th Regiment. MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES



At The Summit

While Democrats and Republicans may differ on policy, no one can dispute the historical significance of these images, when an African-American President and African-American Governor of Massachusetts served concurrent terms.



Barack Obama and Deval Patrick at the first presidential campaign stop in Boston for the future President. (Boston Common, October 23, 2007.) ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Governor Deval Patrick ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



President Barack Obama departing the funeral of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. (Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help - the "Mission Church" August 29, 2009.) ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Candidate Deval Patrick at an early campaign fundraiser in Roxbury. ANTHONY W. LANIER, PHOTOGRAPHER

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