National Youth Foundation Presents:

JUDGE JONES

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Rebecca Bomkamp • Leslie Henry • Sharon Johnson • Stanley Shirley
FOREWARD

Judge Nathaniel Jones is an icon of the Civil Rights struggle and an outstanding lawyer and judge. His contributions towards the fight to end school desegregation culminated with him arguing cases before the United States Supreme Court. It was my privilege to appoint Judge Jones to the Sixth Circuit US Court of Appeals in 1979. From his position as General Counsel for the NAACP to his work as a Federal Judge, he served the public with fervor and dignity. I would like to commend the National Youth Foundation and the student writers at Bond Hill Academy for capturing living history and honoring the rich legacy of an American hero.

President Jimmy Carter
OUR MISSION

The National Youth Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of children through creative educational programming. Our mission is to promote tolerance and equality, while helping young students develop their literary skills through academic and team building projects.

Sophia Hanson, Executive Director

NationalYouthFoundation.org
Nathaniel Raphael Jones was born on May 13, 1926 in Youngstown, Ohio. He had two sisters and one brother. When he was growing up, America was segregated. Segregation means people were separated by skin color and race in schools, in housing and in life. He grew up to become Judge Jones and to fight for equal rights for all citizens.
Football and baseball were Judge Jones’ favorite sports. When he was in 8th grade, Mr. Dickerson, the owner of the Buckeye Review newspaper, allowed him to write a sports column. His article had a lot of mistakes. Mr. Dickerson gave him a pocket dictionary and became his mentor.
Sports Shorts

Football season is here and my birthday is here. And The Bengals are The team that's colors popular. The team colors are orange, black, gymnastics, orange and black. Gymnastics that's is getting popular. That's for the sports shorts for Monday.
Judge Jones graduated from South High School in Youngstown, Ohio at the age of 18. Before he could think about college or a job, he was drafted into the United States Army. When he left the Army, the G.I. Bill paid for him to go to college.
In 1951, Judge Jones graduated from Youngstown College, which is now Youngstown State University. His major in college was Political Science. He also attended Youngstown for law school. He became a lawyer in 1957.
Robert Kennedy, brother of President John F. Kennedy, appointed Judge Jones as Federal Prosecutor for Cleveland/Northern Ohio. Judge Jones was the first African American to achieve this high position. As a lawyer, he has argued cases before the United States Supreme Court.
Judge Jones got married when he was 32 years old. He became the father of five children. They are all very successful. He also is the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren.
In his lifetime, Judge Jones met a lot of United States Presidents. He had the opportunity to meet Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, James “Jimmy” Carter and the first African American President, Barack Obama.
The person that Judge Jones was most excited to meet was the president of South Africa. The first time that he got to do that was when President Nelson Mandela got out of prison after 27 years. Judge Jones was in South Africa to help work on equality and human rights because people of color were still segregated there. Judge Jones was arrested in South Africa for breaking those segregation laws.
President Mandela said that Judge Jones played an important role as the top lawyer for the NAACP. The NAACP is a group that helps fight against racism. The work of the NAACP was an inspiration to President Mandela.
NAACP Meeting
In 2003, Judge Jones had a courthouse in his hometown named after him by the United States Congress. They gave him this honor because he fought for civil rights, he was a good citizen and because he made good choices in his life. Judge Nathaniel Raphael Jones is an inspiration to students in Ohio, America and the world.
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MANDELA ON THE OCCASION OF THE DINNER HONOURING THE HONORABLE NATHANIEL R. JONES

I had the pleasure of meeting Judge Nathaniel Jones when he was in South Africa in 1993. I was aware then of his reputation as a distinguished Judge of the United States Court of Appeals and of the important role he had played as General Counsel to the NAACP in the struggle against racism in the USA - a struggle that has been an inspiration to us in South Africa.

I would like to join you tonight in paying tribute to Judge Jones, and to thank him for the important contribution he has made to the preservation and protection of human rights and in particular for the interest he has taken in our endeavours in South Africa. He has been a member of the board of the Southern Africa Legal Services and Legal Education Project, which has given invaluable support to the development of public interest law in South Africa. He is held in high esteem by members of the legal profession in South Africa to whom he offered support during the difficult years of apartheid.

I have been told that on the occasion of one of his visits to South Africa, when he was here to observe a trial at which some of our leaders had been charged with treason, he had an unpleasant time at the hands of the South African police. I understand how he must have felt. I would like to assure him that he can now be confident of a different welcome. I hope Judge Jones will continue to visit our country and that he will retain his interest in our efforts to establish a fair and just society in South Africa.

Nelson Mandela
President of the Republic of South Africa