

# MILITARY ROAD SCHOOL PRESERVATION TRUST

## 2021 NEWSLETTER

Highlighted in this special edition newsletter are the people, places and events that made 2021 a memorable one for MRSPT; and even though many uncertainties remain for 2022, we look forward to utilizing every opportunity and resource available to further our mission of preserving and sharing the Military Road School's history!

We were most grateful that the National Park Service resumed in-person events in the fall with the Lincoln-Thomas Day observance at Fort Stevens. It is because the Military Road School was established in 1864 in the vicinity of this site that this annual observance holds such historical significance.

### Lincoln-Thomas Day – Fort Stevens Battlefield



This year's program was enhanced by a diverse group of participants welcomed by **Ranger Kym Elder**, Program Manager of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Junior **ROTC** students from **Calvin Coolidge High School** presented the Colors and renowned vocalist **Annette Singletary** sang the National Anthem. Prior to the keynote address by **Dr. Carroll R. Gibbs**, greetings were offered by **Mrs. Carolyn Coleman** of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and **Brig. Gen. Frank Gräfe** of the German Embassy, representatives of two entities historically connected to this Civil War-related commemoration. First-time attendees **Mr. Dennis Tsitsiwu**, a 2021 MRSPT Scholarship recipient, and Daughters of Union Veterans (DUV) Junior Vice President **Felecia Farr** were among honored guests at this annual event honoring President Abraham Lincoln and Brightwood resident Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor Thomas.

# Lincoln-Thomas Day – September 17<sup>th</sup>



(top row) Ms. Annette Singletary & NPS Ranger Kym Elder, Calvin Coolidge H.S. JROTC and Brig. Gen. Frank Gräfe & Mr. Bernie Siler; (2nd row) Ms. Carolyn Coleman, B.G. Frank Gräfe and Dr. C.R. Gibbs; (3rd row) Mr. Dennis Tsitsiwu and Ms. Patricia Tyson & Mrs. Felecia Farr



## Military Road Early Learning Center Opens



MRELC's June 15<sup>th</sup> Meet & Greet Event hosted by Principal Amelia Hunt & E.L.C. Staff



A new DCPS Early Learning Center in Ward 4 opened September 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Military Road School building located at 1375 Missouri Avenue, N.W. The opening of this facility, which will serve Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 students from across the District, was celebrated by **Mayor Muriel Bowser** (not pictured), as well as DCPS Chancellor and Principal **Amelia Hunt** (r) Ward 4 Councilmember **Janeese Lewis George** (c) and Military Road School alum **Pat Tyson** (l), who graduated from the Military Road public school when it closed in 1954.



Military Road School Alum **Theresa Saxton** greets a Military Road Early Learning Center Student at the June 15<sup>th</sup> event

# Happy Retirement!



MRSPT Board Members **Pat Tyson, Joyce Bailey, Dale Jones, Theresa Saxton** and **Michael Dubose** present **Mrs. Doris Tracy Taylor** with a plaque, which included a 1952 photo of her first students at the Military Road School. The September 25<sup>th</sup> retirement celebration commemorated Mrs. Taylor's 69-year teaching career as well as her long-standing support for this organization's mission to preserve the Military Road School's history and legacy.

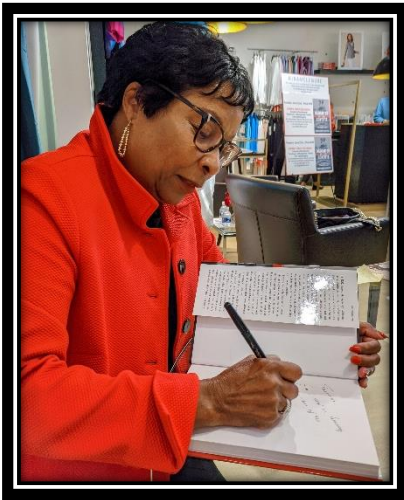




## 2021 Military Road School Donnessa Lucas Memorial Scholarship Awards

This year's recipients, **Laci Joseph**, **William Morton** and **Dennis Tsitsiwu**, were each awarded \$1,000 to assist them with education-related expenses in their pursuit of an undergraduate degree from their respective schools. Due to Covid restrictions, MRSPT held a virtual reception on December 29<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the customary in-person event. Among attendees was former Military Road School teacher **Mrs. Doris Tracy Taylor**, who offered words of encouragement to the awardees.

### Congratulations!



Military Road School Alum **Rose Harper** (c) and MRSPT Supporter **Shelley Stokes** (r), authors themselves, were part of a small group congratulating **Karen Gray Houston** (l) at an informal lunch after her successful book-signing event on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Karen, a former Fox 5 TV news reporter and honorary Military Road School Alum, shared insights from her book “Daughter of the Boycott” with attendees during an interview at the book signing event held in Washington, DC.

### Mapping Segregation in the District of Columbia

We encourage you to periodically visit the Mapping Segregation link on our website, [www.mrspt.org](http://www.mrspt.org), for updates regarding the project that is being performed by Prologue DC under a DC Preservation League grant sponsored by MRSPT. As they complete the grant project, Prologue DC is preparing to map covenants in the section of Ward 4 west of Rock Creek Park. They are also about to upload several oral history interviews, mostly with people who live/lived in Ward 4, to the DC Public Library database, at [Mapping Segregation in Washington DC: School and Neighborhood Desegregation in Ward 4 | Dig DC](#). Prologue's lead historian, Mara Cherkasky, has been working with the DC History Center on a history of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the surrounding neighborhood, based on a series of oral history interviews she conducted with 14 people this past fall, as well as Mapping Segregation. Additionally, Prologue was excited when, out of the blue, AirBnB recently announced a donation of \$15,000 to Mapping Segregation in Washington DC. Prologue's other historian, Sarah Shoenfeld, is working with city officials to obtain all of the deeds for 1921-1948 so that they will be able to map the entire city at once, in partnership with their University of Minnesota colleagues.

## 2021 Annual MRSPT Meeting

Because pandemic restrictions made it more challenging for us to remain connected with many of you during the past couple of years, we deeply appreciate those of you who made an effort to stay in touch in some manner. MRSPT's annual meeting, held virtually on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, provided an opportunity for us to express our gratitude for your encouragement and support for our commitment to continue sharing the historical legacy of the Military Road School. It was our hope that some would consider becoming more involved with this organization's mission. However, inasmuch as no additional volunteers were available to do so, current MRSPT officers and board members agreed to continue serving in their same capacities for 2022. In addition to conducting that official business, we were delighted to have scholarship recipient **Laci Joseph** attend and Prologue DC's lead historian **Mara Cherkasky**, who provided a briefing on the Mapping Segregation project. The meeting concluded with a special Power Point presentation on the Military Road School, which was produced by MRSPT's Board Member and media specialist **Lisa Leone**. It had originally been scheduled to premiere at our 2020 Brunch, which was cancelled at the last minute due to Covid gathering restrictions. Nevertheless, we anticipate making this presentation available for viewing at [www.mrspt.org](http://www.mrspt.org) in the near future as updates to our website are made.

## Let us hear from you in 2022!

***Yes, I want to help preserve the  
Military Road School Legacy!***



- ☐ Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ \$15  
☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$75  
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