

Maurice Daniels
Professor of Social Work
University of Georgia

(Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education Decision)

"Unsung Foot Soldiers in the Struggle for Civil Rights"

Abstract:

Professor Daniels presented on the research process he engaged in to create and develop the civil rights documentary films "Foot Soldier for Equal Justice, Parts I and II" (FSEJ). FSEJ includes documentation of the achievements of several "unsung" foot soldiers in the battle for desegregation in higher education. The films chronicle the courage and brilliance of plaintiffs and NAACP lawyers who successfully challenged segregation in colleges and universities throughout America. Daniels will recount the formative role of the NAACP and the perseverance of "unsung" foot soldiers in the struggle for civil rights. Daniels will also discuss the importance of documenting and presenting the role of "unsung" foot soldiers in the battle for social justice.

Excerpts from FSEJ will be shown during the presentation.

Personal Biography:

Maurice C. Daniels is professor and director of the Master's in Social Work Program at the University of Georgia. Daniels is the author of the book titled Horace T. Ward: Desegregation of the University of Georgia, Civil Rights Advocacy, and Jurisprudence. In 2004, the TBS Trumpet Awards featured Daniels's book at its Meet the Authors Forum.

Dr. Daniels is the senior researcher and executive producer of two award-winning public television documentaries that chronicle Horace T. Ward's story, the history of the desegregation of the University of Georgia, and the NAACP's success in challenging segregation in higher education. Daniels is cofounder and director of the Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies at the University of Georgia. In 2004, the Foot Soldier Project completed the production of the public television documentary titled Hamilton Earl Holmes: The Legacy Continues. He is the author of various scholarly articles and national conference papers focusing on civil rights and social justice issues.

His interest in civil rights grows out of his long-standing personal and professional commitment to social justice issues and history. Honored by his colleagues repeatedly for his achievements and service, in 2000 he was selected as a University of Georgia Senior Teaching Fellow and in 2001 he received the Athens-Clarke NAACP Freedom Fund Award. Daniels holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's degree in Social Work, and a Doctoral degree in Higher Education from Indiana University. In addition to his scholarly work, he is active in civil rights and social reform organizations such as the NAACP and the National Association of Black Social Workers, and serves as a deacon in the Ebenezer Baptist Church, West, Athens, Georgia. Daniels lives in Athens, Georgia, with his wife, Renee, and their four children, Carrin, Lauren, Nicole, and Maya.