

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF NEW KENT
VIRGINIA**

R-14-18

At the regular work session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of New Kent, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building in New Kent, Virginia, on the 25th day of April, 2018:

Present:	Vote:
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Ronald P. Stiers	Aye
W.R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

Motion was made by Ms. Paige, which carried 5:0, to adopt the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES C. GREEN V.
COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD OF NEW KENT,
U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION**

WHEREAS, the historic Supreme Court decision *Charles C. Green, et al. v. County School Board of New Kent County, Virginia, et al.* was issued 50 years ago on May 27, 1968, forcing schools in Virginia and across the country to desegregate after more than a decade of active resistance; and

WHEREAS, the unanimous Supreme Court decision in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case had declared segregated schools to be “inherently unequal”, overturning the doctrine of “separate but equal” espoused in the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling; and

WHEREAS, in defiance of the rulings, some State legislators began a coordinated effort known as Massive Resistance to block desegregation in public schools, resulting in continued segregation and in some cases the closure of public schools, denying equal education to students and, for many, denying any education at all; and

WHEREAS, New Kent County Schools responded to the case by implementing a “freedom of choice” plan that allowed students to petition for permission to switch but which effectively maintained racial segregation in the county’s schools and placed the burden of desegregating on African American families; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Calvin C. Green was the father of three sons, Charles C. Green, Robert C. Green and Anthony Green, all of whom were students in New Kent County Public Schools. He and his wife Mary Ella Osborne Green, like all parents, wanted their sons to have the best education, but New Kent County schools were segregated by race, and, by law, his sons were required to attend the black school; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Dr. Calvin C. Green, with assistance from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and two of Virginia's finest civil rights attorneys, Henry L. Marsh, III and Samuel W. Tucker brought suit in Federal Court in an effort to secure a better education for his sons; and

WHEREAS, *Charles C. Green, et al. v. County School Board of New Kent County, Virginia, et al.* was filed in the name of Dr. Green's youngest son, and called for change not only in New Kent County, but in other school systems across the country; and

WHEREAS, When the Supreme Court of the United States issued its decision on May 27, 1968, the Court established the duty of the school boards across the Country to eliminate all vestiges of state-imposed segregation and placed an affirmative duty on school boards to "convert to a unitary system in which racial discrimination would be eliminated root and branch."; and

WHEREAS, both the George W. Watkins School and the New Kent School are designated as National Historic Landmarks by virtue of their involvement in the *Green* decision and are included by the National Park Service among its Teaching with Historic Places lesson plans; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote in a private note shortly before the *Green* decision was issued, "When this opinion is handed down, the traffic light will have changed from Brown to Green. Amen!"; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Supreme Court's mandate, New Kent County desegregated its two public schools converting them into integrated elementary and high schools, separated by grade level; and

WHEREAS, this historic Supreme Court case makes a victory in the nation's ongoing struggle for equality and a milestone that remains within living memory by which New Kent may mark its progress; and


WHEREAS, Dr. Green died on February 10, 2011, at his Quinton residence in New Kent County at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of New Kent County recognize and celebrate the significance of the *Green* decision; now, therefore, be it

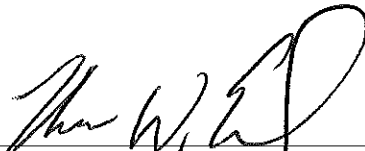
RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of New Kent County, that the 50th anniversary of *Charles C. Green et al. v. County School Board of New Kent County, Virginia et al.* be commemorated and its significance for all Virginians and all Americans be recognized; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Clerk of the New Kent County Board of Supervisors prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Dr. Calvin Coolidge Green, whose principled foresight initiated the case and advanced the cause of the Civil Rights Movement.

Adopted this 25th day of April, 2018.



Rodney A. Hathaway
County Administrator



Thomas W. Evelyn
Chairman