**The Maryland Monument of Voter Reform**

**A Chronology of Historical**

**Events and Milestones**

**2012- 2021**

**March 5, 2012**

Written correspondence was sent to the **Dorchester County Board of Education** about the **Historical Freedom Shrine Monument**. The purpose was to have the board to make a commitment to include the historical significance of the freedom shrine story in the social studies guide and/or curriculum.

**April 2012**

The foundation of a collaborative working relationship was established with Attorney Hubert Wright IV (historian) in pursuing and supporting the Historical Freedom Shrine Initiative.

**August 20, 2013**

Freedom of Information Act Request

Town Council of Hurlock, MD

Minutes regarding redistricting Dorchester County Election District

**October 8, 2013**

 Encourage the local NAACP to go on record to publicly honor the ten men or their family representatives in a formal proclamation ceremony.

**November 22, 2013**

**The Dorchester County Commissioners officially recognized (after a quarter of a century) the Historical Freedom Shrine, and the men who were instrumental in bringing local and statewide reform in voting.**

**May 28, 2014**

The First Public Collection & Exhibition of the Historical Freedom Shrine story held at North Dorchester Middle School.

The First Public Exhibition of the **Dorchester County Third Emancipation of Proclamation** was on display**.**

**August 2014**

**Hurlock United Methodist Church** received a gift of the monument and the photomontage honoring Mr. Edward Conway (one of the ten men) and now a deceased member of the church.

**October 2014**

Collaboration with Addie Eckardt to explore mutual goals we may have in common for promoting the Historical Freedom Shrine Story.

**October 14, 2014**

Bowie State University History Makers Events and Reception “**Maryland’s Best Kept Secrets our Story**.” the Historical Freedom Shrine.

**November 14, 2014**

Dorchester County Council received a gift of the Historical Freedom Shrine Monument and a **photomontage** of the ten men. These documents are displayed and exhibited in the **Council Chamber.**

**December 26, 2014**

Picture of the Historical Freedom Shrine and a photomontage of the ten men were donated to **Dorchester County Main Branch Library and the Hurlock Branch.**

**January 20, 2015**

The County Council met and approved our request for a Proclamation to proclaim November 10, 2015 as **Historical Freedom Day in Dorchester County.**

**March 25, 2015**

Formal ceremony at the Dorchester Circuit Court to donate the photomontage and historical freedom shrine framed photographic print.

**November 3, 2015**

The Maryland General Assembly Official Citation Recognizing the team and Dorchester County Historical Freedom Day

Updating and providing documentation to the Dorchester County Legislative Delegates, Addie Eckardt, Christopher Adams, Sheree Sample Hughes, and Johnny Mautz, about the Freedom Shrine project.

**2012- 2015**

Ongoing collaboration with Amanda Fenstermaker, Director of Tourism, Anne Phillips, Director of Dorchester Historical Society in providing documentation, keeping them informed and extending to them the opportunity

to participate in the Historical Freedom Shrine Initiative.

**November 10, 2016**

Proclamation by the Dorchester County Council to promote Historical Freedom Day

**March 27, 2017**

The **Maryland House of Delegate** presented a Resolution for the **Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day Initiative.** (House Resolution #260)

The **Senate of Maryland** presented a Resolution for the **Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day Initiative.** (Senate Resolution # 564)

**November 10, 2017**

Proclamation by the Dorchester County Council to promote Historical Freedom Day

**November 2017**

Developing and Showcasing a **Maryland Historical Treasure**: The Maryland Monument for Voter Reform Portfolio for use with educators.

**April 9, 2018**

The **Senate of Maryland Resolution** to recognize **former Delegate John W. Douglass** from Baltimore City for his leadership in sponsoring a bill to amend the constitution. Our system of voting changed from “**at large voting to district voting.” Also, we are looking forward to recognizing the former Delegate William Clark from Harford County, Maryland for cosponsoring the bill.**

**Wednesday, June 20, 2018**

**Governor Larry Hogan** made an official visitation to the Maryland Monument for Voter Reform. He is the first governor in 31 years (more than quarter of a century) to officially visit the site.

**November 5, 2018** Proclamation by Dorchester County Council to promote Historical Freedom Week (November 11- 17).

November 5, 2018 Renaming route 331 in Dorchester County: Dedicated to the **Champions of Voter Reform.**

**5/13/19** A proposed budget on behalf of the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team was presented to Mayor Henry and town council for promoting economic development and community pride.

**7/18/19** A special farewell message and social gathering to honor and to recognize Frances Cresswell, former co-leader of the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team and Rick Price, former Dorchester County Councilman and member

for their commitment and loyalty in promoting the historical freedom shrine story initiative.

**9/11/19** The new North Dorchester High School was officially named the home for a historical treasure**: North Dorchester County** – **Birthplace of Maryland Voter Reform**. A showcase highlights two shelves of artifacts.

11/5/19 Proclamation by Dorchester County Council to promote **Historical Freedom Week, November 9 – 16.**

**March 5, 2020** Presented on behalf of the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team a testimony for **Senate Bill 464.** This bill supports **Commemorative Days**- **Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day along with Senator Addie Eckardt**

**March 12, 2020 Presented on behalf of the Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team a testimony for House Bill 950. This bill supports Commemorative Days- Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day along with Delegate Christopher Adams.**

**The legislative session was cancelled by Governor Hogan due to the pandemic crisis. The new bills will be taking up at the 2021 legislative session.**

**3/9/21** Testimony of Maryland SB 25 was presented via virtual zoom. This bill falls under the category of **Commemorative Days- Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day. Also**, House Bill 300

Failed at this session to be become a law. These bills will be revisited.

**Submitted by Dr. Carl S. Barham, Co-leader**

**Historical Freedom Shrine Advocacy Team**