

FINAL REPORT
TASK FORCE TO STUDY
THE COMMEMORATION OF
HARRIET ELIZABETH BROWN



Calvert County's Own Unsung Hero

December 27, 2015

**Task Force to Study
the Commemoration of
Harriet Elizabeth Brown
*Calvert County's Own Unsung Hero***



FINAL REPORT

December 27, 2015

Submitted to:

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The Honorable Evan K. Slaughenhaupt, Jr.
President of the County Commissioners
of Calvert County

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Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force
To Honor Calvert County's Own Civil Rights Hero

Chair: Margaret Dunkle, Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women
Dan Curry, Superintendent of Calvert County Public Schools
Joyce Freeland, President of the Calvert County NAACP
Malcolm Funn, Designee of the Maryland Senate

Michael Jackson, Member of the Maryland House of Delegates
Pat Nutter, Member of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners
Guffrie Smith, President of the Calvert County Historical Society

December 27, 2015

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates
The Honorable Evan K. Slaughenhaupt, Jr., President of the County Commissioners of Calvert County

Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to submit the Final Report of the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force, in accordance with the provisions of HB 354, as signed into law on May 12, 2015. The Task Force met five times and held three public hearings.

While the Task Force heard scores of worthwhile ideas during its deliberations, it has identified three that are especially appropriate, will have a significant impact, and are feasible and cost effective.

- Name the new community center in Prince Frederick the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center*;
- Name Maryland Route 2, from the intersection with Maryland Route 4 to the Anne Arundel County line, the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Memorial Highway*; and
- Commission a portrait of Harriet Elizabeth Brown.

It has been an honor to chair this Task Force and to work with such distinguished, creative, and hard-working members. We very much appreciate the leadership and 100% support of our Calvert County delegation in Annapolis for the Task Force's work to honor this courageous woman and distinguished educator.

My Task Force members and I look forward to working with you to implement these meaningful recommendations that commemorate Calvert County's – and Maryland's – own unsung hero.

Sincerely,

Margaret Dunkle
Chair, Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force

Executive Summary
Final Report
Task Force to Study the Commemoration of
Harriet Elizabeth Brown

Harriet Elizabeth Brown is a Calvert County civil rights pioneer who was instrumental in ensuring pay equity for public school teachers regardless of race. In 1937, as a 30-year-old teacher, Ms. Brown and her 29-year-old NAACP attorney, Thurgood Marshall, successfully used the 14th Amendment to challenge Calvert County Public Schools for paying African-American teachers about half of what equally qualified white teachers earned. Just two days after Christmas, on December 27, 1937, the Calvert County Board of Education settled Ms. Brown's case, agreeing to equalize salaries.

Ms. Brown's case was a turning point for pay equity for African-American teachers. In fact, the day after Calvert County Public Schools settled, Maryland Governor Harry W. Nice publicly pledged to support legislation and budget increases to equalize salaries paid to black and white teachers across the state. With the Governor's support, a subsequent victory in federal court, and continued pressure from NAACP teacher pay cases, the Maryland General Assembly passed a 1941 law to equalize pay for African-American and white teachers. Buoyed by these successes, the NAACP took on unequal teacher salaries, based on race, in school districts across the South. Despite the importance of Ms. Brown's accomplishments, few people in Calvert County or across the state know of her landmark contributions.

This past May, Governor Larry Hogan signed HB 354 into law, establishing the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force, charged with making recommendations to commemorate Ms. Brown to the County Commissioners of Calvert County, the Governor, and the General Assembly by December 31, 2015. The Task Force, which consists of seven members and is chaired by the Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women, met five times and held three public hearings.

Using three criteria – impact, do-ability/feasibility, and cost or cost-benefit – the Task Force recommends three specific actions to commemorate Ms. Brown.

Name the new community center in Prince Frederick the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center*. This recommendation has already been approved by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and is currently being implemented.

Name Maryland Route 2, from the intersection with Maryland Route 4 to the Anne Arundel County line, the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Memorial Highway*. This is a recommendation to the state.

Commission a portrait of Harriet Elizabeth Brown. Implementing this recommendation requires an expenditure of approximately \$10,000. The Task Force is requesting financial support from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, the Governor, and the Assembly, which will be supplemented by private fundraising as needed.

Task Force members look forward to working with the Governor's office, the Calvert County delegation in Annapolis, and the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners to implement these recommendations.

December 27, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Harriet Elizabeth Brown is Calvert County's own unsung hero, a civil rights pioneer who was pivotal in the struggle to ensure pay equity for public school teachers regardless of race.

In 1937, as a 30-year-old teacher, Ms. Brown successfully challenged Calvert County Public Schools for paying African-American teachers about half of what equally qualified white teachers earned. Just two days after Christmas, the Calvert County Board of Education settled Ms. Brown's case, agreeing to equalize salaries. Her 29-year-old NAACP attorney was Thurgood Marshall, who later became the first African-American Supreme Court Justice.

Ms. Brown's 14th Amendment case was a turning point for pay equity for African-American teachers. In fact, the day after the Calvert County Board of Education settled the case, Maryland Governor Harry W. Nice publicly pledged to support legislation and budget increases to equalize salaries paid to black and white teachers across the state.

NAACP attorneys soon won in federal court when neighboring Anne Arundel County decided to litigate rather than settle. With the Governor's support, a victory in federal court, and continued pressure from NAACP teacher pay cases, the Maryland General Assembly passed a 1941 law equalizing pay for black and white teachers. Buoyed by these Maryland successes, the NAACP took on unequal teacher salaries, based on race, in school districts across the South.

In his meticulously researched 2012 book (*Young Thurgood*), Larry Gibson rightly calls Ms. Brown's case "a huge boost to the NAACP and the teachers' equalization movement, not just in Maryland but throughout the South."¹

Ms. Brown went on to a long career as a distinguished educator in Calvert County, retiring after more than 40 years as a Calvert County teacher and school principal, and passing away on January 1, 2009, at age 101.

Despite the importance of Ms. Brown's accomplishments, too few people in Calvert County or across the state know of her landmark contributions.

Harriet Elizabeth Brown's courage to be the named plaintiff in the Calvert County lawsuit and her legacy of salary equalization for Maryland teachers are an inspiration to members of this Task Force, to citizens of Calvert County – and, indeed, to all Marylanders.

The Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown is proud to recommend significant ways to commemorate Ms. Brown's trailblazing contributions.

¹ Larry Gibson, *Young Thurgood: The Making of a Supreme Court Justice* (New York: Prometheus Books, 2012), page 322. *Young Thurgood* chronicles the first 30 years of Thurgood Marshall's life. Chapter 16, "Commuting Back for Equal Teacher Pay," details Thurgood Marshall's efforts, as Special Assistant Counsel with the New York based national office of the N.A.A.C.P.

THE HARRIET ELIZABETH BROWN TASK FORCE

The Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force was established by HB 354 (Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown), in response to the Calvert County Commission for Women’s 2013 request “to find a way to recognize Ms. Brown’s important historical role from the state level.” With 100% support from Calvert County’s Annapolis delegation – Senate President Miller and Senator Waugh, and Delegates O’Donnell, Fisher, and Jackson – this bill unanimously passed both the Maryland House and Senate.

On May 12, 2015 Governor Larry Hogan signed HB 354 (Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown) into law (Chapter 242, Acts of 2015).

See signing ceremony photo to the right and the statute at Appendix A. This Act took effect on July 1, 2015 and is effective through June 30, 2016.

Purpose of the Task Force

This statute established a Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown, with the mandate to:

- Study and make recommendations on the commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown, such as renaming an elementary or secondary school, a building connected with an institution of higher education, a school board facility, or any other education-related center or building located in Calvert County;
- Consider in its recommendation an appropriate way to commemorate Harriet Elizabeth Brown, given her legacy as an educator and the region in which she resided from 1937 through the remainder of her life;
- Hold public hearings to gather public input and recommendations;
- Consider the cost-effectiveness of its findings before making its recommendations; and
- Report findings and recommendations to the County Commissioners of Calvert County, the Governor, and, in accordance with Section 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly by December 31, 2015.

Members of the Task Force

The authorizing statute for the Task Force specifies that there be seven members:

The Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women, who also shall serve as chair of this Task Force – **Margaret Dunkle**;

A member of the County Commissioners of Calvert County, appointed by the County Commissioners – **Commissioner Pat Nutter**;



SB 354, Bill Signing, May 12, 2015
Standing: Delegate Anthony O’Donnell, Delegate Michael Jackson, Calvert County Commission for Women Chair Margaret Dunkle, Legislative Aide Andrew Fulginiti, Delegate Mark Fisher, Senator Steve Waugh
Seated: Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Governor Larry Hogan, House of Delegates Speaker Michael E. Busch

The Superintendent of the Calvert County Public School System, or the Superintendent's designee – **Superintendent Daniel Curry**;

A representative of the Calvert County Branch of the NAACP, *appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly* – **Calvert County NAACP President Joyce Freeland**;

A member of the Calvert County Historical Society, *appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly* – **Calvert County Historical Society President Guffrie Smith**;

A member of the House of Delegates who represents Calvert County, or the Delegates' designee, *appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly* – **Delegate Michael Jackson**; and

A member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Calvert County, or the Senators' designee, *appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly* – **Malcolm Funn**.

Task Force Activities

To accomplish its purpose, the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force held five regular meetings:

August 10, 2015 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

September 14, 2015 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

October 5, 2015 – 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

December 7, 2015 – 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

December 14, 2015 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The Task Force was honored to have members of Ms. Brown's family participate in several of these meetings. *See photo at right.*



(Left to Right) Margaret Dunkle, Chair of the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Task Force; Delegate Michael Jackson; Harriet Elizabeth Brown's cousin, Sherman Brown; Mr. Brown's grandchildren, A.J. Churchill, Logan Churchill, A.J. Sunkins, who came to the meeting from Virginia. *Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Current.*

The Task Force also held three widely publicized hearings: September 14 from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m., October 5 from 12 noon to 12:30 p.m., and October 20 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Nine organizations and six individuals provided written or oral statements, or both.

Statements by Organizations

Anmarie Garden – Stacey Hann-Ruff, Director

Calvert County Bar Association – Mark Carmean, President Elect

Calvert County Branch, NAACP – Joyce Freeland, President

Calvert County Historical Society – Chris Parran Banks

Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, Laretta Grier, Vice President

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum – Rachelle Green, Director of Education

League of Women Voters of Calvert County – Annette Funn and John Perryman, Co-Presidents

Maryland Commission for African-American History and Culture – Michael Kent, Commission Member

Old Wallville School – Ronald Clark, Advisory Board Member

Statements by Individuals

Dia Brown – 2014 Senior Division Winner, Harriet Elizabeth Brown History Fair Award from the Calvert County Commission for Women. Currently an 11th grader at Huntingtown High School

Sherman Brown – Harriet Elizabeth Brown’s Cousin

Linda Buckley – Journalist and Author

Danielle Frye – 2014 Junior Division Winner, Harriet Elizabeth Brown History Fair Award from the Calvert County Commission for Women. Currently in the 9th grade at Huntingtown High School

Dr. C. Vernon Gray – Professor Emeritus, Morgan State University, retired Howard County Councilman, and former student of Harriet Elizabeth Brown at Mt. Hope Elementary School

Annette Leslie Williams – Former Student of Harriet Elizabeth Brown at Mt. Hope Elementary School

The statements and public hearing process provided vital information to the Task Force. They also helped educate the public about Ms. Brown’s important role in ensuring salary equity for African-American teachers as well as her positive impact on generations of Calvert County students.

FINDINGS

Harriet Elizabeth Brown was a distinguished Calvert County educator from 1931 to 1973², and a trailblazer for equal pay for African-American and white teachers. She spent her entire teaching career in Calvert County, and was a teacher and then principal at Mt. Hope Elementary School (now the location of Mount Hope Community Center) in Sunderland, Maryland. Her long-time home in Owings, Maryland and the site of Mt. Hope Elementary School are both just off of Maryland Route 2, between the intersection with Route 4 and the Anne Arundel County line.³

During the period of racially segregated education, Ms. Brown became aware that African-American teachers were paid significantly less than their white counterparts. Ms. Brown was paid \$600 a year, while a white teacher with the same level of education and experience was paid \$1,100 a year.

On November 10, 1937, with representation from the NAACP, Ms. Brown, then 30 years old, challenged the separate pay scales for public school teachers based on race.

The lead NAACP attorney was 29-year-old Assistant Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall, who later became the first African-American Supreme Court Justice. Her other NAACP attorneys were Leon Ransom, Charles Hamilton Houston, and Edward P. Lovett.



On December 27, 1937, two days after Christmas, the Calvert County Board of Education met and agreed to fully equalize salaries for African-American and white teachers who had equal professional qualifications and who did equivalent work, effective August 1, 1939 (with partial increases in school year 1938-1939, beginning August 1, 1938).^{4 5 6}

The Calvert County settlement had an immediate impact statewide. The very next day (Tuesday, December 28, 1937) Maryland Governor Harry W. Nice publicly pledged to support legislation and budget increases to equalize salaries paid to black and white teachers across the state.⁷

By 1939, NAACP attorneys had won in federal court, when neighboring Anne Arundel County decided to litigate rather than settle a case brought on behalf of Walter Mills, an elementary school teacher and principal. In 1941, with Governor Nice's support, and continued pressure from NAACP teacher pay cases in Maryland and across the South, the Maryland General Assembly passed a law equalizing pay for African-American and white teachers.

Too few people in Calvert County and across the state know of Harriet Elizabeth Brown's brave contributions on behalf of salary equity for African-American teachers.

² "Harriet E. Brown," *The Washington Post*, January 4, 2009:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=122159007>. Other sources, including a 1998 interview of Ms. Brown (Interview by Reginald H. Pitts, John Milner Associates, "Calvert County Historic Schools Survey," May 8, 1998) provide different employment dates, saying that she began teaching in Calvert in 1930 and retired in 1970.

³ Ms. Brown and her younger sister Regina owned and lived for many years in a house located at 9001 Boyd's Turn Road in Owings, Maryland.

⁴ The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County also had a special meeting on December 27, 1937, approving one-third of the estimated annual amount to adjust salaries of African-American teachers for the 1938-39 school year (beginning August 1, 1938).

⁵ After the Board of Education consulted its attorney (William L. Marbury, Jr.) and successfully requested needed funding from the County Commissioners, the official School Board minutes for December 27, 1937 concluded: "It was pointed out that this seemed the only alternative to a costly litigation in which the Board of Education was likely to lose."

⁶ Ms. Brown's case was the second salary equalization case filed by the NAACP. The first case, with William B. Gibbs, Jr. as the plaintiff, against the Montgomery County (Maryland) Board of Education was filed just months earlier, in January of 1937, and settled in July 1937, with the Montgomery County School Board agreeing to equalize pay within a year.

⁷ The *Baltimore Sun* reported the Governor's plan ("Nice Seeks to Equalize Teachers' Pay: Plans Steps to Put White and Negro Educators on Same Level; Declares State Must Eliminate Discrimination in Salaries,") on December 29, 1937, page 22. *The Afro-American* reported on the Governor's pledge a few days later, on January 1, 1938, page 13.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMEMORATING HARRIET ELIZABETH BROWN

*to the Governor . . . the General Assembly . . . the Calvert County Board of
County Commissioners*

The Task Force set three criteria for making its final commemoration recommendations to the County Commissioners of Calvert County, the Governor, and the Maryland General Assembly.

- Impact: Is it appropriate and significant? Will it make a difference?
- Do-ability: Is it feasible? How would it be done or who would do it?
- Costs, “Cost-Benefit”: What would be the cost? How would the cost be covered?

Using these criteria, the Task Force is making three high-impact, do-able, and cost-effective recommendations to the County Commissioners, Governor, and General Assembly to commemorate Harriet Elizabeth Brown.

#1. Name the new community center in Prince Frederick the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center*. This recommendation has already been approved by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and is currently being implemented.

#2. Name Maryland Route 2, from the intersection with Maryland Route 4 to the Anne Arundel County line, the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Memorial Highway*. This is a recommendation to the state.

#3. Commission a portrait of Harriet Elizabeth Brown. Implementing this recommendation requires an expenditure of approximately \$10,000. The Task Force is requesting financial support from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, the Governor, and the Assembly, which will be supplemented by private fundraising as needed.

These three recommendations are described in more detail below.

In addition to governmental actions, the Task Force has identified numerous ways that nonprofit organizations, other institutions, or individuals might wish to commemorate Ms. Brown. These ideas are summarized in the next chapter.

The Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center – Already Underway

On September 15, 2015, the Task Force recommended to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners that they name the soon-to-be-opened interim community center in Prince Frederick the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center*, with appropriate signage and a prominently displayed commemorative plaque noting her contribution – and that this name follow this community center if and when it moves to a larger and more permanent location in the future.



This was a unanimous recommendation of the Task Force, and the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners unanimously adopted the Task Force’s recommendation at the BOCC meeting on September 22, 2015. *See Appendix B for the Task Force letter transmitting this recommendation to the BOCC.*

The Task Force expects that this new community center will become a hub of community activity in Prince Frederick, the county seat. In terms of cost and cost-effectiveness, implementing this recommendation does not require new expenditures at any level of government.

The Task Force additionally recommends that the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners ensure that the *interim* site of the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center* contain a display about Harriet Elizabeth Brown’s role in pay equity for African-American teachers – and that the *permanent* community center site include a room or small museum devoted to Harriet Elizabeth Brown’s impact.

Name Maryland Route 2, from the Intersection with Maryland Route 4 to the Anne Arundel County Line, the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Memorial Highway – New Recommendation

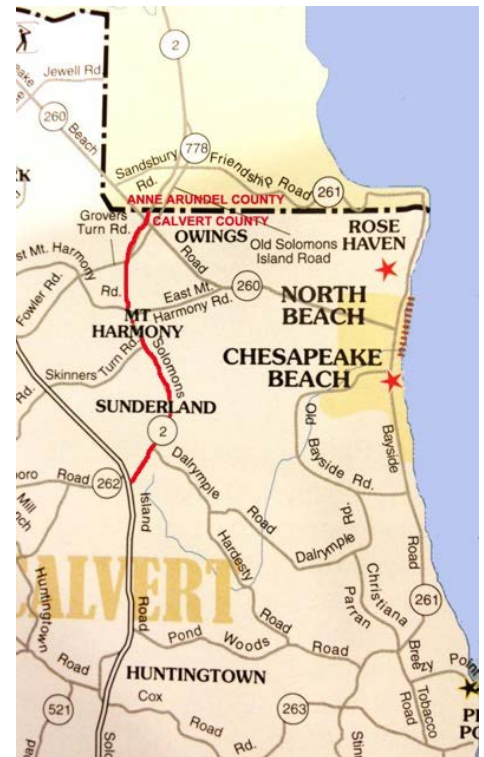
This approximately 4.6-mile section of Maryland Route 2 runs past the location of the former Mt. Hope Elementary School, where Ms. Brown taught, as well as her home. This new road name would complement the existing roadside historical marker in front of the Mt. Hope Community Center.

This commemoration idea was recommended by the Calvert County Branch of the NAACP as well as Michael Kent, representing the Maryland Commission for African-American History and Culture.

The Task Force also requests consideration of a new historical marker to designate the location of Ms. Brown’s house.

This is a recommendation to Governor Hogan and the General Assembly.

In terms of cost and cost effectiveness, costs would include new signage (*Harriet Elizabeth Brown Memorial Highway*) at two or more locations as well as the cost of the roadside historical marker for the Brown home site.



Above, marked in red, is the stretch of Maryland Route 2 that would become the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Memorial Highway*

Commission a Portrait of Harriet Elizabeth Brown – *New Recommendation*

The Task Force recommends commissioning an oil portrait based on the picture of Ms. Brown as a young woman, to hang prominently in the Calvert County Court House. Additionally, high-quality copies of this portrait would be hung in other prominent locations – for example, the Board of Education office, school buildings, libraries, county office buildings, and tourist attractions. Also, a brochure to educate the public, including tourists, of Ms. Brown’s impact would be developed. The Calvert County Bar Association and others recommended commissioning a portrait.

This is a recommendation for funding by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, the Governor, and the General Assembly. If needed, public support will be supplemented by private fundraising, most likely through a partnership with the Calvert Community Foundation.

In terms of cost and cost effectiveness, Judge Marjorie Clagett has obtained a cost estimate for an oil portrait from Ann Munro Wood, who has also done other portraits hanging in the Court House. For a 30” by 20” portrait, the cost would be \$6,000 with up to four side figures (depicting, for example, Ms. Brown in the classroom, Thurgood Marshall, Mt. Hope School, and the Court House) or \$4,500 without side figures. With the added costs of framing the original portrait, high-quality reproductions and framing, and developing and printing an educational brochure, the Task Force has set a \$10,000 budget for this activity. *See sketch by Ms. Wood to the right.*



* * *

These three recommendations echo HB 354’s instructions to the Task Force. For example, the recommendation to name the new community center in Prince Frederick the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center* reflects HB 354’s suggestion to name an “education-related center or building located in Calvert County in honor of Harriet Elizabeth Brown.” The recommendation to rename part of Route 2 the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Memorial Highway* reflects HB 354’s instructions to the Task Force to have its recommendation appropriate to “the region in which she resided from 1937 through the remainder of her life.” And the recommendation to commission a portrait to be hung in the Calvert County Court House, with high-quality copies hung in other prominent locations, is an appropriate way to commemorate Ms. Brown’s legacy.

IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO HONOR MS. BROWN

During the course of its work, the Task Force heard many recommendations that have great merit, while not appropriate requests of the Governor, General Assembly, or Calvert County Board of County Commissioners. Below are some of these ideas – with the goal of encouraging community initiatives to honor Ms. Brown and her legacy. The first two items are already underway – strengthening the historical record and a children’s book about Ms. Brown’s role to equalize teacher salaries.

Strengthen the Historical Record – Preserve the Task Force’s Research – *Already Underway*

The Task Force has already approved two specific ways to strengthen the historical record and preserve the work of the Task Force. These items do not require separate authorization by the Governor, General Assembly or BOCC.

The College of Southern Maryland has videotaped Task Force hearings; and

The Task Force has agreed that it will deposit – or make available in electronic form – to the extent possible and appropriate, the records from the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force into local history collections, such as:

Calvert County Historical Society: <http://www.calverthistory.org/>;

Bayside History Museum: <http://www.baysidehistorymuseum.org/>; and

Southern Maryland Studies Center (at the College of Southern Maryland): <http://www.csmd.edu/Library/SMSC/>.

Develop a Children’s Book About Ms. Brown’s Role to Achieve Salary Equalization – *Already Underway*

The Task Force strongly supports the chapter book that Linda Buckley plans to write about Ms. Brown’s critical role to equalize salaries for African-American teachers. The Task Force also encourages Ms. Buckley to develop a “picture book” about Ms. Brown for preschoolers or elementary-school age children and web-based supplementary materials. Finally, Task Force members would be glad to serve as informal advisors to this project: for example, sharing stories and ideas about Ms. Brown’s impact on generations of Calvert County students as well as her groundbreaking role to equalize teacher salaries.

Ms. Buckley is also serving as Senior Research Advisor for the Task Force.

This book will be privately funded and produced. Once it is published, the Task Force urges appropriate purchase of this book(s) by schools, libraries, visitor centers, child care facilities, and other entities.

Celebrate Harriet Elizabeth Brown’s Birthday

The Task Force encourages community celebration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown’s birthday (February 10, 1907) as a reminder of Ms. Brown’s important contributions to salary equity for African-American teachers. An individual organization, the school system, the College of Southern Maryland, Calvert Library, or the BOCC might undertake activities, displays, or events to honor Ms. Brown and encourage community activities celebrating her accomplishments.

By way of example: Annmarie Garden has proposed honoring Ms. Brown and Justice Marshall through a community art project that will coincide with the Garden’s annual MLK Days program. The project would kick off that weekend and could continue through February (Black History Month) and March (Women’s History Month).

Establish the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Scholars Program*

The Task Force supports establishing a *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Scholars Program*, which would provide scholarships to Calvert County students who exemplify Ms. Brown's courage to remedy inequitable salaries for African-American teachers and/or exemplify excellence in education or law. A *HEB Scholars* committee would be established to spearhead fundraising and define criteria and eligibility for awards, such as the size of scholarships, the number of Scholars, the level of students, women only or not, fields of study, whether limited to students attending specific postsecondary institutions, endowed fund or not, what costs scholarships might cover, etc.

The *HEB Scholars* program would most likely be administered through a donor-advised fund at the Calvert Community Foundation, which would provide the benefit of having a nonprofit (tax-deductible) status without having to establish a separate 501-c-3 (nonprofit) organization.

The *HEB Scholars* program could begin in the near term and continue and grow over time as additional funds are raised. For example, fundraising could focus on an event in February, which is both Black History Month and the month of Ms. Brown's birthday.

While the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Scholars Program* would be a nongovernmental activity, members of the Calvert County Delegation in Annapolis could participate by using some of their scholarship allotments for *HEB Scholars*.

Encourage a Public TV Documentary on Salary Equalization for African-American Teachers

The idea is to film a documentary to tell the story of how Maryland pioneers (including Ms. Brown and Thurgood Marshall) paved the way for salary equalization for African-American teachers across the South. This activity would involve identifying a documentary producer who believes this story needs to be told and who will take the lead to meet the funding challenge. This person could then work with members of the Task Force and others to build support and raise funds.

Over time, this documentary could be used in schools and libraries and at events, statewide as well as in Calvert County. This is a long-term effort that would require substantial funding and working with an interested producer to develop the concept, conduct research, write the script, film and premier the documentary, and widely disseminate the completed documentary.

Funding would most likely come from several sources, including foundations, corporate and private philanthropy, co-production partners, rights sales (international, print, etc.), and more.

Develop Educational Materials and Hold Events That Keep Ms. Brown’s Legacy Alive

The Task Force encourages entities, both public and private, to develop and disseminate educational materials that tell Ms. Brown’s story and the story of salary equity for African-American teachers.

Promising ideas suggested to the Task Force include:

Having a Calvert Library book club read Larry Gibson’s book, *Young Thurgood*,⁸ and plan related events;

Developing inspiring materials about Harriet Elizabeth Brown for classroom and instructional use;⁹

Videotaping Dia Brown’s award-winning History Fair dramatization featuring Harriet Elizabeth Brown and Thurgood Marshall, and making this video available to schools, libraries, and community organizations;

Compiling a *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Sourcebook* of original materials relevant to Ms. Brown’s case;

Commissioning a written history of Ms. Brown’s contributions for students, community members, tourists, and others;

Providing in-service training for Calvert County Public Schools teachers about Ms. Brown’s case and its impact;

Developing PowerPoint presentations and displays;

Developing a case study of Ms. Brown and the effort for salary equalization for use in classrooms and the community; and

Creating other materials that would have an impact on students and community members.

These activities could be done by an educational institution (either elementary-secondary or postsecondary), Calvert Library, the Calvert County Historical Society, the Calvert County Branch of the NAACP, a nonprofit organization, a community group, or a motivated individual. And some, such as the school-related items, could be led by the Maryland State Department of Education.

⁸ *Young Thurgood* is a biography by Larry Gibson of Thurgood Marshall’s first 30 years. He was 29 when he became the NAACP attorney for Harriet Elizabeth Brown. The final chapter of *Young Thurgood* is devoted to the NAACP’s fight for teacher-salary equalization in Maryland.

⁹ This could include curricular materials (for example, for fourth graders, who already visit Old Wallville School and the One-Room School at Port Republic, and for tenth graders studying US History), special projects, and community-service activities. Recommended by Huntingtown High School 9th grader Danielle Frye and others.

CONCLUSION

The members of the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration have worked diligently to identify the most appropriate ways to honor Harriet Elizabeth Brown and her legacy of salary equalization for African-American teachers. After careful thought and inspiring public input, the Task Force has identified three governmental actions that meet the ambitious and worthy goals of HB 354 that established this Task Force.

The three recommendations are:

- Name the new community center in Prince Frederick the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center*, already approved by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners.
- Name Maryland Route 2, from the intersection with Maryland Route 4 to the Anne Arundel County line, the *Harriet Elizabeth Brown Memorial Highway*. This designation will require state-level action.
- Commission a portrait of Harriet Elizabeth Brown, with support from the County and State as well as through private fundraising.

Members of this Task Force look forward to working with the County Commissioners of Calvert County, the Governor's office, and the General Assembly to implement these recommendations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work of the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force has truly been a team effort.

Special thanks go to the staff of the Calvert County legislative delegation in Annapolis who have assisted Task Force efforts throughout this process – from crafting HB 354 (Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown) to making logistical arrangements for meetings and hearings, and contributing to this final report. The Task Force is especially indebted to Melinda Sheranko (Legislative Aide to Delegate Anthony O'Donnell); Andrew Fulginiti (Legislative Aide to Delegate Mark Fisher); staff members of Delegate Michael Jackson; Yaakov (Jake) Weissman and Joy Walker (Deputy Chief of Staff and Office Manager, respectively, to Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller); and Jess Hackett (Chief of Staff to Senator Stephen Waugh).

We are deeply grateful to support and hands-on involvement of Ms. Brown's family. Special appreciation goes to her cousin, Sherman Brown, who provided important insights and attended Task Force meetings along with his grandchildren, A.J. Churchill, Logan Churchill, and A.J. Sunkins. We are also grateful to Madison Brown (also Ms. Brown's cousin), who is known as the family historian and who, among other things, located the only known picture of Ms. Brown as a young woman (the picture on the cover of this report).

We thank the organizations and individuals who spoke and provided public input at Task Force hearings for sharing their insights and recommendations – from community leaders to former students of Ms. Brown and current students attending Calvert County Public Schools. We appreciate the members of the public who attended Task Force meetings and hearings. And we are grateful to the Calvert County Commission for Women and Girl Scout Troop 3145 for handling registration and refreshments for the hearing on October 20, 2015.

The Task Force is indebted to its partner organizations that provided space for Task Force meetings: the College of Southern Maryland (Prince Frederick Campus) for the August 10 and September 14 meetings; Calvert Library Prince Frederick for the October 5 meeting; and the Solomons Rehabilitation and Care Center for the December 7 and 14 meetings.

Thanks also to Calvert Library Prince Frederick for hosting the September 14 and October 5 hearings, and to the College of Southern Maryland (Prince Frederick Campus) for hosting the October 20 hearing.

The Task Force is grateful to the College of Southern Maryland for taping the hearings, especially to Patricia Christofaro, Television Station Manager and Executive Producer.

Special thanks to Emanuel Demedis, Court Administrator for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland, for providing copies of original court files from the Harriet Elizabeth Brown case.

The Task Force appreciates the many contributions of Linda Buckley to the Task Force. In addition to working on developing a children's book about Ms. Brown, Ms. Buckley served as Senior Research Advisor to obtain relevant historical documents from the Library of Congress and other sources.

Finally, the Task Force thanks the citizens of Calvert County who have been uniformly supportive of Task Force efforts to commemorate Calvert County's own unsung hero, Harriet Elizabeth Brown.

APPENDICES

- A. HB 354 – Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown

- B. Recommendation for Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown – *The Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center*. Memorandum from Margaret Dunkle to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, September 15, 2015.

Appendix A

HB 354 – Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown

Chapter 242

(House Bill 354)

AN ACT concerning

Calvert County – Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown; providing for the composition, chair, and staff of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to study, hold public hearings, and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the County Commissioners of Calvert County, the Governor, and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown.

Preamble

WHEREAS, Harriet Elizabeth Brown worked as a teacher and principal at the Mt. Hope Elementary School in Calvert County from 1931 to 1973; and

WHEREAS, During the period of racially segregated education, Ms. Brown became aware that African American teachers were paid significantly less than their white counterparts with the same level of education and experience; and

WHEREAS, In 1937, Ms. Brown enlisted the aid of a young attorney named Thurgood Marshall, then special counsel for the NAACP, to challenge the inequity of separate pay scales for public school teachers based on race; and

WHEREAS, The landmark case was settled in Ms. Brown's favor by the Calvert County Board of Education on December 27, 1937, and was a turning point for salary equalization in the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Elizabeth Brown, a civil rights pioneer and long-time resident of Calvert County and the State of Maryland, died on January 1, 2009, at the age of 101; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That:

- (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
 - (1) the Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women;
 - (2) one member of the County Commissioners of Calvert County, appointed by the County Commissioners;
 - (3) the Superintendent of the Calvert County Public School System, or the Superintendent's designee; and
 - (4) the following members, appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly:
 - (i) one representative of the Calvert County NAACP;
 - (ii) one representative of the Calvert County Historical Society;
 - (iii) one member of the House of Delegates who represents Calvert County, or the Delegate's designee; and
 - (iv) one member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Calvert County, or the Senator's designee.
- (c) The Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women shall be the chair of the Task Force.
- (d) The staff of the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly shall provide staff to the Task Force.
- (e) The Task Force shall:
 - (1) study and make recommendations on the commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown, such as renaming an elementary or secondary school, a building connected with an institution of higher education, a school board facility, or any other education-related center or building located in Calvert County in honor of Harriet Elizabeth Brown;
 - (2) consider in its recommendation an appropriate way to commemorate Harriet Elizabeth Brown given her legacy as an educator and the region in which she resided from 1937 through the remainder of her life;
 - (3) hold public hearings to gather public input and recommendations; and
 - (4) consider the cost-effectiveness of its findings before making its recommendations.
- (f) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the County Commissioners of Calvert County, the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.

Appendix B

**Recommendation for Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown –
The Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center
Memorandum from Margaret Dunkle to the Calvert County Board
of County Commissioners
September 15, 2015**



HARRIET ELIZABETH BROWN COMMEMORATION TASK FORCE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Terry L. Shannon, County Administrator 1-5
FROM: Margaret Dunkle, Chair
DATE: September 15, 2015
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown
~ *The Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center*

Background:

The Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force was legislatively created to make recommendations – to the County Commissioners as well as to the Governor and General Assembly – to commemorate Harriet Elizabeth Brown.

Discussion:

The Task Force respectfully requests an opportunity to present a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners at its earliest convenience. Specifically, I (as Task Force Chair) and Joyce Freeland (as a Task Force member, President of the Calvert County NAACP, and seconder of this motion) request time during a regular BOCC meeting to present this Task Force recommendation and to provide any additional information needed for the BOCC to act.

In hopes that the BOCC could entertain this recommendation at its regular meeting on September 22, two other Task Force members – Delegate Michael Jackson and Malcolm Funn (representing Senators Miller and Waugh on the Task Force) – have also cleared their schedule so that they could attend on that date. While Guffrie Smith (who represents the Calvert County Historical Society on the Task Force) cannot be there on the 22nd because of his duties as President of the Maryland State Board of Education, he strongly supports this recommendation. In fact, he made this motion.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

At its meeting on Monday, September 14, 2015, the Task Force unanimously voted to make the following recommendation to the BOCC:

The Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force enthusiastically recommends to the County Commissioners of Calvert County that they name the soon-to-be-opened interim community center on Dares Beach Road (now often referred to as "the SMECO building") the "Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center," with appropriate signage and a prominently displayed commemorative plaque noting her contributions.

Further, the Task Force recommends that the name – the "Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center" – follow this community center if and when it moves to a larger and more permanent location in the future.

The Task Force is making this recommendation as a part of its charge – *under HB 354, as unanimously passed by the Maryland House and Senate and signed into law on May 12, 2015 by Governor Larry Hogan* – to "make recommendations on the commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown, such as renaming ... [an] education-related center or building located in Calvert County in honor of Harriet Elizabeth Brown."

There will be many benefits to Calvert County children, families, and communities to naming this new community center after such a distinguished local educator. Ms. Brown's successful 1937 case to equalize salaries for African-American and white teachers blazed the way for salary equalization, not only in Calvert County, but also across the State and nation.

Fiscal Impact:

In terms of cost-effectiveness, there are no new expenditures at any level of government associated with this recommendation.

HARRIET ELIZABETH BROWN COMMEMORATION TASK FORCE

Margaret Dunkle, Task Force Chair

Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women

Commissioner Pat Nutter

Appointed by the County Commissioners of Calvert County

Daniel Curry

Superintendent of the Calvert County Public School System

Joyce Freeland

President of the Calvert County Branch of the NAACP

Appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly

Guffrie Smith

President of the Calvert County Historical Society

Appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly

Delegate Michael Jackson

Member of the House of Delegates who represent Calvert County

Appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly

Malcolm Funn

Designee of the Senate members who represent Calvert County

Appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly