

JUNETEENTH DOC

National Juneteenth
Observance Foundation

Volume I, Issue I

September 2018

The Juneteenth Doc is at Rest

On September 7th, Rev. Ronald V. 'Doc' Myers, Sr. M.D., began his final journey. He was a friend, a brother, and educator, and a mentor. Doc would call at 6am, he would call at 3am to discuss Juneteenth. He would get his state directors on the phone and do three way calls to their senators, fighting for recognition of Juneteenth. He mentored on the best ways to approach and to educate on our history. Doc drove his truck across country to appear at our celebrations. He opened clinics in the Mississippi Delta, and he flew to Washington often. Doc Myers promoted Juneteenth Flag Raisings, support of the military members of African American descent and Juneteenth jazz, teacakes, and coins. These were the actions of a man with a mission.

He travelled to Alaska in 2009 to celebrate the construction of the Sikanni Chief River Bridge in 1942, and honored the African American Army Engineers who built the historic Alcan Highway during World War II, ultimately ending segregation in the U.S. military in 1948.

Because of Doc, the first Ethiopian Jewish woman to become Miss Israel, Yityish Aynaw, toured America, hosted by his National Juneteenth Leadership Council, in 2013, for " . . . the opportunity to build closer relationships with the state of Israel through our connection with the Ethiopian Jewish community," .

In 2017, Doc Myers took the Juneteenth flag to the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes for a presentation.

After more than 30 years ministering to the inhabitants of the poorest county in this country, this past August, he nominated NJOF Virginia Director, Steven Williams, to assume the leadership of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.

Rev. Myers had been instrumental in the passage of legislation recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day in 45 states and the District of Columbia. There is currently a campaign to have the Senate reintroduce SJR45, originally presented in 2012 by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX) to amend the national code 36 and place Juneteenth on the calendar.

Call Your Senator To Support Legislation to Recognize Juneteenth at 202-324-3121

In the early 1990s, Juneteenth America, Inc. (JAI) was founded by John Thompson, who organized the first National Juneteenth Convention & Expo from the West Coast, and the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF) founded by Ben Haith, the creator of the National Juneteenth Flag on the East Coast.

Did You Know?

In 1994, a group of Juneteenth leaders from across the country gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, at Christian Unity Baptist Church to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth. The meeting was convened by Rev. John Mosley, director of the New Orleans Juneteenth Freedom Celebration.



"Together we will see Juneteenth become a national day of observance in America!"



National Juneteenth Observance Foundation Has A New Telephone Number 888-509-NJOF (6563)



Rev. Myers requested the community to contact their senators at 202-224-3121 to immediately introduce, and pass, the legislation and complete his mission to see Juneteenth Independence Day recognized nationally.

Doc Myers could be found on large stages and in parks and parking lots. He was all about the knowledge of the impact of slavery in America and the need for education of the culture and history.

What I really remember are the calls where he talked about his love of Sylvia, his wife of 35 plus years, and his pride in his children's accomplishments, and his sons rise in the military.

Doc sang silly songs, had doubts and occasional regrets about his actions, but never about Sylvia's love, and her standing by him even when he doubted himself, or his love of her. That's my brightest memory of Doc Myers, his love of music and Juneteenth, but most of all, his love for his wife and family.

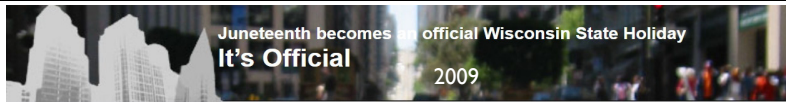
Doc, we'll miss you.

Dee Evans, Communications Director

Register to attend the 1st NJOF Annual Meeting
October 27, 2018
Online 2:00 – 3:30 PM EST, For More Information E-Mail:
Communications@NationalJuneteenth.org



JUNETEENTH DOC FACTS



- Physician, medical missionary, Baptist minister, jazz musician, composer and civil rights activist
- The first ordained and commissioned medical missionary to America's poorest region, the Mississippi Delta
- Provided national leadership advocacy for Juneteenth as Founder and Chairman of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation
- Instrumental in passage of Juneteenth legislation in over 40 states
- Demanded congressional hearings on the pain treatment crises
- Founder of *Madison Medicus* - University of Wisconsin Medical School

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Juneteenth Nation: Since the 2018 Juneteenth commemoration a lot has happened with the NJOF. The new Executive team along with the Board of Directors are continuing to work towards the goals of the founders of the NJOF. We are reorganizing in a manner to improve NJOF communication and to provide resources for you, the Juneteenth Nation. So that we can meet the challenges in the future of Juneteenth in America.

Rev. Ronald V. 'Doc' Myers Sr. M.D. was very enthusiastic about the use of technology to achieve the goals that would make the NJOF a stronger organization also the changes that were being made to promote Juneteenth in America. Doc's last words to me were "Fight on brother!" which is what we are doing with more vigor than ever. NJOF is working on the introduction and passing of legislation to make Juneteenth a National Day of Observance with several Senators.

Here's what you can look forward to coming from the national office:

- This newsletter, detailing the activities of NJOF members around America.
- Our new national number (888) 509-NJOF (6563)
- Mid-year Juneteenth Planners and Organizers convention October 27, 2018
- Increased Juneteenth and NJOF awareness through a nationwide PSA campaign.
- An interactive program that will allow you gather information on resources
- Information on fund raising & acquiring financial support for Juneteenth events.
- A State Directors Guide
- A nationwide NJOF & Buffalo Soldiers support agreement
- A new and improved website
- Increased Social Media campaigns
- Development of an education branch of the NJOF

Let's keep the Juneteenth Doc spirit alive by staying in touch and active in the NJOF,

Steve Williams
 President
 Virginia State Director

National Juneteenth Observance Foundation
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