



Cecil J. Williams

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Cecil J. Williams acquired a hand-me-down camera when he was nine, and by age 15 was working as a professional and freelance photographer for such publications as *Jet*, the *Afro-American*, and the *Pittsburgh Courier*, and a stringer for the Associated Press, and today is lauded as one of the country’s most accomplished visual artists. He has worked as a professional photographer, author and publisher of three books, and designer/architect of three residences, but he is most well known as the chronicler of the civil rights era.

His photographs are considered the most comprehensive collection of the civil rights era and have been featured in 126 books, 17 newspapers, and 11 television documentaries. In 1995, Mercer University Press published “Freedom and Justice,” Williams’ photographic documentary of the Civil Rights Movement. The photographs were exhibited at the University of South Carolina, Furman University, Rice Museum in Georgetown, Claflin University, Furman University, Stanback Museum in Orangeburg, Museum of the New South in Charlotte, and McKissick Museum, Columbia. In 1996 he was featured as one of four civil rights photographers in a screening of “Exposures of a Movement,” at Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Other professional accomplishments in the arts include being selected by the South Carolina Arts Commission as an Artist-in-Residence at W. A. Perry Middle School in Columbia in 1995, a 1994 Commendation by the South Carolina General Assembly for a photographic exhibit, “Quiet Heroes,” official yearbook photographer for South Carolina State University, Claflin University, the South Carolina NAACP, and the National Conference of Black Mayors. Williams’ credits these experiences with his ability to amass a wealth of historical documentation and political and social experiences.

Williams received the Presidential Citation from Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, president of Claflin University, for outstanding contributions to the college and community. He also received the Freedom Fighter Award, presented by the Orangeburg branch of the NAACP, and the 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast Community Service Awards.

He is married to Barbara Johnson Williams, a teacher at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School.

2007

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South Carolina
African American
History Calendar

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November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 First issue of Ebony published in 1945. First issue of Crisis published in 1910.	2 President Ronald Reagan signed law designating the third Monday in January Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.	3 South Carolina State College was established in 1896.
4 Daylight Savings Time Ends T. Elkins patented the refrigerating apparatus in 1879.	5 Walter E. Washington elected Mayor of Washington, D.C. in 1974.	6 Absalom Jones, minister, was born in 1746.	7 David Dinkins elected first Black Mayor of New York City in 1989.	8 Edward W. Brooke was elected first Black U.S. Senator (R- Mass.) in 85 years in 1966.	9 Benjamin Banneker, surveyor, was born in 1731.	10 Andrew Hatcher was named associate press secretary to President John F. Kennedy, becoming the first Black press secretary in 1960.
11 Veteran's Day Nat Turner, leader of a Virginia slave revolt, was hanged in 1831.	12 In 1775, General George Washington issued an order, later rescinded, which forbade recruiting officers to enlist Blacks.	13 Dwight Gooden won baseball's Cy Young Award in 1985.	14 Booker T. Washington died in 1915.	15 In 1979, the Nobel Prize in economics was awarded to Professor Arthur Lewis of Princeton.	16 "Father of the Blues," W.C. Handy, was born in Florence, Ala. in 1873.	17 Omega Psi Phi was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1911.
18 Abolitionist and orator Sojourner Truth was born in 1787.	19 Roy Campanella was named the National League MVP for the second time in 1953.	20 Garrett T. Morgan patented the traffic signal in 1923.	21 Shaw University was founded in 1865.	22 Thanksgiving Alrutheus A. Taylor, teacher and historian, was born in 1893.	23 J.L. Love put patents on the pencil sharpener in 1897.	24 Scott Joplin, composer, born in 1868.
25 Luther "Bill" Robinson, dancer, died in 1949.	26 Sojourner Truth, evangelist, died in 1883.	27 Richard Wright, author, died in 1960.	28 Ernie Davis became the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy in 1961.	29 Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was born in 1908.	30 Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was born in 1924.	