

Media Alert  
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**Renowned African American Historian Dr. Spencer Crew to present Banner Lecture on  
Thurgood Marshall at the Virginia History of Museum & Culture**

Richmond, VA — On Thursday, August 22, at 12:00 p.m., the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) in conjunction with its new exhibition *Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality*, will host Dr. Spencer Crew when he presents “Thurgood Marshall: A Life in American History.”

Dr. Crew is on the Advisory Committee of *Determined*; and has an impressive background, having worked in museums for more than 25 years. He served as the president of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center for six years; and was with the National Museum of American History (NMAC), Smithsonian Institution for 20 years, nine of which he served as director. Dr. Crew is now the Interim Director of the National Museum African American History, after its founder, Lonnie Bunch, was named the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian. Dr. Crew is the author of several books, one of which was the basis for his most important exhibition at the NMAC, “Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration 1915 – 1940”. This exhibition generated a national discussion about migration, race and creating historical exhibitions. He also authored *Black Life in Secondary Cities: A Comparative Analysis of the Black Communities of Camden and Elizabeth, N.J., 1860 - 1920*; and most recently, *Thurgood Marshall: A Life in American History* (forthcoming on September 30, 2019).

Thurgood Marshall is best remembered as the first black Supreme Court Justice, but he also had a remarkable and significant career before his appointment. He worked as a lawyer for the NAACP for several decades. During that time, he acquired the title of “Mr. Civil Rights” for his efforts in combating laws and litigating court cases detrimental to African Americans. Dr. Crew’s lecture will explore why Marshall decided to take on this task and the impact he had on American society during the course of his career.

This event is free to the public. Those who cannot attend can watch the lecture live on the VMHC’s Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/VirginiaHistory](http://www.facebook.com/VirginiaHistory)) at noon on August 22.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society — a private, non-profit organization established in 1831. The historical society is the oldest cultural organization in Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. For use in its state history museum and its renowned research library, the historical society cares for a collection of nearly nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is located at 428 N Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond’s Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call 804.340.1800, visit [VirginiaHistory.org](http://VirginiaHistory.org), or connect on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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