President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Photograph courtesy of the LBJ Presidential Library.
A Major American Milestone: 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act

On July 2, 1964 President Lyndon Johnson, with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. looking over his left shoulder, signed the federal Civil Rights Act. This groundbreaking law, conceived by President John F. Kennedy at the urging of many leaders of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, banned from coast to coast wholesale discrimination against any American citizen based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender or national origin. The Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination in bank lending, housing, employment, private business practice and education. The watershed law also gave every American citizen legal protection in federal courts and leverage to challenge state and local governments that enacted biased laws and condoned the abuse of minority populations.

The Civil Rights Act was the culmination of a struggle that began in earnest in the early to mid 19th century, with several court decisions, the blood of the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, and the extension of voting rights for women. Before there was a Rosa Parks or a Martin Luther King Jr., a Malcolm X, John Lewis or a Ralph Abernathy, Jr., there was relentless foundational work in the civil rights struggle and leadership from the abolitionist movement: Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, John Brown, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass and many others. Their struggle was to end slavery, give every man equal treatment under the law, and provide the right to vote for all men regardless of the color of their skin. It took legal decisions, acts of civil disobedience, war, the vision of great leaders and the everyday defiance of common, ordinary people to move this country toward fulfilling the promise of freedom over tyranny that gave birth to the United States of America.

And in the end, though the actual legislation was proposed by a Northeastern liberal, it was the work of a traditional Southern Democrat—Lyndon Johnson—himself the product of racially segregated Texas electoral politics—that saw the bill through to passage. A shrewd political operator with a complex personality, Johnson had a deep commitment to empowering the poor and downtrodden to transcend their humble beginnings and find better economic and educational opportunities for them-
selves and their children—regardless of the color of their skin, their ethnic background, religion, or national origin.

In signing the Civil Rights Act into law on that hot summer evening at the White House, President Johnson said, “We believe that all men are created equal, yet many are denied equal treatment. We believe that all men have certain unalienable rights, yet many Americans do not enjoy those rights. We believe that all men are entitled to the blessings of liberty, yet millions are being deprived of those blessings. Not because of their own failures, but because of the color of their skin. The reasons are deeply imbedded in history and tradition, and the nature of man. We can understand without rancor or hatred how this all happened, but it cannot continue. Our Constitution—the foundation of our republic—forbids it. The principles of our freedom forbid it. Morality forbids it. And the law I will sign tonight forbids it.”

And so the passage of the Civil Rights Act is to be celebrated. Despite the historical and deeply embedded cultural challenges we faced with respect to discrimination, progress was made due to the sacrifice and toil of countless Americans, both famous and unknown. The work and vision of the civil rights pioneers remains unfulfilled; the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was not the end, but the start of a new era of progress in building a more just society. There is still much work to do. The great leaders of the civil rights movement, on whose shoulders we all stand, would surely point out that in 2014 we face disparities in health, wealth, economic opportunity, educational opportunity and achievement in our nation and state that in many cases divides those with resources and those without, and can be traced to a history of discrimination. Our work now, building on the legacy left by those who struggled to pass the Civil Rights Act—is to create a fairer, more just society—to give every American the opportunity to live a healthy life, get a good education and earn a decent living doing meaningful work. That is the continuing civil rights struggle of our time.

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State
Gerald A. Lamb
State Treasurer
1924–2014
Photograph courtesy of the Waterbury Republican-American.
In Memoriam:
State Treasurer Gerald A. Lamb
1924–2014

On March 24, 2014, Connecticut lost an influential figure with the passing of former State Treasurer Gerald A. Lamb. Early in the civil rights movement, Treasurer Lamb made history when, in 1962, he was the first African American in the United States to be elected to the position of State Treasurer. He was also the first African American in Connecticut to be elected to statewide office. He held this position for two terms, moving Connecticut and America forward during the civil rights movement.

Gerald Lamb was born in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. After graduating high school, he went on to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard as a chemical warfare specialist. After his honorable discharge, Lamb moved north and made Connecticut his home, residing in the City of Waterbury. It was there that Lamb began to make a difference and forge a path that would help change modern state politics. He was an active citizen in the Waterbury community, and managed a local business. In 1959, he was elected to the city’s Board of Aldermen. He served the city in this position until 1961. During his tenure, he was both president pro tempore of the board and acting mayor.

Lamb became close friends with Vice President Lyndon Johnson three weeks prior to the tragic assassination of President Kennedy. After assuming office, President Johnson designated Lamb as a special ambassador to Venezuela for the inauguration of Dr. Raul Leoni. After serving as state treasurer, Lamb became Connecticut’s first African American commissioner of banking. In 1971, he became vice president of Connecticut’s largest bank at the time, Connecticut Bank and Trust.

Treasurer Lamb was an inspiration to a generation, and proof that hard work and dedication can lead to success. In many ways, his life mirrored the progress of the civil rights movement. His career was a significant step on the path to social acceptance of African Americans in politics. In fact, at the height of his political career, he was featured on the cover of Ebony magazine. On July 2, 1964, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act. While it is unfortunate that his friend Gerald Lamb did not
live to witness this anniversary, Lamb did live to see the election of the first African American President, Barack Obama.

For shattering some glass ceilings of his own and for being an inspiration to a generation, Gerald A. Lamb will be fondly remembered.

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State
Hartford Courant mastheads through the years, including the first edition published in 1764, an edition from 1833, the first Sunday edition (1913) and a modern day masthead from 2012.
The Hartford Courant:  
250 Years in Continuous Publication

The Hartford Courant, the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States, celebrates its 250th birthday in 2014. Founded by printer Thomas Green and first published on October 29, 1764, The Connecticut Courant, as it was originally called, was the most well-known and widely circulated newspaper in the American colonies prior to independence. It was not until 1837 that the paper went from being published and sold just once a week to becoming a daily newspaper. Throughout the years, the Courant has reported, documented, and highlighted thousands of stories ranging from unfortunate tragedies to incredible athletic successes and plenty of political scandals in between that gave more than one elected official reason to fret. Accuracy, thoroughness, speed in reporting news and satisfying the needs of the reader are what characterize the quality of news coverage that has made The Hartford Courant so successful throughout its storied history. No matter what type of event or situation warranted press coverage, through good and bad, the Courant was there to witness and document the collective history of Connecticut. In honor of its 250-year commitment to reporting the news, bearing witness to human events, and making our state so well-informed, we dedicate the next few pages to some of the highlights from the last 250 years of the Courant’s pages. There were literally thousands of stories and images from which to choose, but here are some of the more interesting Connecticut headlines to appear in print in the pages of The Hartford Courant. Congratulations and Happy Birthday, Hartford Courant. You have greatly served your community and your country. Here’s to another 250 years!


Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State
May 23, 1765: Stamp Act Passed

On March 22, 1765, The British Parliament passed the Stamp Act. This act levied a tax on items including playing cards, dice and all printed materials for commercial and legal use. This new form of taxation did not sit well with the American colonists. The Sons of Liberty, an organization opposed to the act, formed in the summer of 1765, included John Durkee, Hugh Ledlie, and Israel Putnam of eastern Connecticut. Their constant agitation and activism, which the British called subversive and dangerous, contributed to The Stamp Act’s repeal the following year.

May 23, 1780: Darkness Over New England

May 19, 1780 was a day of unusual darkness on the east coast. Known as New England’s Dark Day, the New England states as well as parts of Canada were covered in complete darkness from noon until the next morning at sunrise. Why this occurred was unknown for years. It was not until centuries later that scientists reasoned this unusual phenomenon resulted from a combination of smoke caused by forest fires, cloud cover, and fog.
March 9, 1841: Slaves of the Amistad Freed

On March 9, 1841, America moved closer to civil war and eventually towards abolishing slavery. On this day, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the 53 Mende people aboard the slave ship *Amistad* had been illegally captured from their homes in modern day Sierra Leone and forced into slavery. The court ruled that the African men, women, and children had the right to defend themselves against their Spanish captors. The Mende mutineers commandeered the *Amistad* in the Atlantic Ocean, eventually landing off the coast of Long Island, New York. They were immediately detained by Connecticut authorities, but later represented by Connecticut natives Theodore Sedgwick and Roger Sherman Baldwin in their bid for freedom. The Supreme Court declared the captured Mende free and ordered them repatriated to their homeland.

March 23, 1852: Advertisement for Uncle Tom’s Cabin

In March of 1852, advertisements first appeared for a new novel written by noted abolitionist author Harriet Beecher Stowe of Hartford. With a strong anti-slavery theme, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was published on March 20, 1852. It sold 10,000 copies in its first week in publication and over one million copies worldwide. Only the Bible sold more copies.
March 15, 1888: The Great Blizzard of 1888

Arguably the most well-known snowstorm in American history, the Blizzard of 1888 ravaged numerous states, especially Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. With snowfall reaching 60 inches and winds greater than 50 miles per hour, the Blizzard of 1888 left residents trapped in their homes for days, also causing major property loss from fire and coastal flooding. Hundreds died in Connecticut alone.

May 3, 1914: March for Women’s Suffrage

One hundred years ago, American women did not have the right to vote. Connecticut was considered a hot bed of the women’s suffrage movement, dating back to the mid-19th century. May 2, 1914 was considered Suffrage Day in many cities across the United States. On this day, Hartford’s parade in support of women’s suffrage drew thousands of spectators, foreshadowing the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution just a few years later, guaranteeing all American women universal suffrage.
September 21, 1938: Hurricane Kills Hundreds, Floods much of Connecticut

The Great New England Hurricane of 1938 was the biggest hurricane to hit New England since 1869. Originating near the Cape Verde Islands, the Hurricane of ’38 came ashore packing winds reaching 186 mph and tore into the heart of New England, causing widespread damage from the coast of Rhode Island to the green mountains of Vermont, killing more than 600 people and causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. Only Hurricane Sandy in 2012 caused more financial losses through property damage to the region.

April 28, 1960: First All-Connecticut made Nuclear Submarine Launched

On April 27, 1960, the USS Tullibee was launched in Groton, Connecticut, making the submarine the first to use turbo-electric propulsion and the first to have antisubmarine weapons. The Tullibee, the first nuclear submarine fully manufactured in Connecticut, was built by the Electric Boat Division of aerospace and defense giant, General Dynamics Corporation. Southeastern Connecticut remains a powerhouse of nuclear submarine ship building.
April 6, 1968: Rioting in Hartford’s North End

The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. triggered long simmering racial tensions in the north end of Hartford to boil over into full scale rioting and looting in April of 1968. The riots were a result of years of economic frustration felt by poor and working class residents of Hartford’s north end and showed the tenuous nature of race relations in Connecticut. These riots and subsequent unrest in 1969 solidified major demographic changes already underway in Connecticut’s capitol region, with white and affluent families of color seeking refuge from urban tensions and migrating to the suburbs.

November 5, 1974: Ella Grasso Elected

The election of 1974 will always remain a significant part of American history. This election year was when Ella Tambussi Grasso was elected governor of Connecticut. Ella Grasso made history, becoming the first woman elected governor of any U.S. state in her own right, not succeeding her husband as others had.
April 7, 2004: UConn Men & Women Dual Champs

In April of 2004, the UConn men’s and women’s basketball teams made history. For the first time in American collegiate athletics, both the University of Connecticut’s men’s and women’s teams won the NCAA Division I tournament titles, making UConn the first and only school in college sports history to bring home a dual championship. The April 5th and April 6th victories put Connecticut firmly on the map as the “college basketball capital of the world.”

November 12, 2008: Same-Sex Couples Marry

2008 became a turning point in Connecticut for marriage equality. In 2005, Connecticut became the first state to enact civil unions for same-sex couples without a court order, but on October 10, 2008, the state Supreme Court ruled that law unconstitutional, declaring that civil unions did not provide same-sex couples with the same rights as married heterosexual couples. This made Connecticut the third state in the nation to legalize same-sex marriage. On November 12, 2008, the first Connecticut marriage licenses were issued to same-sex couples.
UConn men’s and women’s teams, coaches, staff and UConn President Susan Herbst join President Barack Obama at the White House for a recognition of their teams’ joint national basketball titles.

Photograph by Steve Slade, UConn Athletics.
Déjà vu: UConn Men’s and Women’s Basketball Teams Clinch Dual Championship Titles Again

It’s something that has never been achieved by any other American university in the history of college athletics: a dual national championship. Yet, the University of Connecticut Huskies have done it not once, but twice! In 2004, it was Emeka Okafor and Ben Gordon leading the men’s basketball team to victory over Georgia Tech, while the next night Diana Taurasi and Jessica Moore led the women to defeat Tennessee. This time, it was guards Shabazz Napier and Ryan Boatright leading an improbable tournament victory over Kentucky for the Husky men, while the next night seniors Bria Hartley and Stephanie Dolson led the Husky women to a decisive win over Notre Dame.

This victory is the 9th national championship for the UConn women’s basketball program under the leadership of Coach Geno Auriemma. Coach Auriemma needs just one more national title to tie the mark of the most legendary college basketball coach of all time—UCLA’s John Wooden. The 2014 NCAA women’s national basketball title also comes after yet another undefeated season for the UConn women Huskies, who went 40-0 over the course of the regular season and the NCAA tournament. This is the 5th undefeated season for Coach Auriemma. The numbers are remarkable and these strong and accomplished women are inspiring.

In 2014 the men’s basketball result for the UConn Huskies may have been the same as the women—a national championship—but the story of these young men and how they became champions was quite different. Some predicted they wouldn’t even make the tournament. The UConn men certainly were not supposed to beat 2nd seeded Villanova in the second round of play, much less Iowa State in the sweet 16, Michigan State in the Elite eight, or Florida in the Final Four. This wasn’t supposed to happen. Indeed, the Huskies’ championship run upset many NCAA brackets, including the one drawn up by President Obama himself!

The team—it was said—was still in transition from the retirement of basketball legend Jim Calhoun as its head coach to young, first-time coach Kevin Ollie. Due to poor academic performance, the UConn men were barred from playing in the NCAA tournament in the 2012-2013 seasons. Some members of the 2014 team had been young players on the
2011 team that won the national championship, but after the retirement of coach Calhoun and the punitive NCAA tournament ban the following year, some of those heroes from the 2011 team contemplated leaving UConn, and transferring to another school where they would at least have a chance to compete for a title on the national stage.

But Coach Ollie remained steadfast. Stay and play, he pleaded with the young men. We can do great things together if we believe in each other, he said. And they stayed. And not only did they play amazing and resourceful basketball, they recommitted themselves to their academics. Shortly a month after winning his second national title with the UConn Huskies, senior guard sensation Shabazz Napier, who served as a backup to Kemba Walker in the 2011 championship run, fulfilled the promise he made to his mother Carmen Velasquez—when he walked across the stage at Gampel Pavilion in a cap and gown, having earned a bachelor’s degree. Not only did Shabazz graduate—but he made dean’s list and was on the athletic director’s honor roll, keeping his grade point average consistently above a 3.0.

This is true leadership by example: be great in your sport, be a legend, for sure. But get an education in the classroom as well—earn your degree, stay in school, and be set up for life after basketball. This holistic approach to basketball at UConn is being supported, cajoled, and pushed by Coach Ollie—who was known as a great teammate and a leader during his 13 seasons in the NBA after his own career at UConn. Even though Kevin Ollie may be a good deal younger as a head coach than most UConn fans have been used to—he has proven his great wisdom, not only on the basketball court, but as a leader and mentor to young men. Coach Ollie said repeatedly during the 2014 NCAA tournament when asked if he was proud of his team’s wins that he was not after championships, but a higher goal: to make his players better students, better men, and eventually better fathers, better husbands, and pillars of their communities. If we have the right attitude towards each other and our communities; if we create the right spirit, he said, “the championships will chase us.”

So congratulations to the UConn men and women Huskies, who have yet again made history with your dual national basketball championships. Congratulations to coaches Kevin Ollie and Geno Auriemma. Thank you all for your continued commitment and hard work. You make Connecti-
cut proud, and you are inspiration to all of us. You shine a light on the tremendous institution of higher learning that is the University of Connecticut. We will never forget all that you have accomplished and you will always have a place in our hearts.

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

UConn Huskies men and women’s team present President Barack Obama team Jerseys at the White House June 9, 2014.

Photograph by Steve Slade, UConn Athletics.
In Memory of

Todd J. Lobraico Jr.

Lost in Afghanistan,
September 2013
Air Force Staff Sergeant Todd J. Lobraico Jr.

Air Force Staff Sergeant Todd J. Lobraico, Jr., of Sherman, died Sept. 5, 2013 from wounds sustained protecting his team when enemy forces attacked his unit near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. He was 22 years old.

Staff Sgt. Lobraico was a student of Justice and Law Administration at Western Connecticut State University and served with the New York Air National Guard. A security forces specialist, he was assigned to the 105th Security Forces Squadron, 105th Airlift Wing based at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh N.Y.

After graduating from New Fairfield High School in 2008, Lobraico joined the 105th Airlift Wing. He attended Air Force Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX. In 2009, he graduated from Security Forces Apprentice School. Lobraico was deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq from December 2010 to June 2011. In June 2013 he was deployed again to serve in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Lobraico’s awards and decorations include the Meritorious Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, and the New York State Humane Service Medal. He was posthumously awarded the Operation Enduring Freedom Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor.
Air Force Staff Sergeant Todd J. Lobraico, Jr. was laid to rest at North Cemetery in Sherman. Survivors include his parents--both members of the 105th Airlift Wing—his stepparents, grandparents, three sisters and a brother.

Information and photograph courtesy of the New York State Division of Military & Naval Affairs.

Additional Sources: The Valdosta Daily Times; Civil Air Patrol, Leading Edge Magazine (Connecticut Wing), April 2014.
In Memory of
Service Members from Connecticut
Lost in Afghanistan and Iraq

March 2002 – September 2004
(Memorialized in the 2004 edition of the State Register and Manual)

John A. Chapman
Phillip A. Jordan
Kemaphoom Ahn Chanawongse
Wilfredo Perez, Jr.
Richard Selden Eaton, Jr.
David Travis Friedrich
Anthony D’Agostino
Phillip R. Albert
Jeffrey Braun
Eric Thomas Paliwoda
Benjamin Gilman
Tyanna Avery-Felder
Felix Delgreco
Nathan B. Bruckenthal
Melissa Hobart
Jacob D. Martir
October 2004 – October 2005

(Memorialized in the 2005 edition of the State Register and Manual)

William Brennan
Kevin J. Dempsey
Joseph Michael Nolan
Michael J. McMahon
Henry E. Irizarry
Robert Hoyt
Thomas E. Vitagliano
Lawrence R. Philippon
John T. Schmidt, III
Christopher Hoskins
Steve Reich
David Coullard


(Memorialized in the 2006 edition of the State Register and Manual)

Brian S. Letendre
Stephen Bixler
Jordan C. Pierson
Philip A. Johnson
Nicholas A. Madaras
November 2006 – May 2007
(Memorialized in the 2007 edition of the State Register and Manual)

Jason Hamill
Joseph E. Phaneuf, II
Richard L. Ford
Stephen K. Richardson
Orlando E. Gonzalez*
Keith Heidtman

June 2007 – April 2008
(Memorialized in the 2008 edition of the State Register and Manual)

Andre Craig, Jr.
Jason D. Lewis
Jason Lantieri

May 2008 – May 2009
(Memorialized in the 2009 edition of the State Register and Manual)

Christian S. Cotner
Thomas J. Brown

June 2009 – May 2010
(Memorialized in the 2010 edition of the State Register and Manual)

Edward C. Kramer
Dennis J. Pratt*
Benjamin A. Sklaver
Xhacob LaTorre
Ronald J. Spino
Tyler O. Griffin
Edwin Rivera

June 2010 – May 2011
(Memorialized in the 2011 edition of the State Register and Manual)

Steven J. DeLuzio
Gebrah P. Noonan
David R. Fahey, Jr.
Dae Han Park
Frank E. Adamski, III
Raymond G. Estelle, II
Richard C. Emmons, III
Eric D. Soufrine

June 2011 – August 2012
(Memorialized in the 2012 edition of the State Register and Manual)

Brian R. Bill
Edward J. Frank, II
Ari R. Cullers
Philip C.S. Schiller

September 2012 – June 2013
(Memorialized in the 2013 edition of the State Register and Manual)

Andrew M. Pedersen-Keel