

Our History, Our Legacy

Memorials are created to keep remembrances alive! They are the acts of men and women who want us to recall a particular time, place or person. Often they are established so that people can recollect how another person's life has affected their own.

The Randolph Evans Memorial Scholarship is a very special memorial. For not only does it attempt to make us recollect another person's life, but it also challenges us to remember how a tragic loss of life and the concurrent heroic struggle for justice that followed has affected us all.

In 1976, Randolph Evans, a fifteen year old Black youth, was shot and killed for no apparent reason by a police officer. His death came on the heels of similar deaths of Black youth in New York City; and like the other deaths, the tragic loss of youthful life and its contested injustice was nearly swept under the rug. After exhausting numerous attempts to get a fair hearing of the case in the courts, the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, along with Jitu Weusi, Sam Pinn, Jr., Assemblyman Al Vann, and Mrs. Annie Evans-Brannon, the mother of the late Randolph Evans, developed a strategy of protest and boycott of certain stores in downtown Brooklyn business area to draw city-wide attention, and to enlist the public support of the

downtown Brooklyn business men in the demand for justice for Randy Evans. Under the banner of brutality and a comprehensive solution to some of the problems that face oppressed communities in Brooklyn.

The establishment of the Randolph Evans Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1978 is one of the demands that was met through a persistent struggle for justice. The partnership forged between the business community primarily led by Abraham & Strauss and community residents under the Coalition now named the Randolph Evans Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc., stands as a shining example for others to follow and sends a clear message that when injustice prevails, all suffer, but when the desire to correct an injustice is present, people of goodwill, working together, can make a difference for good. Over the years, the program expanded to include other areas of support for students and was renamed the Randolph Evans Educational Assistance Program.

We cannot bring Randolph Evans back, nor can we bring back any of the other Black youth killed by police in the last 36 years. No amount of money, nor recognition, can replace the immense potential that young Randy possessed. But the establishment of this Scholarship Fund is a memorial to Randy, and a life-line to which our youth can cling in their struggle to create a world of Freedom and Justice.