



# COMMUNICATOR

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**Communicator Update: May 2014**

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Welcome to The Dirksen Congressional Center's "reformatted" Communicator -- a web-based e-newsletter providing educators with news and ideas to improve the understanding of Congress:

<http://www.webcommunicator.org>.

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### 1. Highlights from The Center's Web Suite

#### \* **NEW WEB SITE** \* **Civil Rights Documentation Project**

Did you know that on March 29, 1964 the Reverend Billy Graham held a service for 35,000 intermingled black and white congregants in a football stadium in Birmingham, Alabama? It was the largest integrated audience in the history of Alabama.

Find this information by scrolling to **March 29, 1964**: [http://www.civilrightsactof1964.org/1964\\_march.htm](http://www.civilrightsactof1964.org/1964_march.htm)

The National Interreligious Convocation on Civil Rights met at Georgetown University on April 28, 1964 to demonstrate that support for the civil rights bill embraced all religious faiths. More than 5,000 people attended, and President Johnson addressed the group.

To learn more link to President Johnson's Remarks to a Group of Civil Rights Leaders. Find this information by scrolling to **April 28, 1964**: [http://www.civilrightsactof1964.org/1964\\_april.htm](http://www.civilrightsactof1964.org/1964_april.htm)

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#### \* **NEW CONGRESSIONAL TIMELINE ENTRIES** \* **Congressional Timeline 2.0**

In 2013 we announced the second version of The Dirksen Center's new Congressional Timeline 2.0 - <http://www.congressionaltimeline.org>. The Congressional Timeline 2.0 has been developed to help people better understand Congress, and to provide a "snapshot" of important dates and resources in an easy-to-use,

chronological format. We are also creating lesson plans based on the timeline.

New Timeline Entries and documents:

- ▶January 29, 2013: Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013
- ▶February 4, 2013: No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013
- ▶March 7, 2013: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013
- ▶February 7, 2014: Agricultural Act of 2014
- ▶February 15, 2014: Temporary Debt Limit Extension Act

## 2. New at Congress for Kids

### \* **NEW** \* Women's Suffrage Memorabilia

August 18, 2014 will mark the 94th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment which guaranteed American women the right to vote. In commemoration, Yahoo presents a selection of anti-suffragette cartoons.

Find **Women's Suffrage Memorabilia** at:

[http://www.congressforkids.net/games/Constitution\\_righttovote/2\\_righttovote.htm](http://www.congressforkids.net/games/Constitution_righttovote/2_righttovote.htm)

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### \* **NEW** \* March on Washington: Explore, Learn, Teach, View, Discover

Learn about and celebrate the March on Washington with these great resources from PBS LearningMedia! After one resource view you will be prompted to create a free account to **explore** the entire collection. You can **learn** about the events that took place at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington, **teach** your students about King's rhetorical influences and more while analyzing his "I Have a Dream" speech, **view** the Civil Rights Act (1964) signed by President Johnson which prohibited discrimination in public places, made employment discrimination illegal and more, and **discover** the life, works, and beliefs of the late writer and civil rights activist, James Baldwin.

Find the entire **March on Washington: Civil Rights** collection at:

[http://www.congressforkids.net/games/makinglaws/2\\_makinglaws.htm](http://www.congressforkids.net/games/makinglaws/2_makinglaws.htm)

## 3. More Information About Congress

### \* **NEW PUBLICATION** \* Civil Rights Graphic Novel: *MARCH* Book One

*The Washington Post* details the story of how this graphic civil rights graphic novel came to be published. One of the authors, Congressman John Lewis (D-GA), was a witness to history. At age 74 he knows the story intimately, and he knows that a graphic novel holds unique storytelling powers.

Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) was often called "one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced." He has dedicated his life to protecting human rights, securing civil liberties, and building what he calls "The Beloved Community" in America. His dedication to the highest ethical standards and moral principles has won him the admiration of many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the United States Congress.



Read more about **MARCH Book One** at:

[http://www.congressforkids.net/books/bks\\_Legislativebranch\\_makinglaws.htm](http://www.congressforkids.net/books/bks_Legislativebranch_makinglaws.htm)

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**\* NEW \* Movie: The Watsons Go To Birmingham**

Walden Media and Hallmark Channel partnered with Cable in the Classroom (CIC) to create a customized school curriculum revolving around the Civil Rights Movement. This curriculum features Hallmark Channel's original movie *The Watsons go to Birmingham*. The *The Watsons go to Birmingham* Teacher Guide will offer parents and educators a turnkey lesson plan, streaming video resources, and archival photographs designed for students grades 4-12 that give fresh context to the birth of the Civil Rights Movements. The *The Watsons go to Birmingham* Teacher Guide is offered free of charge on a dedicated Hallmark Channel microsite and the Walden Media Website at <http://www.walden.com/movies/>.

Anika Noni Rose (*The Good Wife*, *The Princess and the Frog*) and David Alan Grier (*In Living Color*) are the stars in the movie. The movie chronicles the experiences of an African American family traveling from Flint, MI to racially-charged Birmingham, AL in the summer of 1963.

Bill Abbott, president and CEO, Crown Media Family Networks, said, "We are incredibly proud of this movie and honored to work with Cable in the Classroom to extend (the movie's) educational value beyond our viewers'



Learn about and watch ***The Watsons go to Birmingham*** at:

<http://www.walden.com/tv-movie/the-watsonsgo-to-birmingham/>.

living rooms and into classrooms, where we hope it will capture the minds and spirits of students nationwide."