



FREDRIKA HARGROVE

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY ESSAY

Directions: Click inside each box and enter your name, grade, school, and teacher. If you have a title for your essay, enter it in the Title box. Begin typing your paper under the title box. The text box will expand as you type. Once you are done and ready to submit, type your initials in the gray box to confirm that this essay is your original work. **Do not change the font or the size.**

Name: Benjamin Johnson	Grade: 6th
School: Paducah Middle School	Teacher: Click or tap here to enter text.

Title of Essay: A Memorial for Oscar Cross

Dear City Commission,

Martin Luther King Jr., and Oscar Cross both had a dream. Martin's dream was civil freedom, and Oscar Cross's dream was to make all boys and girls into well-rounded adults. During the pandemic, the boys' and girls' club continued with online classes. Like Martin Luther King Jr., Oscar Cross was a civil rights leader; he later founded the Boys and Girls Club and directed it for 50 Years. "He received the Kentucky Education Association's Lucy Harth Smith - Atwood S. Wilson Award for Civil and Human Rights in Education in 1987." Now I have some reasons why Oscar Cross should have a memorial in Paducah, Kentucky. The first reason is that he has provided the kids at the Boys & Girls Club with a good education and has been a good mentor and role model. Reason number two is how good a civic leader he was on human rights.

The first reason Oscar Cross should have a memorial is that he has helped boys and girls access quality education outside of school. "The Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club has a proud tradition of developing boys and girls into well-rounded adults and productive, responsible citizens. Over the years, we have adapted to meet the evolving needs of youth in an increasingly hazardous society. The Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club has developed solutions and alternatives to many of the pressures and problems today's kids and teens face. We intervene with positive life-shaping programs, producing the direction for so many needs." This shows why Oscar Cross should receive a memorial: they have a tradition that has always done so, and their tradition of turning young boys and girls into well-rounded people has worked and made a better community. The kids have received extra school time if needed, so they don't just do better in life; they do better in school.

My final reason Oscar Cross should receive a memorial is that he has done so much, and it is important to recognize his service as a civic human rights leader. "Born in Fulton, KY, Oscar M. Cross was the first African American juvenile officer in Paducah, KY, founding the Boys Club of Paducah in 1949 for African American boys. He served as director for 50 years and is credited with leading the first interracial board of directors at the Boys Club of Paducah, Inc. In 1980, the club was renamed the Oscar Cross Boys Club of Paducah and is now called the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club of Paducah." This indicates that, in civic leadership, he created a community where people of different races could come together, become friends, and learn together. Oscar Cross's memorial should be outside the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club building. The reason it should be there is so when people go to Oscar Cross, they do not just think it is a random person but someone special, and he can be right next to the amazing environment he created. The Oscar Cross memorial should include a photo of Oscar Cross, the two-hands logo, his date of birth, fun facts, and the reason he deserves his well-deserved memorial. Then it should examine why this is, as it includes all the

details and everything you need. To know about Oscar Cross is a fantastic way to honor such a great person.

In conclusion, all these reasons show why Oscar Cross should have a memorial in Paducah, Kentucky, because just like Martin Luther King Jr., he had a dream to bring different races together and to make young people into well-Rounded adults.

DECLARATION OF OWN WORK

 I AFFIRM THAT THIS IS MY ORIGINAL WORK. ANY MATERIAL TAKEN FROM OTHER SOURCES IS REFERENCED IN THE ESSAY ABOVE. ALL SOURCES USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS ESSAY HAVE BEEN LISTED IN A BIBLIOGRAPHY.