

L. Douglas Wilder

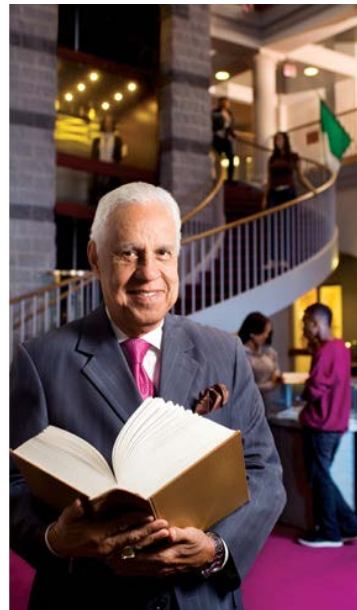
March 2010 Calendar

Mr. L. Douglas Wilder became the first African American to be elected governor in the U.S., leading the Commonwealth of Virginia (1990-1994), the first African American state senator in Virginia since Reconstruction (1969-1985) and the first elected African American mayor of Richmond, Va. (2005-2009). Currently he is a distinguished professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs.

An attorney by profession, Mr. Wilder gained recognition as a leading criminal trial lawyer. He graduated from Howard University Law School and later established Wilder, Gregory & Associates. Prior to obtaining his law degree, Mr. Wilder graduated from Virginia Union University with a B.S. in chemistry.

Known for his sound fiscal management and balancing a state budget during difficult economic times, Mr. Wilder's achievements also include providing state health care coverage for sickle-cell anemia patients, toughening penalties for capital murderers and prison escapees, and expanding low- and moderate-income housing. Mr. Wilder led the establishment of a state holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., making Virginia the first state in the nation to have a legislative holiday for Dr. King.

Mr. Wilder was appointed chairman of Governor Mark Warner's Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness in 2002. That year he also cochaired the Wilder-Bliley Charter Commission that advocated the



at-large election of the mayor of the city of Richmond.

He has chaired committees on transportation, rehabilitation and social services, and privileges and elections. He successfully sponsored Virginia's first drug paraphernalia law and the compulsory school attendance law.

Recipient of more than 36 honorary degrees, Mr. Wilder has received numerous awards, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Spingarn Medal, the Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Medallion of Honor, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Drum Major for Justice Award and the Thurgood Marshall Award of Excellence. Mr. Wilder also was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism in combat during the Korean War. physicians in America by *Black Enterprise* magazine.