



NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

DAILY CHALLENGE

THE NATION'S ONLY BLACK DAILY

Reporting and Recording Black History

35 Cents

VOL. 42 NO. 60 HOLIDAY EDITION, MAY 24 - 27, 2013

Final

'SENIOR SIGNING DAY'



All seniors at a Brooklyn high school are heading to college and celebrated their achievement at a special "Senior Signing Day," just like their sports counter-

parts. (Above) Members of the first AF Brooklyn High graduating class hold up T-shirts bearing the names of the colleges they will attend. SEE PAGE 3.

Brooklyn students celebrate their achievement at 'Senior Signing Day'



AF Brooklyn High's Associate Director of College Counseling, Sabrina Dawson, watches as seniors read their personal statements during "Senior Signing Day."

All seniors at a Brooklyn high school are heading to college and celebrated their achievement at a special "Senior Signing Day," just like their sports counterparts.

These athletes of academia attend Achievement First Brooklyn High School in Crown Heights, which opened with ninth graders in 2009 and now serves grades nine through 12. This school year, its first year at full size, it serves 296 students.

The 32 seniors were accepted to a total of 216 colleges, including Williams College, Ithaca College, Syracuse University, Lafayette College and several schools in the SUNY and CUNY networks.

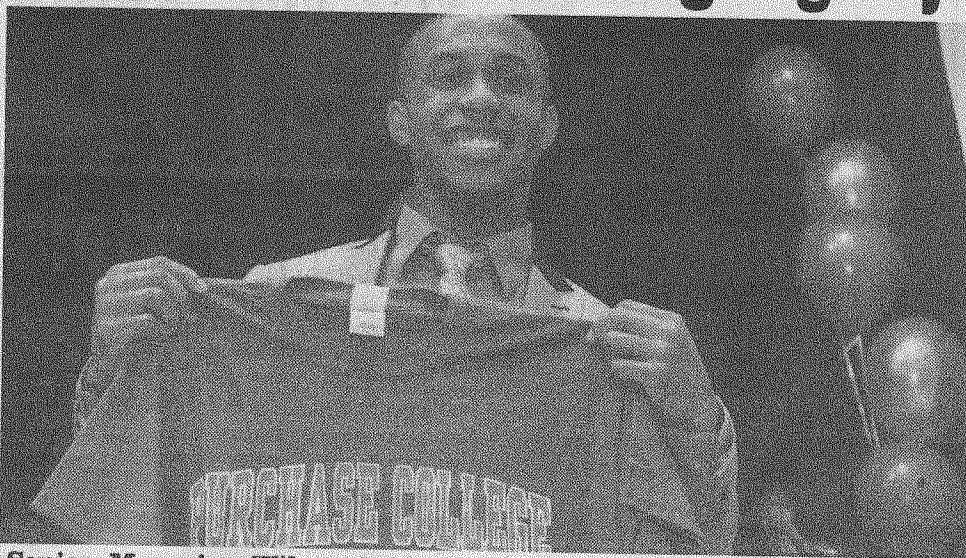
Traditionally, "signing day" events are when nationally recognized high school athletes reveal their college choices. At Achieve-

ment First Brooklyn, a special "signing day" assembly was held during which the gleeful seniors showed the result of their academic prowess.

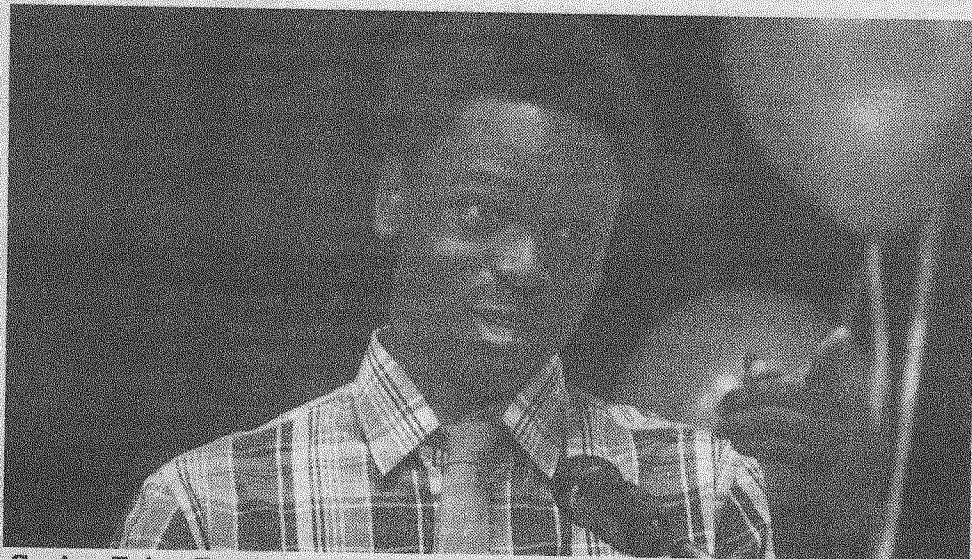
Each of them held up a tee shirt that showed the college they will attend in the fall, much to the delight of their families, friends and school officials.

Sabrina Dawson, associate director of college counseling at the school, said she was very pleased. "One hundred percent of our 32 seniors were accepted to a four-year college or university with an average of 6.7 acceptances per student, and they were awarded more than \$1 million in grants and scholarships.

"I am honored to have had the privilege of working with and for these special young adults."



Senior Marquise Wilson holds up a Purchase College T-shirt after announcing he will attend the school in the fall.



Senior Zaire Portier, who will attend SUNY Potsdam, addresses the crowd during "Senior Signing Day."

Ten ways to honor veterans and military families this Memorial Day

By OZ SPIES

Memorial Day is more than just a chance to fire up the grill — it's a day created to honor men and women who have died in military service. It's an opportunity for kids and families to take some time, whether it's a few minutes or a full day, to recognize and thank veterans, troops, and their families. You can go to your town's Memorial Day parade, send a heartfelt letter of thanks, or volunteer your time in honor of those who've served. Here are ways for kids and families to recognize and help veterans, military families, and those who've lost loved ones this Memorial Day.

A Day to Remember

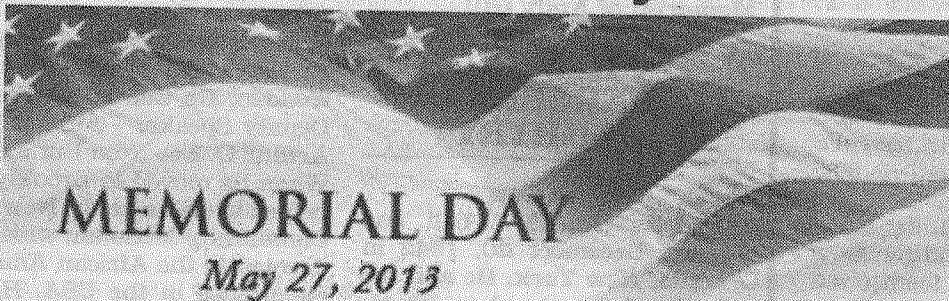
Memorial Day is more than just a chance to fire up the grill. Here are 10 ways, large and small, that you and your family can honor troops, military families, and veterans this Memorial Day.

Say Thanks

Write a thank-you letter to a veteran or current member of the armed forces, whether it's your grandfather or someone you've never met. A Million Thanks makes it easy to send a letter to men and women in the military, and making a card is an easy hands-on activity for kids of all ages.

Barbecue for the Troops

This year, the USO is encouraging people to host Barbecues for the Troops — backyard fundraising



events to support the morale-boosting efforts of the USO. Find out how you can host your own at BBQforthetroops.org.

Support Injured Service Members and Their Families

In Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, over 48,000 service members have physical injuries, with at least 400,000 more facing post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues. The Wounded Warrior Project provides everything from outdoor rehabilitation retreats to career connections.

Visit a Veteran's Cemetery

One of the most traditional ways to recognize Memorial Day is to visit one of the VA's National Cemeteries for Memorial Day Ceremony. Others also honor the dead by placing flags and flowers on veterans' graves.

Reach Out to

Support Mental Health

Every 65 minutes, a veteran or member of the armed services commits suicide. Learn the warning signs at the Veteran's Crisis Line website.

You can also support an organization like Veterans Helping Veterans Now that offers support groups for veterans and their families.

Serve in Honor Of Those Who Served

Take some time — a day, or just a few hours — to volunteer your time and serve your community in honor of those who've served our country. Find opportunities in your area at All for Good. As veterans are more likely to be homeless (about 13% of the homeless are vets, compared to 7% of the population overall), collecting toiletries for your local homeless shelter would be a meaningful project.

Support Those On the Home Front

If you know a family with a loved one serving overseas, or a family who's lost a loved one, take some time to help out by mowing their lawn, offering to watch the kids, or bringing them dinner. Men and women who are deployed often worry about how their families are doing back home, and supporting your neighbors can go a

long way to alleviating those concerns. Or if you don't know someone in the services, consider donating to the National Military Family Association, a nonprofit that provides support and information to military families.

Attend Your Local Parade

Most communities have a Memorial Day parade to commemorate those who've lost their lives while serving our country. Going to the parade is one way to introduce Memorial Day to younger children.

Learn About Veterans Making a Difference

After serving in the armed forces, many veterans continue the tradition of service by founding nonprofits to change the world. A former US Marine founded Nuru International to end extreme poverty. Team Rubicon mobilizes military veterans to use their skills and expertise to help out after disasters like Hurricane Sandy.

Help Families Stay

Strong During Deployments

Through United Through Reading, service members can create a DVD of themselves reading a bedtime story to their children — something that the kids can then watch and cherish while their mom or dad is far away. Find out how you can get involved at United Through Reading's website. Or support Operation Shower, an organization that offers volunteer-hosted baby showers for moms expecting a new baby while their husbands are deployed.