

not have the money to match the Rosenwald offer. Instead, in 1934 they built on the site a wood frame elementary school for Blacks for \$21,000. Although disheartened by this broken promise, black leaders continued to champion their goal throughout the 1930s. But it was federal, not local funds, that made Booker T. possible. In the twilight of its existence, the New Deal's Works Progress Administration funded the project to the tune of some quarter of a million dollars. Like other similar schools across the South, it was named for Booker T. Washington, the famous black educator.

(In regard to making it a vocational school) Many felt that such an education would prepare the city's Black students for employment in relatively high-paying emergent technical/trade careers, thus providing them with better opportunities in life.

At the same time, many within the city's Black community objected to this type of curriculum, as they felt that a college-preparatory education strongly based in classical academics of the same caliber offered to white students should be made available for their children.

In 1942, the Booker T. Washington campus was the first new high school built specifically for Black students in New Orleans. According to census records, the number of black high school age children in the city had increased from 8,709 to 11,238. Only 2,580 of those children had a place to attend school prior to the opening of Booker T. Washington.

It was named "Booker T. Washington Senior High School" as a tribute to a celebrated Black educator and activist during the late 19th and early 20th centuries who passionately argued the benefits of a vocational education. He saw it as a benefit not only to the Black community but to uplift the Southern economy. New Orleans saw notable industrial developments in the 30s and 40s.

The school's curriculum was comprehensive. It offered both an impressive range of traditional academic courses in addition to vocational classes and training in the trades. Classes offered included shoe repair, biology, social science, physical education, graphic arts, home economics, vocal/music, masonry, woodworking, math, English, and instrumental music (OSPB, 1942–43: 110). The school boasted an enrollment of 1,600 children in its 1942–1943 school year. Students came from all corners of the city because of the promise to invest in the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and doers. The teachers were all Black, educated, and inspired by the pivotal role the high school played in the sojourn to racial equality. It was a unique snapshot of the richness of New Orleans.

During WWII, New Orleans was home to Higgins Industries which is credited for building a special boat that helped the U.S. win the war. The Higgins workforce was the first in New Orleans to be racially integrated. Employees included whites and Black people, men, women, seniors, and people with disabilities. All were paid equal wages according to their job functions. The significant industrial developments were the main reason educators and business owners were pushing for a vocational school that would prepare students to immediately join the workforce and provide for their families. These environmental influences aided in the popularity of Booker T. Washington High School, cementing it as a destination for New Orleans youth.

In 1945, following the close of World War II, BTW High School opened its doors to the community's returning Black war veterans with the establishment of the BTW Afternoon Center, which provided vocational training to veterans on a 12-month basis. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) held its local chapter's annual meeting at the BTW auditorium in March 1945.

In 1946, the BTW Summer School for Vets was established to teach automotive, shoe repair, woodworking, painting and decorating, and masonry to the community's former servicemen (OSPB, 1946: 538, 539).

In 1948, construction of an "Auto Mechanics Shop and Greenhouse" was complete.

Responding to a clear job training need during the 1948–49 school year, Cosmetology classes were first offered at BTW High School.

In 1949, OPSB authorized the expansion of the school's curriculum with the addition of "short unit courses" for the training of practical nurses (these classes would not actually be offered until 1959).

BTW emerged as a local sports powerhouse as its football team, the Lions, won both the city championship and the state title in 1949 and 1950.

In 1957, Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks at the National Beauty Culturalist League, Inc., 38th Annual Convention. The Convention was held at Booker T. Washington Senior High School auditorium. The school graduated cosmetologists, carpenters, auto repair experts, and other vo-tech specialists.

Dr. King spoke on "The Role of Beauticians in the Struggle for Freedom." King said: "I am not too optimistic to believe that integration is 'just around the corner.' We have come a long, long way and we still have a long way to go, but we must keep moving despite the delay tactics used by segregationists." King received the organization's Civil Rights Award at the event.

War bond rallies held at the auditorium between 1942 and 1945 raised thousands of dollars and enabled the city's black residents to contribute to the war effort.

In 1962, Orleans Parish School Board announced the launch of a building program to include the construction of the "Booker T. Washington Addition and Gymnasium Annex." The annex was a freestanding, three-story edifice that was sited to the west of the campus's main school building. The annex housed a gymnasium, 16 classrooms, and laboratories. Dubbed "The Lion's Den". The City of New Orleans was still dealing with the desegregation of public schools that was initiated in 1960. In September 1962, the Catholic schools of Orleans Parish were also integrated, without much protest or disruption.

In the early 1970s this "dual track" curriculum was shelved for one that was primarily academic due largely to "education reformers and civil rights activists who lobbied against vocational education for black students and for integrated college preparatory high schools." This sentiment was rooted in the belief that a vocational education would guarantee that Black people were trapped in low-wage jobs (Thevenot, 2004:1). Many firsts were happening at the same time throughout the city. In 1970, city organizers expanded on an idea that started at Dillard University and started the first Jazz & Heritage Festival. The Superdome opened on August 3, 1975. The city

elected its first Black Mayor, Ernest N. Morial, who was a product of New Orleans Public Schools.

During the 1980s, it is noted that the high-quality curriculum that formerly distinguished the school also began to erode by the 1980s. The larger area of Central City continues to see a steady decline as the crack epidemic took over in New Orleans as well as other major cities and the homicide rates continued to increase. The city even took to imposing a curfew for those 16 and under in an attempt to reduce crime. Oil production was cut nearly in half in the late 1980s, creating a ripple effect in New Orleans that changed the landscape and economy of the city forever. It caused the state to reduce its support of local schools. The deteriorating environment began to negatively impact Booker T. Washington along with many New Orleans Public Schools that once were sources of tremendous pride.

By 1981, BTW reached back into its past and initiated an award-winning vocational program that endeavored to train students for agricultural-based employment opportunities. The course was classified as a "Cooperative Agriculture and Education Program," with students receiving both course credit and a salary whilst receiving practical experience in an agribusiness occupation.

The course was classified as a "Cooperative Agriculture and Education Program," with students receiving both course credit and a salary whilst receiving practical experience in an agribusiness occupation.

Booker T. Washington High School is added to the National Register of Historical Places in 2002 because of its architectural and historical significance.

By 2004, BTW is forced to suspend its curriculum due to extremely low enrollment and switches to a vocational/technical school for the 05/06 school year.

BTW building suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

BTW High School is officially demolished in 2012, sparing only the auditorium and entrance due to their historical significance.

In 2019, fifteen years after the historic Booker T. Washington High School building in Central City closed its doors, hundreds gathered in the school's gymnasium to celebrate its \$52.5 million renovation.

I am humbled to have personally known so many great New Orleans legends, leaders and alumni of this great Institution. Each of them has done so much to improve the lives of countless residents across Louisiana's Second Congressional District, the State of Louisiana and the entire Country. So many people's lives are enriched because of the passion expressed in touching people along the way. New Orleans is rich in culture because of many Booker T. Washington Alumni that makes a difference. I look forward to what will develop out of the walls of this great institution into our future. Congratulations on its reopening and the future it holds.

#### REINTRODUCTION OF THE CABIN AIR SAFETY ACT

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Cabin Air Safety Act," with U.S.

Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL (D-CT) and Congressman BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK (R-PA).

All Americans have the right to expect safe, clean air when travelling or reporting to work. I am deeply concerned by the documented cases where pilots, flight attendants, and airline passengers have been incapacitated or even hospitalized following exposure to toxic cabin air.

The "Cabin Air Safety Act" takes common-sense steps to protect airline crewmembers and the traveling public from toxic fume events, which occur when air contaminated by engine exhaust, fuel fumes, deicing fluids, and

ozone enters the aircraft cabin through the jet-engine intake or the auxiliary air intake at the stern of the aircraft when on the ground. Exposure to even low levels of these contaminants can incapacitate passengers and crew. Long-term exposure could lead to serious, debilitating health issues.

Our bicameral, bipartisan legislation would better protect airline passengers and crew by mandating training on how to respond to toxic fumes, requiring the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to record and monitor reports of toxic fume events, ensuring that investigations occur following reported toxic fume events,

and installing air quality monitoring equipment such as carbon monoxide sensors on commercial aircraft as standard equipment. Lastly, the "Cabin Air Safety Act" makes clear that the FAA can indeed set standards for cabin air quality to safeguard the health of airline crewmembers and the traveling public.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this bicameral, bipartisan legislation. As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to make the "Cabin Air Safety Act" a major priority in the coming FAA reauthorization.