

Impact Statement

Bryson Cobb, Grade 4.

Can't Knock Me Down, 2020.

Acrylic, colored pencils on paper, 28 x 22 Inches.

Blackwell Elementary School, Marietta, GA

Unsung Hero: L. Alexander Wilson

L. Alex Wilson is my "Unsung Hero", because he was a victim involved in the story of the Little Rock Nine. The Little Rock Nine is what they called a group of African American students at an all-white school named Little Rock Central. He had the height of 6'3" and was born 1909. At the school he was really noticeable because of how tall and well-dressed he was, and he got chased and brutally beaten by an angry white mob. He got beat with a brick and with other objects followed by being choked. As he went to his car he got beat some more. When this time occurred, I could imagine him being heart broken. But he was one that refused to run. He brushed himself off after every hit and continued to stand so that the others could enter the school hoping for a fair education.

He was an African American journalist during the civil rights movement... Lucious Alexander Wilson was the editor and general manager of the Tri-State Defender, an African American newspaper published in Memphis, Tennessee. In my opinion I think this was a big part in ending segregation. From that day it makes me feel inspired because even though getting beat he was still headstrong and that is one of my reasons why he was such a great unsung hero. He kept pushing and pushing and didn't let any of that nonsense get to his head. He was a good friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They fought for freedom and justice for African- American communities and his journalist work was talked about around southern states and all over the world. He wanted to always make sure that he wrote stories that were helpful for fairness for African Americans.

His story inspired me to draw a picture of him at the center of heartbreak, hatred, racism, and violence all bruised and beaten but not broken. In my picture he is still smiling even though he had gone through so much pain. I drew him being strong. Even though he was beaten, he returned each day. He fought until he passed away at the age of 51 years old. His story keeps others fighting today well after his death. It inspires me to want to continue his fight too.

When I learned about L. Alexander Wilson, I shared the story of his strength with my family. I talked about how his fight was not in vain. I shared that he was an incredible journalist because I love to write and tell stories. His story and the others in Little Rock Nine made a huge difference in African- American history. It made others sad enough to want to make a change. That inspires me to always push for working together for the better. Working together could make a difference in history because none of this would be happening as white people and black people would work in unity with no hate towards one another.

In conclusion because of all L. Alexander Wilson has done and for staying strong, he is my unsung hero and one of the many people I look up to.