

## Impact Statement

Fizza Rehman, Grade 12.

**Will-powered Words**, 2019.

Graphite, colored pencil, paper collage on paper, 18 x 14 Inches.

Mill Creek High School, Hoschton, GA

Unsung Hero: L. Alex Wilson

The reason I find L. Alex Wilson inspirational is due to his willpower and resolve. While trying to report the unfolding of the Little Rock Nine's integration, Wilson was attacked by several white protestors in the mob. Even though he was getting beaten up and pushed down, Wilson didn't back down or run away, he kept on walking to finish his job. All his other colleagues had run and were yelling at him to do the same, but Wilson didn't react to his attackers at all, and, despite being injured, made it his responsibility to report the news and wrote an article about the situation the next day. I am inspired by the bravery and courage that Wilson showed, and how he never stopped even when so many people were holding him back. In addition, I am inspired by Wilson's commitment to fighting for civil rights and his dedication to his work. Wilson continued working and writing in newspapers his entire life. He stayed committed to the cause even when he knew it was dangerous. If others were beaten with bricks for doing their jobs, they would probably quit. In his case, Wilson became even more determined to report his stories to the people. In my artwork, I wanted to depict L. Alex Wilson as the newspaperman he was, so I drew his portrait on top of newspaper clippings and included quotes from his article. I also wanted to show the struggles Wilson went through and how he would calmly continue even when attacked, so I drew the pictures taken of Wilson while he was being attacked which were used by reporters to show the extent of violence at the integration. Along with this, I wrote the characteristics of Wilson which helped him get through the situation, such as his determination and power. I also drew Wilson walking away from this, unfazed, and still determined to finish reporting his story. I included the raised fist to represent Wilson's willpower to fight for unity and what he believed was right in his own way, through reporting the news. My vision is to show that Wilson was able to stand up for civil rights through his willpower and words. I wanted to elucidate the importance of what L. Alex Wilson went through and to what lengths he went to do what he believed was his responsibility. I shared my project with my community by presenting it and Wilson's story to my class. Furthermore, I shared my artwork on social media platforms as well, depicting Wilson's story. L. Alex Wilson exemplifies fighting for what you believe is right and not letting anyone stop you. He could've given up and ran away at any time, but he kept getting up after being pushed down. He could have reacted with violence of his own, but he remained calm and collected because he knew he was bigger than the ones attacking him. He kept his composure and fought back with the way he knew would count – with his words in the newspaper.