



Impact Statement

Valentina Randazzo, Grade 11

Turn Towards Peace, 2026

Marker, pen, printmaking, acrylic on unstretched canvas, 14 x 7 inches

Oakland Christian School, Auburn Hills, MI

Unsung Hero: William Lewis Moore

My painting of William Lewis Moore for this ARTEFFECT competition is meant to show the courage of someone who was not famous but still chose to stand up for what was right. What stands out to me about Moore is that he was just a regular person who decided he could not ignore injustice. During the civil rights movement, he chose to walk alone to spread a message of equality, even though he knew it could be dangerous. That decision is what inspired me the most. I wanted my painting to show that you do not have to be well known or powerful to make a difference. You just have to be willing to take a stand, even when it is difficult or scary.

In my painting, I included signs that say, "End Segregation in America" and "Turn Toward Peace" because those words represent what Moore believed in and what he was trying to accomplish. I made these signs stand out so that anyone looking at the painting can immediately understand his purpose. To me, the signs show that his journey was not just a walk down a road. It was a statement and a form of protest. He was trying to bring attention to inequality and encourage people to choose peace instead of hate. By including these messages, I wanted to make sure that his voice is still heard, even through my artwork.

I also added people in the background who are cheering and others who are angry. This contrast was important to me because it shows how divided people were at the time. Some people supported the civil rights movement and wanted change, while others strongly resisted it. The cheering figures represent hope, progress, and the idea that not everyone accepted injustice. At the same time, the angry figures represent the hate and opposition that Moore faced on his journey. Including both reactions helps make the painting feel more realistic and honest. It shows that standing up for what is right does not always bring support, and sometimes it brings conflict. Even with all those mixed reactions, Moore kept going, which shows how determined and committed he was to his beliefs.

One of the most emotional parts of my painting is the headstone. Including it was a difficult decision, but I felt like it was necessary to tell the full story. The headstone represents how his journey ended and reminds viewers that he lost his life because of what he believed in. It adds a serious and somber tone to the painting and makes people stop and think about the cost of standing up for justice. The civil rights movement is often remembered for its victories, but it is also important to remember the sacrifices that were made along the way. By including the headstone, I wanted to honor Moore's life and make sure that people understand the risks he took.

As I worked on this painting, I kept thinking about how alone he must have felt at times. Even though there are people in the background, he is still the only one walking forward, which shows his independence and courage. That sense of moving forward is important because it represents not only his journey but also the larger movement toward equality. Progress does not happen all at once. It happens because individuals take steps forward, even when the path is uncertain. Moore's walk is a symbol of that kind of progress, and I wanted to capture that feeling in my artwork.

In conclusion, this painting is about courage, conflict, and the power of one person to make a difference. I wanted to show both the hope and the struggle of the time, instead of only focusing on one side. William Lewis Moore's story shows that doing the right thing is not always easy, and it can come with serious consequences. At the same time, it also shows that change is possible because of people who are willing to speak out and act. Through this painting, I hope viewers see him as a real person, not just a name in history, and think about how they can stand up for what is right in their own lives. His story is a reminder that even one person can have an impact, especially when they refuse to stay silent.