

MARLENE LYNCH FORD
Assignment Judge

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Ocean Vicinage to Celebrate Black History Month

The Ocean Vicinage will celebrate Black History Month with a free program that features Bobby Battle, a retired Judiciary official who participated in the F. W. Woolworth Department Store lunch counter sit-ins that became one of the landmark events of the Civil Rights Movement.

The program, hosted by the Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 12:30 p.m., in Historic Courtroom One of the Ocean County Courthouse, 100 Hooper Ave., Toms River.

Assignment Judge Marlene Lynch Ford and Trial Court Administrator Ken Kerwin will deliver the opening remarks.

Battle, the retired Judiciary Chief Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Officer, will discuss his personal experiences with segregation and the lunch counter sit-ins. On Feb. 1, 1960, four North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College students walked into an F. W. Woolworth store in Greensboro, North Carolina, sat at the segregated lunch counter, and were denied service. Battle and others joined the sit-ins, helping to spark the revitalization of the Civil Rights movement.

Battle was honored in 2010 by the International Civil Rights Center & Museum for his role in the lunch counter sit-ins. He is a retired colonel of the U.S. Air Force and worked in the New Jersey Judiciary for more than 20 years.

The program is free and open to the public.

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