

Bath's link to a significant civil rights moment in American history.

This is a photo of James Davis of Bath, NC as a US Marshal in 1960 (front of photo left side, no hat). James was one of several US Marshalls who escorted six-year-old Ruby Bridges to her classroom at William Franz Public School in New Orleans, LA. Bridges was the first black student in the formally all white school that was ordered to desegregate mixing black and white students in the same school as a result of the Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* in 1954. Amid riots, boycotts and violent threats, US Marshalls were called in to provide protection to Bridges and her teacher, Barbara Henry from November 14, 1960 through the end of the school year in June. For more information see the following websites.

<http://www.rubybridges.com/story.htm>

http://www.judynemanatscholastic.com/blog/2017/11/barbara_henry/



Barbara Henry, Bridges teacher recalls that first day in her personal essay: [In Her Own Words: Barbara Henry's Experience](#)

“And how beautiful was that forever memorable moment when I took Ruby’s hand from the hand of one of those seemingly human towers, and together we left the line of faculty—a cameo of the old order of segregation—and began our mission, alone and together through June’s school closing.”

*It is very likely that Barbara Henry was referring to James Davis as he was 6’3” tall.

James Davis died in 1992. His sister, Becky Davis Currin and brother Braggy Davis (deceased) all grew up in Bath and graduated from Bath High School as did his wife, Margaret Ross Davis (deceased) and three children, Jimmy Davis, Peggy Davis and BeBe Major. James, Becky, Braggy, Margaret and all three of James’ children were active in sports at Bath High School.