

HONORING THE LEGACY.

2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST IN HONOR OF GARTH C. REEVES, SR.

CONTEST RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Submissions Due: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. (ET)

Laptops for essay contest winners donated by
Your Local Coca-Cola Bottler



Breakthrough Miami is pleased to announce the 2024 Black History Month Essay Contest in Honor of Garth C. Reeves, Sr. This year's theme is ***"Celebrating Untold Stories and Contributions of African Americans in South Florida."***

Breakthrough Miami Scholars in grades 5 through 12 are encouraged to participate in this organizational-wide essay contest. Please read below for essay contest guidelines. ***All entries must be received by Wednesday, January 31, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. (ET)***

ESSAY PROMPT: "Celebrating Untold Stories and Contributions of African Americans in South Florida."

There are many examples throughout South Florida history of African Americans whose stories have yet to be told. Write about an African-American who has made an impact on their community, whose story should be shared. The subject of the essay should focus on someone whose contributions have shaped South Florida.

Some examples are:

- **John Miledge**, one of Miami Police Department's first five African American officers who was tragically killed in the line of duty while serving his community valiantly.
- **M. Athalie Range**, a group of key citizens encouraged Range to seek local office in 1965. Her victory made her the first person of African descent and only the second woman elected to the City of Miami Commission.
- **Jesse J. McCrary Jr.**, in 1971 one of the co-founders of what became the state's largest black law firm at the time.

Florida Civil Rights Activists and Glossary breakthroughmiami.org/civilrights

About Garth C. Reeves, Sr.

The Miami Times was the only job publisher emeritus Garth C. Reeves Sr. ever had, aside from serving in the Army during World War II. He was proud of that distinction. Reeves' energy in running the landmark, black-owned paper would impact the lives of countless families in South Florida. He'd found his life's calling — to serve as a voice for the black community. He knew no better job.

Reeves, who oversaw the black-owned paper his father initially printed one page at a time on a small hand press in a modest Miami home upon its founding in 1923, and who kept it in the family as it evolved into its digital edition today, died two months after his daughter, Rachel, passed. She was the publisher of The Miami Times, assuming the mantle of leadership from her father and grandfather. (Miami Herald, November 2019)

JUDGING CRITERIA: Essays will be reviewed anonymously by a select panel of judges from the Breakthrough Village, based on the following criteria:

- Focus and Details
- Organization
- Voice
- Word Choice
- Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, and Spelling
- Adherence to specific limitations (500-1000 words written based on essay theme, subject is/was a South Floridian and Black/African-American/Afro-Latino)

ELIGIBILITY: Breakthrough Miami Scholars grades 5 through 12 grade are eligible to submit one essay, written in English, with a word count of 500 to 1,000 words, that's an original and unpublished work.

ENTRY: Scholar essays must be emailed to Breakthrough Miami at essaycontest@breakthroughmiami.org, Subject Line "Black History Month Essay Contest."

***All entries must be received by 11:59 PM (ET) on
Wednesday, January 31, 2024***

LABELING REQUIREMENTS:

- Scholar's First and Last Name
- Current School
- Grade Level
- Breakthrough Miami Program Site
- Subject (The Person Your Essay Is About)
- Title Of The Essay

PRIZES: Advancing our shared commitment to our community, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC (Coke Florida), is generously donating new laptops to be awarded to first prize winners in each category (elementary, middle, and high school). Additionally, the first place winner in each category (elementary, middle, and high school) will receive a \$100 gift card. The first, second, and third place entries in the elementary, middle, and high school category will be honored and publicly recognized via social media and email campaigns.