

Introduction for Barry Bradford Talk

Our speaker today has been recognized as one of America's best teachers and most dynamic public speakers. Don't take my word for it – The Organization Of American Historians named him as the best teacher in America AND named him as a Distinguished Lecturer – the first and only high school teacher to earn that honor! He has won awards from the President, the Congress, and leading Civil Rights Organizations. You may remember him from his appearances on the Today Show, The CBS Evening News, and over 75 other media outlets around the world. He has even been profiled on Chinese National Television! He is the author of one book, numerous articles and has served as consultant for the writing of the GED exam.

Barry may be best known for twice leading teams of students to reopen two of the most infamous “Cold Cases” in the history of the Civil Rights Era. His leadership in the reopening of the Clyde Kennard case created a legal precedent that has cleared the names of three more men who were wrongfully convicted. His tireless work in pursuing justice in the Mississippi Burning case helped lead to a conviction of Ku Klux Klan leader Edgar Ray Killen, and praise from both Barack Obama and conservative Mississippi Senator Trent Lott. Any speaker who can get those two to agree clearly has something to say to us today!

Barry Bradford lives in Deerfield, Illinois with his wife, Mindy, an international corporate executive, daughter E.J, son Zack and their puppy mill rescue Havanese Bichon, Snooky. When not speaking, writing or working for justice you will likely find him at a Broadway play, doing volunteer work, reading, cooking or attending his daughter's cheerleading competitions.

When asked his philosophy, Barry usually quotes Anne Frank: “How beautiful it is that no one need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

Please welcome Barry Bradford!