

**The Connecticut Legislative Black and Puerto Rican Caucus**

Representative Wilfred X. "Spike" Johnson  
Scholarship Fund

The Connecticut Legislative Black and Puerto Rican Caucus  
**Wilfred X. “Spike” Johnson Scholarship**

- I. Eligibility Criteria:
  - 1) Applicants must be a graduating African American or Puerto Rican/Latino high school senior or college student.
  - 2) High school students must possess a QPA of at least a C+ (75) or better.
  - 3) College students who apply must have a 2.7 GPA or above, and must meet all other stated criteria.
  - 4) All recipients must be enrolled full time; this is a one-time scholarship award.
  - 5) Preference will be given to residents of Caucus members' legislative districts.
- II. Criteria for Award:
  - 1) Involvement in extra-curricular activities and involvement in respective community.
  - 2) Quality of writing sample.
  - 3) Progress during four (4) years of high school, including senior year; or college years, including courses presently in progress.
- III. Application Process (required documents):
  - 1) Application form must be printed legibly in ink or typed.
  - 2) Two (2) letters of recommendation (other than from relatives) must be submitted:
    - One academic (from a teacher, school counselor, school administrator, etc.)
    - One non-academic (from a community person, neighbor, clergy, etc.)
  - 3) All applicants must submit proof of academic standing and progress:
    - For high school applicants, current official high school transcript including courses in progress.
    - For colleges applicants, current official college transcript including courses in progress.
  - 4) All applicants must submit proof of, a) extra-curricular activities; and, b) community involvement outside of school.
  - 5) Forward information in one (1) package. No separate documents will be accepted other than official high school or college transcript.

All applications and accompanying documents **MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN April 1st 2018.**

Send applications to: Representative Brandon L. McGee, Jr.  
Chair, Scholarship Committee  
CT Legislative Black and Latino Caucus  
Legislative Office Building, Room 5009  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591  
Telephone: 1-800-842-8267/ (860)-240-8585

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**The Pioneer**

Wilfred X. "Spike" Johnson was the first African American elected to Connecticut's State House of Representatives. Rep. Johnson was elected to represent our Capitol City of Hartford in 1958 and served for four terms. Mr. Johnson was also the first to hold several positions in his career in Hartford breaking through barriers that paved the way for generations of African Americans who followed in his footsteps. He was also the first African-American to preside over the Connecticut House of Representatives as well as the first African American to be a bank teller in Connecticut.

Rep. Johnson concentrated his efforts promoting and defending civil rights in an effort to promote access to quality housing and gainful employment. In 2004, the Connecticut Supreme Court posthumously honored Rep. Johnson during its annual Law Day Celebration.



Then Chief Justice William J. Sullivan stated that Law Day every year recognizes "a group of individuals who epitomize our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law". The theme for 2004's Celebration was focused on the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of Brown vs. Board of Education, which was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Rep. Johnson was born in Georgia in 1920 moving to Connecticut at age five with his family. Mr. Johnson died in February 1972 at age 51. In recognition of his contributions to the State of Connecticut the legislature's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus began a scholarship program to assist college students of color with the purchase of their textbooks. The Spring Fling, an annual event hosted by the Caucus, raises funds to help support the scholarship program which is a great legacy of Rep. Johnson.



