

Local Civil Rights Legend Celebrates 97th Birthday

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from ABC 7 News - <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0309/606798.html>

Tuesday was Local civil rights legend Dorothy Height's 97th birthday and she celebrated the day with some of the city's most influential leaders.

ABC 7/NewsChannel 8 caught up with Height as she arrived to work Tuesday morning at the National Council of Negro Women, but the day was a celebration with some famous faces from Capitol Hill to city hall.

"You look fantastic on your 97th birthday," said D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty.

In her 97 years, Height has made quite a few friends in the District and has the photos to prove it. "I have known directly every president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt," she said.

Height was a personal friend of Eleanor Roosevelt and has run the National Council since founder Mary McLeod Bethune died 50 years ago. She stood with Martin Luther King Jr. at the march on Washington and now, she says, this birthday's extra special.

"I have lived to see the inauguration of President Barack Obama," she said.

On Tuesday, the Kuumba Singers from Harvard University performed for her and the crowd sang happy birthday.

Height says she was on the platform the day of President Obama inauguration. She bets that other than a first lady, she is the only woman kissed by three presidents. "And that was President George H. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama... I wasn't bragging," she said.

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Dr. Dorothy Height Turns 97

BY WI Staff

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Longtime friends and supporters Alexis Herman and Janice Ferebee prepare to slice the birthday cake for guests attending Dr. Height's 97th birthday party. **Photo by Roy Lewis**

Friends gathered to celebrate the 97th birthday of Dr. Dorothy I. Height on Tuesday at the headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) where she continues to work daily and most weekends as chair and president emerita.

In a press release, Dr. Height said she is "blessed to have lived long enough to see the Inauguration of Barack Obama, the first African American to become President of the United States of America."

"In 1929," Dr. Height wrote, "I was a student at New York University in the midst of the Great Depressions, and I know firsthand its devastating impact in the lives of people and the nation, as a whole. Now, during the worst economic crisis facing the country, I want to be among those who work day by day to help the President realize his vision for the country and the world in which we live."

NCNW will celebrate Dr. Height's birthday again on June 4 at the 11th Annual Uncommon Height Gala Dinner where Oprah Winfrey will be honored.



Jeff Thompson, of Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio and Associates accounting firm, presented Dr. Height with a huge bouquet of roses in honor of her 97th birthday. **Photo by Roy Lewis**



Rep. Diane Watson (D-CA) and Dr. Height. **Photo by Roy Lewis**



Eight year old Monique Wint attends the Dorothy I. Height Community Academy Public Charter School in D.C. **Photo by Roy Lewis**

[< Prev](#)

[Next >](#)