December 18, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As you are aware, this year marked the 70th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark _Brown v. Board of Education_ ruling. We write to ask that you consider posthumously awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to two civil rights icons from our state whose affirmation in the _Brown_ decision inspired a nation. We believe both Judge Collins J. Seitz, Sr., and Delaware's first African American attorney, Louis L. Redding, Esq., deserve this special recognition.

Attorney Louis L. Redding and Judge Collins J. Seitz had distinguished roles in ending segregated schools in Delaware and America, thus warranting their nomination to receive Presidential Medals of Freedom posthumously. Among their accolades is that their cases seeking an end to segregated public schools were the first in the nation won by plaintiffs. These victories, of course, preceded the Brown Cases and provided a significant portion of the legal platform ultimately decided by the 1954 United States Supreme Court in the Brown v. Board of Education Cases.

During your time in the United States Senate, you fought hard to ensure that the contributions of these Delawareans will be remembered in history. As President, you signed into law legislation designating the Hockessin Colored School #107C and Howard High Schools as national historical sites, preserving their legacies for future generations.

There is no better moment in time to also honor the life and legacy of two Delawareans whose courageous actions led the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the Plessy v. Ferguson doctrine in its 1954 Brown V. Board of Education decision. Thank you for your consideration of this request and thank you for making our state proud every day that you serve as our nation's President.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress