

## A look at Lincoln University's commencement, including a posthumous honorary degree for a WWII vet

Nelson Henry Jr., a World War II veteran who battled racism in the Army and worked for almost 75 years to clear his name after receiving a "blue discharge," received an honorary doctorate posthumously from Lincoln University at the university's 161st commencement.



Dean Henry, left, stands in for his father, Nelson Henry Jr., to receive the posthumous honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lincoln University, from Patricia A. Joseph, Ph.D., Dean of Faculty, right. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer

by [Jessica Griffin](#)

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Dean Henry walks in the procession in honor of his father, Nelson Henry Jr., to receive the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lincoln University, at the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony at Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania, May 21, 2021. [Read more](#) JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Nelson Henry, 96, talks during an interview in his Logan Square apartment in Philadelphia on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019. Henry was given a discriminatory "blue discharge" in 1945, which was finally upgraded to honorable



by Army Board for Correction of Military Records this year. Mr. Henry passed away on May 9th, 2020 after complications from the coronavirus. Read more [TIM TAI / Staff Photographer](#)



Dean Henry, shown on the right in front of the window, waits for the start of the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony at Lincoln University. [JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer](#)



Diane M. Brown. Chief of Staff, Office of the President & Manager at Lincoln University assists Dean Henry with the tassel on his cap, prior to the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony at Lincoln University. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



(Left to Right) Dr. Chieke E. Ihejirika, Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, left, Dean Henry, center, and Benjamin Lloyd Crump, right, gather prior to the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer





Dean Henry, center, waits to walk in the procession in honor of his father, Nelson Henry Jr., to receive the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Dean Henry, front second from right, walks in the procession in place of his father, Nelson Henry Jr. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer





Members of the Henry family at the Lincoln University ceremony during which Nelson Henry Jr., will be awarded the posthumous Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lincoln University, May 21, 2021. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Dean Henry, front, walks in the procession. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Lincoln University graduates at the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer





Dean Henry, left, at the ceremony. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Benjamin Lloyd Crump, the commencement Speaker at the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony. Crump is a renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney who has established himself as one of the nation's foremost lawyers and advocates for social justice. In 2020 he became the attorney for the families of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Jacob Blake. Read more JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer

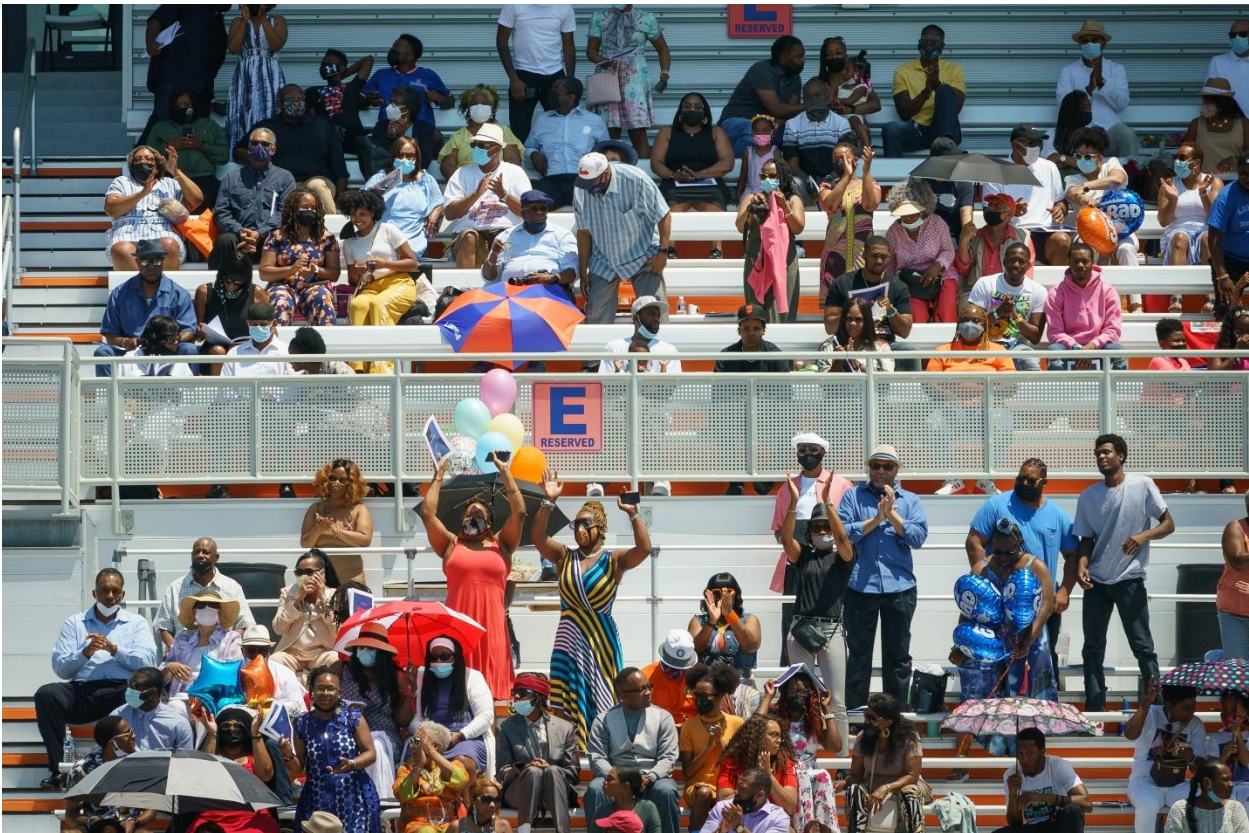


Dean Henry, second from right, listens to the commencement speaker Benjamin Lloyd Crump. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Lincoln Grad Natalya Coote with a decorated cap for graduation at the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony at Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania, May 21, 2021. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer





Friends and family members attend the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony at Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania, May 21, 2021. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Benjamin Lloyd Crump speaks during the 2021 graduation. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer





Benjamin Lloyd Crump, left, and Lincoln University President Dr. Brenda A. Allen, shown here after Crump received the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from Lincoln University. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Benjamin Lloyd Crump shown here after receiving the honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer





Dean Henry, left, stands in for his father, Nelson Henry Jr., to receive the posthumous honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lincoln University, from Patricia A. Joseph, Ph.D., Dean of Faculty, right. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



Dean Henry, left, stands in for his father, Nelson Henry Jr., to receive the posthumous honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lincoln University, from Patricia A. Joseph, Ph.D., Dean of Faculty, center, and Lincoln University President Dr. Brenda A. Allen. Read more JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer





(Left to Right) Nelson Kent Henry Sr. MD, Lydia Henry, Dean Henry, and James Wadley, Ph.D Chair & Professor, Human Services, School of Adult & Continuing Education, during the presentation to the Henry family of the posthumous honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Read more JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



(Left to Right) Lincoln University President Dr. Brenda A. Allen, Nelson Kent Henry Sr. MD, Dean Henry, Lydia Henry, and Theresa R. Braswell '84, Chairlady, Board of Trustee, stand together for a photo after the



Henry family received the posthumous honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lincoln University for their father Nelson Henry Jr. Read more [JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer](#)



Kyah Black, front center, celebrates after receiving her diploma during the Class of 2020 commencement ceremony at Lincoln University, fellow graduate Tearah Wheeling walks with Kyah, back left. [JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer](#)



(Left to Right) Nadir Banfield, Langston Shephard, Daquan Thompson, Briana Russell, and Brianna Henry, cheer on their friends during the 2020 commencement ceremony. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer



A Lincoln University graduate looks to meet up with family members after receiving their diploma. JESSICA GRIFFIN / Staff Photographer

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I photograph the events and stories that affect the region and our society.