Marengo County’s favorite son, William Curry, was a native and lifelong resident of Linden, AL. It is only fitting that the memory of this servant leader was enshrined in a scholarship for Black Belt youth in 2019 by lifelong friend Dr. Art Dunning and wife Karen Baynes-Dunning.

Reverend Curry, an ordained minister with the A.M.E. Zion church, lived his faith in service to his community. As valedictorian of his Linden Academy class, William displayed his gifts of intellect and discipline at an early age. After completing his military service in the U.S. Army, he returned to segregated Linden in the Jim Crow south, undaunted by the challenges ahead. Rev. Curry served as a city councilman, school board member, and little league coach.

Given his enduring commitment to the citizens of Marengo County, especially the youth, his Linden Academy classmates Mr. Taylor Jones and Dr. Art Dunning were inspired to conceive the William and Geraldine Curry Academic and Community Leadership Scholarship. “Mr. Curry’s passion to uplift the youth of Marengo County was unwavering,” said Dunning. “He never minced words when confronting some of our society’s most challenging obstacles to success. We want to make his name, his work and his legacy remembered.”

When seeking a home for the scholarship, the Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) was contacted and agreed to serve as the supporting organization. According to BBCF president Felecia Lucky, “This scholarship was designed to enhance the lives of youth in Marengo County and the Black Belt by awarding scholarships and creating internships and opportunities for these students to return to the Black Belt. As a result, the life and legacy so brightly established by Rev. Curry continues.”

You are invited to join us in honoring this servant of the Black Belt by contributing to the Curry Scholarship fund by visiting blackbeltfound.org/donate and selecting the “William & Geraldine Curry Scholarship” option in the designation drop down menu.