

**Randolph Lewis White** (1896-1991) was a prominent leader in the civil rights movement in Charlottesville. He worked as a machinist in Ohio before joining the U.S. Army in 1919, where he was a clerk in the judge advocate office until 1928. He came to Virginia in 1931. Despite his earlier experiences, he could only gain employment as a janitor in the UVA Hospital. Soon, however, he earned the highest position for a Black man in the hospital by becoming the supervisor of orderlies, ward maids, and janitors. In 1944, he was instrumental in African American employees' efforts to form Local 550, a union that pushed for better wages and working conditions. This involved heading negotiations that led to hospital and university leaders conceding to improvements in Black workers' salaries, working hours, and retirement benefits. He also labored to desegregate UVA Hospital's patient wards. White founded the *Charlottesville-Albemarle Tribune*, the weekly African American newspaper, and through his editorials, he played a key role in desegregation efforts of the Charlottesville schools. His wife was a registered nurse.

**Sources:**

Dan Cavanaugh, "UVA and the History of Race: Confronting Labor Discrimination," *UVA Today*, March 18, 2021. [READ](#)

David Maurer, "Yesteryears: Randolph White," *Daily Progress*, July 29, 2014. [READ](#)

"Local 550 Launches Intensive Drive for New Members, New Votes," *The Beam*, Dec. 6, 1948. Published by Local 550 United Public Workers-CIO. Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. [FIND](#)