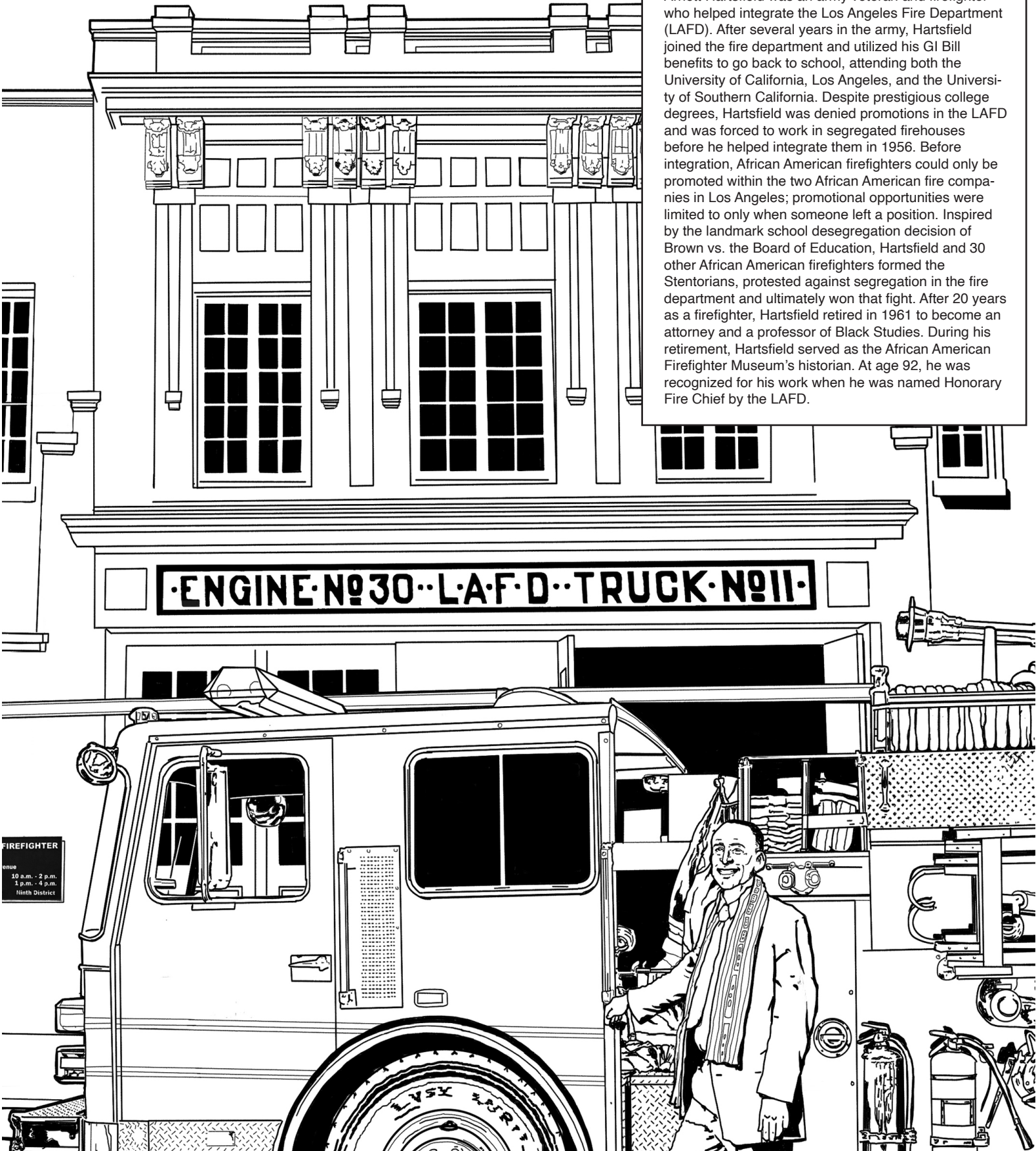


Arnett Hartsfield

Hidden Heroes, Historic Places Coloring Page

Arnett Hartsfield was an army veteran and firefighter who helped integrate the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). After several years in the army, Hartsfield joined the fire department and utilized his GI Bill benefits to go back to school, attending both the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California. Despite prestigious college degrees, Hartsfield was denied promotions in the LAFD and was forced to work in segregated firehouses before he helped integrate them in 1956. Before integration, African American firefighters could only be promoted within the two African American fire companies in Los Angeles; promotional opportunities were limited to only when someone left a position. Inspired by the landmark school desegregation decision of *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, Hartsfield and 30 other African American firefighters formed the Stentorians, protested against segregation in the fire department and ultimately won that fight. After 20 years as a firefighter, Hartsfield retired in 1961 to become an attorney and a professor of Black Studies. During his retirement, Hartsfield served as the African American Firefighter Museum's historian. At age 92, he was recognized for his work when he was named Honorary Fire Chief by the LAFD.



FIREFIGHTER
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 Ninth District