

# Southside Sentinel

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## ***Civil War portrayal***

The children above were part of the "Voice of Freedom" presentation last Sunday at Angel Visit Baptist Church in Dunnsville. The program focused on African-American contributions during the Civil War. The young sailors above represented blacks from this area who used Union gunboats as an avenue to freedom. The children said that there were 18,000 former slaves who became sailors aboard Union boats. Three thousand were from Virginia and 1,800 of those were from the Tidewater area. Twenty-seven Middlesex slaves rowed to the gunboats moored on the Rappahannock River to gain their freedom. The program also included performances by actors and actresses playing the parts of abolitionists Frederick Douglas and Harriet Tubman, black journalist Thomas Morris Chester, and Union black soldier James Daniel Gardner. (Photo by Larry Chowning)