



Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk

Dr. James Franklin Sistrunk, a Broward pioneer, was born in Midway, Florida (near Tallahassee) in 1891. He graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1919 and served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War I. After the war, Dr. Sistrunk relocated to Dunnellon, Florida to practice medicine.

Dr. Sistrunk moved to Fort Lauderdale in April, 1922. Although he was a qualified surgeon, he was not allowed to perform surgical procedures in local white hospitals. In 1938, Dr. Sistrunk joined Dr. Von D. Mizell to establish Fort Lauderdale's first medical facility for black patients, Provident Hospital. Dr. Sistrunk made house calls throughout Broward County, and delivered over 5,000 babies during his 44 years of practice.

In Fort Lauderdale, a street and bridge bear his name: N.W. 6th Street (Sistrunk Boulevard) and the bridge over the North Fork River on N.W. 6th Street (J.F. Sistrunk Bridge). Dr. Sistrunk died on March 20, 1966.