



Activist Erica Garner remembered



Garner

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Erica Garner, who became an activist for all who were wronged by the American justice system, died Saturday, December 30. She was 27.

A Twitter account associated with Erica spoke of her compassion for humanity. CNN reported that her family is controlling the account.

“When you report this you remember she was human: a mother, daughter, sister, aunt,” Erica’s account tweeted. “Her heart was bigger than the world. She cared when most people wouldn’t have. She was good. She only pursued right, no matter what. No one gave her justice.”

Erica famously and fiercely sought justice for her father, Eric Garner, who died from a police chokehold in Staten Island, New York July 17, 2014.

She led marches and demonstrations in New York City and other places, and even appeared on national television imploring the Department of Justice to review the circumstances that led up to her father’s death.

Erica’s mother, Esaw Snipes, said, “She was a fighter, she was a warrior and she lost the battle. She never recovered from her father’s death,” according to CNN.

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Martin Luther King Jr.’s unheralded victories recorded in the Black Press

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will always be remembered as a social activist and Baptist minister whose role was integral in the Civil Rights Movement.

Publicly and privately, King fought for equality, justice and human rights for African Americans and others who suffered from racism, segregation and other injustices.

His sermons, including the “Drum Major Instinct,” and his speeches like, “I Have a Dream,” are as important as they are legendary.

But, those closest to King recalled some of his more unheralded feats. They also recalled the importance of the Black Press during the movement.

“I would say King’s abiding commitment to focus on poverty and to deal with the wealth and equity gaps, and particularly the conditions of the poor, has been less heralded than his other accomplishments,” said Clarence Jones, a visiting professor at the University of San Francisco and a scholar and writer-in-residence at Stanford University’s Martin Luther King Jr. Institute.

Jones met King in 1960 when he was 29 and King was 31.

Jones served on King’s legal team and help draft many of his most important speeches, including the 1963 “I Have a Dream” masterpiece.

But, it was a speech that King delivered just five days before his April 4, 1968 assassination that



Mainstream media often ignores Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s fight for economic justice and his strong relationship with the Black Press. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Jones remembers most.

“I’ve said so often that the sermon he gave at the National Cathedral in Washington was most important,” Jones said. “He captioned the speech, ‘Sleeping Through a Revolution,’ and that’s exactly what he’d say today, if he were here.”

Many of King’s accomplishments were aided by his relationship with newspapers like the *Atlanta Daily World*, the *Pittsburgh Courier* and other black-owned newspapers, Jones said.

“The two essential pillars of support of the Civil Rights Movement were the black church and the Black Press,” he said. “The Black Press was critically important, and King had a healthy ap-

preciation for the Black Press.”

Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., another close confidant of King, agreed.

“The kinship King had with [former EBONY and Jet owner] John Johnson, [National Newspaper Publishers Association founder] John Sengstacke and others was apparent, and he realized their value and they recognized his value,” Jackson said.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA, said he will always cherish the days that he worked with King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

“I witnessed, first-hand, the fearless courage of Dr. King as he spoke out against global racial injustice and war when it was not

popular to do so,” Chavis said.

Chavis continued: “The mainstream press routinely mischaracterized Dr. King as a principleless agitator. But, it was only the black-owned newspapers during the 1960s that would, without apology, tell the truth that Dr. King was both a theological and intellectual genius whose worldwide vision, activism and principles demanded a public stance against the unjust Vietnam War, and against the dual racist Apartheid in America and South Africa.”

Chavis recalled one of King’s most famous quotes: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice ev-

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NAACP Chair Emeritus: The fight for racial justice continues

By Leah Hobbs
TriceEdneyWire.com

“I don’t know about you, but I don’t want to go back to the good old days. I don’t want to go back to separate and unequal,” Roslyn M. Brock, chairman emeritus of the national NAACP, told a crowd Jan. 1 at the Emancipation Proclamation Day worship service at Richmond, Va.’s Fifth Baptist Church.

“We pray, we labor and we wait, as we witness turmoil, turnover, chaos and controversy over the past year that has been promulgated from the highest office of the land through a series of irrational and irate daily tweets that systematically seem to try to roll back the clock on civil rights’ gains in an attempt to take us back to the good old days, or as some may say, to make America great again,” she said.

But during the New Year’s Day event, sponsored by the Baptist Ministers’ Conference of



Roslyn M. Brock, chair emeritus of the national NAACP, sparks the crowd with her message during Monday’s Emancipation Proclamation Day Worship Service at Fifth Baptist Church. RICHMOND FREE PRESS

Richmond and Vicinity, Brock encouraged the roughly 300 people in attendance to keep fighting injustice.

The Virginia Union University graduate, who also earned a master’s in divinity from VUU’s Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, drew parallels be-

tween Jesus’ teachings in the Bible to issues confronting the nation today, such as health care and immigration.

“Too many of us are locked in a room with the door wide open. Too many faith leaders and church folks remain silent about what Jesus talked so

much about,” Brock said. “We need you to stand with us when we welcome the stranger, stand with our Muslim brothers and sisters with the travel ban or with Dreamers on immigration reform.”

Emancipation Proclamation Day celebrates Jan. 1, 1863, when the proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln went into effect abolishing slavery in Virginia and other Confederate states. The event is a New Year’s Day tradition to celebrate progress and encourage people to continue the fight for freedom, according to the Rev. Emanuel Harris, vice president of the ministers’ conference.

“Our work is great,” Harris told the crowd. “Injustice still exists. The fight continues. Stay engaged. The same God that liberated back then is liberating today.”

Emphasizing that point, Brock shared the story of Elmore Nick-

leberry, a sanitation worker in Memphis for more than 60 years. He was one of the workers who went on strike in 1968 to demand fair wages and safe working conditions when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. traveled to Memphis to support the workers and was assassinated.

Nickleberry, now in his 80s, still works a sanitation route, according to published reports, because he never received a promised pension from the city of Memphis. Recently, the city granted the original striking workers a \$70,000 pension payment, Brock said.

During the service, the crowd joined hands to pray in a gesture of strength and unity similar to those who linked arms as they marched for civil rights. The Rev. Charles Baugham, interim pastor of St. Mark Baptist Church in Goochland, prayed, “God, we need your presence and your activity as we engage

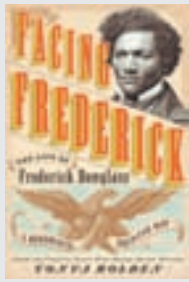
in issues and challenges of our time.”

“These are times that try men’s souls. We have been on the battlefield, but more than ever we need to be on the battlefield,” added the Rev. Delores L. McQuinn, who represents portions of Richmond, Henrico and Chesterfield in the Virginia House of Delegates. “There are no ‘many sides’ for people to stand on when you’re discriminating, when there’s prejudice and hate and racism,” she said, referencing President Trump’s comments following the violent protest of white nationalists and neo-Nazis in Charlottesville in mid-August.

Emancipation Day is celebrated in cities across the U. S. But the event was of particular significance in Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy.

Brock referenced a letter from former slave and abolitionist

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Magnolia High School Historical Marker ceremony and unveiling

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Vicksburg, MS – The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the City of Vicksburg, in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), held a ceremony and unveiling of an historical marker for the former Magnolia High School which was located in Vicksburg, Miss. A formal program was held in the City Hall Annex Board Room at 1415 Walnut Street December 28, 2017.

Immediately following the program, an unveiling ceremony took place at the site of the former school at 1000 Bowman Street in Vicksburg.

In 1940, Magnolia High School was one of sixteen high schools invited to participate in the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for Negroes' Secondary School Study. This study was an experimental program to examine administrative, curricular and instrumental practices. Magnolia High School was the only high school in Mississippi to be selected.

Mayor George Flaggs was excited to have the opportunity to recognize and honor Magnolia High School.



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everywhere.”

Wornie Reed, the director of the Race and Social Policy Center at Virginia Tech, who marched alongside King in the 1960s, said too few people knew about King’s major project when he was assassinated, “The Poor People’s Campaign.”

“The Memphis garbage workers strike was a side issue, the kind he was frequently involved in. He was putting in long days and nights across the country, calling on all of us who cared to come to Washington to help him to put maximum pressure on the federal government to come forth with concrete plans to reduce poverty in this rich country,” Reed said. “King was promoting a level of pressure that the federal government had never faced before. And many of us were organizing groups to do just that.”

Reed continued: “When King vowed to stop commerce in Washington, to stop planes, buses, and trains, in other words, to close Washington down, he gained the support of all the radical black groups who had abandoned King and the SCLC. These groups had tired of the ‘soft’ approach of the Civil Rights Movement. Many readily agreed to go to D.C. and help him do just that.”

Sadly, the childhood poverty rate is higher now than it was in 1968 when King was assassinated – then, it was between 15 and 16 percent, Reed said. Now, the national child poverty rate was 18 percent in 2016, according to the Children’s Defense Fund. The poverty rate for black children under 18 years old is 30.9 percent.

Also, Reed said, the Black Press was more

important to King and the Civil Rights Movement early on during the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the early days of the sit-in movement.

The Black Press provided vital coverage of the activities and the leading personalities in the movement, he said.

“Often the major press was concerned with the disruptions of the movement while the Black Press tended to provide more information about what the activities meant on the ground in black communities,” Reed said.

National Urban League President Marc Morial said King’s profoundly important, but less heralded work on economic justice, particularly toward the end of his life, left a legacy that the Urban League champions today.

“In his final speeches and his plans to launch a ‘Poor People’s Campaign,’ Dr. King laid out his extraordinary vision for a country that provides equal access to economic opportunity and prosperity to all, no matter their color or creed – a dream that organizations like the National Urban League are still fighting for,” Morial said.

Since its inception, the Black Press has played an integral role in communicating the raw and uncompromising struggle of King and African Americans across the country, Morial added.

“The Black Press remained on the front lines of the Civil Rights movement, offering a glimpse into the everyday lives of African Americans far before mainstream media paid attention,” said Morial. “In many ways, the black journalists were a critical pillar of the movement and of communicating Dr. King’s vision for a more equal America to the world.”

NAACP

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Frederick Douglass to newspaperman and abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, written Jan. 1, 1846. In the letter Douglass wrote, “In thinking of America, I sometimes find myself admiring her bright blue sky, her grand old woods, her fertile fields, her beautiful rivers, her mighty lakes and star-crowned mountains. But my rapture is soon checked, my joy is soon turned to mourning when I remember that all is cursed with the infernal spirit of slaveholding, robbery and wrong.”

“I am filled with unutterable loathing,” Douglass continued, “and led to reproach myself that anything could fall from my lips in praise of such a land. America will not allow her children to love her. She seems bent on compelling those who would be her warmest friends to be her worst enemies. May God give her repentance before it is too late, is the ardent prayer of my heart. I will continue to pray, labor and wait, believing that she cannot always be insensible to the dictates of justice, or deaf to the voice of humanity.”

Brock said these leaders from the past were different from some of today. “These clarion leaders, who with fire in their belly for justice, stood flat-footed with an ancestral mandate to speak truth to power,” she said. “They were not like some of our wannabe justice, faith and community leaders who simply rush out to our communities for drive-by social justice faith tours.

“We need more ministers and lay leaders who will stand their ground and raise their voice, not only in the sanctuary, not only in the mosque, in the synagogue, in the temple, but ... in the public square,” she said.

She talked about the biblical passage in Thessalonians describing convictions of steel. “We need some leaders who have some steel in their convictions,” Brock said. “What happens to us that we get so absorbed in our own places and houses of worship that we forget that we are to enter to worship but depart to serve?” she asked. “Service to others is the rent we pay for the space we own.”

Garner

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Snipes said that Garner suffered from the effects of an enlarged heart after giving birth to her son three months ago, CNN reported.

“I warned her everyday, you have to slow down, you have to relax and slow down,” Snipes said.

According to Erica’s Twitter account, she went into cardiac arrest and suffered major brain damage from a lack of oxygen.

In a statement about Erica’s work as an advocate for criminal justice reform, Rev. Al Sharpton called her a warrior. He joined the Garner family in their push for justice against the New York City Police Department.

“Many will say that Erica died of a heart attack, but that’s only partially true because her heart was already broken when she couldn’t get justice for her father,” Sharpton said. “Her heart was attacked by a system that would choke her dad and not hold accountable those that did it.”

On a summer day in July 2014, officers approached Eric Garner whom they said was selling loose cigarettes near a store in Staten Island. A video showed Officer Daniel Pantaleo grabbing Garner from behind and applying a chokehold while other officers helped tackle Garner, whom family members said had asthma.

On the video, in a plea that has resonated around the world, Garner is heard saying, “I can’t breathe. I can’t breathe,” repeatedly. He died shortly after the incident.

A grand jury failed to indict Pantaleo and, in 2015, the city settled a civil claim by Garner’s family against New York for nearly \$6 million.

Before and despite the settlement, Erica pushed for justice and, with a national platform; her voice became as big as any in the fight for freedom, justice and equality.

“I had the honor of getting to know Erica and I was inspired by the commitment she made working towards a more just world for her children and future generations,” Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders tweeted. “She was a fighter for justice and will not be forgotten.”

Erica supported Sanders’ 2016 campaign for president, even appearing in an ad for his campaign.

“Though Erica didn’t ask to be an activist, she responded to the personal tragedy of seeing her father die while being arrested in New York City by becoming a leading proponent for criminal justice reform and for an end to police brutality,” Sanders said.

The police “killed her unarmed, nonviolent father with an illegal chokehold and got off with nary a word,” activist Brittany Packnett wrote in a Twitter post. “Erica had to fight for justice. Then for her own life...she didn’t deserve this, her father didn’t deserve this. Her family doesn’t deserve this. All this for being black in America.”

In a March 2015 interview on NBC News, Erica spoke passionately about the Black Lives Matter movement and other protests that sought justice.

She recalled the August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and how it wasn’t until months later, when the video of her father’s death was released, that the Eric Garner incident received national attention.

Erica described seeing her father die via a cellphone video “a thousand-million times,” and when a grand jury failed to indict police officers; she said it was time to take her fight for justice to the streets.

Even when there weren’t television news cameras, Erica said she was determined to keep marching, to keep fighting.

“That’s the most annoying question I get. People ask, ‘when will you stop marching? What do you want from marching?’ He was my father,” Erica said during the interview. “I will always march.”



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Hinds County School District Weekly Update

HCSD Board recognize its schools' Teachers of the Year!



Pictured L-R / Front Row: Darius Harris, BEEMS; Alicia Stringer, RES; Jasmine Hughes, UEMS; Brionna Knighten, RHS; and Rahsaan Clark, MSRC. Pictured L-R / Back Row: Shaquibia Carter, CMS/RFA; Jessica Cline, BMS; Hosea Cotton, CTC; Courtney McCrory, GRI; Erica Jones, GRE; and Sedric Carter, THS.

Hinds County School District announce its 2018 Administrator of the Year!



Lorenzo Grimes has 13 years of experience in education total with 3-½ of those years in the HCSD leading Raymond High School. Grimes earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Studies and a Master of Science Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from the University of Mississippi. Grimes' goal is to ensure that all students enrolled at Raymond High School receive a quality education. He believes that the most important thing that helped Raymond was high expectations and hard work which landed the school a B rating for the first time.

Hinds County School District Teacher nominated for 2018 Mississippi Teacher of the Year!



Erica Jones is a 3rd Grade ELA teacher at Gary Road Elementary School with 17 years of teaching experience. Jones believes her main goal is to inspire learning to students in the way they want to learn. Jones stated that seeing her first set of students graduate from high school and college, was one of her greatest accomplishments. Her motto is, "forward toward greatness," because each day is an opportunity to learn something new. She believes it is very important to take time to listen and allow the students to express themselves.



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Happy Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

IN MEMORIAM

Bishop Hollis Musgrove

January 24, 1928 - January 1, 2018



“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven....” Ecclesiastes 3:1

For Bishop Hollis Musgrove, life’s journey began January 24, 1928 in Soso, Miss. (a small town outside of Laurel). He was the only son and the youngest of four born to Alson and Annie Mae Musgrove. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Alberta Flynn, Lela Shelby and Leola Blackwell and son, Richard Bruce.

Never a stranger to hard work, the young Musgrove was just eight years old when he started working for his grandfather on the family farm. He received his formal education from Oak Park High School in Laurel. Upon graduation, Musgrove joined the United States Army and served admirably for 38 months before being honorably discharged. He began working at Mingle Plywood Company and taking night classes in tailoring and education through the Jones County Veterans program. After his tenure at Mingle, Musgrove went to work as an agent for the Lincoln Life Insurance Company. He later enrolled at Alcorn College (now Alcorn State University) in Lorman, Miss.

With a desire for upward mobility and to further his education in theology while enhancing his ministry, Musgrove pursued studies at the Charles Harrison Mason System of Bible Colleges in Memphis, Tenn., where he received a certificate of Pastoral Theology in 1978. In 2002, he received an honorary doctorate degree in divinity from Saint Thomas Christian College, Jacksonville, Fla.

In the early 1950’s, Musgrove had heard about the services at the Laurel #1 Church Of God In Christ, and decided to attend. During his visit, the Jurisdictional Holy Convocation was in session and God moved and blessed him in a mighty way. Musgrove came into the knowledge of holiness at the close of the meeting in 1954 after hearing young Minister Marcus Butler preach the soul-stirring message “Loose the Man and Let Him Go.” Later, under Pastor W.D. Hines, Musgrove accepted Christ as his personal Savior and was filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost within one week. Thus, from that day forward, he faithfully served and followed the Lord for the duration of his life.

Musgrove was ordained an Elder in the Church Of God In Christ by Bishop Theo Davis. For over 66 years, he rendered service to God, humanity and the Church Of God In Christ. He became known throughout the brethren for always ministering to the needs of people and holding true to his philosophy that: “Everybody Is Somebody.”

Musgrove served his beloved church in numerous assignments including: first administrative assistant to Bishop Theo Davis, 1982-91; second administrative assistant to Bishop Davis, 1976-82; state secretary, 1964-86; district superintendent, 1979-86, district president, YPPW Department, 1958-70; vice president, Southern Mississippi Church Of God In Christ Corporation, 1968-80; and executive board chairman, Mississippi Southern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church Of God In Christ, 1986-89.

In January of 1992, Musgrove, was elevated and installed as the jurisdictional prelate of the Mississippi Southern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, the third in succession, by Presiding Bishop Louis H. Ford.

Musgrove governed his life by the motto, “Being geared to the times, but being anchored to the Rock.” His tenure as bishop was distinguished by his progressive style of leadership, which caused tremendous growth within the jurisdiction. Presently, the jurisdiction has 136 functioning churches, over 200 ordained elders and 175 plus licensed missionaries. To date, 36 new edifices of worship have been erected from the ground up, 30 churches have been refurbished and the jurisdiction expanded from nine to 14 districts. Even in emeritus status, Musgrove continued to be a highly-respected, elder statesman in the College of Bishops of the Church Of God In Christ.

Under the leadership of Musgrove, Mississippi Southern First Jurisdiction became an active force in local and state communities. Consequently, several economic and community development programs were established to help serve individu-

als and families in surrounding neighborhoods. Additional programs were developed including, but not limited to student scholarships, college preparation, professional development training, COGIC Meals on Wheels and single-family homes for the elderly and medical assistance.

Musgrove was actively involved in several community outreach projects and civic organizations throughout the State of Mississippi including, the National Cancer Society, Stewpot Kitchen, Bethlehem Center, Flowers House, Sims House, Ronald McDonald House, and several local long-term nursing facilities. He was president of the Liberal Trinity Development Foundation, Inc.; a lifetime member of the Oak Park Alumni Association; a member of the Ministerial Alliance of Jackson, the Board of Directors of Saints Academy in Lexington, Miss., and the Jackson State University Ministerial Group. In his honor, Musgrove was recognized by the City of Jackson in the renaming of Northside Drive from Watkins Drive to State Street as Bishop Hollis Musgrove Boulevard. He has also been designated as Man of the Year and Bishop of the Year by the Church Of God In Christ, and Man of the Year by the City of Jackson.

- During his pastoral tenure, Bishop Musgrove
- founded the Vossburg Church Of God In Christ, Vossburg, Miss.;
 - built the St. Mary Church Of God In Christ (Laurel #3), Laurel, Miss.;
 - renovated the Lightsey Church Of God In Christ, Lightsey, Miss.;
 - served St. Mary Church Of God In Christ, Pascagoula, Miss.;
 - served Decatur Church Of God In Christ, Decatur, Miss.;
 - served Laurel #1 Church Of God In Christ, Laurel, Miss.;
 - served Gravel Line Church Of God In Christ, Hattiesburg, Miss.;
 - served Belt Temple Church Of God In Christ, Hattiesburg, Miss.

In 1975, Bishop Musgrove became pastor of Liberal Trinity Church Of God In Christ in Jackson. At Liberal Trinity, he accomplished the following:

- built a beautiful edifice (the Blue Palace) with a wooden floor and a fellowship hall;
- paid off the church mortgage eight years early;
- developed the Liberal Trinity Development Foundation, Inc., with cash and investment assets valued over \$250,000;
- purchased land and buildings surrounding the church valued over \$500,000;
- renovated several homes surrounding the church for the elderly citizens;
- acquired the church’s first “for profit” entrepreneurial enterprise, Northside Wash and Dry;
- expanded and established numerous church auxiliaries and units;
- purchased modern technology and sound equipment;
- acquired two church vans for the elderly and handicapped;
- resurfaced the parking lot;
- enhanced the financial management status of the church;
- established the Food Pantry Network to feed needy families;
- created a counseling program which offers free counseling to help individuals and families.

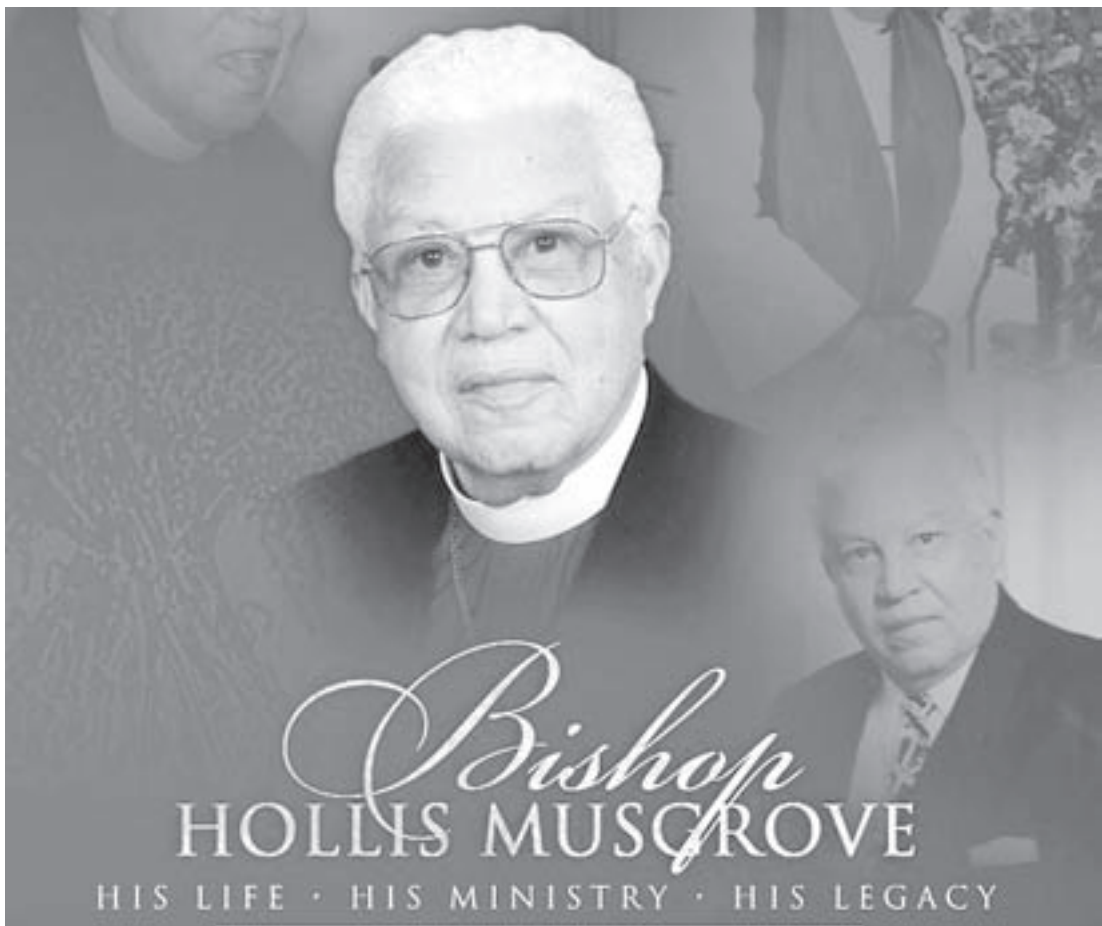
Currently, plans are in development for a senior citizens complex, a modern facility that will provide love and care for elderly citizens in their golden years with a wholesome and spiritual environment.

Musgrove married his high school sweetheart, the former Bernice Wallace, in June 1949. Their marital union of over 69 years was blessed with three children: Deborah Dianne Yancy, Jackson, Miss.; Hollis La-voice Musgrove, Laurel, Miss.; and Faye Paulette Musgrove, Mobile, Ala. He is also survived by six grandchildren: his caregiver, Matthew A. Donaldson, Stephanie K. Wingo, Hollie V. McDavid, Antonio Musgrove, Mario Musgrove, Asten Musgrove and Endia N. O’Cain; and four great-grandchildren; one surviving aunt, Charlene Musgrove and a special cousin, Lola Ducksworth.

Along with his immediate family mentioned above, the life and legacy of Musgrove will be cherished by a host of extended family and friends, including Missionary Gail Grass Fulgham, Elder Tony Bounds, Michael (Mitchell) Gordon, Pastor Jerry Crisler and the Weems children, Victoria, Larry and Cameron; the Liberal Trinity Church and Mississippi Southern First Jurisdiction families, as well as the brethren of the Church Of God In Christ.

On January 1, 2018 – New’s Year’s Day – Bishop Hollis Musgrove began his new year in a new home, answering the clarion call to glory to live with his Lord and Savior forevermore.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Bishop Hollis Musgrove Scholarship Fund, c/o Dr. Gail Grass Fulgham, Liberal Trinity Church of God in Christ| 725 W. Northside Drive Jackson, MS 39206.



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Martin Luther King Jr. was a champion for equity in education

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s influence on the Civil Rights Movement is indisputable, but his fight for equity in education remains a mystery to some.

That fight began with his own education.

"He clearly had an advanced, refined educational foundation from Booker T. Washington High School, Morehouse College, Crozer Theological Seminary and Boston University," said Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr., the founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. "His education in his speeches and sermons and writings were apparent and he wanted us all to have that type of education."

King completed high school at 15, college at 19, seminary school at 22 and earned a doctorate at 26.

"Dr. King laid down the case for affordable education for all Americans, including Polish children – from the ghetto and the barrios, to the Appalachian mountains and the reservations – he was a proponent for education for all and he believed that strong minds break strong chains and once you learn your lesson well, the oppressor could not unlearn you."

Rev. Al Sharpton, the founder and president of the National Action Network (NAN), said that NAN works with Education for



Civil Rights Movement co-founder Dr. Ralph David Abernathy and his wife Juanita (not pictured) follow with Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., as the Abernathy children march on the front line, leading the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965. The children are (left-right): Donzaleigh Abernathy in striped sweater, Ralph David Abernathy III, and Juandalynn R. Abernathy in glasses. Name of the white minister in the photo is unknown. ABERNATHY FAMILY PHOTOS/WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

a Better America to partner with school districts, universities, community colleges, churches and community organizations around the country to conduct educational programming for students and parents.

"The mission of the organization has been to build bridges between policymakers and the classrooms by supporting innovations in education and creating a dialogue between policymakers, community leaders, educators, parents and students," Sharpton said. "We're promoting student health, financial lit-

eracy and college readiness in our communities, just like Dr. King did."

King was a figure to look up to in both civil rights and academia, Sharpton told the NNPA News-wire.

"Then, when you look at his values, he always saw education, especially in the black community, as a tool to uplift and inspire to action," Sharpton said. "It's definitely no coincidence that a number of prominent civil rights groups that emerged during Dr. King's time, were based on college campuses."

Sharpton added that King routinely pushed for equality to access to education.

"Just as importantly, he always made a point to refer education back to character – that we shouldn't sacrifice efficiency and speed for morals," Sharpton said. "A great student not only has the reason and education, but a moral compass to do what's right with his or her gifts. It's not just important to be smart, you have to know what's right and what's wrong."

Dr. Wornie Reed, the director of Race and Social Policy Re-

search Center at Virginia Tech who marched with King, said when he thinks of King and education, he immediately considers the late civil rights leader's advocating that "we should be the best that we could be."

"King certainly prepared himself educationally...early on he saw that education played a crucial role in society, but perceived it as often being misused," Reed said. "In a famous essay that he wrote for the student newspaper at Morehouse in 1947, he argued against a strictly utilitarian approach to education, one that advanced the individual and not society."

Maryland Democratic Congressman Elijah Cummings, who remembers running home from church on Sundays to listen to King's speeches on radio, said King had a tremendous impact on education in the black community.

"Dr. King worked tirelessly to ensure that African Americans would gain the rights they had long been denied, including the right to a quality education," said Cummings. "His fight for equality in educational opportunities helped to tear down walls of segregation in our nation's schools."

Cummings continued: "He instilled hope in us that we can achieve our dreams no matter the color of our skin. He instilled in us the notion that everyone can be great, because everyone can

serve and there are so many great advocates, who embody this lesson."

In support of education equality, civil rights leaders across the country are still working to ensure all students, regardless of color, receive access to experienced teachers, equitable classroom resources and quality education.

"For example, the NAACP has done a tremendous amount, across the country, to increase retention rates, ensure students have the resources they need, and prepare students for success after graduation – whether it be for college or a specific career path," Cummings said.

During his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in Oslo, Norway, King said: "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds; and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."

"The need for high quality education in the black community is universal and the route to get there may be different, but education does matter," Jackson said.

"Dr. King told me he read a fiction and a non-fiction book once a week. He was an avid reader and, in the spirit of Dr. King, today we fight for equal, high-quality education," said Jackson.

Center for Responsible Lending report calls for-profit education "a risky proposition"

By Charlene Crowell
Communications Deputy Director,
Center for Responsible Lending



Mounting student debt is a nagging problem for most families these days. As the cost of higher education rises, borrowing to cover those costs often becomes a family concern across multiple generations including the student, parents and even grandparents or other relatives.

Today's 21st Century jobs usually demand higher education and specialized skills to earn one's way into the middle class. In households where educational loans are inevitable, it becomes an important family decision to determine which institutions are actually worth the debt incurred. Equally important is the institution's likelihood of its students graduating.

Higher education institutions that do not provide its students and graduates with requisite skills and knowledge become money pits that lead to deeper debt and likely loan defaults.

New research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) analyzed student debt on a state-by-state basis. An interactive map of CRL's findings reveal on a state basis each of the 50 states' total undergraduate population, for-profit enrollment, and the top for-profit schools by enrollment for both four-year and two-year institutions.

Entitled "The State of For-Profit Colleges," the report concludes that investing in a for-profit education is almost always a risky proposition. Undergraduate borrowing by state showed that the percentage of students that borrow from the federal government generally ranged between 40 to 60 percent for public colleges, compared to 50 to 80 percent at for-profit institutions.

Additionally, both public and private, not-for-profit institutions, on average, lead to better results at a lower cost of debt, better earnings following graduation, and the fewest loan defaults.

"In many cases, for-profit students are nontraditional students, making sacrifices and struggling to manage family and

work obligations to make better lives for their families," noted Robin Howarth, a CRL senior researcher. "For-profit colleges target them with aggressive marketing, persuading them to invest heavily in futures that will never come to pass."

CRL also found that women and blacks suffer disparate impacts, particularly at for-profit institutions, where they are disproportionately enrolled in most states.

For example, enrollment at Mississippi's for-profit colleges was 78 percent female and nearly 66 percent black. Other states with high black enrollment at for-profits included Georgia (57 percent), Louisiana (55 percent), Maryland (58 percent) and North Carolina (54 percent).

Focus group interviews further substantiated these figures, and recounted poignant, real life experiences.

Brianna, a 31-year-old black female completed a medical assistant certificate at the now-defunct Everest University. Once she completed her certificate and passed the certification test, she found she could only find a job in her field of study that paid \$12 per hour, much less than the \$35,000-\$45,000 salary that Everest told her would be her starting salary as a medical assistant.

She was also left with \$21,000 in student debt. As a result, she has struggled since matriculation with low credit scores and cramped housing conditions for herself and three children. For her, public schools, according to Brianna, are "better in the long run" due to their lower cost despite having more requirements for attendance.

Similarly, Elena, a 35-year-old Latina enrolled in a for-profit institution after seeing television commercials for the local branch of Everest College targeted at those without a GED, like herself. Assured by Everest that she would earn between \$13-15 an hour working as a pharmacy technician, she thought that wage would have been enough for her to repay tens of thousands of dollars in student loans and interest she incurred. Yet, the best wage she could find with a pharmacy paid only \$10.50 an hour.

Elena also shared that the financial

aid officers at Everest encouraged her to apply for "all these monies [grants and loans] that I could get. And they took it all – all of it. And yes, I am left with this bill."

These two personal experiences are magnified across the country with high female for-profit college enrollment. For example, the Midwestern states of Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin have female-dominated for-profit enrollment and disproportionate black enrollment, too. These were also states with some of the lowest for-profit graduation rates after six years of study.

In Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi and North Carolina, median for-profit student debt levels at graduation in these five states was much higher than that of their public peers, ranging from \$29,947 to \$34,891 for for-profit students compared to \$21,605 to \$23,638 for public students.

Public colleges and private, nonprofit institutions in these same five states combined also had average black enrollment rates that were noticeably smaller: Georgia (32 percent), Louisiana (31 percent), Maryland (28 percent), Mississippi (38 percent), North Carolina (23 percent).

These disparate outcomes are even more grievous when one takes into account that for-profit colleges are primarily funded by taxpayers, receiving up to 90 percent of their revenues from federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and federal student loans. Veterans educational benefits are additional taxpayer-paid revenues.

Finally, three years following graduation from a for-profit institution, former students in 44 states had double-digit default rates. These states included: Kansas, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia.

These and other findings document how Americans are investing heavily in higher education, but, in large part, the choice of institution determines whether they will receive what they paid for: gainful employment.

Charlene Crowell is the communications deputy director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

USM to host economic outlook forums in Hattiesburg, on Gulf Coast

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Economic trends and forecasts will be the focal points during the Economic Outlook 2018 Forum hosted by The University of Southern Mississippi at two different venues this year – the Hattiesburg campus Jan. 25, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Feb. 1.

The USM College of Business and Trent Lott National Center are coordinating the annual forum that brings together experts from banking, finance and academia to explore a number of issues and research related to the economic outlook for 2018. The First – a National Banking Association is serving as title sponsor.

The Hattiesburg forum is set for 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Thad Cochran Center Grand Ballroom. The MGCCC forum will be held from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at the college's Hospitality and Resort Management Center in Gulfport.

"It is a great tradition to hold economic outlook forums that bring faculty and organizational leaders together," said Faye Gilbert, dean of the USM College of Business. "This is the tenth year that USM has held this event in Hattiesburg and the second year for us to host the event for our coastal communities. We have two remarkable speakers and we look forward to seeing the business community gather at the beginning of this year to consider the economic landscape at the national and local levels."

Keynote speakers for the forums are Jim Glassman, managing director and head economist for Commercial Banking, JPMorgan Chase & Co.; and Darrin Webb, chief economist, State of Mississippi.

From 1979 through 1988, Glassman served as a senior economist in the Research & Statistics and Monetary Affairs departments

at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C. While there, he analyzed and forecasted inflation, labor market developments, the Federal Reserve's operating strategies and interest rate markets, and he developed monetary and reserves projections. He joined Morgan Guaranty in 1988 and Chemical Bank in 1993, which, through a combination of mergers, became JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Webb became the state economist and director of the University Research Center July 2010. The University Research Center works with the Department of Revenue, the Legislative Budget Office, the Legislature, the governor's administration and other agencies on matters concerning the state's economy. As state economist, Webb works directly with the state revenue-forecasting group, serving traditionally as the chair. He also oversees the state's econometric model which forecasts the state's economy.

M. Ray "Hoppy" Cole, president and CEO of The First – A National Banking Association, says that collaboration with USM on the forum constitutes a win-win for both institutions.

"The Economic Outlook forum continues to grow every year, and we expect another large turnout," said Cole. "It gives us an opportunity to visit with people from the Gulf South region, to find out what is going on and how our company can be of service. We believe the conference gives those in attendance a solid foundation of economic expectations upon which to plan the upcoming year."

The forum is free and open to the general public. Seating is limited and those planning to attend should register as soon as possible here: <https://www.usm.edu/business/economic-outlook-forum-2018>



In December 2017, Matthews was also presented with her For My People Award for her indelible contributions to African-American history and culture at the 75th-anniversary event on the campus of Jackson State University in honor of the publication of Margaret Walker's book of poetry *For My People*.

She is a member of the Mississippi Association of Southern Financial Aid Administrators and the Southern Association of Southern Financial Aid Administrators.

A two-time alumnus of JSU, she received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in business.

Essence Magazine, once again, black-owned

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In a deal that reestablishes Essence magazine as a totally, black and independently-owned entity, Sundial Brands founder Richelieu Dennis recently announced the purchase of Essence Communications from Time Inc.

The Essence Communications deal also comes a week after Dennis was knighted in his native Liberia by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who admitted him into the Most Venerable Order of the Knighthood of the Pioneer with the Grade of Knight Commander.

Sirleaf reportedly described Dennis as an “Awesome Hero.”

“Talk about surreal,” Dennis said in an interview with NNPA Newswire. “I can’t even bring myself to say [knighthood]. It’s been a phenomenal week.”

Dennis said that the purchase of Essence Communications comes with a deep-seated passion and commitment to making sure that, “we are doing everything we can to leverage the power of the business to impact our community in a positive way and to demonstrate that we can run highly-profitable organizations.”

Dennis continued: “We can also leverage the impact and the resources that those businesses generate to drive economic empowerment and social justice in our communities for ourselves and by ourselves.”

Dorothy Leavell, the chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and the publisher



Richelieu Dennis purchased Essence Communications from Time Inc., returning the iconic Essence magazine to 100 percent black ownership. ESSENCE

of the Crusader Newspaper Group, said that it was good news to hear that ownership of Essence magazine has returned to the black community.

“I hope it’s a trend,” said Leavell. “We do need strong black ownership in our industry, even as I’m expecting that our black newspapers will prosper in 2018.”

Leavell also said that she hopes that black entrepreneurs will see the work and products of the Black Press and “seek to restore some light.”

Leavell added: “We need more and more publications that depict us in a positive way and that’s certainly what

Essence has done in the past and I hope they will continue.”

While financial terms of the Essence Communications purchase weren’t disclosed, Dennis said he’s not only retaining Essence President Michelle Ebanks, who will continue to run the company, but Ebanks will also join the organization’s board of directors and lead an all-black executive team at Essence, who will have equity stakes in the business.

“I’m overwhelmed with gratitude,” Ebanks told the NNPA Newswire. “The ‘Essence’ brand...has always had a special place in the hearts and minds of black women

and entrepreneurs and leaders like [Dennis] recognized Essence and its importance and wants to restore it. This has allowed a dream to come true and we couldn’t be happier.”

Ebanks said that it was an extraordinary and special privilege to be part of an organization that would be responsible for elevating black women in the industry.

Dennis said the deal to purchase Essence came together rather quickly after reading an article in the Wall Street Journal about Time Inc.’s intention to sell the company.

“The stars aligned. We started to think about the implications of what this would mean if Essence were truly bought back into the community and the impact it could have on the audience and on the industry to be able to create our content and to monetize our own content,” said Dennis. “There was never a waiver in the commitment on what Essence means to our community.”

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA, congratulated Dennis for purchasing Essence magazine and for returning this iconic publication to 100 percent black ownership.

“This is a very timely and an important milestone for the Black Press in America and throughout the world,” said Chavis. “Essence magazine, under the able leadership of Michelle Ebanks, is a valued treasure of Black America and the NNPA acknowledges, with supportive gratitude, Richelieu Dennis for this significant black-owned business transaction.”

Is the Israeli-Palestinian two-state solution doomed?

By Bill Fletcher Jr.
NNPA News Wire Columnist



In kicking off the new year, the central committee of the right-wing, governing Israeli party – the Likud – unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the annexation of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. Though this was technically an advisory opinion, most observers recognize that this represents the views of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s administration.

For years, the Israeli government has been doing a dance where they have, on the one hand, increased the illegal settlement of Palestinian territories while, on the other hand, claiming that they uphold the ultimate goal of a two-state solution to the Israeli/Palestinian dispute. The announcement of the Likud resolution puts to bed any further pretense; Likud seeks to eliminate Palestinians from the occupied territories by seizing the best land and forcing the Palestinians into a situation that is further reminiscent of the Bantustan settlements established by apartheid South Africa, pre-1994.

The Israeli political establishment has made it impossible for a realistic two-state solution to come into existence. If Israel goes forward with this annexation, there will conclusively be no cohesive territory that the Palestinians can exist upon. Their land

COMMENTARY

will be formally – rather than de facto – divided according to the wishes of the Israeli government; the Palestinians will have no access to the sea; and little assurance of access via the air. While the Palestinians may have a flag, they will have little else.

Coming shortly after Trump’s unilateral decision to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem – a decision that was publicly condemned by dozens of world leaders – the Israeli political establishment has thumbed its nose at the international community, once again. To add insult to injury, the Israeli political establishment and their allies in the United States continue to relentlessly pursue efforts to suppress non-violent opposition to Israeli government policy, i.e., opposition to boycott/divestment/sanctions, as a tactic to pressure groups fighting for Palestinian rights.

For those of us who consistently oppose racism, annexations and apartheid, 2018 must represent a continuation of the struggle for Palestinian rights and freedom. There is no room to back down. The Israeli government has made its stand more than clear: there are no Palestinian rights that they feel bound to respect.

Bill Fletcher Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter @BillFletcherJr, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

Former NFL player raises money for space heaters, coats for Baltimore city students

Aaron Maybin, Coppin State student Samierra Jones help to raise nearly \$80,000 for students in Baltimore

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Thousands of people stepped up to help former NFL linebacker Aaron Maybin raise money for students in Baltimore’s public schools after his tweets showing students wearing jackets and winter hats inside a classroom went viral.

The former NFL player has continued to raise awareness about the issue by promoting a clothing drive and other initiatives to support the students.

Samierra Jones, a senior at Coppin State University, set up a “GoFundMe” account to support Maybin’s effort.

The GoFundMe page says that, “Baltimore City Public Schools are currently operating with an inadequate heating system. Students are still required to attend classes that are freezing and wear their coats to assist in keeping them warm. How can you teach a child in these conditions? This fundraiser will help in purchasing space heaters and outerwear to assist in keeping these students warm.”

Jones, who also graduated



Former NFL linebacker Aaron Maybin is raising money for students in Baltimore city schools. AARON MAYBIN/TWITTER

from the Baltimore city public school system, according to the GoFundMe page, said that the fundraiser would help to purchase, space heaters and outerwear to help the students stay warm; the page also noted that supporters could donate hats, gloves, coats and socks for the students.

In less than a week, nearly

2,100 people contributed \$76,199.

On January 6, Maybin tweeted, “It’s been amazing to see the outpouring of support from the community. Thank you to everyone that has helped to push this issue and donated resources. Please keep them coming! #MyBmore”

Most of Baltimore’s public

schools reopened January 8, after public outrage forced a city-wide shutdown last week, according to *USA Today*.

“Four schools failed to make the grade Monday, and students were sent home from another school after a pipe burst,” *USA Today* reported. “Baltimore serves more than 80,000 students at 177 schools and pro-

grams.”

Last week, Maybin tweeted: “It’s really ridiculous the kind of environment we place our children in and expect them to get an education. I have two classes in one room where kids are freezing, lights are off and no computers. We’re doing our best but our kids don’t deserve this.”

Maybin continued: “All the money in the world for building jails. But not enough for basic public school necessities.”

Maybin teaches at Matthew A. Henson Elementary in Baltimore.

Maybin played football professionally for the Buffalo Bills and the New York Jets.

Like Maybin, many who followed the story on social media acknowledged the irony of the amount of tax money that is spent on jails and prisons as compared to what is spent on the public school system.

“Baltimore’s K-12 public school students and teachers are on the front lines watching this city talk about juvenile crime while the State of Maryland, Baltimore’s mayor and @BaltC-

itySchools can’t even keep classrooms properly heated during freezing weather,” tweeted Lawrence Brown. “As studies have determined, however, Maryland severely underfunds our schools, creating deep issues.”

According to the *Baltimore Sun*, “Baltimore schools have had to return millions in state funding for building repairs after projects to fix failing heating systems and roofs grew too expensive or took too long.”

The *Sun* report continued: “Since 2009, city schools have lost out on roughly \$66 million in state funding for much-needed repairs after approved projects ran afoul of state regulations meant to prevent waste, state records show. The money could have funded dozens of new heating systems at schools where the heat is now failing.”

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist, political analyst and a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. She can be contacted at L.Burke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

Miss. Delegation: Army affirms AH-64 apache helicopters will remain in Tupelo

The Mississippi Link Newswire

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker and Representatives Trent Kelly, Gregg Harper, and Stephen Palazzo, in addition to Governor Phil Bryant, today announced that the U.S. Army will retain the Alpha Company, 1-149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion's AH-64 Apache Helicopters to assure National Guard readiness.

Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper has accepted the National Commission on the Future of the Army recommendation to retain four Attack-Reconnaissance Battalions of 18 aircraft each in the Army National Guard, including AH-64 Apache helicopters for the Tupelo-based company.

The Mississippi congressional delegation has worked through the authorizing and appropriations processes to protect the Apache helicopter unit after former President Obama in 2014 recommended disestablishing the unit as part of a U.S. Army active-duty and reserve components restructuring.

"The decision puts to rest the misguided plan to remove the Apache helicopters from the Mississippi National Guard. The Alpha Company will continue to be well equipped and ready to meet our national security missions," said Cochran, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Defense. "I appreciate the work Secretary Esper and General Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, put into reaching this good conclusion."

"Secretary Esper and the Army are right to keep the Apache helicopters in the hands of our talented Army National Guardsmen in Tupelo and at other sites around the country," Wicker said. "The Army has invested millions in developing the capabilities of its U.S.-based Apache missions, and it would have been senseless to eliminate them. I am glad our troops can continue their seamless defense operations both here at home and in support of missions abroad."

"We thank the Secretary of the Army and all those that were involved in making this decision,"

Kelly said.

"The Mississippi AH-64 (Apache) Company has an established history of excellence and some of the best-trained pilots, flight teams and maintenance teams in the nation. Maintaining this detachment is cost effective and vital to meeting the readiness levels of the Army. Getting accurate information to those involved in this decision was a collaborative effort of our delegation and the leadership of the Mississippi National Guard, and I am proud of our working relationship."

"I am pleased with this decision to keep the Apache helicopters in the Mississippi National Guard," said Harper. "This announcement speaks volumes about the capabilities and effectiveness of the men and women who serve in our armed forces. I appreciate the hard work and commitment of our delegation, our Governor, and the Mississippi Military community in making this a reality."

"As a Mississippi Guardsman and having worked on this effort in Congress, I'm pleased to see that Mississippi was selected to retain their Apaches during this realignment. This decision serves as proof that the Mississippi National Guard and their leadership are second to none. The soldiers and pilots that go to work every day as representatives of their state and their country should be proud of their hard work," Palazzo said. "I'd also like to thank Mississippi Adjutant General, Major General Boyles and Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Lengyel for their leadership on this matter."

"I am grateful to Secretary Nesper for accepting the recommendation to retain this battalion of Apache helicopters that includes service members based in Tupelo. The Mississippi National Guard has always stood ready to do our part to protect our freedom at home and abroad," Bryant said.

The decision to retain the four battalions of Apache aircraft was based on maintaining readiness levels. The selected battalions are stationed in Utah, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas with a company detachment in Mississippi.

Judge Kidd, Rep. Cockerham appointed to Drug Courts Advisory Committee

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Hinds County Circuit Judge Winston Kidd of Jackson and Rep. Angela Cockerham of Magnolia have been appointed to the State Drug Courts Advisory Committee.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr. made the appointments in an order filed Jan. 5. Waller also reappointed Circuit Judge Michael M. Taylor of Brookhaven; Melody Winston of Madison, director of the Department of Mental Health Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Services; and Christy M. Guthertz of Jackson, Department of Corrections deputy commissioner of Community Corrections.

The appointees' terms run through December 31, 2019. Members serve staggered terms.

Administrative Office of Courts Director Kevin Lackey of Ridgeland is chairman. Other members are Justice Robert P. Chamberlin of Hernando, Circuit Judge Robert Helfrich of Hattiesburg, Circuit Judge Charles E. Webster of Clarksdale, Harrison County and Youth Court Judge Margaret Al-



Kidd

fonso of Gulfport, and Rankin County and Youth Court Judge Thomas H. Broome of Brandon.

Kidd took the Advisory Committee position previously held by James Maccarone of Jackson, director of the Division of Youth Services of the Mississippi Department of Human Services. Cockerham replaced former Sen. Sean Tindell of Gulfport on the Advisory Committee. Tindell was appointed to the Court of Appeals in October 2017.

Kidd is chairman of the Conference of Circuit Judges. He has supervised the Hinds Cir-



Cockerham

cuit Drug Court for the past seven years. He has served as a circuit judge since November 2001.

Cockerham, an attorney, began her service in the Mississippi House of Representatives in 2006. She is chair of the House Energy Committee and vice-chair of the Management Committee. She serves on legislative committees including Apportionment and Elections; Appropriations; Compilation, Revision and Publication; Ethics; Judiciary A; Judiciary En Banc; Legislative Budget Committee; Performance Based

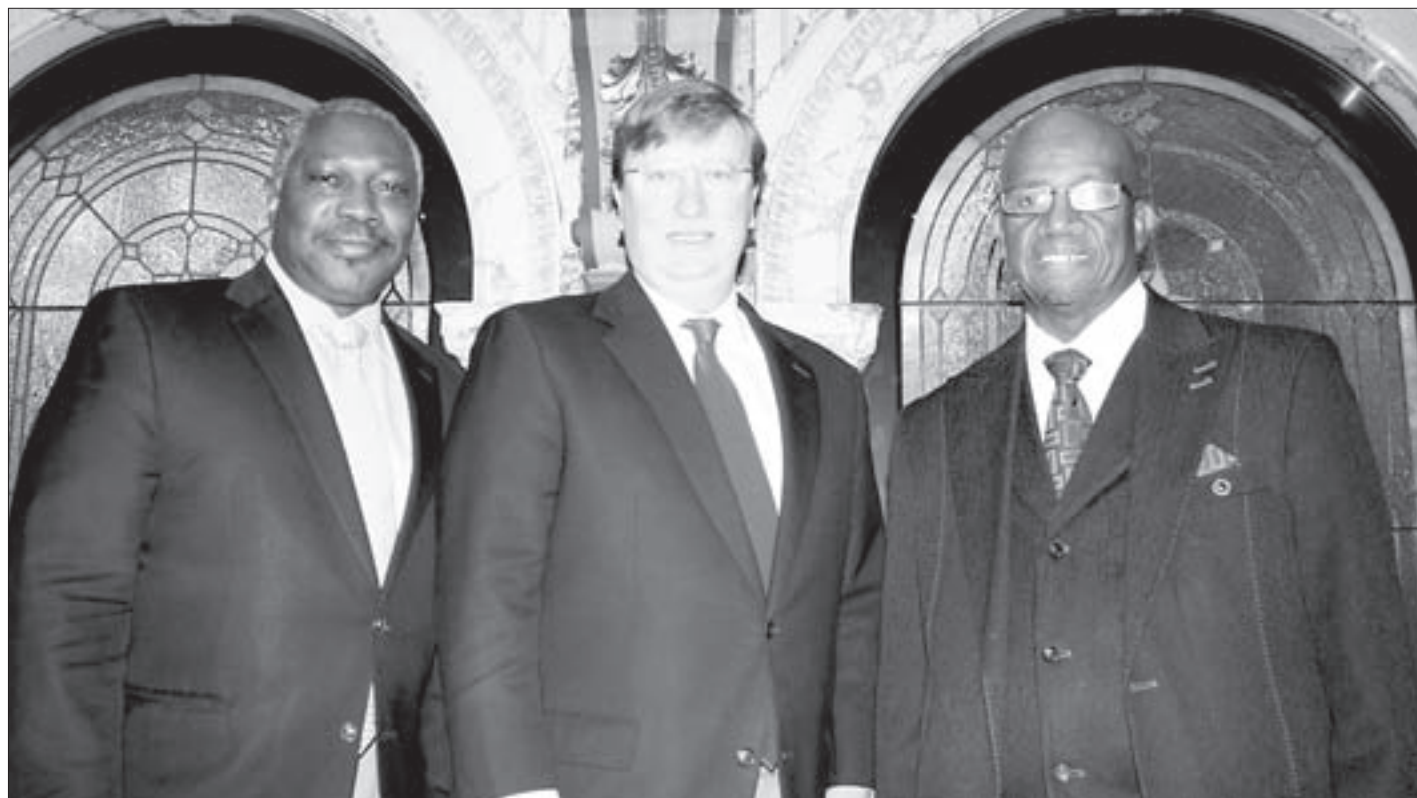
Budgeting; and Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

The State Drug Courts Advisory Committee was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 2003 to recommend improvements to drug court policies and procedures. The Advisory Committee was also responsible for developing statewide evaluation plans and models for monitoring critical aspects of drug court operations.

Drug courts seek to rehabilitate drug-using offenders through drug treatment and intense supervision with drug testing and frequent court appearances. Drug courts offer the incentive of a chance to remain out of jail, and the sanction of a jail sentence if participants fail to remain drug-free and in compliance with all program requirements.

Statewide, more than 3,600 people are enrolled in 42 drug courts. There are 22 adult felony programs, 14 juvenile programs, three misdemeanor programs and three family drug courts.

Pastor Edwards of Rosemont Baptist Church in Jackson



Pastor Jimmy Edwards of Rosemont Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, delivered an opening prayer to the state Senate Friday, January 5, 2018, at the invitation of Senator John Horhn, who led the Pledge of Allegiance before Lt. Governor Tate Reeves called lawmakers to order.

Assists at State Capitol



Jaden Nixon, (right), of Jackson recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Jaden is pictured with Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and Senator Tammy Witherspoon who sponsored his visit. Jaden is the son of Dee Bookert-Nixon and attends St. Andrews Episcopal School. When asked about the week, Jaden said, "Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits and know one had a hand in them." Also pictured are junior pages Amani Witherspoon (left) and Tichina Seeden, (center).

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Live our life worthy of the Lord, be imitators of Christ

PART 1

By Pastor Simeon R. Green III
Special to The Mississippi Link



The last Sunday of each year is a good time for Christians to reflect on the past year as we prepare to commence a New Year. Have we lost sight of our priorities? Are there areas of failure which we need to recognize and correct? Do we need to review our vision and mission?

The Christian life is a movement toward spiritual growth and maturity. Our experience of following Jesus should be taking us and others somewhere. The goal and desire of our growth ought to be that we are being transformed into the image of the Glory of God. The Apostle Paul in First Corinthians 11:1 shares these words: "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

As regenerated people, those designed to be filled with the knowledge of God and the power of His life; we too often haphazardly fill our lives with

the trivia and junk of the world. As a result, we find ourselves either failing to serve the Lord at all or feverishly acting in the energy of the flesh in an attempt to do the work of God. God designed our minds to be filled with the knowledge of His will, but if they are empty of that knowledge, they can become quickly filled with junk.

I like to think of this as the vacuum of the soul. A vacuum may be defined as a depressurized space that draws whatever substance is around it into the void. The human mind is just such a vacuum, a space within us that becomes a junk box filled with whatever is near.

We read in Colossians 1:9 these words of the Apostle Paul, "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His Will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." To be so filled is in essence to be filled with God Himself and to begin to experience His fullness — His character, peace, comfort,

power and purpose.

God must make the worker before he can do the work. God spent thirteen years preparing Joseph (Old Testament) for his ministry in Egypt, and eighty years preparing Moses (Old Testament) to lead Israel. Jesus spent three years teaching His disciples how to bear fruit; and even the learned Apostle Paul needed teaching before he could serve God with effectiveness.

A newborn babe can cry and make its presence known, but it cannot work. A new Christian can witness for Christ and even win others, but he must be taught to walk and learn God's wisdom before he is placed in an office of responsible ministry.

The Colossians feared the unseen forces of darkness, but Paul says that true believers have been transferred from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from guilt to forgiveness, and from the power of Satan to the power of God. We have been rescued from a rebel kingdom to serve the

rightful King. Our conduct should reflect our new allegiance. Only by being connected with Christ through faith can anyone have eternal life and only through a continuing connection with Him can anyone have power for living. Christ is God incarnate and the only way to forgiveness and peace with God the Father. Believers are connected with each other as Christ's body on earth. In Christ we have everything we need for salvation and for living the Christian life. Truth, love and peace should mark our lives. May we, by God's grace and through His power, live our lives worthy of the Name we claim.

Next week — January 19, 2018, Part II "Live your life worthy of the Lord, be imitators of Christ".

Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.

PRESERVED

Miracles in the desert

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



Fear and uncertainty are the two most common emotions that are expressed when people share how the new year 2018 makes them feel. Our current president is known more for the many lies he tells than for passing any significant legislation since taking office. In addition, with an increase in acts of racial violence, others say that our country is going in the wrong direction and that we are in a desert of despair.

However, what I've learned over the years is that sometimes God will place us in a situation that is out of our control so that we will see the miracles he can perform. By definition, miracles are positive circumstances that come out of the impossible. However, being in a desert can also be a place of miracles.

Deserts can be uncomfortable places for a number of reasons. First, a desert can be a place of isolation. Second, the isolation that you feel in the desert may influence you to do desperate things. For example, if you are in a relationship desert — you may begin a relationship with someone even if they really don't offer you what you want. Yet, God seems to do his best work in the desert. The desert is a place where you can hear God without distraction and know that he is concerned about you.

Genesis 16:7 says that "The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur." Hagar was depressed and fled to the desert to escape Sarai's mistreatment of her.


However, the angel of the LORD found her and spoke to her about the child that she was carrying and his future destiny.

Moreover, the desert is a place of isolation but being there can also be the first step in fulfilling even a greater purpose. Genesis 37:22 shares part of the story of Joseph and how his brothers faked his death out of jealousy: "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." This was the first unfortunate step that eventually led to him being one of the great leaders of Egypt. It took him a few years to reach the place that God had shown him through dreams as a teenager, but God's favor and protection were with him every step of the way.

Deuteronomy 8:2 also states, "Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands." The children of Israel needed to be reminded that their years in the desert had a purpose.

Rather than complain about our desert places, know that it is in desert places that God is really setting us up to receive his miracles. Whether emotional, physical or spiritual, desert places show us that God is with us, is faithful and full of mercy.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.



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Fifty years ago



King

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., born January 15, 1929, turned 39 years old fifty years ago. Assassinated April 4, 1968, he didn’t make it to 40. Yet in his scant 39 years on the planet, he upended the ways we think about race, capitalism, poverty, power and imperialism. The powers that be – foundations, corporations, and the media – were okay with him when he talked about race and discrimination. They were much less happy when he rattled their cages, talking about capitalism and imperialism. When he began to speak out against the Vietnam War, King was pretty much told to stay in his lane. When he didn’t, some of his support drifted away. Yet he persisted. He lifted his voice. He made a difference. And he left a legacy that, fifty years later, we must reclaim.

1968 was a fascinating year, perhaps one of the most important as a game-changer in our national consciousness. King was assassinated, and so was Robert Kennedy, a man who embraced King’s message and who might have been an amazing president, had he been able to complete his campaign and win.

In 1968, despite Dr. King’s assassination, his colleagues executed the Poor People’s Campaign. It brought people from all over the country to the Washington Mall, people who were prepared to confront our government about the way we treated poor people. Some of those who were there spoke of the “absolute audacity” of the people who gathered, who believed they could make a difference. Their audacity reflected the audacity of Dr. King the man who, in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1964, spoke of the “audacity to believe” that our society could be different, more accepting of the poor and more committed to “three meals a day for our bodies, education and culture for our minds, peace and freedom for our spirit.”

Fast forward. Peace is elusive. We may well be looking at a nuclear war with North Korea. Two unstable individuals are playing the 11 year old game (with all due respect to 11 year olds) of mine is bigger than yours. I think the whole world cringed when 45 continued to sell wolf tickets to North Korean President Kim Jong-Un. 45 keeps calling that clearly unstable leader out of his name, and engaging him in toxic insults. When crazy meets crazy, what does this mean for the rest of us? Fifty years ago, Dr. King would have made time for both, speaking of peace. Now, we have pugilists in charge of diplomacy. This is someplace past challenging – it is a prescription for disaster.

Then we have the new tax bill that flies in the face of everything Dr. King stood for. It will cut social programs, and filter more money to the wealthy. When Dr. King said he had the audacity to believe that people could have three meals a day, he supported the Food Stamps program that House Majority Leader Paul Ryan (R-WI) would like to reduce or eliminate. More than that, when Dr. King talked about “education and culture” his comments are radically different from those of Education Secretary Betsey DeVoid (of good sense, but she goes by the name DeVos). Her work in these short months has minimized opportunities and safety for students.

This year there will be commemorations of the many things that happened fifty years ago. This year we will again mourn Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy. This year we will remember the 1968 presidential campaign, the drama in Chicago, the presidential candidacy of the racist George Wallace, the rising fists of black athletes at the Olympics, and the peak in Vietnam deaths. We in the civil rights community will think of Dr. King, but 1968 was one of those years, fifty years ago, when lives were upended, conventional wisdom was challenged and audacity was celebrated. Yes, 1968 was an audacious year; more audacious than many we have seen since.

Fifty years ago, we lost a King and gained audacity. We turned it up and turned it out in cities around the country. We confronted government with the Poor People’s Campaign. Now what? Rev. William Barber, author of the Third Reconstruction, and president of the moral movement, Repairers of the Breach, carries on the legacy. So does Rev. Jesse Jackson, leader of Rainbow PUSH and a close associate of Dr. King’s. There are others who have audacity, but they can’t do it alone, any more than our leaders did fifty year ago. Where do you stand?

It’s time for America to #TrustBlackWomen

By La’Tasha D. Mayes
Executive Director, New Voices for Reproductive Justice



After Roy Moore’s defeat at the hands of Alabama voters – driven by black voter turnout, especially the votes of black women – we saw the celebration, credit-taking, and meaning-making that usually accompanies a progressive electoral victory. But one thing was different this time. This time, mainstream media and social media feeds flooded with messages acknowledging and thanking black women for our role in the outcome.

Welcome to the reality black women have known about – and named – for decades. One of the hashtags that took off amid the Alabama election returns and the following days was #TrustBlackWomen.

But what does it mean to trust black women? What does it mean to advance a policy agenda that addresses the issues black women face in this country? Black women voters are not a monolith – we’re diverse, complex and deeply engaged in national, state and local policy debates. We don’t all agree. But there is

a set of values and policies that most black women hold close to our hearts: we want a future where we can live with respect, health and justice. Where we can decide whether and when to have children, and raise those children without fear of hunger, violence or discrimination. Where we can realize our dreams and highest human potential.

For a start, I hope that this election can finally put to rest the ludicrous question of whether a progressive agenda must include support for abortion access. (Yes, absolutely it must.) Not only are black women overwhelmingly supportive of abortion access, but nationwide, keeping abortion legal has the highest levels of support in decades. Being able to make our own decisions about our bodies, pregnancy and parenting is crucial to black women’s dignity and self-determination.

Black women are already leading the way in reproductive health, rights and justice policy. In 2015, after decades of work by black women advocates, Representative Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) led the introduction of the EACH Woman Act to repeal the Hyde Amendment’s Reign of Terror on poor women, and the bill today has 128 co-sponsors in

the House, even in this incredibly hostile political moment. In another show of leadership, women of color in the Senate and their colleagues sent a bold and defiant letter to Trump demanding that he strip the Hyde Amendment and other bans on abortion coverage from the budget. I doubt anyone is holding their breath for him to do the right thing, but that should never stop our leaders in Congress from taking a principled proactive stand.

But a reproductive health, rights and justice platform that respects black women must go beyond abortion. Black women in the U.S. are dying in childbirth at many times the rate of white women, a national health crisis that has gone largely ignored. Black women also suffer and die at disproportionate rates of reproductive cancers like breast and cervical cancer. In addition to contraception and abortion care, we need access to quality affordable health care and coverage for the full range of reproductive care including cancer prevention, screening and treatment, and prenatal, maternity, and postpartum care.

The Affordable Care Act – a law black women championed – was a monumental step in the

right direction. Today, we’re fighting to hold on even to that, and we know a much more accessible and comprehensive solution is needed.

Every day in this country, black women face nearly impossible odds to raise our children with dignity, love and abundance. But the cruel anti-family budget and tax policies of the conservative GOP have decimated funding for nutrition, housing and other necessities while lining the pockets of their wealthy donors – even as they have failed to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program also known as CHIP.

Finally, we must address the ways in which police and prisons have been weaponized against black Americans to rob us of our loved ones through mass incarceration and deadly police violence. Black Lives Matter is more than a hashtag, organization or movement. It’s the urgent cry for justice from the mouths of mothers, sisters, wives, partners and daughters.

La’Tasha D. Mayes, the founder and executive director of New Voices for Reproductive Justice, that presents a clear and compelling case for policies that center around black women’s health and needs. You can follow her on Twitter @duxfemfac.

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of a momentous year in Civil Rights

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO National Urban League



“It is not an overstatement to say that the destiny of the entire human race depends on what is going on in America today. This is a staggering reality to the rest of the world; they must feel like passengers in a supersonic jetliner who are forced to watch helplessly while a passel of drunks, hypes, freaks and madmen fight for the controls and the pilot’s seat.” – *Eldridge Cleaver, “Soul on Ice, 1968”*

As we embark upon the year of 2018, we step into the 50th anniversary of a year that shook the world, in particular the world of civil rights in the United States. Perhaps the most momentous of these events are the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert Kennedy. Both of these tragic deaths hold personal significance for my

family. My parents, civil rights activists, were personally acquainted with the Rev. King. My mother, Sybil Morial, and King were students together at Boston University while she pursued her masters degree in education and he his PhD in theology. In her memoir, Witness to Change, she writes of the moment April 4 when she learned of his death: I could hardly grasp the words: Martin Luther King has been shot to death in Memphis. Dutch was in the study. I called to him and he came and stood by me. “Martin has been killed.” I could hardly say the words; I could hardly believe it. Not Martin.

Dutch and I watched the gruesome footage in silence. She recalled the words of his final speech, “I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.” He knew it, but we didn’t. And we didn’t understand his death. I was inconsolable ... I said to

Dutch, “Now that Martin is gone, what will become of the movement?” “It will go on. It must.” My late father-in-law, Ross Miller, was a trauma surgeon and Kennedy campaigner who was present at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles June 5. When the shots rang out, he bravely stepped forward and tried to save the lives of Kennedy and others who where wounded. These deaths are but two of the civil rights milestones of that historic year half a century ago.

On February 8, the Orangeburg Massacre took place in South Carolina. Highway Patrol officers opened fire on a crowd of 200 student gathered on the campus of South Carolina State University to demonstrate against the continued segregation at the bowling alley. Three young men were killed and 27 other protesters were injured. On April 11, amid continuing unrest triggered by King’s murder, President Lyndon Johnson signed one of the most signifi-

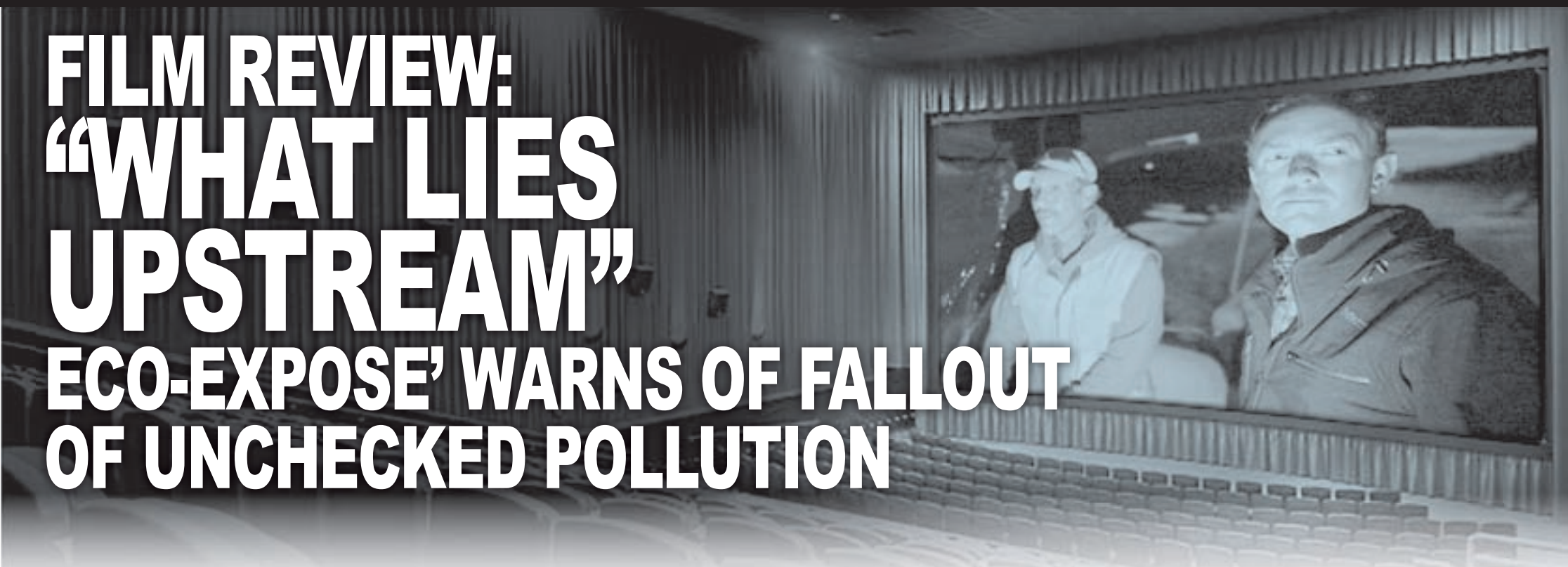
cant laws of the era – the Civil Rights Act Of 1968, more commonly known as the Fair Housing Act. The act prohibited not only racial and religious discrimination in the sale or rental of a home, but also racially-motivated threats, intimidation or retaliation in relation to housing.

In a move often cited as inspiration by current-day activists, on October 2, black Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos African-American athletes raised their arms in a black power salute after winning the gold and bronze medals in the men’s 200 meters. November 22 saw the first interracial kiss ever to air on television in the United States, between the characters Captain James Kirk and Lieutenant Nyota Uhura, on the program Star Trek.

In the coming year, we will observe many of these anniversaries in-depth. We begin the year reflecting on a half-century of civil rights progress and the progress that lies ahead.

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By Kam Williams
Columnist

On January 9, 2014, a coal industry cleansing agent called MCHM started leaking from an above-ground storage tank into West Virginia’s Elk River. The major chemical spill was covered up by Freedom Industries, the company that owned and operated the tank.

The 300,000 residents of Charleston were lucky that the substance emitted a noxious odor, otherwise they might never have known that their tap water was toxic. Still, some 700 folks called the local poison control center to report rashes and a variety of other symptoms.

Six days later, instead of caring about the health and safety of

its customers, the water company closed ranks with the prevaricating corporation by declaring the licorice-tasting H2O safe to drink. Unfortunately, most of the other official agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection and the Center for Disease Control, also ran interference for Freedom Industries.

This shocking state of affairs

came to the attention of filmmaker/investigative journalist Cullen Hoback who made his way to the scene of the crime, camera in hand. Leaving no stone unturned, he doggedly pursued the truth, until justice was served, albeit belatedly.

The upshot of Hoback’s efforts has been chronicled in fascinating fashion in What Lies

Upstream, a jaw-dropping documentary which reveals most regulating agencies to be untrustworthy puppets of big business interests.

Besides the Charleston disaster, the film covers similar events which transpired elsewhere around the country (most notably in Flint, Michigan), again and again illustrating how politi-

cians and bureaucrats have routinely failed to protect the people who elected them.

A sobering expose’ issuing a dire warning about the whole damn nation’s being on the brink of ecological collapse.

Excellent (4 stars)

Unrated

Running time: 85 minutes

Distributor: Hydrax Films

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**CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION TO
FIRE LIEUTENANT/ DRIVER OPERATOR**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter “City”), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Lieutenant/ Driver Operator, at the Office of the City Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 30205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Lieutenant /Driver Operator are on file in the Office of the Director of Personnel Management, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the City Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m., Tuesday January 23, 2018 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

For Delivery: City of Jackson
City Clerk
City Hall
219 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

For Mailing: City of Jackson
City Clerk
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

All proposals must be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope (mailed proposals must be contained in a sealed envelope inside the mailing envelope) and labeled in the lower left corner as follows:

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO FIRE LIEUTENANT/ DRIVER OPERATOR TO BE RECEIVED AND
OPENED AT CITY HALL 3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

1/4/2018 1/11/2018 1/18/2018

LEGAL

**CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION TO FIRE CAPTAIN**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter “City”), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Captain, at the Office of the City Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to Fire Captain are on file in the Office of the Director of Personnel Management, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the City Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

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P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

All proposals must be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope (mailed proposals must be contained in a sealed envelope inside the mailing envelope) and labeled in the lower left corner as follows:

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO FIRE CAPTAIN TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY HALL
3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

1/4/2018 1/11/2018 1/18/2018

LEGAL

**Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle**

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

2011 Cadillac STS 1G6DF5EY9B0145460
Registered to Ketedres McGriggs or Kathleen
GM Financial, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: January 26, 2018

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

1/11/2018 1/18/2018 1/25/2018

LEGAL

**Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle**

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

2011 Dodge 150 1D7RB1CP3BS636571

Registered to Roderick Lee Thomas
Ally Financial, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: January 26, 2018

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

1/11/2018 1/18/2018 1/25/2018

LEGAL

**CITY OF JACKSON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT
PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION TO DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Jackson, Mississippi (hereinafter “City”), will receive sealed proposals for the Development, Administration and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to District Fire Chief, at the Office of the City Clerk at 219 South President Street in Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 or P. O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017 until 3:30 p.m. central standard time, Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form for the Development and Management of Testing and Assessment Processes for Promotion to District Fire Chief are on file in the Office of the Director of Personnel Management, 1000 Metrocenter, Suite 102, Jackson, Mississippi, 39209, and copies will be provided upon request. All proposals must be submitted to the City Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in a sealed envelope, addressed as follows:

For Delivery: City of Jackson
City Clerk
City Hall
219 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

For Mailing: City of Jackson
City Clerk
P.O. Box 17
Jackson, MS 39205-0017

All proposals must be delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope (mailed proposals must be contained in a sealed envelope inside the mailing envelope) and labeled in the lower left corner as follows:

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR PROMOTION
TO DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF TO BE RECEIVED AND OPENED AT CITY
HALL
3:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all such proposals.

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6	5	8	7	3	4	1	2	9
9	6	4	1	7	3	2	8	5
8	3	1	9	2	5	6	4	7
7	2	5	4	8	6	9	3	1
4	8	6	3	1	7	5	9	2
1	7	2	8	5	9	3	6	4
5	9	3	6	4	2	7	1	8

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PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Jackson is accepting proposals from certified Lead Inspectors and Lead Risk Assessors for all City of Jackson funded Housing Rehabilitation and Lead Hazard Control Programs, until 5:00 PM, CDT on Friday, January 19, 2018 in the Office of Housing and Community Development, 218 South President Street, 2nd Floor, Jackson, MS, 39201.

Applications are available in the Office of Housing and Community Development, located at 218 S. President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, MS 39201, and on the City's website at www.jacksonms.gov. The application must be filled out in its entirety and all required documentation must be attached at the time of application submission. The City of Jackson reserves the right to approve and terminate contractors for all Housing Rehabilitation and Lead Hazard Control Programs at any time.

Questions should be directed to:
Valerie Tucker, 601-960-4238 or email vtucker@city.jackson.ms.us
John Avery, 601-960-1438 or email javery@city.jackson.ms.us

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BOOK REVIEW: “FACING FREDERICK: THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, A MONUMENTAL AMERICAN MAN BY TONYA BOLDEN C.2017, ABRAMS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS \$19.99 / \$23.99 CANADA • 208 PAGES

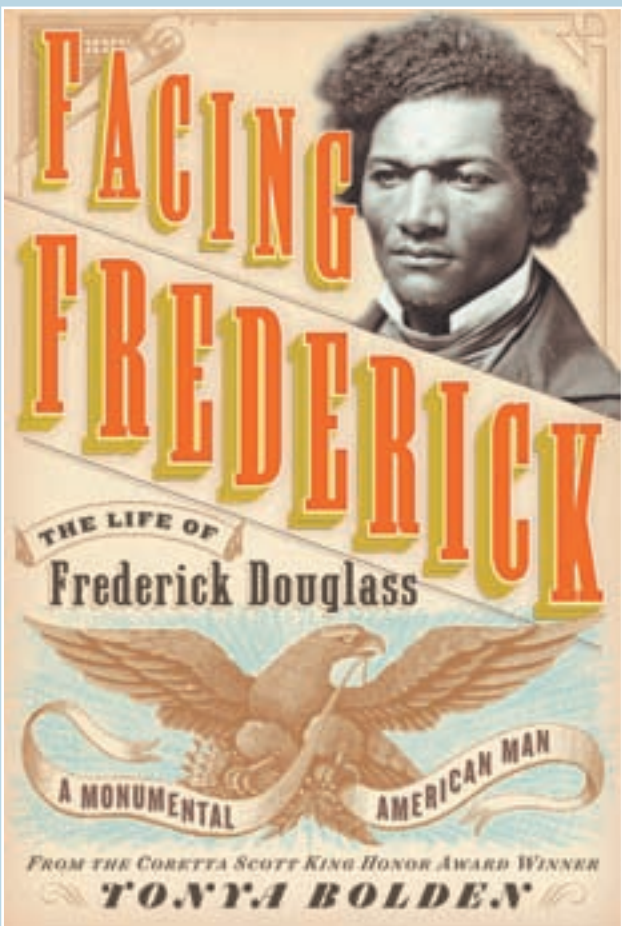
By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

You’re not backing down.
There’s a line in the sand and nobody’s crossing it on your watch. When something isn’t right and you can fix it, you’re going to defend it, too, even if it costs you. As you’ll see in “Facing Frederick” by Tonya Bolden, if you lived in the mid-1800s, you’d be in good company.
Though he really didn’t like to talk about it much, Douglass had been through things that were unimaginable. From the moment he was born into slavery, he was taken from his mother, who died when he was small. At age six,

his owner removed him from his grandparents’ farm to a plantation house; there, he slept on the floor of a closet. He was hired out to a slavemaster who beat him for no reason at all, and he worked as a shipbuilder before escaping from bondage.
Douglass didn’t like to talk about his life – but he had to. As a young man, he gained recognition as an orator and newspaper publisher, but people thought he was a “fake.” He grew awfully sick of that and so he wrote a book, to great acclaim, though doing so was dangerous: Douglass used several aliases in his anti-slavery activism, and his book

finally laid bare the whole truth.
Finding safety in Great Britain, he became a celebrity there, and met some men who further influenced his life and his work.
Following his time in Great Britain, he returned to America and started an anti-slavery newspaper with donations he’d received while overseas. The paper faltered later because Douglass “miscalculated,” but that setback didn’t cause him to lose sight of his goal; in fact, it strengthened his anti-slavery ideals.
He and his family became conductors on the Underground Railroad, moving people up through New England into Canada.

“With the outbreak of the Civil War,” says Bolden, “Frederick’s hopes soared.”
But he still wasn’t happy: Black soldiers weren’t allowed to do their part in the war, and Douglass wanted that changed. Finally, on August 10, 1863, he went to the White House. The man who was once a little boy who slept on the floor of a closet had an appointment with President Lincoln....
Filled with excerpts from diaries, newspaper articles, bits of speeches and reproductions of photographs, “Facing Frederick” is a great book with a powerful story.



Getting the full extent of it, I think, will depend on the age of its reader.
Because it wouldn’t be the same biography without dates and accounts of Douglass’ travels and actions, there’s a lot in here and this book can be hard-to-follow.
Older kids on a 10-to-14-year-old spectrum shouldn’t have any

problem with it; it’s lively enough between the dates-and-facts to keep that age group’s attention. Kids on the younger side may struggle with too many facts.
Even so, let them try. “Facing Frederick,” published in honor of the 200th anniversary of Douglass’ birthday, is a big story that’s too important to miss. They may not be able to put it down.

Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to ‘decode’ the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Goldie Hawn

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
O																	Z		L						

V W R C H G N R T I I A B O R U T N D D T M D N T
A A T A T A
M H O R P O E T L U O L I A T B O G I T
A T T
X T A T B M V T X U O L X T L U W R Y

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

	4		2			8		6
		9		6				
	5							
	6			7			8	
		1	9					7
							3	1
						5	9	
1		2						4
		3		4			1	8

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(For puzzle answer keys, see page 14)

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Pictorial Review

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Martin Luther King Jr is arrested by two white police officers in Montgomery Alabama, September 4, 1958.



Thousands of people follow the casket as the body of Martin Luther King Jr. is brought to the memorial service, Atlanta, Georgia, April 9, 1968.



Martin Luther King Jr. leading march from Selma to Montgomery to protest lack of voting rights for African Americans. Beside King is John Lewis, Reverend Jesse Douglas, James Forman and Ralph Abernathy, March 1965.



King waves to the crowd at the March on Washington, August 28, 1963.



King, addressing the crowd at the March on Washington where he delivered his famous I Have a Dream speech.



Robert Kennedy and his wife Ethel pay their respects to Coretta Scott King after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Atlanta, Georgia, April 1968.



Dr. King (left) and Stokely Carmichael (right) walk together during the March Against Fear in Mississippi, June, 1966.



Dick Gregory and James Meredith walk alongside Martin Luther King Jr. on a rural road during the March Against Fear in Mississippi, June 1966.



Atlanta, Georgia April 9, 1968. Coretta Scott King listens to a sermon at the funeral of her husband Martin Luther King Jr.



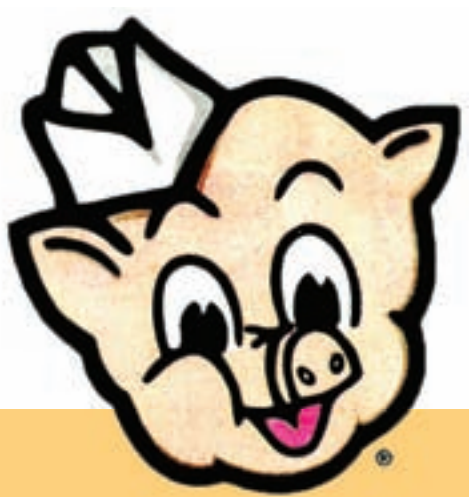
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on May 26, 1966.



Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. sits in a jail cell at the Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama, October 1967.

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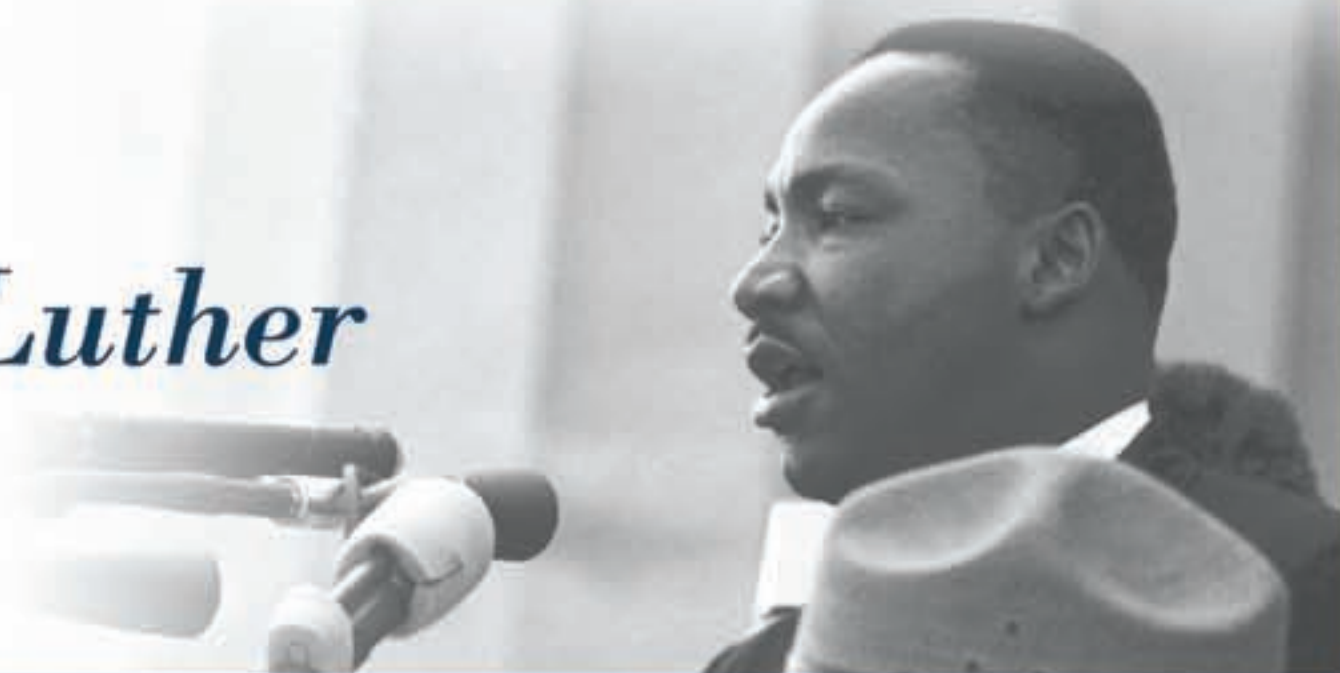
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