



# The life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.  
Contributing Writer

On January 15, 1929, a baby boy named Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Throughout his childhood Martin experienced social injustices that festered beyond measure. The preaching of his father, grandfather and other ministers within the family often spoke against ill treatment advanced upon blacks within the family and the community.

To add to the problem were Jim Crow laws that confined blacks to spatial areas solely open to whites. Living conditions such as these that showed the reality of discrimination and segregation lingered on King's mind.

King's upbringing and religious studies while at Morehouse College in Atlanta and Boston University revealed to him that religion was a powerful tool for social change. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" is one of the orator's famous quotes. He determined that in the midst of strife, there was only one way to fight hatred and win – to love. It is no wonder, then, that upon his return to Atlanta from Boston, he demonstrated that he was a doer of his words.

Influenced by the nonviolent teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, he utilized his oratorical gifts while leading the American Civil Rights Movement from December 1955 to April 4, 1968, the date of his assassination.

For 13 years America and the world witnessed King's unwavering commitment and integrity to his calling. Through organized peaceful protests, the activist and pastor sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and all victims of injustice.

According to The Center for Social Change in Atlanta, he was jailed 29 times and arrested for "acts of civil disobedience."

During the March on Wash-

ington in 1963 which attracted a crowd of more than 250,000 demonstrators, it was King's I Have a Dream speech that prodded Congress to move faster in passing the Civil Rights Act (a set of laws passed in 1964). African Americans gained more equal treatment from many of these laws than they had ever received before.

Then in December of that same year, King's pivotal role in advancing civil rights won him a Nobel Peace prize at the University of Oslo. He ranked the second African-American recipient of such an honor as Ralph Bunche in 1912 was the first for his late 1940s mediation in Israel.

King's legacy has taught us that all peoples are interconnected, and within that connection is an outcome. While it is okay to dream, it is better to persist in the fulfillment of our dreams so as to make the world a better place to live. Living intentional lives allows us to speak up in the face of injustice. While ideas are good gifts to have, nonviolent action produces what may be good for humanity which can take the individual with the idea to a totally different reality: unification with humankind. We are then carried beyond skin color to a totally different level: character.

Among generations, King's familiar voice is one recognized throughout the world. His logical appeals resonate in the minds of those who hear his speeches. It was King's compassion for human dignity that drove him in his faith to inspire peoples from all walks of life to have self-respect and respect for others.

His nonviolent tactics brought world leaders to their knees. His courageous acts paused youth in their tracks to realize that they could achieve their goals, despite obstacles.

Though he departed in 1968, those of us who remain behind and are yet to come will be reminded of his dream and will be charged to work for the good of the human race.

# Dr. Martin Luther King Commemoration 2022: Back at the VOTING RIGHTS Table

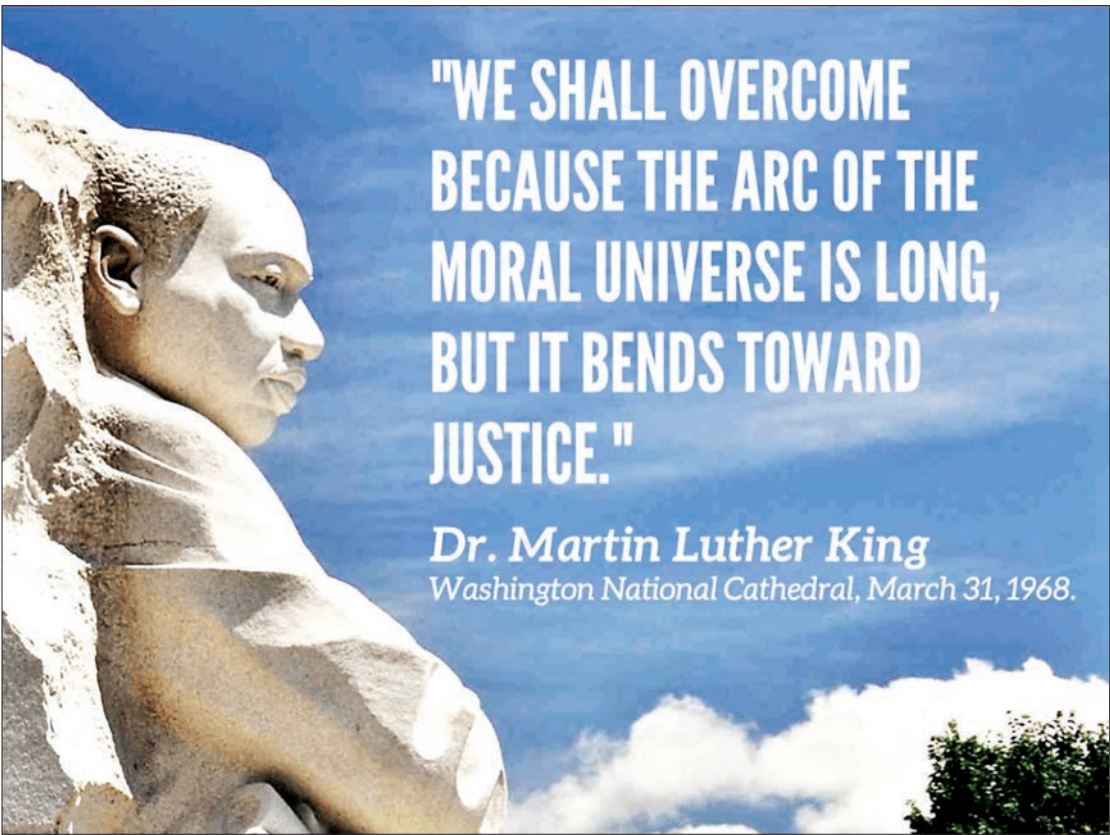
By Ayesha K. Mustafaa  
Contributing Writer

Journey Gray, a sophomore and biology major at Tougaloo College, was asked: How do you think the legacy of Dr. King impacted Mississippi, a man who was assassinated because he challenged a racist system in order to advance the rights of African Americans (and consequently other minorities)?

Gray responded, "Dr King's legacy had a great impact on Mississippi. He resided mainly in Alabama, but we all are a part of the South and experienced and fought for the same rights. Watching him so close to home, surely gave people in Mississippi hope to fight and stand up for our rights."

The sophomore was then asked: This year on the front burner of civil rights, we have leaders out in full force trying to "protect voting rights" – even as they celebrate Dr. King who died for those rights, what does that say about our country?

Gray related, "The fact that we still have to fight for what political leaders such as Martin Luther King were fighting for in the mid-1900s shows how non-progressive the country is; black people should not have to still



fight for basic human rights decades later."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is symbolic of African Americans (and other minorities that have come afterward) gaining their citizenship rights. His crusade for human and voting rights was one that led to his assassination.

Journalist and historian Gustav Niebuhr said, "Dr. King's murder was the most momentous among those of dozens who died in the cause of civil rights for African Americans." Niebuhr also acknowledged the deaths of persons like Rev. James Reeb and Jimmie Lee Jackson and their

roles in advancing civil rights and voting rights – yes, many died.

And just as recent as Jan. 6, 2022, the solemnness of acknowledging that a year earlier there was an insurrection

*Rights  
Continued on pages 3*

# MLK family asks for no celebration til lawmakers pass voting rights legislation

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Prayer breakfasts, marches, parades and an uptick in volunteer efforts to support the annual Day of Service have remained staples of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. But the late civil rights icon's family has asked that observers strike a different tune in 2022.

The King family has requested no celebration unless federal lawmakers pass voting rights legislation, a task that appears out of reach as President Joe Biden and several Democrats have faced stiff Republican opposition. Democrats have also been hampered by members of their own party, notably West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, whose vote is crucial in an evenly split chamber.

"President Biden and Congress used their political muscle to deliver a vital infrastructure deal, and now we are calling on them to do the same to restore the very voting rights protections my



Martin Luther King III said that if his dad were alive today, his biggest concerns would include nuclear war, healthcare and poor communities and voting rights. OFFICIAL PHOTO/MARTIN LUTHER KING III

father and countless other civil rights leaders bled to secure," Martin Luther King III said in a statement.

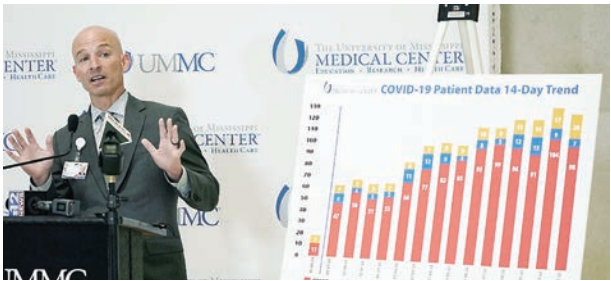
"We will not accept empty promises in pursuit of my father's dream for a more equal

and just America," King III, the oldest son and oldest living child of King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. King III, his wife Arndrea Waters King, and their daughter Yolanda King said they plan to mobilize activists on MLK

weekend – January 14-16 – to demand a voting rights bill.

In numerous Republican-led states like Texas, Florida, and Georgia, lawmakers have passed

*Family  
Continued on page 3*





# Mississippi sets patient transfer order amid COVID-19 surge

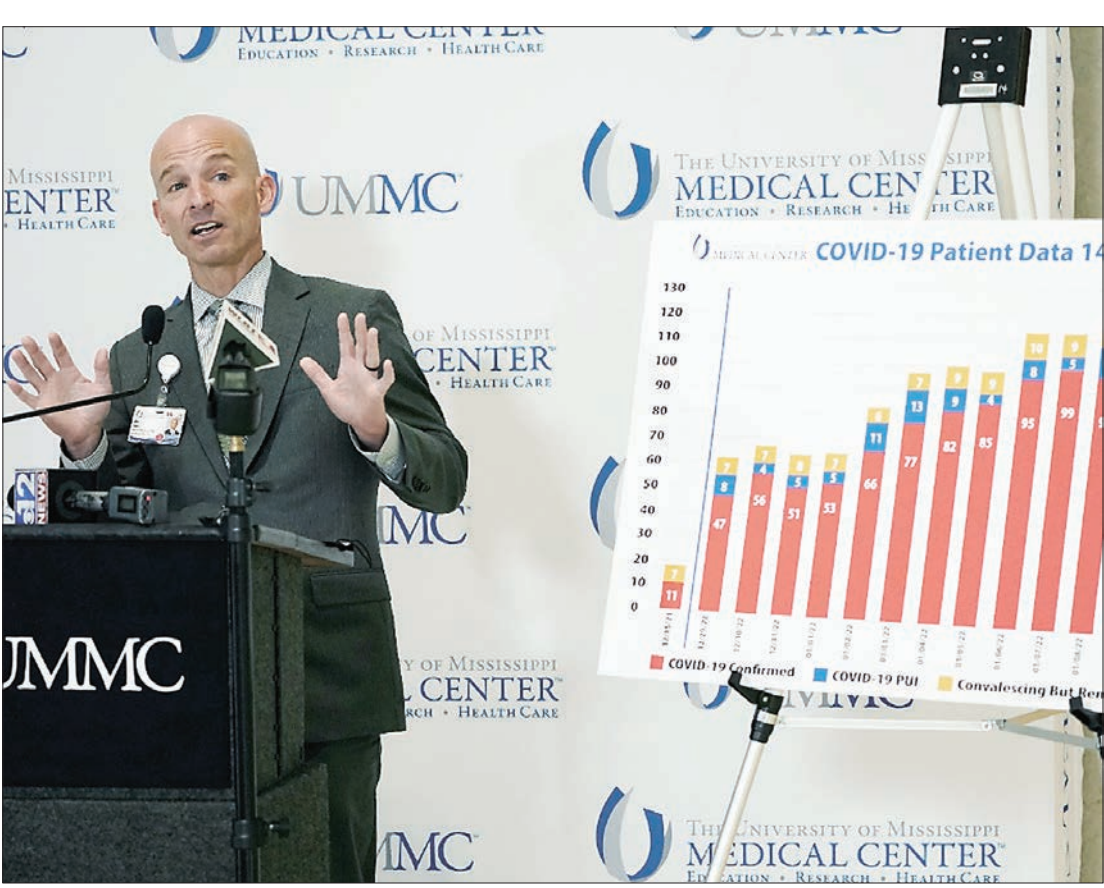
*The Associated Press*

The Mississippi Health Department Tuesday ordered all hospitals in the state to allow the transfer of critically ill patients, an effort to help people in rural areas receive care as the state continues to see a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases.

The order applies to the transfer of patients who have had a heart attack or stroke; those who need immediate neurosurgical intervention, such as people severely injured in car crashes; transplant patients who are experiencing complications; and patients who need to be on a ventilator but are in a hospital without an intensive care unit, respiratory therapy or a ventilator.

A system called Mississippi MED-COM will direct patients to places with available space and resources, the department said. The transfer order will remain in place until Jan. 23, unless it is revoked before then.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center regularly receives transfer patients from smaller hospitals. Officials there said Tuesday that the medical center is stretched because of short staffing. Part of the shortage is because of vacant jobs, and part is because



Dr. Alan Jones, associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs and COVID-19 clinical response leader answers questions about the spread of the omicron variant during a news briefing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine in Jackson, Miss., Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

employees are out after testing positive for COVID-19.

UMMC has had to close more than 50 beds in recent days because it does not have enough nurses or other staff, said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, the center's vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the school of medicine.

"We don't have enough staff to open up all the beds that we have," Woodward said. "Earlier in this pandemic, we had staff and needed resources to help open additional beds, and we did. Now, we have beds but no staff."

# Separate plans propose raises for Mississippi teachers

*The Associated Press*

The Mississippi House and Senate are pushing forward with separate plans to give pay raises to teachers.

The House Appropriations Committee Tuesday passed House Bill 530, and the whole House could debate the bill in coming days.

The committee action happened a day after Senate leaders revealed their own plan to increase teachers' pay. The Senate plan would bring an average increase of \$4,700 over two years.

The House proposes a \$6,000 increase for teachers on the lowest end of the pay scale, and smaller amounts for those with more experience.

The two Republican-controlled chambers and Republican Gov. Tate Reeves must agree on a single plan before teachers could see more money.

Mississippi has some of the lowest teacher salaries in the United States.

The average teacher salary in Mississippi during the 2019-20 academic year was \$46,843, according to the Southern Regional Education Board. That lagged behind the average of \$55,205 for teachers in the 16 states of the regional organization. The national average was \$64,133.

The starting salary for a Mississippi teacher with a bachelor's degree is \$37,000 for the current school year, according to the state Department of Education. Teachers with advanced degrees and more experience are paid more.

Reeves has proposed giving teachers a \$1,300 pay raise during the budget year that begins July 1, then \$1,000 raises for each of the next two years.



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## Rights

Continued from page 1

launched against the U.S. Congress, the very seat of the democracy this country fought wars to attain and enjoy since 1776, for nearly 246 years – many have begun to reassess if the progress made can be sustained.

There is a sense of solemnness over our nation that looms going into 2022. We have the history of a Revolutionary War and a Civil War, first to establish a democracy and then to live up to what the democracy claimed.

Yet in 2022, the U.S. congress is in a stalemate that will overshadow Dr. King’s commemoration, as there are 19 states that have passed 34 laws restricting voting rights, according to the Brennan Center (brennancenter.org).

These new restrictions go from having a shorter window to apply for a mail ballot and shortened delivery time, to limiting or eliminating mail ballot drop boxes, to voting rolls purged and reduced number of polling places made available.

For what is it to have the right to vote but the ability to get to vote is sabotaged. Reminds one of the old Jim Crow Laws where blacks would line up to vote to be met with questions such as how many jellybeans are in this jar?

Jamaal Davis, a sophomore majoring in computer science at Tougaloo College responded to the question: What does it say about America as a center for progress and Civil Rights, when we still have to fight so hard to maintain those rights?

He responded, “It means the enemies are camping right outside our bases, that they will be opportunistic in their attacks, that they will take any time we’re not steadfast to re-ignite their goals of previous battles. It is a subjective war.”

The Brennan Center further reports that “more than 440 bills with provisions that restrict voting access have been introduced in 49 states in their 2021 legislative sessions.” Although there is always a ray of hope to feed the next generation, we find that “between Jan. 1 and Dec. 7, 2021, at least 25 states enacted 62 laws with provisions that expanded voting access.”

The organization, All on the Line (AOTL) takes a look at how the former Trump administration “manipulated the census count of 2020,” to the redrawing of voting districts to either dilute the voting power of people of color or to boost the districts of predominantly white republican voters.

The organization also makes the appeal to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Enhanced Voting Rights Act – a few battles were won, but no the war is not over.

One of AOTL’s advocates, former President

Barack Obama, his presidency a significant marker of the power of voting, says, “Bloody Sunday should serve as a reminder that the march for our fundamental rights is not yet over. There are more steps to take and more bridges to cross.”

AOTL points out that the next battleground is “gerrymandering ... when politicians pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials and it impacts communities across the nation.” AOTL is fighting for fair maps in redistricting. Some “redistricted voting maps” leave one to wonder – was that a “contortionist” feat?

Assessing the impact this political climate is having on our up-and-coming generations, we point to the fact that we owe so much to Dr. King – the man who gave his life for what he believed in.

Recapping what we should focus on this 2022 for the Dr. King Commemoration, Corrin Dixon, a mass communications major and junior at Tougaloo College, described how she sees this year’s state of affairs.

“Though Dr. King fought hard for our freedom and protested Jim Crow and encouraged equality, I sometimes feel his efforts were in vain. Yes, he did help accomplish a lot throughout society, yet he was assassinated and was unable to complete his mission.

“In certain areas with low income and usually black populations, they are only being allowed to vote in one location, instead of several throughout the district; voting poles are open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., which are hours that people work, and now requiring a driver’s license or passport for identification verification, rather than a state issued id or insurance card.”

She explains that the elections in a democracy should be fair; don’t try to “fix” elections, don’t throw out ballots, or make it physically impossible for some demographics of people to vote at all.

“In 2022, we should not have to still be fighting to secure and protect our voting rights, a right that was supposedly granted us in 1965,” says Dixon.

Let’s pray that Dixon and the new generation of leaders can “hold the line.”

Lastly, AOTL posted the message today, Jan. 12, that “Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer has signaled that if Republicans don’t come to the negotiation table by Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it is time to reform Senate rules to enable action on voting rights.

Commemorating Dr. King this year: Remember, the battle was won but the war rages on....

## Family

Continued from page 1

or are attempting to pass tight voter suppression laws that would disenfranchise many voters of color and the elderly.

Earlier this month, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), promised that the U.S. Senate would vote by Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 17) on whether the chamber would adopt new rules to circumvent the draconian filibuster to enable the passage of voting rights and social justice bills.

“We must ask ourselves: if the right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, then how can we in good conscience allow for a situation in which the Republican Party can debate and pass voter suppression laws at the State level with only a simple majority vote, but not allow the United States Senate to do the same? We must adapt,” Sen. Schumer demanded. “The Senate must evolve like it has many times before. The Senate was designed to evolve and has evolved many times in our history.”

Sen. Schumer continued: “The fight for the ballot is as old as the Republic. Over the coming weeks, the Senate will once again consider how to perfect this union and confront the historic challenges facing our democracy. We hope our Republican colleagues change course and work with us.

But if they do not, the Senate will debate and consider changes to Senate rules on or before January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to protect the foundation of our democracy: free and fair elections.”

Meanwhile, King III insisted that President Biden and members of Congress use the same energy and force they mustered in 2021 to pass the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill. “You delivered for bridges, now deliver for voting rights,” King III asserted.

Reportedly, the King family plans to join local groups in a rally in Phoenix on January 15, the date of King’s birthday, “[We wish] to restore and expand voting rights to honor Dr. King’s legacy,” the family wrote in a statement. Further, the family and others plan to march across the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge in Washington, D.C.

They also plan to hold a rally and march across a bridge in Phoenix, reportedly to draw a comparison to the 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, for voting rights for African Americans.

“The Senate must pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and ensure the Jim Crow filibuster doesn’t stand in the way,” the King family stated.



King,  
January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968

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# Celebrating the Life of Vincent Keith McGee

December 6, 1959 – January 11, 2022



McGee



Vincent, far right, with fellow deacons at College Hill Women's Day service, Nov. 4, 2018.  
PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Vincent Keith McGee was born December 6, 1959 in Raymond, Mississippi to the late George McGee Jr and Georgia Morris McGee.

He was baptized at an early age at Seven Springs United Methodist Church in Raymond. He later united with College Hill Baptist Church where he served as a faithful member and deacon. He remained a faithful member until his death.

Vincent graduated from Forest Hill High School where he was a basketball star and he later attended Jackson State University where he majored in accounting and was an honor student. He then attended Hinds Community College where he majored in HVAC. Vincent never met a stranger and had a very kind heart and gentle spirit.

Vincent was a dedicated employee for Mississippi Valley Gas for nearly 27

years, until he ventured out to start his own business; S & T Heating and Cooling – named after two of his five children Shanta and Taylor. In his spare time he enjoyed gardening and bowling.

Vincent met and married Debra Barnes Moody and they were married for 25 years. To their union was one child Tosh Barnes McGee, but it also blended four children Shanta McGee and Vincent Taylor McGee, Tanesha Moody and Justin Moody into their family.

Vincent leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Debra Barnes McGee; five children, Shanta McGee of Murfreesboro, TN, Tanesha Moody of Byram, MS, Justin Moody (Jennifer) of Clinton, MS, Vincent Taylor McGee of Raymond, MS and Tosh Barnes McGee of Philadelphia, PA; one goddaughter, Lauren Lynn Ousby; eight grandchildren Ariel Griffin, Ke-Shaun Blackmon, Solomon McGee, Jadia Thomas, Jourdin Thomas, Jarbari Thomas, Jaden Moody and Kingston McGee; seven siblings, James McGee of Jackson, MS, Daisy Sanders (Learance deceased) of Raymond, MS, Linda Owens (Joe) of Terry, MS, Diana Potter (Will) Daytona Beach, FL, Regina Jackson (Isiah) of Raymond, MS, Vivian Jackson (Alfred) of Clinton, MS, Morris G. McGee (Jackie) of Raymond, MS, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

The homegoing celebration for Vincent McGee will be held Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022 at 1 p.m. at College Hill Baptist Church, 1600 Florence Avenue in Jackson. Visitation will be at Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, 3580 Robinson Street in Jackson from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking that a donation be made to either Jackson State University Development Foundation, College Hill Missionary Baptist Church or Dress for Success Metro Jackson.

# Eddie Dean “Big D” Carson

May 26, 1954 – January 8, 2022



Eddie Dean Carson

Our beloved Eddie Dean Carson, affectionately known as Big D, was born May 26, 1954, in Yazoo County, Mississippi to the late Marie Owens Carson and Willie Carson Sr.

Eddie was a praying man who accepted Christ as his personal savior when he joined True Light Missionary Baptist Church. His love for Christ shown continually in his faithful attendance at Greater Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church.

Eddie met and married the love of his life, Ida B. Morton Carson. A beautiful daughter

was born of this union.

Eddie was no stranger to hard work. He worked all his life and retired as a supervisor for the City of Jackson's Solid Waste Division or as he called it, the Landfill in 2016. Eddie was also a welder. Eddie was a true self-made businessman. Eddie owned Eddie's Disco before he opened the little blue building at the bottom of the Bailey Ave. bridge known as Eddie's Soul Food Kitchen. Eddie was well known and loved throughout the city of Jackson. Eddie had a true love for the community and children. Eddie would host free community block parties, back to school giveaways and an annual Christmas toy drive to help ensure children would smile on Christmas morning.

Eddie had a passion for riding motorcycles; especially with his fellow bike members of Friends of Fallen Riders. He loved listening to quartet gospel music, deejaying and was a true grill master. If you knew Eddie, it would not take you long to realize that he was a die-hard Dallas Cowboy fan.

Eddie will always be remembered for his big affectionate smile. Eddie was a member of the Masonic Order. Eddie became an honorary deputy for Hinds County Sheriff Department under the late former Sheriff Victor Ma-

son's administration and always showed love and support for law enforcement officers, fire fighters and first responders.

Eddie entered his heavenly home Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 7:45 a.m. while at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He was preceded in death by two brothers – Charlie Lee Carson and Willie Carson Jr.

Eddie leaves to cherish his loving memories, a daughter, Temica “Tutt” Morton; a son, Keith (Glenda) Winters both of Jackson, MS; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one brother, Johnnie (Mary) Carson of Jackson, MS; two sisters, Catherine Johnson of Jackson, MS and Mary Lee Owens-Thompson of Canton, MS; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Also left to revere his legacy is best friend Doristein Washington of Jackson, MS and a very special beloved friend Yolanda Singleton of Brandon, MS.

Homegoing services for Eddie Dean Carson will be Sat. January 15, at 12 noon at Greater Mount Sinai located at 1900 Bailey Avenue in Jackson. Visitation begins at 11 a.m.

Public viewing will be Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at Jackson Memorial Funeral Home, 1000 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS.

# Actor Sidney Poitier succumbs at age 94

February 20, 1927 – January 6, 2022



Poitier

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Legendary actor Sidney Poitier, whose iconic 71-year career, included starring roles in “A Raisin in the Sun,” “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” and “Uptown Saturday Night,” was 94. His cause of death has yet to be confirmed.

Poitier, who broke barriers and stood for justice and black lives during the most tumultuous times of the civil rights movement, has died.

In an exclusive phone call with the Black Press of America, Bill Cosby said he will miss his long-time friend and co-star.

“He was honored by AFI. And, along with many stars of the stage, screen, politics and higher education who came out to speak, I brought with me the paperback of his autobiography and I said of all groundbreaking movies that Sidney starred in this book is the real story of this man and his journey,” Cosby remarked. “I am honored to have been close enough to him to work on serious matters.”

According to PBS, Poitier moved to New York City at age 16 after living in the Bahamas for several years with his family. In the Big Apple, he found work as a janitor at the American Negro Theater in exchange for acting lessons. From there, he took up acting roles in plays for the next several years until his film debut in the racially charged, “No Way Out.”

Race and social justice would become central themes in much of his work throughout the ‘50s and ‘60s.

A Broadway play focused

on the life of the Bahamas-born star, who earned his first Academy Award nomination in 1959 for his work in “The Defiant Ones,” is in the works.

As noted in the *New York Post*, the nomination was significant to America as he was the first African American to be nominated for Best Actor. That role also earned him a Golden Globe win and a BAFTA Award.

Poitier broke even more barriers in 1963 with his hit film “Lilies of the Field.” The following year, Poitier became the first African American to ever win the Best Actor at the Academy Awards.

His career continued to climb for several more years. In 1967 he starred in “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner,” an interracial romance comedy that ruffled feathers in America. Then came other memorable films, “They Call Me Mister Tibbs,” the sequel to the controversial blockbuster “In the Heat of the Night,” and “Uptown Saturday Night” opposite Cosby.

He released several more works; “The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (2007)” “Life Beyond Measure: Letters to My Granddaughter (2008).”

“As I entered this world, I would leave behind the nurturing of my family and my home, but in another sense, I would take their protection with me,” he said in “Measure of a Man.” “The lessons I had learned, the feelings of groundedness and belonging that have been woven into my character there, would be my companions on the journey.”



# SPLC ACTION FUND: Report highlights how excessive juvenile incarceration hurts Mississippi’s children and wastes taxpayer money

Mississippi Link Newswire

On Wednesday, January 12, 2022 the SPLC (Southern Poverty Law Center) Action Fund released the report “Disposable Children: Juveniles with Long Prison Sentences” in Mississippi. The report details the significant rate at which youth incarceration occurs in the state of Mississippi and how detainment of these juveniles disproportionately affects black youth. It also finds that the cost of incarcerating a juvenile is more than the cost of college tuition at two of Mississippi’s most recognized public universities.

“How we treat the youth is an investment into our own futures. By expanding parole eligibility for juvenile offenders, the state is giving them a timely chance that extends the opportunity for them to responsibly navigate society through academics or job training,” said SPLC Action Fund Regional Analyst Delvin Davis, the author of the report.

“Policy leaders in Mississippi have an opportunity to create substantial change in the juvenile justice system by investing in anti-recidivism efforts that provide the tools necessary for these children to return to society in a way that positively impacts the community. This can only be done through reevaluation of how these youths are sentenced.”

Juvenile long-term sentencing also accounts for disproportionate rates of black youth being incarcerated in MDOC. Since 2007, black youth in Mississippi have made up for nearly 85% of all youth prison admissions in the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC).

The financial toll of long-term youth sentencing also affects the state if Mississippi with the expense of detaining a person in a MDOC facility costing an average of \$18,480 for one year. Other details include:

- As of November 2021, there are 1,181 people currently incarcerated in MDOC prisons who were arrested and detained before age 18.
- Youth locked up in adult prisons are twice as likely to be beaten by prison staff, five times more likely to be sexually assaulted and 36 times more likely to attempt suicide.
- Out of those incarcerated as juveniles, 68

have been in prison for at least 20 years – collectively costing the state more than \$1.2 million a year.

- The expense of detaining a person in a MDOC facility for one year (\$18,480) is more than a year’s in-state tuition at Ole Miss and Mississippi State University combined (\$18,044).

The report also includes recommendations for policy makers to evaluate the sentencing given to youth and expanding parole eligibility to incarcerated youth while also exploring the fiscal benefit that minimizing sentencing would have on the state.

## Recommendations

The 68 people in Mississippi who were arrested as juveniles and have served at least 20 years in prison cost the state over \$1.2 million every year they are incarcerated. Expanding parole eligibility for this small portion of the prison population is potentially a low-risk opportunity to create a significant cost savings for Mississippi.

These savings could be reinvested into other anti-recidivism efforts – such as job training, educational courses and support counseling – that could yield more successful reentries into communities, and extend the financial and societal benefit to Mississippi. Outside of the financial benefit, the state must also consider the most humane options for maintaining accountability for some of their more vulnerable, yet valuable citizens. A prison system proven to be dangerous and counterproductive for adults is certainly not appropriate for children.

Eventually, people who enter prison as children will leave prison as adults expected to responsibly navigate a society that may have greatly changed during their incarceration. Mississippi has an opportunity to invest in a system better suited to equip returning citizens for this challenge – starting by not incarcerating people longer than what is reasonably necessary. While the number of people affected by such a policy change would be small, the potential benefit to Mississippi could be substantial.



## I’m a mom first.

I may be Dr. Nina Ford Johnson a pediatrician, but I’m a mom first. My babies are my top priority, always. With COVID going around affecting Black kids at a higher rate, I’m telling any parent with children 5 and older to get the COVID vaccine.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

DAY

I HAVE A DREAM

17

JAN

2022

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| Cleveland vs. Vicksburg    | 2:10 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.  |
| Brookhaven vs. Noxubee Co. | 3:50 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.  |
| Mendenhall vs. Lanier      | 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  |

All games will be played at Lanier High School  
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"If you can't fly, then run.  
If you can't run, then walk.  
If you can't walk, then crawl.  
By all means, keep moving."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.







# Analysis: Redistricting not as tough as it was two decades ago

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Mississippi's current congressional redistricting effort is much less contentious than the effort was 20 years ago, when the state dropped from five U.S. House seats to four.

The state lost a seat because the 2000 Census showed Mississippi's population had grown only slightly the previous decade, while several other states experienced rapid growth.

Three Democrats and two Republicans represented Mississippi in the U.S. House in 2000. Democrats were still in control at the state Capitol, but Republicans were on the rise. That dynamic led to conflict as state legislators tried to draw new federal districts.

There was broad agreement that the two congressional incumbents with the least seniority — Democrat Ronnie Shows and Republican Chip Pickering — would be tossed into a single new district and that some of their territory would be distributed to other districts.

Shows had represented the 4th District, which included southwestern Mississippi, parts of the pine belt stretching over to Jones County and parts of the metro Jackson area.

Pickering had represented the 3rd District, stretched from the eastern Jackson suburbs in Rankin County up to the Golden Triangle area of Columbus, Starkville and West Point.

After legislators deadlocked without drawing a new congressional map, the redistricting battle moved to federal court. Judges drew four new districts, putting Pickering and Shows together in a new 3rd District that ran diagonally from the southwest corner of the state, up through parts of the metro Jackson area and into Starkville.



Rep. Robert Johnson, D-Natchez, proposes an alternate congressional redistricting plan during debate at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson, Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022. His amendment failed and the majority of the House voted on a different plan that had previously passed the House Rules Committee, and redraws the current congressional districts. AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

Because the new 3rd District had a relatively low black voting age population, Republicans had an advantage based on Mississippi's historical voting trends. Pickering defeated Shows in the 2002 election.

After the 2010 Census, federal judges also tweaked the boundaries of Mississippi's four congressional districts.

Mississippi was one of three states that lost population between 2010 and 2020, but the population loss was not large enough for Mississippi to forfeit another U.S. House seat.

The boundaries of the four current districts must change to account for shifts in where people live. The overarching goal is to have equal population, with about 740,320 people in each district. That means expanding the footprint of the majority-black 2nd District, which had a significant population loss during the past decade.

Redistricting has long-established standards. Districts are supposed to be compact and contiguous — in other words,

not sprawling with weird squiggly shapes. Districts also are supposed to represent communities of interest, and they are not supposed to dilute black voting power.

The only black member of Mississippi's congressional delegation, Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson, is also the longest-serving current member from the state, having served since he won the 2nd District seat in a 1993 special election.

"I already have the largest district. ... To grow that district even larger puts a disproportionate burden on it," Thompson told The Associated Press Nov. 12.

The 2nd District already has most of Hinds County. Thompson said a simple expansion would be to include the remaining sliver of Hinds County and more of Madison County, which are densely populated. The NAACP also supports this.

However, the Republican-led redistricting committee proposed expanding the

2nd District by adding four sparsely populated counties from the southwestern corner of the state. This would extend the 2nd District almost the whole western border, giving it 40% of the state's landmass. It would also preserve three majority-white districts that favor Republicans.

During a debate Thursday, Democratic Rep. Robert Johnson of Natchez asked the state House to approve the plan that Thompson and the NAACP want. The Republican-controlled House rejected Johnson's request and approved the map that gives Thompson four additional counties.

The Republican-controlled Senate is expected to approve the same plan, sending it to the governor.

And, there's still a possibility that the NAACP or others could ask federal judges to review the redistricting plan, based on arguments that the new map dilutes the power of black voters to influence the outcome of elections in some or all of the districts.

# Miss.'s Finest CBD ramps up visibility, new products amid political pandering in Legislature



Mississippi Link Newswire

As the beat of political pandering around the medical marijuana bill goes on in the state Capitol this legislative session, Jackson-based business Mississippi's Finest CBD is at work reaching people in need of a form of cannabis, especially in rural areas where organic CBD products are out of reach.

The online retail store will launch a billboard branding campaign this week in Brandon, Brookhaven, Collins, Florence, Grenada, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Laurel, Louisville, Magee, Pearl, Pica-yune, Richland, Starkville, Tupelo and Wiggins.

In giving individuals access, Mississippi's Finest stands in the gap to help solve health problems of patients waiting for a medical marijuana program overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2020. Every day state leaders like Gov. Tate Reeves claim to respect the will of the people while wanting restrictions for the program, the chronically ill continue to suffer.

Reeves in December 2021 posted concerns to his Facebook account about the 4 ounces of medical marijuana prescribed monthly to consumers amounting to a recreational program. His opposition threatens the revised bill's adoption that is supported by both legislative chambers.

"If I am elected governor and the people of Mississippi decide to vote in a different way than I do, then I'm gonna



Reeves

uphold the will of the people; (and) I believe in the democratic form of government and so I am personally opposed to it and will not vote for it next year," Reeves said during a televised debate in 2019.

MSF billboard messages welcome CBD believers, commuters and new consumers to its customer base accessing calming relief that improves quality of life. Since its founding in 2020, the slate of MSF products has expanded to pre-rolled smokables, chocolate bars, hair growth oils, gummy cubes, organic teas, relief gels and tinctures. A new collaboration with Evolv Wellness offers affordable organic CBD wellness products that bring rapid pain relief, support healthy circulation and supports healthy sleep cycles.

Billboards contain the website address where consumers have discrete direct service and home delivery, [www.MS-Finest.com](http://www.MS-Finest.com), and follow on social media at "[msfinest.cbd](https://www.facebook.com/msfinestcbd)" on Facebook and [@mississippihemp](https://www.instagram.com/mississippihemp) on Instagram for product updates and promotions.

# Law officers begin effort aimed at crushing crime in Jackson

The Associated Press

Federal and local law officers are embarking on a new initiative aimed at curbing crime in Mississippi's capital city.

Officials from several agencies outlined the Jackson program at a Thursday news conference. The "Violent Gun Reduction and Interdiction Program" has already begun,

and law officers promised many more arrests in 2022.

"Homicides in the city of Jackson have increased to record levels in the past two years," U.S. Attorney Darren LaMarca said. "We're seeing businesses robbed at gunpoint, cars taken at gunpoint, disputes handled by gunfire."

"This initiative will address

the perpetrators of this violence and will be led by the FBI," LaMarca added.

The effort comes in the wake of a record year for homicides in the city, WLBT-TV reported. Last year was Jackson's deadliest on record for homicides, which included the shooting deaths of numerous teens and young adults.

To combat the high crime rate, the FBI and its partners plan to saturate streets and prosecute people involved in gun crimes to the "fullest extent of the federal law," said Jermicha Fomby, special agent in charge of the FBI in Jackson.

"Whether of use of guns for carjackings, business robberies, as well as other heinous

acts... The bottom line is, that no matter who you are, no matter where you are, there are no jurisdiction lines that will prevent us from coming for you," Fomby said.

As of Thursday, 13 suspects had cases pending or had been indicted in the federal system as a result of the program, LaMarca said.

People arrested and charged by the U.S. Attorney's Office are tried in federal court. If they're convicted, they must serve at least 85 percent of their sentence, with no option for parole or a suspended sentence.

At least 153 homicides were reported in Jackson during 2021, WLBT-TV reported.

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# JROTC Military Gala celebrates excellence and 85 years in JPS

## Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools hosted the 9th Annual JPS Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Military gala December 17, 2021, at the Jackson Convention Complex. Over 860 cadets, instructors, parents, school administrators and other guests attended the formal event.

This annual event is part of a comprehensive development program for JPS cadets. It is an opportunity to celebrate 85 years of JROTC in the JPS district and highlight the excellence, accomplishments and contributions of the JPS JROTC program. The gala exposes cadets to a formal military dining experience while encouraging camaraderie amongst the cadets and their instructors at all seven JPS high schools. The theme for this school year's gala was "BUILDING LEADERS FOR LIFE while Focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)."

The guest speaker for the event was Jim Wood, chief, Army JROTC Training & Operations Division, Fort Knox, KY. He served as an active duty infantry officer in the U.S. Army for 28 years. He also served as professor of military science at Norfolk State and Elizabeth City State Universities, commandant for the Army ROTC School of Cadet Command, as battalion commander for the Philadelphia Recruiting Battalion, and in various Airborne and Pathfinder assignments.

He has written several books for the Army, served as chief of the Army's

writing team for its premier training manual, Training the Force, and has received many awards and decorations.

The program for the military gala included a tribute to fallen soldiers, a toast and a presentation by the battalion commanders of each JROTC unit.

Jim Hill High School scholars Catia Madison and Emmanuel Jackson and John Uzodinma, a professional violinist, graced the audience with musical performances.

JPS JROTC cadets also had the opportunity to hear brief messages from Superintendent Errick L. Greene, JPS Board of Trustees President Edward Sivak Jr., and JPS JROTC Director of Army Instruction Col. Fredrick Brown.

Currently, all seven of the JPS JROTC units have the highest accreditation ranking from the U.S. Army of Honor Unit with Distinction based on achieving scores of 96 to 100 percent on their Program of Accreditation Assessment.

The JPS JROTC program produces high-achieving scholars through character, education, wellness/fitness activities and leadership development. It is a cooperative effort between the United States Army and JPS to produce successful students and citizens while fostering a more constructive and disciplined learning environment.

This year's military gala was truly a success. Thank you to all of the JPS instructors and cadets involved in the planning and preparation of this school year's JPS JROTC Annual Military Gala.



Jim Hill High School scholars



Guest speaker Jim Wood, Army JROTC, Ft. Knox, KY



JPS cadets, JROTC



Dr. Edward D. Sivak Jr., president, JPS Board of Trustees



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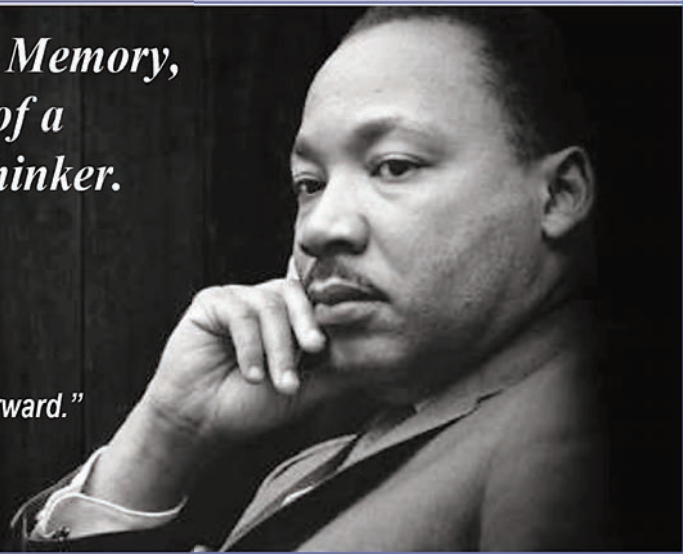
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■ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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## The Mississippi Link™

Volume 28 • Number 13

January 13 - 19, 2022

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton  
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett  
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson  
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson  
Sports Editor.....Tim Ward

The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: [editor@mississippilink.com](mailto:editor@mississippilink.com); Please visit our website at: [www.mississippilink.com](http://www.mississippilink.com). Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster:  
Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link,  
P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information,  
please call (601) 896-0084.

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# Stuttering, It can hurt in a lot of ways

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

Speech is something most of us take for granted. Speech is essential for communication. Speech is one of the main ways in which we communicate with those around us. It should develop naturally. Disorders of speech and language are common in preschool age children. Some children and adults have problems with speech. Medically if you have problems with speech you have a disorder. A speech disorder is a condition in which a person has problems creating or forming the speech sounds needed to communicate with other.

Stuttering is a speech disorder characterized by repetition of sounds, syllables or words. I had a speech disorder. I didn't form words. It took a few years before I was properly diagnosed and got the help I needed to develop socially and mentally. I know the isolation that a speech disorder can cause. I was fortunate to get a diagnosis that got me to a speech pathologist. I graduated from college, spent years on radio and TV and still write for newspapers for the last 40 years.

An uncorrected speech disorder can hamper a child's development mentally and physi-



cally.

Stuttering is a speech disorder that involves frequent and significant problems with normal fluency and flow of speech. Three million Americans stutter. Stuttering affects people of all ages. It occurs most often in children between the ages of 2 and 6 as they develop language skills. Approximately 5 to 10 percent of all children will stutter for some period in their life. This can last from a few weeks to several years. Males are 2 to 3 times as likely to stutter as females and as they get older this gender dif-

ference increases. The number of males who continue to stutter is three to four times larger than the number of females. Most children will outgrow stuttering. Seventy-five percent of children will recover from stuttering. The remaining 25 percent can stutter their whole life.

Contrary to popular believe, stuttering is not caused by psychological problems, emotional trauma or stress. Stress can make it worse, but the underlying causes are thought to involve genetics, as well as factors such as neurophysiology.

Almost 60% of the children that stutter have a family member with the same problem.

Most stutters can benefit from treatment, patience, support and love. That was the combination that worked for me. Treatment can be a combination of a number of therapies. These therapies can include:

- Fluency-shaping therapy. Patients work with a speech therapist to correct some of the pit falls that can lead to stuttering. Examples include speaking too fast or trying to say too much. It's easier to speak fluently when you slow down and

use shorter sentences. A common technique used in public speaking is to break down a speech into groups of three or four words and allow time for pauses. This technique is called pausing and phrasing.

- Stuttering modification therapy. This therapy combined with fluency shaping, isn't meant to eliminate stuttering. It helps a child overcome a stuttering as it occurs. With this therapy when a stutter is imminent, the children stop talking for a moment to release tension from their lips, breathe normally and then start speaking again.

- Cognitive behavior therapy. With cognitive behavior therapy, a person might predict the worst thing that could happen in a feared situation, such as being ridiculed for ordering a food or answering a question in school. In this therapy the child and the therapist work together to test the prediction in some way, such as answering a question in class and paying attention to others reactions. Once the child experiences the worst they imagine usually doesn't come true. This will make it easier to face other feared situations.

- Medication. A number of drugs have been reported to

reduce stuttering. One of these drugs is alprazolam (Xanax), an antianxiety agent. Included also are citalopram (Celexa), a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, and clomipramine (Anafranil), another strongly serotonergic drug.

If your child has a problem with language or speech development, talk to your primary healthcare provider about an evaluation. Your primary healthcare provider will refer you to a language development specialist. That specialist will assess your child to determine what type of problem with language or speech your child may have.

If your child has specific learning disabilities, including language or speech disorders, you are eligible for special education services or accommodations at school under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA).

There is no simple cure for stuttering, people who stutter can learn to speak easier, feel better about themselves and their speaking and communicate more effectively. Even the President of the United States had a speech disorder as a child. You can do your part when you provide, the patience, support and love.

# Reignite resolutions during Healthy Weight Week

By Dr. Sandra Melvin  
*Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health*



It is that time of year again. Gyms and fitness centers are crowded with new customers and every other social media post includes the hashtags #NEW-YEAR #NEW ME. The month of January often brings with it diet and weight loss resolutions. Sadly, many fitness dreams will not become a reality because individuals attempt to do too much, too fast, with too little knowledge.

Healthy Weight Week is January January 16-22, 2022, and it is the opportune time to reset those weight loss goals that may have already gotten derailed. Healthy Weight Week is a public health and awareness campaign that celebrates healthy living habits. It encourages individuals to make wellness a lifestyle choice that includes nutritious foods and active living as opposed to dangerous/unhealthy, fad diets which only yield temporary results.

In 2020, Mississippi had the highest adult obesity rate in the U.S. with 39.7 percent. According to the Mississippi Department of Health, obesity is an important public health concern. Obesity contributes to the major chronic diseases in the state such as heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers. These diseases often present as comorbidities (the presence of one or more additional diseases or disorders occurring simultaneously). For example, an individual

## COMMENTARY

with hypertension may also be diagnosed with diabetes. Comorbidities increase a person's need for healthcare, reduce one's ability to fully function in the world, and increase the cost health care.

During Healthy Weight Week, the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health and others in the public health community are committed to raising awareness regarding the importance of lifelong habits that will produce healthy weight loss, weight maintenance and overall good health. A few ways to achieve these goals are:

1. Move: Dance, swim, jog, or take a brisk walk. Regular exercise tackles several risk factors at once. It helps you lose weight, keeps your cholesterol and blood pressure under control, and helps your body control blood sugar. Being physically active for 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week, reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes and helps maintain a healthy weight.
2. Hydrate: Drinking water when you're thirsty and with meals can help you keep a normal body temperature, feel more focused and help your body rid itself of waste.
3. Rest: Aim for six to eight hours of rest each evening. Sleeping not only helps you feel more rejuvenated, but it also reduces your stress levels.
4. Relax: There are several ways to overcome the stress and anxiety that can contribute to weight gain. To manage stress,

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests confiding in those you trust, eating a well-balanced diet, making time to unwind, becoming active in your community, and avoiding drugs and alcohol.

5. Eat: Increase the number of vegetables and fruit you eat every day. Including vegetables at every meal will allow for meals to be high in nutrition without adding extra calories. Reach for fresh fruit instead of high calorie/sugary desserts.

Most of us dream of growing old gracefully. However, there is so much more to life that physical aesthetics. Taking care of your body from the inside out, increases your life span, greatly improves your quality of life and is the key to optimum health. Resolve to achieve healthy weight this year. You are well worth it.

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health was established in 2019 to reduce health disparities among disadvantaged and underserved minority populations in the Mississippi through the development of collaborative partnerships with community stakeholders and the implementation of evidence-based public health interventions with a particular focus on health equity.

For more information [www.minority-institute.org](http://www.minority-institute.org), [iamh@advancingminorityhealth.org](mailto:iamh@advancingminorityhealth.org) or 769-572-5263.

Sandra Melvin, DrPH, is an epidemiologist, Public Health Advocate and CEO, Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health.

“The time is always right to do what is right.” –MLK



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and legacy of  
the Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

In emergencies, dial 911.



# 19 dead, including 9 children, in NYC apartment fire

By David Porter, Bobby Caina Calvan, and Michelle L. Price  
*The Associated Press*

A malfunctioning space heater sparked a fire that filled a Bronx apartment building with thick smoke, killing 19 people including nine children Sunday in New York City’s deadliest fire in three decades.

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said the fire “started in a malfunctioning electric space heater” in an apartment unit spanning the second and third floors of the 19-story building. The door of the apartment was left open, allowing smoke to quickly spread throughout the building, Nigro said.

Some residents, trapped in their apartments, broke windows for air and stuffed wet towels under their doors. One man rescued by firefighters said he’d become numb to fire alarms because of frequent false alarms.

Some residents “could not escape because of the volume of smoke,” Nigro said. Firefighters “found victims on every floor and were taking them out in cardiac and respiratory arrest,” he said, calling it “unprecedented.”

Stefan Ringel, a senior adviser to Mayor Eric Adams, said the children killed were 16 years old or younger. Many of the building’s residents were originally from the West African nation of Gambia, Adams said, and there was a large Muslim community.

Thirteen people remained hospitalized in critical condition, Ringel said. In all, more than five dozen people were hurt. Most of the victims had severe smoke inhalation, Nigro said. Adams called the toll “horrific.”

Approximately 200 firefighters responded to the building on East 181st Street around 11 a.m. Sunday.

News photographers captured images of firefighters entering the upper floors of the burning building on a ladder, multiple limp children being



Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said the fire “started in a malfunctioning electric space heater” in an apartment unit spanning the second and third floors of the 19-story building. The door of the apartment was left open, allowing smoke to quickly spread throughout the building, Nigro said.

given oxygen after they were carried out and evacuees with faces covered in soot.

Building resident Luis Rosa said he was awakened Sunday by a fire alarm, but dismissed it at first, thinking it was one of the building’s periodic false alarms.

But when a notification popped up on his phone, he and his mother began to worry. By then, smoke began wafting into his 13th-floor apartment and he heard sirens in the distance.

He opened the front door, but the smoke had gotten too thick for an escape, he said.

“Once I opened the door, I couldn’t even see that far down the hallway,” Rosa told The Associated Press. “So I said, OK, we can’t run down the stairs because if we run down the stairs, we’re going to end up suffocating.”

“All we could do was wait,” he said.

Another resident, Vernessa Cunningham said she raced home from church after getting an alert on her cellphone that the building was on fire.

“I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. I was in shock,” Cunningham, 60, said from a nearby school where some residents gathered. “I could see my apartment. The windows were all busted out. And I could see

flames coming from the back of the building.”

The 120-unit building in the Twin Parks North West complex was built in 1973 as part of a project to build modern, affordable housing in the Bronx. The drab brown building looms over an intersection of smaller, aging brick buildings overlooking Webster Avenue, one of the Bronx’s main thoroughfares.

By Sunday afternoon, all that remained visible of the unit where the fire started was a gaping black hole where the windows had been blown out. Apartments as high as the 12th floor also had broken windows. The intersection was choked with police and fire vehicles, and onlookers were still snapping cellphone pictures of the structure as darkness fell.

“There’s no guarantee that there’s a working fire alarm in every apartment, or in every common area,” U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres, a Democrat who represents the area, told the AP. “Most of these buildings have no sprinkler system. And so the housing stock of the Bronx is much more susceptible to devastating fires than most of the housing stock in the city.”

Nigro and Torres both compared the fire’s severity to a

1990 blaze at the Happy Land social club where 87 people were killed when a man set fire to the building after getting into an argument with his former girlfriend and being thrown out of the Bronx club.

Sunday’s death toll was the highest for a fire in the city since the Happy Land fire. It was also the deadliest fire at a U.S. residential apartment building since 2017 when 13 people died in an apartment building, also in the Bronx, according to data from the National Fire Protection Association.

That fire started with a 3-year-old boy playing with stove burners and led to several law changes in New York City, including having the fire department to create a plan for educating children and parents on fire safety and requiring certain residential buildings to install self-closing doors.

Sunday’s fire happened just days after 12 people, including eight children, were killed in a house fire in Philadelphia. The deadliest fire prior to that was in 1989 when a Tennessee apartment building fire claimed the lives of 16 people.

*Associated Press reporters Michael R. Sisak and Jennifer Peltz contributed to this report.*

# With time running out on Democrats’ majority, President Biden attempts to get ‘forceful’ on voting rights



By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent*

The coming weeks will tell if President Joe Biden’s “forceful” voting rights speech in Georgia Tuesday, January 11, results in any tangible movement to blunt suppressing laws in Republican-led states around the country.

Notably, the next several days will also reveal whether Democrats have the resolve, strength and even the negotiating skills to get one of their own on board with changing Senate filibuster rules.

Doing so would allow the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act to pass.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) continues to oppose any filibuster changes staunchly.

The conservative has displayed an unwillingness to help push through bills that would help level the playing field for many underserved Americans – including his constituents in the Mountain State.

“The next few days, when these bills come to a vote, will mark a turning point in this nation. Will we choose democracy over autocracy, light over shadow, justice over injustice?” President Biden asserted in excerpts of a speech released before his Georgia visit.

“I know where I stand. I will not yield. I will not flinch,” the President continued.

“I will defend your right to vote and our democracy against all enemies, foreign and domestic. And so, the question is where will the institution of the United States Senate stand?” White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki called the President’s words “forceful.”

“He’s quite focused on ensuring the American people understand what’s at stake here,” Psaki insisted.

“He will forcefully advocate for protecting the most bedrock American rights: the right to vote and have your voice counted in a free, fair and secure election that is not tainted ... by partisan manipulation.”

Psaki continued: “He’ll make clear in the former district of the late Congressman John Lewis that the only way to do that is for the Senate to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.”

Despite an expected “no” vote from Manchin, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) insisted he would bring to the cham-

ber measures to alter or abolish the filibuster. He said he would push for a vote on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act. To do so, all 50 Senate Democrats must vote in the affirmative. All 50 GOP Senators likely will vote against each of those measures.

Vice President Kamala Harris would cast the tie-breaking vote, giving Democrats the majority.

Georgia stands among 19 states that have passed voter suppression laws since Republican Donald Trump lost the presidency to Joe Biden in 2020. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 34 voter restriction or suppression laws have passed across the country since the 2020 election, where Trump and some Republicans falsely claimed fraud.

Brennan Center officials noted that 13 more restrictive laws are in the works, including one in Georgia that would ban the use of ballot boxes altogether.

Before President Biden visited Georgia, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s family said they didn’t want any celebrations of the slain civil rights hero’s national holiday unless meaningful voting rights legislation passed.

Further, the Asian American Advocacy Fund, Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council, Black Voters Matter Fund, GALEO Impact Fund, and New Georgia Project Action Fund boycotted President Biden’s speech.

They demanded that the President remain in Washington where he might help usher through voting legislation to protect disenfranchised voters.

“We don’t need another speech. What we need is action. What we need is a plan,” demanded Cliff Albright, executive director of the Black Voters Matter Fund.

While Sen. Schumer has called on his colleagues to vote on filibuster and voting rights legislation by January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, White House officials said they’re working hard to help get legislation passed.

“We understand the frustration by many advocates that this is not passed into law yet,” Psaki stated. “[President Biden] would love to have signed this into law himself. But [the speech] is an opportunity to speak about what the path forward looks like to advocate for – for this moving forward in the Senate.”

# Maya Angelou, first black woman on U.S. coin

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent*

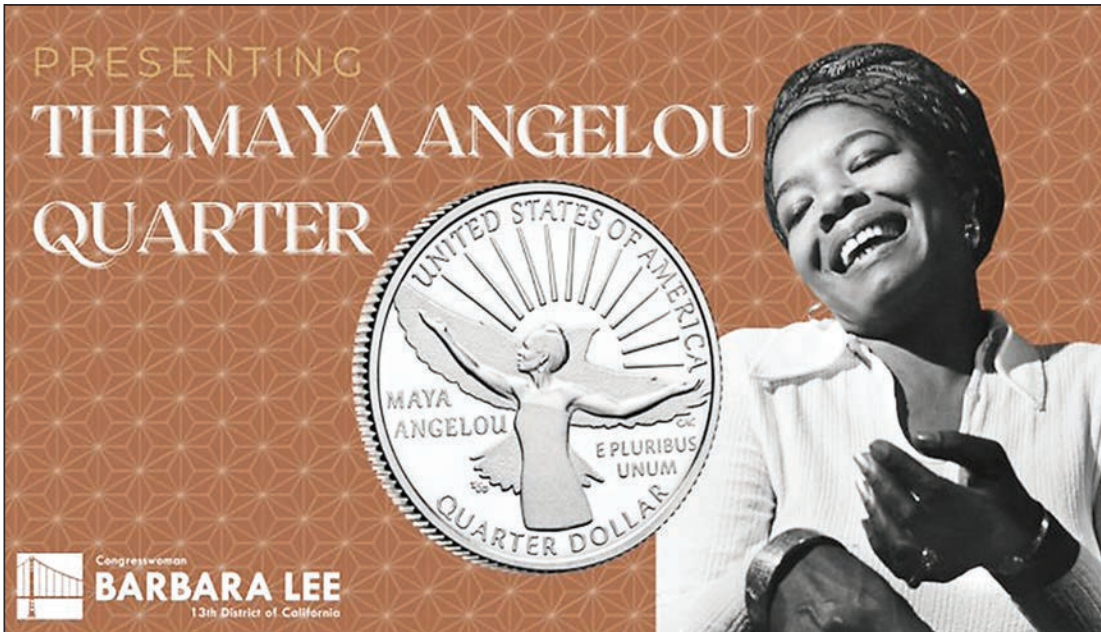
Reportedly, the Angelou coin is the first in a series designed to celebrate the accomplishments of American women.

“Each time we redesign our currency, we have the chance to say something about our country – what we value, and how we’ve progressed as a society,” U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen said in a statement. “I’m very proud that these coins celebrate the contributions of some of America’s most remarkable women, including Maya Angelou.”

Angelou, whose works include such classics as “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” “And Still I Rise,” and “The Heart of a Woman,” died in 2014.

She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, from President Barack Obama.

The commemorative new coin features Angelou with her arms uplifted as a bird in flight



Famous author and noted civil rights leader Maya Angelou became the first African-American woman featured on the 25-cent coin. The U.S. Mint began shipping the quarters January 10.

with a rising sun behind her.

“They are images inspired by her poetry and symbolic of the way she lived,” officials at the U.S. Mint said in the statement.

To the right are the words “e pluribus Unum,” Latin for “out of many, one,” a phrase also on

the national seal.

The flip side features a portrait of George Washington. “Excited to announce that Maya Angelou becomes the first black woman to appear on a U.S. quarter,” California Democratic Rep. Barbara Lee

wrote on Twitter.

“The phenomenal women who shaped American history have gone unrecognized for too long – especially women of color. Proud to have led this bill to honor their legacies,” Lee wrote.



# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE



School Parents of the Year

On December 13, 2021, the Hinds County School District celebrated its Teachers of the Year, Parents of the Year and Administrator of the Year.

District Parent of the Year is Kendra Douglas of Carver Middle School. Douglas states that the past few years have been a challenge. "Since the onset of Covid-19, students, teachers and parents have had to readjust their thinking to find innovative ways of keeping education at the forefront of our children's minds while transitioning towards a better tomorrow."

School Parents of the Year are:

Keshia Rozell, Bolton Edwards Elementary/Middle School

Erica Jones, Byram Middle School

Barbara Beard, Gary Road Elementary

Nicole Ross, Gary Road Intermediate

Julie Seaton, Raymond Elementary

Pamela Williams, Utica Elementary/Middle School

Ashley Mack, Raymond High

Dr. Kanisha Meaders, Terry High

District Teacher of the Year is Yolanda Bell of Bolton Edwards Elementary/Middle School. Bell is a Pre-K teacher and has been in our district for 5 years. "Winning this award makes me reflect on what a long journey my career has been. This award solidifies my beliefs and inspires me to work even harder."

District Administrator of the Year is Michelle Ray of Byram Middle School. Ray says, "it is with great pleasure that I serve as a principal in the Hinds County School District." Ray, a product of the Hinds County School District, has dedicated over 23 years to the students, parents and community of this district. As a leader in the Hinds County School District, Ray hopes to continue to improve school climate, strengthen relationships, build trust and ensure student success.



District Parent of the Year, Mrs. Kendra Douglas



Mrs. Williams, principal, pictured with BEEMS Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Bell



Mrs. Ray, principal, pictured with BMS Teacher of the Year, coach Veal



Mrs. Moore, principal, pictured with CMS Teacher of the Year, coach Davis



Mrs. Lampkin, principal, pictured with GRE Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Jackson



Mrs. Green, principal, pictured with GRI Teacher of the Year, Mrs. England



Mr. Taylor, principal, pictured with RES Teacher of the Year, Mrs. McIntyre



Mr. Grimes, principal, pictured with RHS Teacher of the Year, Mr. Ballard



Mr. Scott, principal, pictured with the THS Teacher of the Year, Mr. Furr



The Teacher of the Year for UEMS, D'Erica Beasley



District Teacher of the Year, Yolanda Bell



**HINDS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**WE ARE HIRING!**

**JOIN US AT OUR JOB FAIR**  
WE ARE HIRING FOR BOTH CERTIFIED AND CLASSIFIED POSITIONS.

Raymond High School  
Performing Arts Center  
Thursday, January 20, 2022  
4:00 PM- 7:00 PM

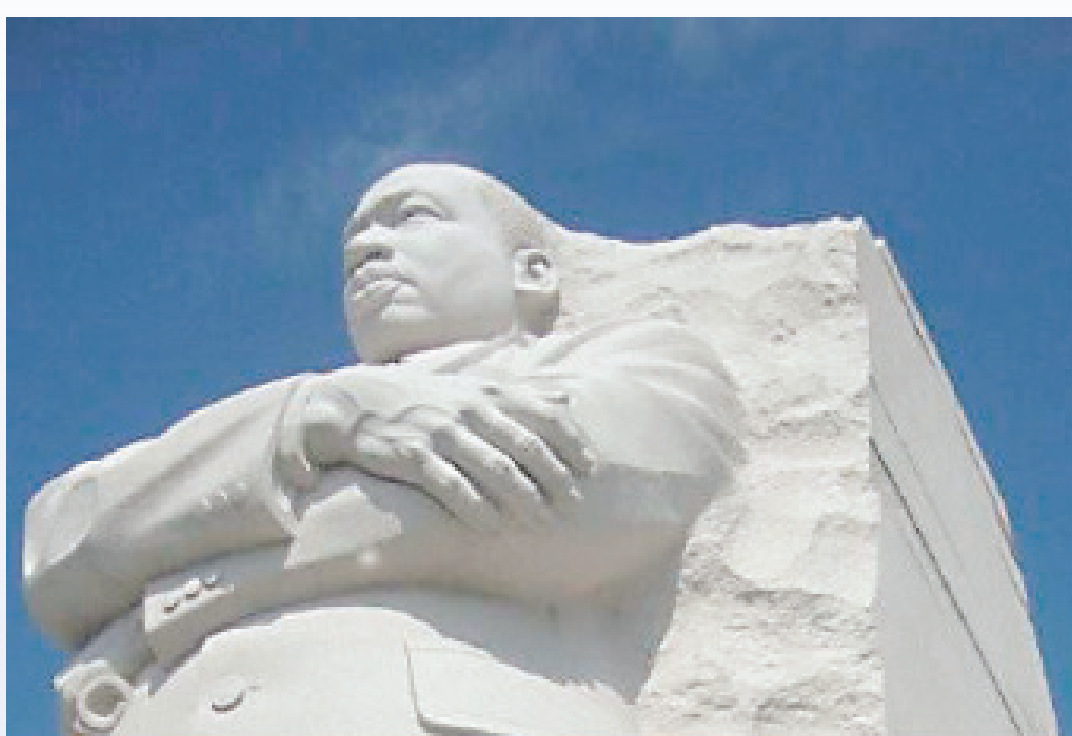
For Information Contact: Beverly Hay, Human Resources  
bhay@hinds.k12.ms.us 601-857-5222

**Join this outstanding team! Come to our Job Fair on January 20, 2022 at the RHS Performing Arts Center, from 4:00- 7:00**





## Environmental Technical Sales, Inc.



**Dr. Martin Luther King once said:**

**"If you can't fly then run,  
If you can't run then walk,  
If you can't walk then crawl,  
but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."**

**Sam Agnew**

**[sagnew@etec-sales.com](mailto:sagnew@etec-sales.com)**

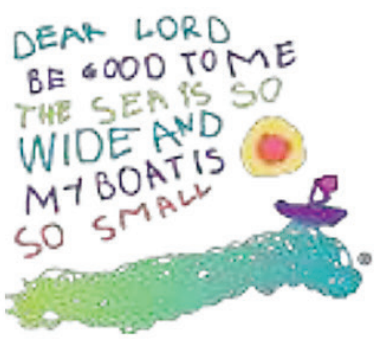
**Bryson Agnew**

**[bagnew@etec-sales.com](mailto:bagnew@etec-sales.com)**

**Ellis Sartain**

**[esartain@etec-sales.com](mailto:esartain@etec-sales.com)**





children's  
defense fund  
southern regional



# Happy Birthday Dr. Martin Luther King Jr!

## The World Misses Your Voice

The Children's Defense Fund's Southern Regional Office and the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice present these excerpts from a letter to Dr. King in the book, *The Sea is So Wide and My Boat is So Small* by Founder and President Emerita Children's Defense Fund Marian Wright Edelman (2008).

## A Letter To Dr. King

“Although you have been gone forty years, you are with me every day. We have made much but far from enough progress in overcoming the tenacious national demons of racism, poverty, materialism, and militarism you repeatedly warned could destroy America and all of God's creation. So I wanted to write you a letter on what we have done and still have to do to realize your and America's dream. What a privilege it was to know, work with, and learn from you in the struggle to end racial segregation, discrimination, and poverty in our land.

Just as many Old and New Testament prophets in the Bible were rejected, scorned, and dishonored in their own land in their times, so were you by many when you walked among us. Now that you are dead, many Americans remember you warmly but have sanitized and trivialized your message and life. They remember Dr. King the great orator but not Dr. King the disturber of unjust peace. They applaud the Dr. King who opposed violence but not the Dr. King who called for massive nonviolent demonstrations to end war and poverty in our national and world house. They applaud your great 1963 “I Have



a Dream” speech but ignore the promissory note still bouncing at America's bank of justice, waiting to be cashed by millions of poor and minority citizens. And they forget your repeated nightmares: the deaths of the four little girls in the Birmingham church and of three young civil rights workers in Mississippi's Freedom Summer and others across the South.

You blessed America with your rich faith, spiritual traditions, and prophetic preaching. You gave us your deep and abiding love and lifelong commitment to nonviolence. You shared your moral clarity and courageous truth telling. You left us your unrelenting commitment to justice for the poor and every one of God's children. You showed us the way through your example and call for massive nonviolent action in the service of justice and peace. And you gave us your life.

Thank you. We will carry on.”



# In Martin Was a Dream

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.  
*Contributing Writer*

## Leader

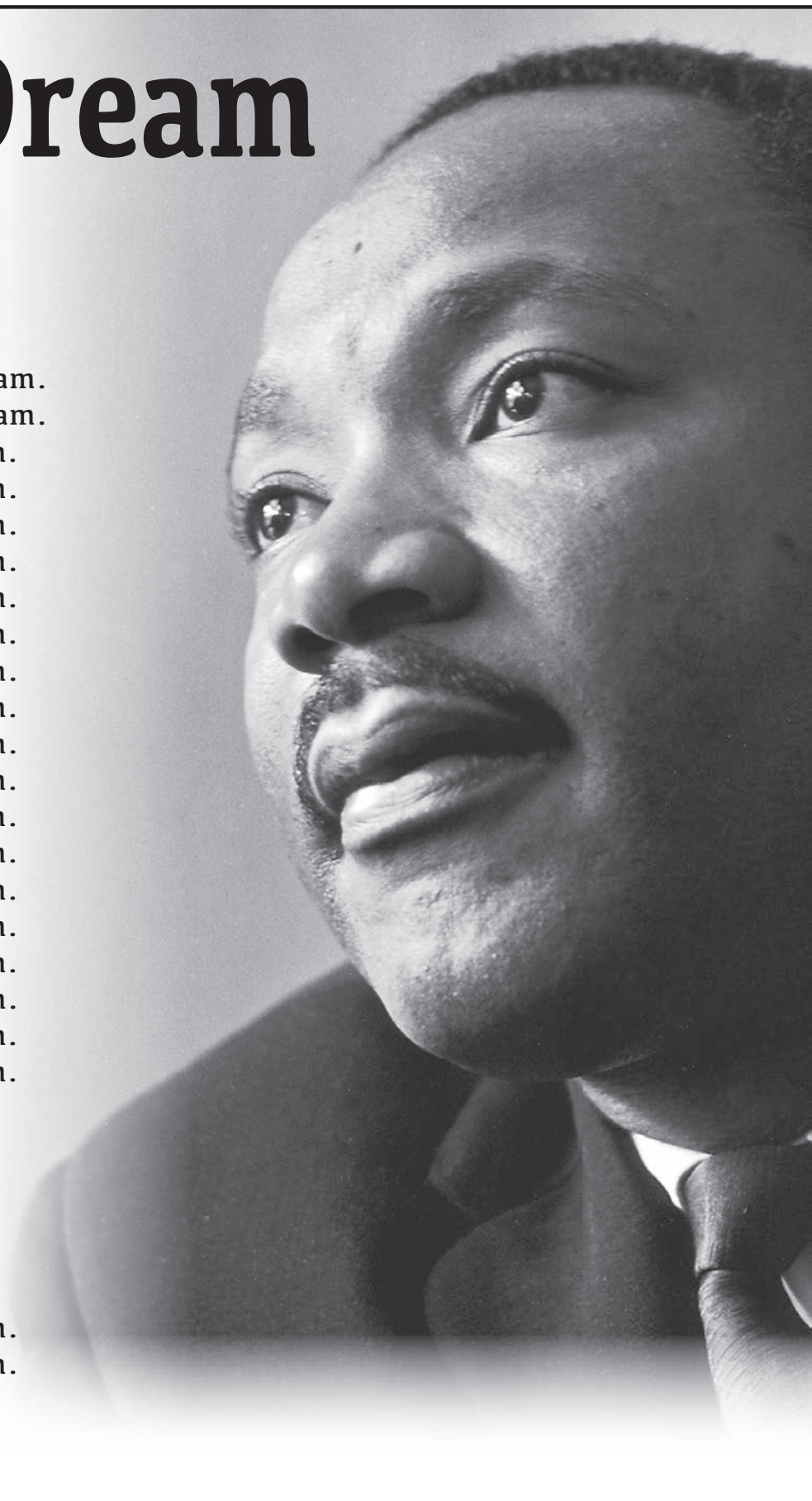
Who was Martin King?  
Who was Martin King?  
In Martin was a dream.  
Martin talked around the world  
And spoke to America  
For little girls and boys  
For women and men  
To be treated like human beings.  
Martin got down in the culture;  
Saw that love could tear down segregation.  
He shouted unity through integration.  
He called for social sanity.  
He called for nonviolent resistance.  
He called for racial justice.  
“Tear down the war,” he said.  
“Bring on harmony and peace.”  
“Learn to live together,” he said.  
“Or perish as fools.”  
He was shot by a single bullet  
In Memphis, Tennessee.

Get down in the culture.  
Get to the polls and vote.  
Get your lesson and learn.  
Be the leader of the class.  
Sit at the front of the bus.  
Now is the time.  
Well, well, well...

## Chorus

The man with the dream.  
The man with the dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.

Get down! Get down!  
Get down! Get down!  
Get down! Get down!  
Get down! Get down!  
Get down! Get down!  
In Martin was a dream.  
In Martin was a dream.





## “The time is always right to do what’s right.”

Give Back on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Every Day

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s own words remind us of the importance of leadership, hope and service. And at AARP, we believe your experience, skills and passion have the power to inspire others to make a difference.

We encourage everyone to continue his legacy by lending a helping hand in your community. And we can help.

Join us in making a difference, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and every day.



Please serve your community and others safely by following all CDC COVID-19 guidelines and federal, state and local regulations.



P R E S E R V E D

# Repeating the test (The remix)

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“The Lord is testing me!” is what I said somewhat jokingly to myself a few days ago as I reflected on how I was handling a few stressful personal and professional situations. In each of the situations, I am in a position where silence is the best option. The hard part for me about keeping silent means that certain truths won’t come out. So, the question I started 2022 off with was “How can silence be better than spoken truth?”

As I grappled with feeling like I was muzzled, I was reminded of how I’d felt this way before. In a nutshell, this recent experience of silence mirrors another “repeat exam” that I’d been through a few years back.

You’re probably thinking “She must not have passed that test for God to send her through it again.” Honestly, I remember thinking the same thing and was so careful to be more sensitive to the leading of the holy spirit and be obedient to learn the lesson that God had for me. Luke 12:48 reminds us that “... For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required and to whom much has committed, of him they will ask the more.” – Luke 12:48

The past lesson was about wanting to be liked by others. I foolishly sought the approval of others sometimes at the cost of my own esteem and mental health. I didn’t realize that by focusing on being liked, I was losing sight of the more important goal of being respected. I was ultimately disappointed when others showed that they cared little for me and did not

respect me. And when it was all over, I was out of position, confused and longing to restore my relationship with God.

The 2nd time this kind of thing happened, I avoided being stuck in the valley of negative emotions from the sting of what I perceived as rejection. However, those rejections ended up being God’s way of protecting me from toxic relationships. In fact, I strengthened my relationship with God by staying focused on growing spiritually. However, one puzzling question remained: If I passed the test, why did it seem like my results were the same?

I soon realized that the big difference was my emotional and spiritual response. The 2nd time, I more effectively stayed in position by keeping the proper balance of prayer, praise and worship. For me, it seemed like the key to pass-

ing my test was about how I submitted to the process more than anything. Previously, I’d sabotaged God’s plans and purposes because I tried to avoid the process that he was taking me through.

Eventually, I had a great peace that I’d done what the Lord wanted. The sometimes-awkward position of balancing my desires with the responsibility of finishing God’s process forced me to mature. Passing the test means staying in a posture of humble obedience as you endure the process during even the most difficult seasons

*Shewanda Riley is the 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 [preservedby-purpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedby-purpose@gmail.com) or Twitter [@shewanda](https://twitter.com/shewanda).*

# Hate speech, religious doctrine and the constitution

By Dr. John Warren  
San Diego Voice and  
Viewpoint/NNPA Member



Recently, an issue came before the San Diego County Human Relations Commission (HRC) that asked for a vote on an LGBTQ Resolution. One member of the Commission, who happens to be a member of the clergy, voted against the matter when put to a vote. When pressed by other members as to the reason for his vote, he expressed that the matter was against his beliefs as a member of the clergy following Christian doctrine as presented in the Bible. He cited chapter and verse.

Eventually, in sequent meetings, there was a call for his removal from the Commission which only the appointing Board of Supervisors could do. The matter failed but raises a much bigger issue for the HRC because the explanation given came from the Bible and was subsequently called Hate Speech.

First, let it be clear that a disagreement with one’s lifestyle, religious beliefs, or the lack thereof based upon the stated doctrine of a religious belief is not hate speech in and of itself. While the Mosaic laws of the Old Testament did speak violence against lifestyle choices that also spoke against sex outside of marriage, the New Testament

**COMMENTARY**

reality of grace and forgiveness left the issues of choice, in terms of what was considered sin or salvation, to the individual.

If God allows personal choice with the statement of future consequences with love and forgiveness on the table, there is no need for man to go beyond God.

The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution follows this concept of choice. It says “Congress shall make no laws abridging the right of religion.” This simply means that there can be no “State Religion.” Each person is free to choose the religion or lack of religion of their choice. Likewise, each person is free to choose the lifestyle of their choice without interference from the state or their fellow man. This does not mean we have a right to attack those who disagree with us any more than they have a right to attack us because they disagree with us.

It is imperative that the Human Relations Commission and its members understand these points of difference if they are to succeed with their mission of healing and understanding, which does not require the abandonment of individual points of view, but a tolerance for the differences.

The final mission is to register differences and disagreements and move forward.



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Pastor  
Chauncy L. Jordan

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|---|---|---|

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**601-969-3481/969-3482 • Fax # 601-969-1957 • E-Mail: [Serenitynbc@aol.com](mailto:Serenitynbc@aol.com)**



LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 122-234, -235, AND -268 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson has not increased its customer rates for providing water and sewer services since October 8, 2013; and

WHEREAS, an increase in these rates is necessary at this time to provide necessary additional revenue for the operation and maintenance of the City's water and sewer system, to service debt as it becomes due, and to replenish the Contingent Fund required under the City of Jackson General Bond Resolution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, this ordinance should take effect immediately upon passage because current rates are insufficient to provide for the operation and maintenance of the water and sewer system, to provide for the payment of indebtedness the will become due during the current fiscal year, and to provide the requisite contingent funds required under the City General Bond Resolution for its outstanding water and sewer revenue bonds; and

WHEREAS, Section 122-234 (1) a. should be amended as follows:

(1) Volumetric charges. Volumetric charges will be determined as follows:  
a. The volumetric charge will be determined by the water meter reading, or at the user's option, the user may furnish metering devices approved by the approving authority for measuring wastewater discharged into the city sewer system. This will apply to those users of the city sanitary sewer system who purchase all water from the city or other water utility. Those users having private wells or other sources of water supply shall install either water meters on the wells or other sources of water supply or approved metering devices on wastewater discharged to the city sewers. The schedule of sewer service charges, on a volumetric basis, is as follows: Each customer shall be charged \$5.36 per 100 cubic feet of meter water consumption when the monthly water consumption is greater than the minimum amounts described in section 122-235.  
and

WHEREAS, Section 122-235 (a) should be amended as follows:

(a) The schedule of minimum sewer service charges is as follows:  
(1) Each customer with a five-eighths-inch meter whose water consumption is 300 cubic feet or less shall be assessed a minimum monthly charge of \$16.08.  
(2) Each customer with a one-inch meter whose water consumption is 670 cubic feet or less shall be assessed a minimum monthly charge of \$35.91.  
(3) Each customer with a one and one-half or two-inch meter whose water consumption is 1,510 cubic feet or less shall be assessed a minimum monthly charge of \$80.94.  
(4) Each customer with a three-inch or larger meter whose water consumption is 2,710 cubic feet or less shall be assessed a minimum monthly charge of \$145.26.  
and

WHEREAS, Section 122-268 (a) (1) a. should be amended as follows:

(a) The rates and amounts required to be paid for consumption per month, exclusive of sales tax, by customers of the city waterworks residing within the city shall consist of the following components:

(1) Volumetric rate. A flat rate per 100 cubic feet will be charged regardless of the number of feet consumed.  
a. The flat rate per 100 cubic feet is \$3.85.

and

WHEREAS, Section 122-268 (a) (2) should be amended as follows:

(2) Service charge. Service charges are calculated as follows:

a. In addition to the volumetric rate and meter charge, on all meters using more than 300 cubic feet per month there shall also be a monthly service charge of \$11.55, chargeable for each month or part of month that this section is in effect.  
b. In addition to the service charge in subsection (a)(2)a. of this section, for each meter serving more than one residential unit, there shall be an additional service charge of \$11.55 for each such unit in excess of one. Residential unit means a dwelling complete with normal facilities of habitation intended for long-term occupancy including, but not limited to, apartments, condominiums, trailers, separate residential houses, apartment nursing homes, and permanent retirement residences. Garage apartments are expressly excluded from the definition of residential unit.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 122-234 (1) a. is amended as follows:

• Volumetric charges. Volumetric charges will be determined as follows:

a. The volumetric charge will be determined by the water meter reading, or at the user's option, the user may furnish metering devices approved by the approving authority for measuring wastewater discharged into the city sewer system. This will apply to those users of the city sanitary sewer system who purchase all water from the city or other water utility. Those users having private wells or other sources of water supply shall install either water meters on the wells or other sources of water supply or approved metering devices on wastewater discharged to the city sewers. The schedule of sewer service charges, on a volumetric basis, is as follows: Each customer shall be charged \$5.36 per 100 cubic feet of meter water consumption when the monthly water consumption is greater than the minimum amounts described in section 122-235.

SECTION 2. Section 122-235 (a) is amended as follows:

(a) The schedule of minimum sewer service charges is as follows:  
(1) Each customer with a five-eighths-inch meter whose water consumption is 300 cubic feet or less shall be assessed a minimum monthly charge of \$16.08.  
(2) Each customer with a one-inch meter whose water consumption is 670 cubic feet or less shall be assessed a minimum monthly charge of \$35.91.  
(3) Each customer with a one and one-half or two-inch meter whose water consumption is 1,510 cubic feet or less shall be assessed a minimum monthly charge of \$80.94.  
(4) Each customer with a three-inch or larger meter whose water consumption is 2,710 cubic feet or less shall be assessed a minimum monthly charge of \$145.26.

SECTION 3. Section 122-268 (a) (1) a. is amended as follows:

(a) The rates and amounts required to be paid for consumption per month, exclusive of sales tax, by customers of the city waterworks residing within the city shall consist of the following components:

(1) Volumetric rate. A flat rate per 100 cubic feet will be charged regardless of the number of feet consumed.  
a. The flat rate per 100 cubic feet is \$3.85.

SECTION 4. Section 122-268 (a) (2) is amended as follows:

(2) Service charge. Service charges are calculated as follows:

a. In addition to the volumetric rate and meter charge, on all meters using more than 300 cubic feet per month there shall also be a monthly service charge of \$11.55, chargeable for each month or part of month that this section is in effect.  
b. In addition to the service charge in subsection (a)(2)a. of this section, for each meter serving more than one residential unit, there shall be an additional service charge of \$11.55 for each such unit in excess of one. Residential unit means a dwelling complete with normal facilities of habitation intended for long-term occupancy including, but not limited to, apartments, condominiums, trailers, separate residential houses, apartment nursing homes, and permanent retirement residences. Garage apartments are expressly excluded from the definition of residential unit.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage because current rates are insufficient to provide for the operation and maintenance of the water and sewer system, to provide for the payment of indebtedness that will become due during the current fiscal year, and to provide the contingent funds required under the City of Jackson General Bond Resolution for its outstanding water and sewer revenue bonds.

SECTION 3. The Municipal Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be publish.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; Council Member Grizzell seconded.

Yeas –Foote, Grizzell, Lee and Lindsay.  
Nays – Banks, Hartley and Stokes.  
Absent – None.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Special Council Meeting December 14, 2021 and recorded in Minute Book "6U"

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 10th day of January, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/13/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE CLOSING AND VACATING AN UNIMPROVED PORTION OF THE WEST END OF BELMONT STREET IN FAVOR OF THE ABUTTING LANDOWNERS.

WHEREAS, Mark Lampton and Nicole Lampton, hereinafter referred to as "Petitioners", petitioned the City of Jackson, Mississippi to close and vacate a platted but unimproved portion of Belmont Street west of Linden Place, hereinafter referred to as "Street", located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, The Keeping it Real Estate, LLC is the owner of property located at the west end of the street that is the subject of this petition, unimproved portion of Belmont Street located west of Linden Place; and

WHEREAS, The Keeping it Real Estate, LLC as a property owner technically abutting the subject Street has consented to the closing and vacating of the Street and further has represented that the Street is not used for access to its property at 1332 Belvoir Place nor needed for access; and

WHEREAS, the Petitioners presented their petition pursuant to Section 110-5 of the Jackson Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Petitioners are the owners of all property abutting the Street on both sides, and have, at their own expense, furnished the City of Jackson with a survey plat; and

WHEREAS, the Site Plan Review Committee of the City of Jackson reviewed the petition to close and vacate the Street on August 19, 2021, and approved the petition on October 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the Street sought to be closed and vacated is no longer needed as a public thoroughfare and will not be needed as a public thoroughfare in the foreseeable future.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THAT:

SECTION 1. The herein described portion of an unnamed alley constitutes a publicly dedicated right-of-way, with said right-of-way being described as follows:

The North twenty-five feet (25') feet of Belmont Street adjacent to Lot 8, Block 11, Corrected Map of Belhaven Heights, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof, on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, as now recorded in Plat Book 4 at Page 34, in the City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at an existing concrete monument marking the Point of Intersection of the North right-of-way line of the aforesaid Belmont Street with the West right-of-way line of Linden Place being the Southeast corner of the aforesaid Lot 8, Block 11, Corrected Map of Belhaven Heights and run thence South 01 degrees 53 minutes 36 seconds West along said West right-of-way line of Linden Place for a distance of 25.00 feet to a set ½" iron pin; leaving said West right-of-way line of Linden Place, run thence North 89 degrees 59 minutes 59 seconds West for a distance of 154.60 feet to a set ½" iron pin; run thence North 00 degrees 58 minutes 33 seconds East for a distance of 25.00 feet to an existing ½" iron pin on the aforesaid North right-of-way line of Belmont Street; said point also being on the South line of the aforesaid Lot 8; run thence South 89 degrees 59 minutes 59 seconds East along said North right-of-way line of Belmont Street and along said South line of Lot 8 for a distance of 155.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 3,870 square feet, more or less.

The South twenty-five feet (25') feet of Belmont Street adjacent to Lot 22, Block A, Belvoir Place, a subdivision according to the map or plat thereof, on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, as now recorded in Plat Book B at Page 118, in the City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at a set ½" iron pin marking the Point of Intersection of the South right-of-way line of the aforesaid Belmont Street with the West right-of-way line of Linden Place being the Northeast corner of the aforesaid Lot 22, Block A, Belvoir Place and run thence North 89 degrees 59 minutes 59 seconds West along said South right-of-way line of Belmont Street and along the North line of said Lot 22 for a distance of 154.20 feet to a set ½" iron pin; leaving said South right-of-way line of Belmont Street and said North line of Lot 22, run thence North 00 degrees 58 minutes 33 seconds East for a distance of 25.00 feet to a set ½" iron pin; run thence South 89 degrees 59 minutes 59 seconds East for a distance of 154.60 feet to a set ½" iron pin on the aforesaid West right-of-way line of Linden Place; run thence South 01 degrees 53 minutes 36 seconds West along said West right-of-way line of Linden Place for a distance of 25.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 3,860 square feet, more or less..

SECTION 2. Pursuant to operation of law, a certified copy of this Ordinance shall serve to convey, quitclaim, and release the City's right, title, and interest in and to said right-of-way, as herein described, to the abutting landowners of record.

SECTION 3. The conveyance of said right-of-way is subject to any dedications, limitations, restrictions, reservations, or easements of record.

SECTION 4. The Petitioners shall assume all responsibility and liability for the herein described right-of-way.

SECTION 5. The herein described right-of-way is hereby closed and vacated.

SECTION 6. The Director of the Department of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to indicate the closing and vacation of the herein described portion of the Street on the official map of the City of Jackson.

SECTION 7. Any and all ordinances of the City of Jackson, or any parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith shall be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

SECTION 8. The cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the Petitioner.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after passage and after publication by the Municipal Clerk.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; President Lindsay seconded.

Yeas – Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, and Lindsay.  
Nays – None.  
Abstention - Stokes  
Absent – Banks, and Foote.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 9, 2021 and recorded in Minute Book "6U"

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 10th day of January, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/13/2022

LEGAL

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2021 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE 2nd FLOOR PLANNING CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes from November 10th meeting

III. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. OLD BUSINESS  
B. NEW BUSINESS

Case No. HPNC-21-38, requested by Julia Hall to construct an exterior addition to the rear of an existing house located at 732 Euclid Ave located in the Belhaven Historic District.

Case No. HPNC-21-39, requested by Akili Kelly to install roof structure over existing patio and driveway area at 1345 Linden Place located in the Belhaven Historic District.

Case No. HPNC-21-41, requested by John Weaver to renovate and add an addition to the property located at 1325 OLIVE ST, located in the Belhaven Historic District.

II. OTHER ITEMS

1. Administratively Approved COAs.  
1738 Piedmont Street - HPCA-21-24 – reroofing with like materials.  
815 Oakwood Street – HPCA-21-24 – replacing nonconforming doors with conforming porthole doors  
1509 St Ann Street – HPNC-21-21 – reroofing with like materials  
154 E Davis Street, HPNC- 21-27 – demolition for new construction  
121 Davis Street – HPNC-21-28 demolition for new construction  
113 E Davis Street – HPNC-21-29 demolition for new construction  
139 Cohea Street – HPNC-21-26 demolition for new construction  
1320 Hazel Street – HPNC-21-40 – renovation of exterior with like materials

III. ADJOURN

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE, COMMISSIONERS AND APPLICANTS WILL ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING CDOTSON@JACKSONMS.GOV TO REGISTER PRIOR TO February 2nd, 2021.

1/13/2022

LEGAL

ORDINANCE AMENDING PARTS OF SECTIONS 118-266 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSON.

WHEREAS, Section 118-266(c), (d), (e), and (g) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Jackson, Mississippi, states the speed limits for the City's streets, or portions of such streets, having speed limits greater than 25 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works conducted a review of Section 118-266, including streets that have been recently constructed, annexed into the City, or otherwise inadvertently omitted; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works recommends that the speed limits for such streets be established as set forth in the body of this ordinance.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 118-266(c) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Thirty Miles Per Hour. Those streets, or portions of such streets, having a speed limit of 30 miles per hour are as follows:

SECTION 2. Section 118-266(d) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby established to read as follows:

Thirty-five Miles Per Hour. Those streets, or portions of such streets, having a speed limit of 35 miles per hour are as follows:

Timber Falls Parkway. Raymond Road to Timber Crossing.

SECTION 3. Section 118-266(e) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby established to read as follows:

Forty Miles Per Hour. Those streets, or portions of such streets, having a speed limit of 40 miles per hour are as follows:

County Line Road. City Limits to Old Canton Road.

Forest Hill Road. Terry Road to Raymond Road.

Northside Drive. Flag Chapel Road to Bailey Avenue Extension.

SECTION 4. Section 118-266(g) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Jackson, Mississippi, is hereby established to read as follows:

Fifty Miles Per Hour. Those streets, or portions of such streets, having a speed limit of 50 miles per hour are as follows:

Northside Drive. City Limits to Flag Chapel Road.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall be in force and effect thirty (30) days after passage and after publication of the same by the Municipal Clerk.

Vice President Lee moved adoption; President Lindsay seconded.

Yeas – Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, and Lindsay.  
Nays – None.  
Abstention - Stokes  
Absent – Banks, and Foote.

ATTEST:

Angela Harris  
Municipal Clerk

I, Angela Harris, the duly appointed qualified Municipal Clerk and lawful custodian of records and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Regular Council Meeting November 9, 2021 and recorded in Minute Book "6U"

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 10th day of January, 2022.

SEAL Angela Harris, Municipal Clerk

1/13/2022



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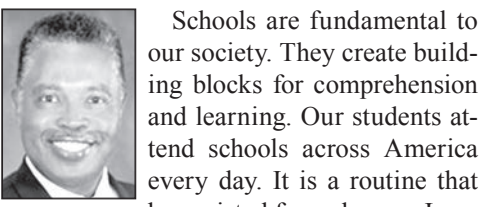






# Keeping schools open remains the focus for many systems

By James B. Ewers Jr.  
*President Emeritus  
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio*



Schools are fundamental to our society. They create building blocks for comprehension and learning. Our students attend schools across America every day. It is a routine that has existed for as long as I can remember. There was never to my knowledge a stoppage of going to school. There is now. We know the pandemic has caused this disruption. Some students are now staying home from school. Can you imagine as a child staying home from school? I can't. Virtual learning has now taken a front seat in the education marketplace. Students at all levels are spending their days at home in front of a computer. That is not a good way to learn. Some may disagree with my assertion. During my professional life, I was a high school teacher. I say that proudly and with great pride. Students need in-person classroom instruction. They need to see their teacher. To be able to ask questions and to be spontaneous are attributes that enhance students' love for learning. In-person learning also creates self-discipline and self-awareness. Students know they should behave themselves and they know their environmental limits. In other words, you don't act a fool in school. Now with the Omicron variant spreading like wildfire, the alternative is virtual learning.

Joshua Goodman, an education economist at Boston University is concerned about the adverse effects of COVID-19 on school enrollment. He said, "This was supposed to be a stabilizing year, where we could make up for lost time, but it hasn't turned out that way."

Burbio, a company that has been tracking COVID-related school closures, reports since January 6 that 4,783 public schools had decided not to offer in-person instruction one or more days of the week.

These numbers indicate clearly the challenges brought on by this pandemic. The Coronavirus and its variants have become bullish on America's schools. It will stay that way for the foreseeable future. Schools must now fight this illness with some new approaches, that is, if they want in-person learning. According to recent reports, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is now safe for children ages 5-11. This was determined by clinical trials with 3,000 children.

Critics are asking a few questions about children being vaccinated at such a young age. The prevailing question is what are the side effects? Reports say that the most common side effect is that children will have a sore arm for a few days. If that's it, then children should be vaccinated.

Parents are having to make some difficult decisions regarding their children's education. As of December 5, 2021, almost 17% of children 5-11 years of age have received at least one dose of the vaccine. The findings go on to say that percentage represents 4.8 million of roughly 28 million children in that age group.

Those numbers and percentages don't bode well for us if we are to get our children and grandchildren back to school. To complicate matters even more, it seems as if more people in the North are getting their children vaccinated than those in the South. The South is lagging. Why is that? So now, we are in month one of the New Year. The schools in America are at risk. Students and teachers are at a crossroads. Keeping students at home when they have been accustomed to being at school is going to be harmful to their growth and development. They need the socialization that school offers. That's not what I think, that's what I know.

America, our children represent the future of this country. We hear that all the time. COVID-19 is testing us. We can't let it get an "A".

# How do I know if I have a cold, the flu or COVID-19?

By Victoria Milko  
*AP Science Writer*

How do I know if I have a cold, the flu or COVID-19? Experts say testing is the best way to determine what you have since symptoms of the illnesses can overlap.

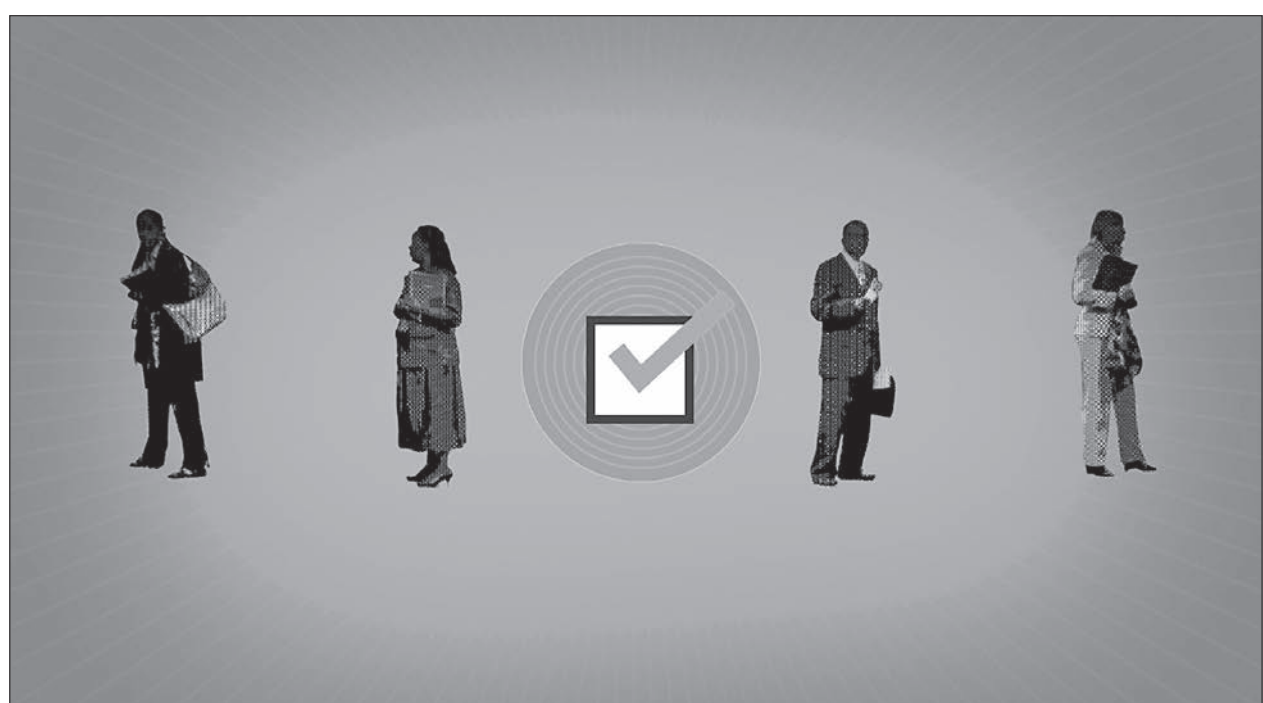
The viruses that cause colds, the flu and COVID-19 are spread the same way – through droplets from the nose and mouth of infected people. And they can all be spread before a person realizes they're infected.

The time varies for when someone with any of the illnesses will start feeling sick. Some people infected with the coronavirus don't experience any symptoms, but it's still possible for them to spread it.

Cough, fever, tiredness and muscle aches are common to both the flu and COVID-19, says Kristen Coleman, an assistant research professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Symptoms specific to COVID-19 include the loss of taste or smell.

Common colds, meanwhile, tend to be milder with symptoms including a stuffy nose and sore throat. Fevers are more common with the flu.

Despite some false portrayals online, the viruses have not merged to create a new illness. But it's possible



Do I need to get tested for COVID-19 if I'm vaccinated? AP ILLUSTRATION/PETER HAMLIN

to get the flu and COVID-19 at the same time, which some are calling "flurona."

"A co-infection of any kind can be severe or worsen your symptoms altogether," says Coleman. "If influenza cases continue to rise, we can expect to see more of these types of viral co-infections in the coming weeks or months."

With many similar symptoms

caused by the three virus types, testing remains the best option to determine which one you may have. At-home tests for flu aren't as widely available as those for COVID-19, but some pharmacies offer testing for both viruses at the same time, Coleman notes. This can help doctors prescribe the right treatment.

Laboratories might also be able to screen samples for various respi-

ratory viruses, including common cold viruses. But most do not have the capacity to routinely do this, especially during a COVID-19 surge, Coleman says.

Getting vaccinated helps reduce the spread of the viruses. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it is safe to get a flu and COVID-19 shot or booster at the same time.

# A house divided against itself cannot stand

By Rep. James E. Clyburn  
*D-S.C., Chairman, Democratic Faith Working Group*



I listened intently as our 46th President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris addressed the nation from Statuary Hall observing the first anniversary of last year's insurrection. I found myself reflecting upon the attack on Pearl Harbor that thrust us into a world war against a tyrannical foreign power.

Eighty years later, tyranny is threatening America again, this time from a domestic attack. A president and his enablers created a narrative and fomented a "Big Lie" that is continuing. He incited a violent mob to attack our seat of government and disrupt the certification of the results of a free and fair election which he lost by over 7 million votes.

President Franklin Roosevelt referred to the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack as, "a day that will live in infamy." World War II lasted almost four years. January 6, 2021 launched a disgraceful and ignoble domestic conflict, and it remains to be seen how long it will last.

Over the past year, we have witnessed loyalists of the 45th president work to unravel the threads that hold the fabric of our representative democracy together. His followers, fueled by a constant diet of

disinformation, have harassed and intimidated election officials across the country, causing many to resign their positions out of fear for themselves and their families.

Republican officials, fearful of being primaried by "45's" loyalists, embrace his "Big Lie" and enact legislation they feel will appease him. States with Republican governors and legislatures are passing laws and redistricting plans constructed to guarantee the election of more likeminded loyalists and shift government control away from anyone who doesn't adhere to his tyrannical whims. According to the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice, 19 states have enacted 34 election laws that restrict or suppress the vote; some to make it easier for local officials to nullify election results they don't like.

The right to vote is the most fundamental thread of our democratic fabric. Without it, our democracy unravels. Currently, 50 Republicans in the United States Senate, aided and abetted by two Democrats, are blocking votes on two critical voting rights bills, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act basically updates the formula which, since the enactment of the 1965 Voters Rights Act, triggers a process of pre-clearance by the Justice Department or a federal court if a jurisdiction seeks to make any changes in its voting

laws. In 2013, that pre-clearance formula was declared outdated by the United States Supreme Court and Congress was invited to update the formula.

The House responded by holding over a dozen hearings by two separate committees and passed subsequent legislation which was sent to the Senate. Unfortunately, all Senate Republicans, except Senator Lisa Murkowski, are standing in the way of its passage. Two Democrats have been giving comfort to the Republicans on this issue and one of them, Senator Joe Manchin, has proposed the Freedom to Vote Act, seeking to attract bipartisan support for many provisions of the House-passed For the People Act.

The legislation includes provisions protecting election security, reforming campaign finance, ensuring fair redistricting and preventing voter nullification. Despite Manchin's mollification attempts, not a single Republican voted to allow the Freedom to Vote Act to come to the floor for a vote.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has vowed to bring both bills up for another vote by January 17, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. His efforts, however, seem destined to fail without a change to the Senate's filibuster rules that require 60 votes to cut off debate.

While bipartisanship is welcomed, and may be preferable, history informs us that the 15th Amendment giving blacks the right

to vote, passed on a party line vote. And who would argue that the 15th Amendment should not have been adopted because it did not have bipartisan support?

I am not a fan of the filibuster. But, if holding on to that tradition is important to most of the Senate, I maintain that exceptions on Constitutional issues like voting should apply. An exception is employed for fiscal issues to ensure the full faith and credit of the United States are not jeopardized by a filibuster. The process is called "reconciliation," a term I believe is more aptly applied to the Constitution than the budget.

On the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt spoke these words, "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win." He continued, "I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us." America was victorious. Our democracy and our friends and allies were saved from tyranny.

Today's challenge is no less perilous. To dismiss the seriousness of this moment is to condone the insidiousness of the "Big Lie." Our best protection is to ensure the fundamentals of our democracy hold. As our 16th President extolled during another challenging time, "a house divided against itself cannot stand."





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