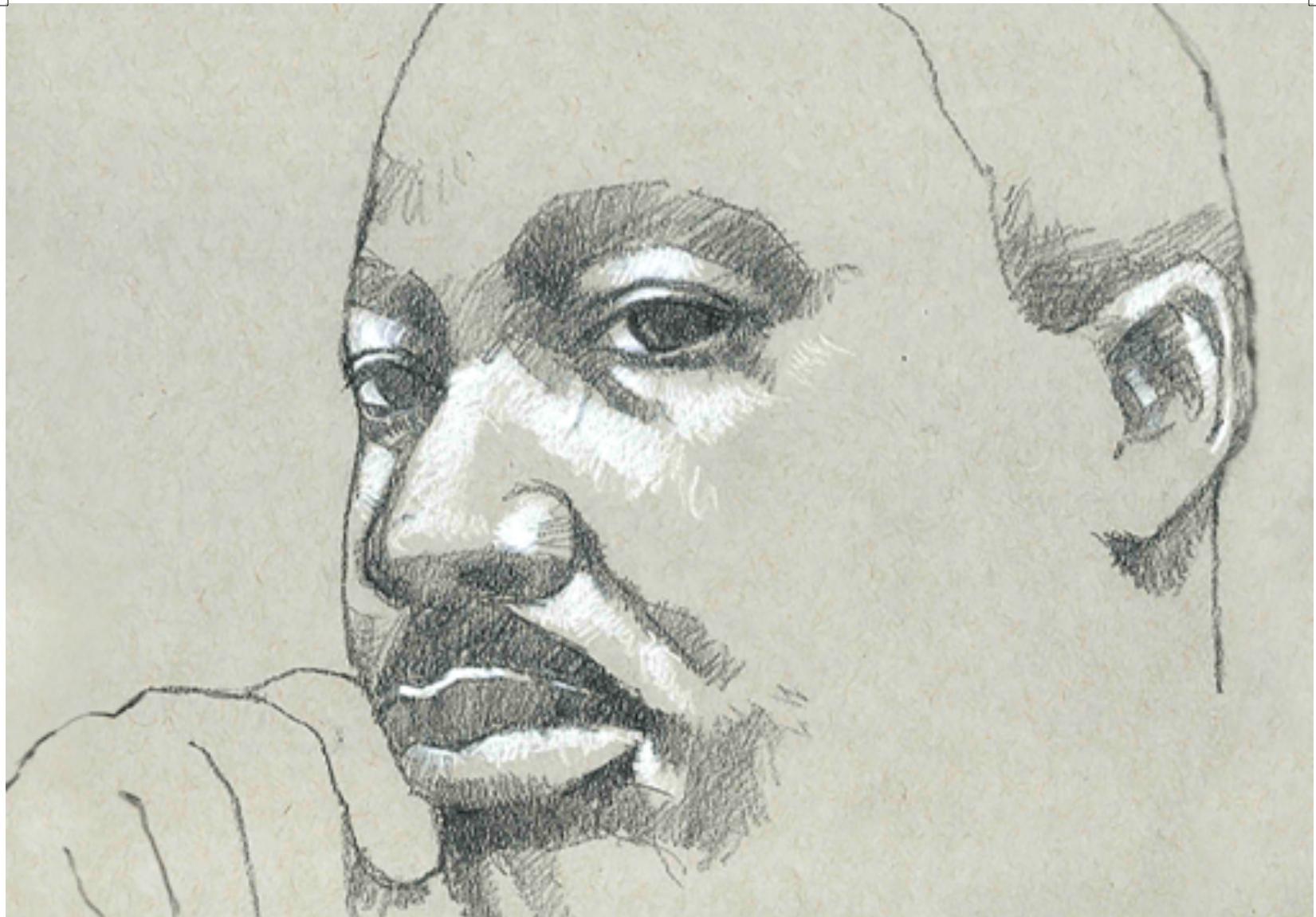


SCLC

Southern Christian Leadership Conference
NATIONAL MAGAZINE

DR. KING BIRTHDAY ISSUE

King Issue 2021
sclcmagazine.com



HE HAD A DREAM

Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Farmers Insurance[®], together with our employees and Farmers agents, celebrate the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

We stand with our colleagues and the diverse communities we serve in support of Dr. King's dream of equality and civil rights.

FARMERS.COM | 1-800-FARMERS


FARMERS
INSURANCE



The Movement Continues!

Your membership with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will help promote the initiatives, programs, and activism of the SCLC. Visit our website to see what we have been doing and join online www.nationalsclc.org/join. Follow us on **Twitter @nationalsclc**.

M E M B E R S H I P S

- GENERAL \$25
One-Year Membership
- FAITHFUL SERVANT \$50
One Year Membership
Members Newsletter
- FREEDOM FIGHTERS \$100
One-Year Membership
Members Newsletter
Quarterly SCLC Magazine
- DREAM KEEPER \$250
One-Year Membership
Members Newsletter
Quarterly SCLC Magazine
15% SCLC Event
Registration Discount
- DRUM MAJOR \$500
One-Year Membership
Members Newsletter
Quarterly SCLC Magazine
25% SCLC Event Registration Discount
- LIFE \$2,000
Lifetime Membership Plaque
Members Newsletter
Quarterly SCLC Magazine
25% SCLC Event
Registration Discount
- YOUTH, STUDENT, SENIOR \$10
One-Year Memberships for:
 - Youth (11-17)
 - Student (18-24)
 - Senior (65+)



A P P L I C A T I O N

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL _____ E-MAIL _____

CHAPTER NAME (If applicable) _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Make checks payable to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Check membership that applies:

- Youth (11-17) \$10
- Student (18-24) \$10
- Senior (65+) \$10
- General \$25
- Faithful Servant \$50
- Freedom Fighter \$100
- Dream Keeper \$250
- Drum Major \$500
- Life \$2,000

Mail to: SCLC NATIONAL HQ, 320 AUBURN AVE NE, ATLANTA, GA 30303

(404) 522-1420 / info@nationalsclc.org / www.nationalsclc.org

BLACK LIVES MUST MATTER FOR EVERY SPARK TO SHINE

America's challenges are Walmart's challenges. We must do more to stand against racism and to keep supporting the basic principles of human rights, dignity, and justice.

Moving forward, we're helping build a more equitable world by influencing these four systems:

Financial. We're working to close the wealth gap for minorities. We've partnered with Operation Hope to develop financial education videos for associates while also creating a Supply Chain Finance program to support the suppliers we work with.

Education. We're creating plans to improve diversity and inclusion education for our associates. We're also building an academy in Chicago that will be used by both our associates and the community.

Criminal justice. We're opening up opportunities for those previously incarcerated by partnering with nonprofits, corporations, and communities to remove barriers to gainful employment.

Healthcare. We're narrowing health inequities by expanding access to healthcare services in underserved communities. Our Walmart Health centers are focused on hiring more diverse providers to better reflect the communities they serve.

Together with the Walmart Foundation, we're also addressing racism and inequity within these four systems by committing \$100 million over five years through a new Center for Racial Equity.

These are the first steps but not the last ones. Please join us to help build a brighter, more diverse, and more equitable America.

walmart.com/RacialEquity





Vol.50 / No. 3

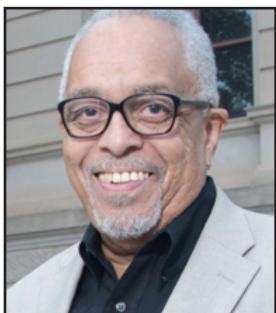
Table of Contents

Columns:

- 07. The Presidents Corner
- 10. Message from the Chairman
- 17. Message from the First Lady

Features:

- 20. WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
- 32. STAY WOKE
- 39. HOW I FEEL ABOUT SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS AS VP ELECT
- 41. SIXTY-FIVE YEARS LATER IS THERE ANYTHING NEW UNDER CIVIL RIGHTS OF JUSTICE?
- 45. A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF MONTGOMERY
- 46. NELSON MANDELA & MARTIN LUTHER KING JR: OUR PROFOUND WORLD LEADERS
- 54. MARTIN LUTHER KINGS, JR CONNOISSEUR OF POETRY WITH A TOUCH OF JAZZ
- 59. WORD BITES



Editor-in-Chief:

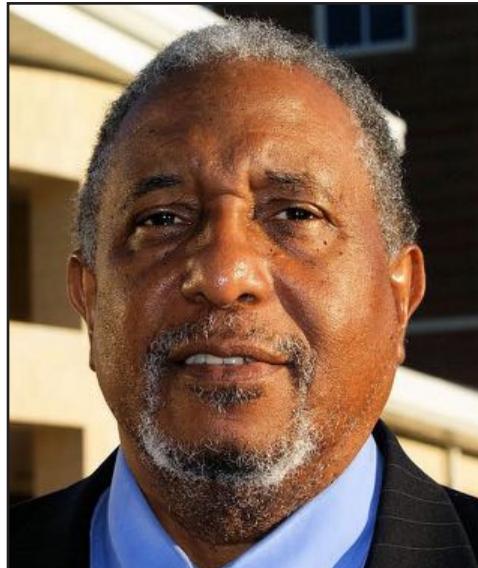
Maynard Eaton is an eight-time EMMY Award winning news reporter, who is SCLC's National Communications Director and Managing Editor of the SCLC National Magazine. Eaton is also the Executive Editor/host of SCLC-TV, Talk To ME, producer/broadcast talent at Atlanta Video Network, and News/Editorial Director at GlobalVisionLive360. He is also President of Eaton Media Group and a journalism professor at Clark Atlanta University.



SCLC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



Dr. Charles Steele, Jr.
President & CEO



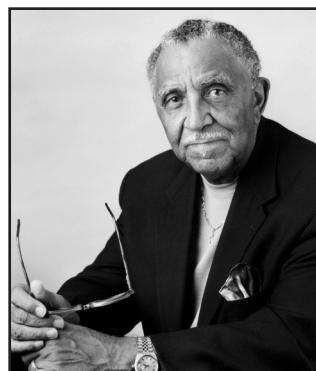
Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr
Chairman



Martin Luther King Jr.
Founding President



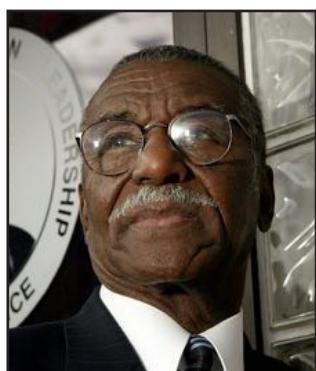
Ralph D. Abernathy
President 1968 - 1977



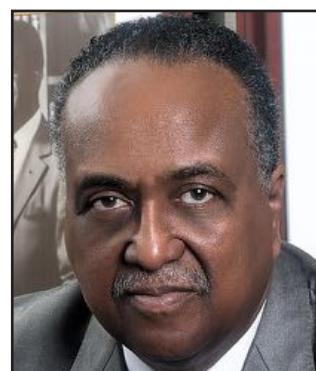
Joseph E. Lowery
President 1977 - 1997



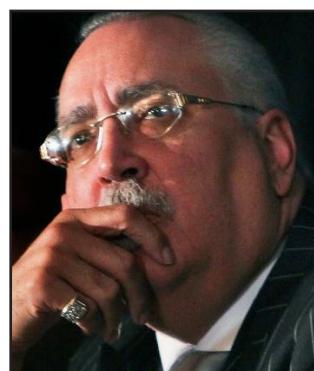
Martin Luther King III
President 1998 - 2003



Fred L. Shuttlesworth
President 2004



Dr. Charles Steele, Jr.
President & CEO



Howard Creecy Jr.
President 2011



sc|c

PRESIDENTS CORNER

PRESIDENTS CORNER

By Dr. Charles Steele Jr., *SCLC National President & CEO*



I am rarely without words, speechless or floored. However, I am completely shocked at how the process of the 2020 election has played out. All of our hard work, all of the tears, the bloodshed and the marching to get us to the point where we can freely vote. Vote without guessing the number of jelly-beans in a jar, but to stand in line proud and in awe of the sacrifice of our ancestors. We have sacrificed too much for a free America to let anyone take us back 250 years to Jim Crow.

“Becoming too comfortable always poses a risk. We have become too relaxed in electing officials to represent us.”

Unfortunately, we have been witnessing our democracy and our right to vote as African Americans be challenged. However, my response is...NO, we shall not be moved. We must keep up the good fight, but there is much work to be done.

Let's be honest...we can never allow ourselves to get comfortable. Believing the days of Jim Crow and oppression were over caused us to be jolted back into reality. The reality is that racism is systemic. We never cut the root of racism in America. We merely cut the grass and added pretty flowers, but we never got rid of the weeds.

Becoming too comfortable always poses a risk. We have become too relaxed in electing officials to represent us. We have become complacent in registering to vote and keeping up with current legislation.

I have been speaking about the 1965 Voting Rights Act being in jeopardy for years and in 2013 the Supreme Court struck down section four of the Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court vote gutted the crucial part of the legislation that designates which part of the

country must have changes to their voting laws cleared by the federal government. This part of the legislation is so crucial because it would allow the federal government to ensure that the states follow the law pertaining to voter procedures. Before any changes can be made regarding redistricting or any changes politically to the 1965 Voting Rights Act it must be pre-cleared by the federal government. Section four and section five were the heart of the Voting Rights Act. This particular section was the catalyst which led the way to all of our civil rights. This means we have gone back to state rights, which means states can return to their wrong doings of the past. Sounds like Jim Crow is sticking its ugly head up, again.

We cannot afford the clock to be turned back in terms of us being first class citizens. We must continue under the protection of the federal government like we have been for almost 50 years. If we do not have this protection, we are destined to repeat our past. We are witnessing in real time how it is absolutely possible to go backwards. Alexander Hamilton said it best when he made the statement “history is always watching.”

THE ONLY THING MORE IMPORTANT THAN STARTING THE CONVERSATION
IS KEEPING IT GOING.

We honor the men and women who began the dialog for social, economic and political justice through our commitment to help continue it.



A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and braided hair, smiling warmly at a young child whose hand she is holding. The background is blurred green foliage.

Taking action on our commitment to making a difference

We know we must do more to address the very real consequences of systemic racism that exist in society today. The impact is clear for communities across the country, including where our teammates live and serve our clients.

To drive progress, Bank of America has committed to invest \$1 billion over four years to advance racial equality and economic opportunity, building on work we've had underway for many years.

We're partnering with community and corporate leaders to create sustainable change. Our actions will help address critical issues and long-term gaps, including:

- connecting workers to new skills and enhanced job readiness
- increasing medical response capacity and access to health care and nutritious food
- powering small businesses owned by people of color through access to capital
- helping people find a place to call home

As we celebrate the 92nd birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we know there is more work to be done.

We promise to keep listening as we work together on this shared mission.

BANK OF AMERICA 

**sclc**

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

THE LAST WORD

By Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., *SCLC National Chairman*

It was in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968 that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke his last words to me. It was in his hotel room 306 at the Loraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King was scheduled to have a press conference in Washington, D.C. to announce the headquarters of the Poor Peoples Campaign at 14th and U but since the Sanitation Workers March in Memphis was broken up in violence, Dr. King decided to stay in Memphis and do the march over again. He did not want to leave a blight on the Sanitation Workers strike.

His entire staff and directors of programs had flown to Memphis to continue to work on the Poor Peoples Campaign and prepare for the next march. Dr. King wanted to stay on schedule, so he asked me to go to D.C. and hold the press conference for him since he had appointed me the National Coordinator of the Poor Peoples Campaign.

The morning of April 4, I was finishing the press statement that he and I had been working on the night of the 3rd of April. We were interrupted the night before, when Dr. King got a phone call from Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy who called Dr. King from Mason Temple Church to explain to him that the audience was calling for Dr. King to come and speak to them. They were insisting that Dr. King should come.

Dr. King said, "Are you telling me that you want me to get out of my bed, put on my clothes and come out in the pouring down rain, and it's raining 'cats and dogs.'" Abernathy said, "This is your crowd, they want to hear you." Dr. King said "Okay, if you say so." He got dressed and left. This was the occasion when he made that famous speech,



“I’ve been to the Mountain Top and I have seen the Promised Land.”

I stayed at the hotel and continued to write the press statement. When Dr. King returned, he was so excited, he said “Let’s continue in the morning.”

The next morning was April 4th. We finished the press statement at Dr. King’s bedside. He told me to go on to D.C. and hold the press conference and he would be along later. As I stood up ready to leave his room, he stopped me and said, “LaFayette, the next movement we are going to have is to institutionalize and internationalize nonviolence. I responded by saying “Yes, sir.” These were my last words with Dr. King.

I took my flight out of Memphis to National Airport in D.C. When I arrived at the airport, my ride was not there. Rev. Walter Fauntroy was scheduled to meet me at the terminal. He was not there. I called the office at 14th and U and the secretary told me that Dr. King had been shot in Memphis and there was rioting in the streets. Rev. Fauntroy and Stokely Carmichael were out in the streets attempting to stop the riots.

I called back to Memphis and could not get through. I then called the news services, U.P.I. and A.P. There was a battery of telephones in the airport, so I made the calls with a phone in both ears listening to the reporters read the tickertapes from Memphis. The U.P.I. reporter broke down and started crying, that’s how I knew that Dr. King had died.

I took a cab to 14th and U. I was able to reach the staff in Memphis and they told me that they would meet me in Atlanta.

We had to do a funeral, a successful labor movement in Memphis, and the Poor Peoples Campaign without Dr. King. Dr. King’s last words to me became my life commitment. “Institutionalize and internationalize nonviolence.” They killed Dr. King, but I was, and am, determined that they would not silence him nor his message and dream.

Nonviolence based on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s teachings is being taught in institutions and curricula all over the world, in schools, universities, community centers, institutes, prisons, and churches. They continue to expand, sponsored by private industry, non-profits, and government agencies.

I am convinced that the change will come. The young people are coming forth as they learn more about the principles and steps of nonviolence and the strategy that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used to transform our community.

THE DNA OF A BLACK WOMAN

By Chuck Richardson

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - There is something magical about a fearless, intelligent, incorruptible black woman. A woman willing to sacrifice and face any obstacle she must for a greater cause than herself. Black women have been, and continue to be, the crucible of fortitude. Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune, Fannie Lou Hamer and thousands beside them have been the bedrock of African-American progress.

I realized in my late twenties that if you want to get it done – you better have black women involved. That was when I, in 1977, ran for and won a seat on the first majority Black city council in Richmond, Va. It was the determination of Black women, some more than twice my age, that made the history possible.

When those Black women spoke, weathered by storms of racism, deprivation and personal abuses, it changed the atmosphere.

A crowd of timid, doubtful or unfocused lambs became ferocious lions. People today might speak of my legacy of achievements in Richmond, but they don't know the source of my confidence. I can't recall the number of times strong black women lifted me and forged new inspiration.



From the late seventies to the early nineties, I won nine consecutive re-elections. Any success reached by fighting the good fight, including my relentless efforts over two decades to remove the Confederate monuments on Monument Ave, were only possible because of the victories won for me by these women. Black men in my campaigns were strong and forceful, the physical image the organization needed, I don't deny that. But diligence was more often worn by the women.

I remember one election when I needed 20 new people registered as voters in each precinct. The young volunteers would bring back three or four and a handful of excuses. But there were elder women, some who did not walk easily, who would return with the full number. One of them said to a young person, "You don't win elections with good excuses – you need voters!"

Women like Bessie Jones, Elaine Dunn or Luetta B. Wooldridge, who were managers and coordinators for my campaigns. And they stood with me in difficult times when very few had the will.

Rev. Sarah Goshen, an older Black wom-

an with a calm but convincing demeanor, stood up in a storm of attacks on my character during a controversial and profound personal battle. She admonished the men who chose to disregard my history of service to my country, and more directly, to the African-Americans in Richmond. Rev. Goshen stood with the same solidarity and courage that defined her fore mothers, “Don’t abandon the bridge that brung you ‘cross!” she demanded. My spirit rose to the ceiling.

“Don’t abandon the bridge that brung you ‘cross.” It has indeed been a bridge, one more river to cross for Black Americans. Two-hundred fifty years of slavery and Jim Crow seems to have developed a certain ‘DNA’ in Black women.

Because, to watch as your child is torn away, or your man absolutely emasculated and denied any dignity, to have your body raped and to endure a brutalized life of labor, something had to evolve in the ‘DNA’ of Black women.

A new measure of courage, strength, dignity and faith saved them; the crucible of fortitude. They marched on and we march on today. America is more divided perhaps since slavery itself. But Black women have our backs, still enduring, fighting the good fight.

Women like my own sister, Valerie Richardson Jackson, the former first lady of Atlanta, who persevered with myself as one of the first students integrating our high school. Becoming one of the first black women to attend the Wharton School of Business (now led by a black woman), working and paying her way through, earning her M.B.A.

She went on to market General Foods products and gained a regional role at Trans World Airlines corporate headquarters in New York. Because a strong, smart black woman is not to be passed over, she won the heart of and married a man who was certainly the most consequential politician in the history of Atlanta: Mayor Maynard Jackson. Maynard always said of Valerie, “She enables me.”

The nation has recently come to know two more amazing Black women: Democratic activist, Stacey Abrams, and Sen. Kamala Harris; now Vice President-elect. Stacey Abrams showed her ability early, in front of the very Atlanta City Hall that Maynard occupied.

She led a large group of university students calling on the mayor to address student issues. Maynard was impressed and invited her to meet with him. Afterward, he gave Ms. Abrams her first job in politics. The rest is history: a heroic race for governor of Georgia, and a voter registration movement that is unprecedented, and driving the numbers to heights heretofore unseen - a democratic movement that has already become a model for the nation.

Valerie has always been a strong supporter of both Stacey Abrams and Kamala Harris. Three friends, three Black women, three lessons we should take from them – and history. With a Black woman becoming vice-president, we should keep in mind what it took, because we will need it going forward: patience with diligence, courage with wisdom, boldness with conviction. In other words, Black women.

Chuck Richardson, a former 18-year veteran of the Richmond City Council, is founder of the National Organization of Rehabilitated Offenders (NORO).



Celebrating the
few who change
the lives of many.

Citi applauds the work of the Southern Christian
Leadership Conference and all those who work
together to build a more inclusive America.





sclc

We believe in equal opportunity for all
regardless of race, creed, sex, age, disability,
or ethnic background.

Harley Ellis Devereaux

Exodyne Inc

Stewart Funeral Home

Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association

NIC Holding Corp.

25 Melville Park Road
Melville, New York



Jessamine County Schools

871 Wilmore Road
Nicholasville, KY
(859) 885-4179

www.jessamine.k12.ky.us

IVEY
MECHANICAL

P.O Box 610
Kosciusko, MS 39090
Call (800) 688-4839
Fax (662) 289-8602

We offer competitive pay, benefits, vacation, and holidays. Long-term employment is a real possibility:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| ► Plumbers | ► Pipe Fitters |
| ► Welders | ► Sheet Metal |
| ► Project Managers | ► Superintendents |
| ► Foremen | ► Apprentices |

Fully Supports Equal Opportunity for All, Regardless of Race, Creed, Sex, Age, Sexual Orientation, Disability, or Ethnic Background, and is a Federal Employer.

EDWARDS
Chevrolet
CHEVYMAN

DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM

SINCE 1916

1400 3RD AVENUE NORTH

205-716-3300

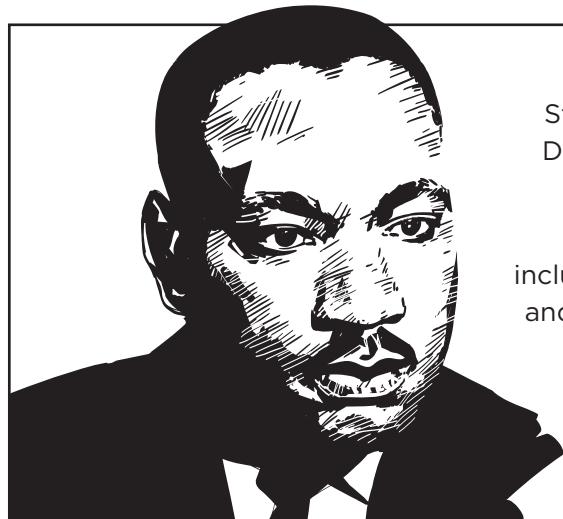
Congratulations
Southern Christian
Leadership Conference



The AIA champions a culture of inclusion within the profession of architecture to better reflect the society we serve, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, or religious belief.

[Learn more at aia.org](http://www.aia.org)

Grand Lodge of Free
and Accepted Masons of
Pennsylvania



Stater Bros. Markets proudly honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who dedicated his life to advocating for equality and justice for all.

We embrace equal opportunity, diversity, and inclusion in our relationships with employees, vendors, and the communities that we are privileged to serve.

STATER BROS.
markets*

"There's nothing like this in this country."

- The New York Times



**The Legacy
Museum**

The Legacy Museum, located on the site of a former warehouse where Black people were enslaved, uses interactive media, sculpture, videography, and exhibits to draw dynamic connections across generations of Americans impacted by slavery, lynching, segregation, and mass incarceration.



THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL
FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is a sacred space for truth-telling and reflection about racial terror in America and its legacy. Set on a six-acre site, the memorial uses sculpture, art, and design to contextualize racial terror lynchings and the legacy of racial injustice.

Advance tickets can be purchased at MuseumandMemorial.eji.org



sclc

FROM THE FIRST LADY

THE EMBODIMENT OF A LEADER

By Cathelean Steele, *Founder, Justice for Girls*



an international struggle for human liberation from racism, colonialism, and all forms of oppression and discrimination.”

During her fifteen years of marriage to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Coretta was the quiet storm that kept him moving forward. She worked side by side with her husband while also raising a family. She supported the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955. In 1957 she traveled to Ghana with Dr. King to mark that nation’s independence, and in 1959 journeyed with him to a pilgrimage to India. Coretta also worked tirelessly with Dr. King in pushing for the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

To ensure that finances would not derail the movement, Coretta conceived the idea of Freedom Concerts. These concerts combined poetry and music to tell the story of the movement. She also encouraged Dr. King in international affairs such as the opposition to the Vietnam war.

Dr. King was invited by the Harvard Class of 1968 to address them on Class Day. After his assassination on April 4, Coretta agreed to speak in his stead. She became the first woman to deliver the Class Day address at Harvard and doing her message she told the class that they “must hold high the banner of freedom.” This was only one of many first for Coretta. She became a spokesperson for international peace and economic justice. She was the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. She served as Women’s Strike for Peace delegate to the 17-National Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962.

I met Mrs. Coretta Scott King for the first time at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on August 16, 2000. She awarded Charles Steele, Jr, my husband, with a picture of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The inscription reads “with the warmest appreciation and personal regards. Your commitment to improving the quality of life for all people has moved us closer to the realization of Dr. King’s dream.” I was in awe to meet the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a “symbol of

In 1974, she formed the Full Employment Action Council, a coalition of over one hundred religious, labor, business, civic and women's organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity; Mrs. King served as co-chair of the council.

In 1983, she marked the 20th Anniversary of the historic March on Washington by leading a gathering of more than 800 human rights organizations, the Coalition of Conscience, in the largest demonstrations the capital had seen at that time.

Mrs. King is sometimes viewed as only the widow of Dr. King. She was much more, she was the embodiment of a leader. She was a wife, a mother, an activist and she remained as activist until this life no longer provided her with time. I was reading a quote from Mrs. King that was written in The Atlantic and I would like to leave this quote with you. "I am an activist, I didn't just emerge after Martin died—I was always there and involved."

When we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on his birthday, let us remember there was a queen beside the king that also made a difference.

To learn more about the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King you can visit the Martin Luther King, Jr Center for Nonviolent Social Change established by Mrs. Coretta Scott King in 1968 after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WE NEVER
UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER
of a dream

Constellation Brands celebrates the accomplishments of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and everyone working toward fulfilling the dream of making our nation a better place for all.



Constellation Brands

Please enjoy our products responsibly. Visit us at cbrands.com
© 2020 Constellation Brands Inc., Victor, NY.





By putting lives first, we've created a legacy that lasts

For nearly 130 years, we have tackled some of the world's biggest health challenges and provided hope in the fight against disease, for both people and animals. Today, we continue our commitment to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in pursuit of medical breakthroughs that benefit patients and society for today, tomorrow and generations to come.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Dr. Nancy Reid

The COVID-19 virus has swept across the United States with 13.7 million cases reported and approximately 267,000 deaths recorded through November 2020. This number is expected to continue to rise due to the number of gatherings taking place over the holiday season. In addition, people in their 20s and 30s are more likely to go out socializing and concern is growing that asymptomatic young people are helping to spread the virus to more vulnerable people. We must all work together to help keep each other healthy and safe from this virus. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention strongly advocates for the wear of face masks with two or more layers. It should be noted that gaiters are considered an acceptable face covering but should be folded so that a two-layer barrier is present. In addition, the efficacy of face shields alone is still being studied and should not be used in lieu of a facemask but in addition to facemasks.

Correct and consistent usage of a facemasks is imperative to preventing the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. The mask should cover your nose and mouth and be secured under your chin. It should fit snuggly against the sides of your face. Non-disposable masks should be washed regularly using laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the mask. Dry using the highest heat setting. Care should be used when handling facemasks making sure to not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing. Handle only the loops of the mask and fold the outside corners together.

Symptoms of COVID-19 often mimic the common cold and the flu. Table 1 compares the symptoms of COVID-19, the common cold, and the flu. If you feel ill and have not been tested, it is important to quarantine away from others until you have been tested and receive results. If you test positive, whether you have symptoms or not, you should isolate from others even those who live with you. Isolation includes all of the following precautions: staying in a separate room from other household members; using a separate bathroom if possible; avoiding contact with household members and pets; avoiding sharing items like cups, towels and utensils; wearing a mask when around other people. Isolation should continue for 10 days from the appearance of the first symptoms, 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication, AND other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving (loss of taste or smell may persist for weeks to months). If a person tests positive for COVID-19 and is asymptomatic, he or she should isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. If you have recovered from symptoms after testing positive, you may continue to test positive for COVID-19 even if you previously tested negative. In one study from Italy, approximately 18% of patients who recovered from COVID-19 and tested negative for the virus later tested positive.¹ Therefore, to avoid unnecessary quarantines, patients who have recovered from COVID-19 should not undergo repeat PCR testing for 90 days after infection.²

COLD VS. FLU VS. CORONAVIRUS

SYMPOMS	COLD	FLU	CORONAVIRUS**
 Fever	Rare	High (100-102°F) Can last 3-4 days	Common
 Headache	Slight	Intense	Can be present
 General Aches, Pains	Slight	Usual, often severe	Can be present
 Fatigue, Weakness	Mild	Intense, Can last up to 2-3 weeks	Can be present
 Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Usual (starts early)	Can be present
 Stuffy Nose	Common	Sometimes	Has been reported
 Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes	Has been reported
 Sore Throat	Common	Common	Has been reported
 Cough	Mild to moderate	Common, Can become severe	Common
 Shortness of Breath	Rare	Rare	In more serious infections

Source: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (CDC, WHO)

**Information is still evolving

One of the most severe presentations of the COVID-19 virus is acute respiratory distress syndrome which can lead to severe complications and death. Co-morbid conditions such as diabetes and obesity put those diagnosed with COVID-19 at greater risk of developing more severe symptoms. Older age, male sex and certain race/ethnicities such as African American and Latino individuals bear a disproportionate burden of poor COVID-19 related outcomes. Webb et al notes that “the underlying causes of health disparities are complex and include social and structural determinants of health, racism and discrimination, economic and educational disadvantages, health care access and quality, individual behavior, and biology.”³

There are two common theories that address why the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting racial/ethnic minority populations at higher rates. First, comorbid conditions such as diabetes, asthma, HIV, cardiovascular disease, obesity, liver disease and kidney disease disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities. Second, racial

and ethnic minorities are more likely to be employed in service occupations which are less likely to be able to social distance. Social distancing is the most effective strategy to prevent transmission of COVID-19. Yancey notes that “being able to maintain social distancing while working from home, telecommuting, and accepting a furlough from work but indulging in the plethora of virtual social events are issues of privilege. In certain communities these privileges are simply not accessible.”⁴ Finally, researchers continues to investigate the possibility that genetic or other biological factors predisposes racial and ethnic minorities to more severe symptoms and higher mortality rates.

If you or a family member has tested positive for COVID-19, consider donating convalescent plasma to help treat those who are battling the disease. Once a person who has contracted COVID-19, they produce antibodies against the virus that circulate within their blood plasma. These antibodies can be removed from the blood of patients who have recovered and given to those who are critically ill. Convalescent plasma is an investigational treatment for COVID-19. To learn more about donating convalescent plasma, go to www.RedCrossBlood.org/Plasma4COVID.

During this trying time, it is important to address mental health issue that arise as people are trying to cope with the stresses the COVID pandemic has introduced. The psychological impacts of the pandemic are increasingly becoming noted in medical literature. People around the country are struggling with concerns for their personal safety, lack of an availability of an extensively tested vaccine, and the socioeconomic impact of unemployment and lack of basic necessities. There has been an increases in mental health issues such as depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, increased suicidal tendencies, and PTSD in times of major economic crises or natural disaster. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has compiled a list of mental health resources noted in Table 2. Continue to take care of friends and family and practice self-care. Frequent phone calls and video chats with loved once can help reduce the stress caused by social distancing. Finally, don't hesitate to ask for help. We have to work together to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. We are in this together.

Resources	Telephone Number	Text
Emergency	911	
Disaster Distress Helpline	1-800-985-5990	
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-TALK (8255)	
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233	LOVEIS to 22522
National Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-422-4453	1-800-422-4453
National Sexual Assault Hotline	1-800-656-HOPE (4673)	
The Eldercare Locator	1-800-677-1116	
Veteran's Crisis Line	1-800-273-TALK (8255)	8388255

Table 2. Mental Health Resources

References

1. Liotti FM, Menchinelli G, Marchetti S, et al. Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 RNA Test Results Among Patients Who Recovered From COVID-19 With Prior Negative Results. *JAMA Intern Med.* Published online November 12, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.7570
2. Katz MH. Challenges in Testing for SARS-CoV-2 Among Patients Who Recovered From COVID-19. *JAMA Intern Med.* Published online November 12, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.7575
3. Webb Hooper M, Nápoles AM, Pérez-Stable EJ. COVID-19 and Racial/Ethnic Disparities. *JAMA.* 2020;323(24):2466–2467. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.8598
4. Yancy CW. COVID-19 and African Americans. *JAMA.* 2020;323(19):1891–1892. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.6548

Dr. Nancy Reid is an Associate Professor in the Doctor of Medical Science Program at the University of Lynchburg, Lynchburg, VA. She has been a practicing physician assistant for 20 years and works in the field of occupational medicine.





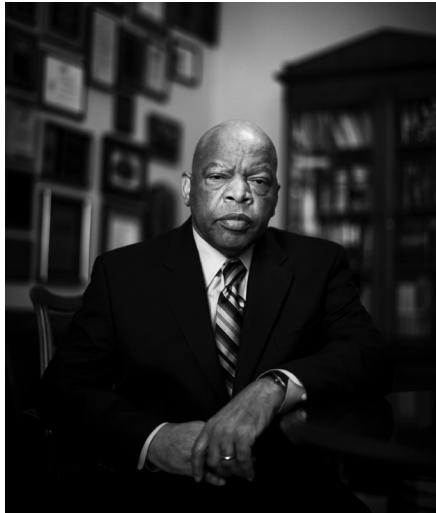
Ralphs

Proud to
Support the
Southern
Christian
Leadership
Conference

Remembering
his legacy...



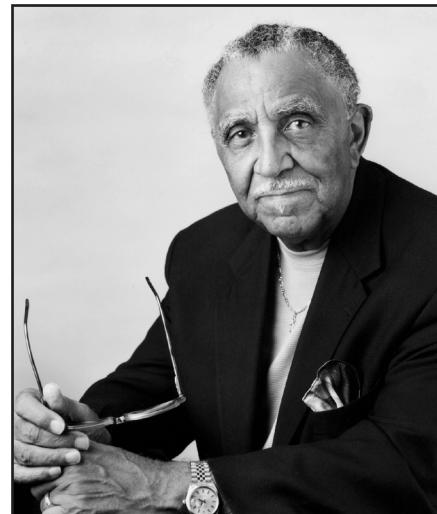
sclc IN MEMORIAM



John Lewis
July 17, 2020



CT Vivian
July 17, 2020



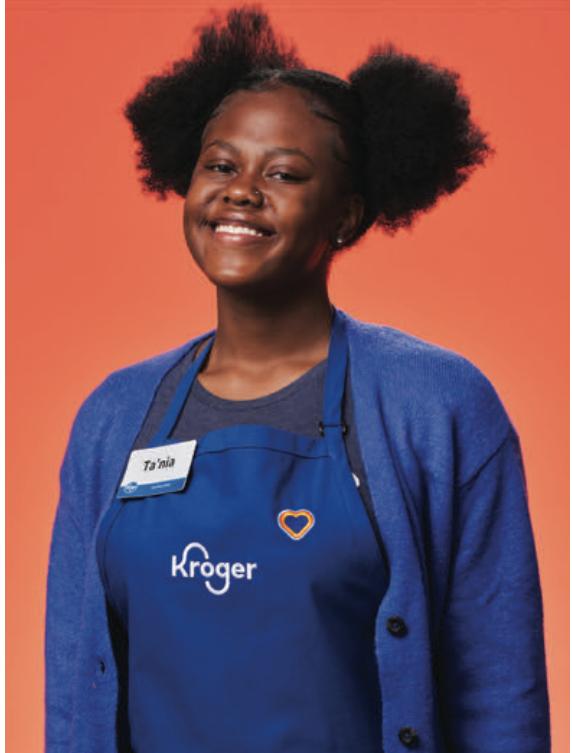
Joseph E. Lowery
March 27, 2020



Barbara King
October 11, 2020



Dr. Albert Love
December 23, 2019



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

We are inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, “The time is always right to do what is right,” and proud to bring those words to life through Kroger’s **FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**.

www.thekrogerco.com/community/standing-together/



Dr. King spent many hours along the roads and bayous of every corner of Louisiana, collaborating, and paving the road to history; and the road led through New Orleans!

From 1953-1957, prior to the organization of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in New Orleans (SCLC), the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made numerous visits to Louisiana for meetings, rallies, and other activities, especially to the three largest cities of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Shreveport. In 1953, there was a bus boycott in the City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana lead by Rev. Theodore Judson Jemison, Pastor of Mount Zion First Baptist Church and President of the National Baptist Convention. Almost two years later, his colleague and friend, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. contacted Rev. Jemison to get information on conducting a non-violent direct action in the form of a bus boycott. This provided the impetus for Montgomery Bus Boycott. In 1955, the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) of clergy and civic leaders was formed with Dr. King as its President. Other leaders in the formation of the MIA were Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, JoAnn Robinson, and Edgar Daniel Nixon. As faith would have it, the NAACP Montgomery (AL) Branch Secretary Rosa Louise McCauley Parks refused to move to the back of the bus after paying the required fare and taking a seat. Her actions lead to a boycott of city buses which lasted 381 days. The success of the nonviolent direct action launched a national spotlight on Dr. King and had an impact on his decision to develop strategic collaborations throughout the South. In addition to the MIA, Dr. King served as a member of the Executive Committee of the local NAACP – a post he held until his death in 1968.

On Thursday morning, January 10, 1957, Dr. King, Rev. Abernathy, Rev. Fredrick Lee "Fred" Shuttlesworth, Bayard Rustin and Rev.

THE “SCLC - NEW ORLEANS” CONNECTION

By Dr. Levon A. LeBan,
President, SCLC New Orleans (LA) Chapter





Charles K. Steele were advised of six pre-dawn explosions of four churches and two homes in Montgomery, Alabama. The explosions hit Bell Street Baptist, Hutchinson Street Baptist, First Street Baptist, and Mount Olive Baptist Church; and the homes of pastors, Rev. Abernathy, and Rev. Robert Graetz, two leaders in the long-fought movement against segregation. The damaged churches were used for community gatherings and meetings of the local civil rights activist. One of the homes bombed belonged to Ralph and Juanita Abernathy. Dr. King and Rev. Abernathy rushed from Atlanta to Montgomery. The leaders gathered in Atlanta vowed to carry on their struggle for civil rights even in the face of death. Dr. King, whose home was later bombed, asserted that “there can be no social gain without individual pain.” It was also decided that an organizing meeting would be held in New Orleans, Louisiana the following month.

Close Relationships

Dr. King had close relationships with numerous New Orleanians such as Dr. Leonard Burns and Joseph Verret, (President and Vice President of United Clubs, Inc., respectively), Constant Charles Dejoie, Sr. (Publisher, The Louisiana Weekly), Rev. Abraham Lincoln Davis, Jr. (Pastor, New Zion Baptist Church), and Marcus Neustadter (Public Relations Specialist). They were all a part of the organizing committee for the rally at the Coliseum Arena. Despite inclement weather, more than two thousand residents gathered to hear Dr. King speak – demonstrating the commitment to the movement. One New Orleans newspaper published an article on January 19, 1957 that announced: “Bus Boycott Leader: Rev. M.L. King To Speak Here Feb. 1” According to the article, “The Presentation of Dr. King to the citizenry of New Orleans, Louisiana by the United Clubs, Incorporated on Friday, February 1, 1957 will mark the climax of a spirited drive by this young group’s ‘black-out’ of Carnival activities and entertainment this year. Rev. King, dynam-

ic leader of the very successful bus protest in Montgomery, Alabama and one of the most admired religious leaders in the world, will speak at the Coliseum Arena, 401 North Roman Street in New Orleans at 6:00 PM."

According to locally renown photographer Rev. Dr. Samson "Skip" Alexander, "When Dr. King first scheduled the organizational meeting in New Orleans, he selected the Municipal Auditorium but there was a lot of push back by city officials. Rev. Abraham Lincoln Davis, Sr. was the Pastor of New Zion Baptist Church contacted Dr. King and invited him to New Zion Baptist Church in Central City (New Orleans). Pleased by invitation, nearly one-hundred clergy and community leaders gathered to organize the Southern Leadership Conference on February 14, 1957. Rev. Davis was the first African American member of the New Orleans City Council. An early organizer of sit-ins and other nonviolent protests, SCLC Co-founder Rev. Davis was elected 2nd Vice President and served as a National Executive Committee Member. Other Officers and Executive Board Members from Louisiana included: Dr. Cuthbert Ormond Simpkins, Sr.; Israel Meyer Augustine, Esq.; Clarence Henry; Rev. Theodore Judson Jemison; and Rev. Harry Blake.

Kathleen E. Wickham

Later that year, in August of 1957, Kathleen E. "Katie" Wickham, President of the National Beauty Culturalist League, Inc., located at 2100 Dryades Street in New Orleans, invited Dr. King to speak at the League's 38th Annual Convention. The Convention was held at Booker T. Washington Senior High School (Dr. King was a 1944 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, Georgia at age 15) at 1201 South Roman Street. Washington

High was the public-school system's pre-eminent vocational technical training outlet. The school graduated cosmetologists, carpenters, auto repair experts, welders, horticulturalist, and other vocational and technical specialists. Dr. King spoke on "The Role of Beauticians in the Struggle for Freedom." King said: "I am not too optimistic to believe that integration is 'just around the corner.' We have come a long, long way and we still have a long way to go, but we must keep moving in spite of the delay tactics used by segregationists." King received the organization's Civil Rights Award at the event.

In a letter to New Orleans native Wickham, Dr. King wrote: "As you probably know, we have a new organization in the south known as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of which I am serving as president. This organization has tremendous possibilities. We have already received enthusiastic support from leaders across the south. Our basic aim is to implement the desegregation decision of the Supreme Court on the local level through nonviolent means. At present, we are in the midst of intensifying our drive to get folk out to vote. It is our hope that through our efforts and those of other organizations, we will be able to double the number of Negro registered voters by 1960. Wickham joined the National SCLC Executive Committee in October 1958 and was elected as the Assistant Secretary in 1959 in Tallahassee, Florida, following the resignation of Medgar Riley Evers of Jackson, Mississippi. About four-years later, Medgar Evers was killed in his driveway returning home from work. In addition, Katie Wickham was a member of the NAACP and the first chair of the New Orleans Metropolitan Women's Voters League. She led numerous voter registration campaigns throughout the region.

Dr. King was a frequent visitor to the renowned Dooky Chase's Restaurant in New Orleans. The late Edgar Lawrence "Dooky" and wife Leyah "Leah" Lange Chase, whose family restaurant was a safe harbor during the modern civil rights movement and host to local and national civil rights leaders and nationally renowned entertainers. Dr. King often came to Dooky Chase's for meetings, to organize and get a good meal. A New Orleans icon, Dooky Chase Restaurant has hosted a wide range of patrons to include the 44th U.S. President, Barak H. Obama. Other locations in New Orleans where Dr. King spoke included: The Chapel at Dillard University; Union Bethel A.M.E. Church at 2321 Thalia Street; and the International Longshoreman's Association (ILA) at 2700 South Claiborne Avenue.

Mahalia Jackson

The undisputed "Queen of Gospel," Mahalia "Halie" Jackson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 26, 1911. Jackson grew up in the Carrollton-Hollygrove section of the City in a neighborhood appropriately called the "Black Pearl." The classic Uptown New Orleans style "shotgun" home housed over a dozen people and a pet. Her mother died when she was about five years old and in the tradition of many African American homes, Jackson went to live with her aunt, Mahala Clark-Paul. At a National Baptist Convention in August of 1956, Jackson met Rev. Abernathy who introduced her to Dr. King, Jr. Months later, they asked her to assist them in a fun-raiser by singing at a rally in Montgomery, Alabama for the bus boycott. Jackson lived with the Abernathy's while in Alabama. The concert was on December 6, 1956 and raised a significant amount of money to support the cause. In a landmark case, the United States Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional. However, the ruling was not implemented with all deliberate speed. When Jackson returned to the Abernathy's home, it had been bombed.

The Detroit Council on Human Rights sponsored an event on June 23, 1963, where over 125, 000 people gathered at Cabo Arena to hear Dr. King speak. In addition to Officers of the SCLC, Jackson was also there as a supporter. It was the culmination of the Detroit Walk to Freedom which was a precursor to the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was there that Dr. King first spoke about the "Dream." Two month later, as Dr. King spoke to the largest crowd of Civil Rights Activist in the history of the United States. At one point near his close, New Orleans native Mahalia Jackson shouted, "tell them about the Dream Martin, tell them about the Dream!" Dr. King heard the melodious voice of his friend and began what became known as the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Rev. Abraham Lincoln Davis, Jr

Initially, the group was called the Southern Negro Leaders Conference. The meeting was called to order with worship on Thursday, January 10, 1957 at 2:00 PM by Rev. S.S. Seay, Sr. "On January 10, 1957, about 50 Southern leaders gathered in Atlanta, Georgia to share and discuss their mutual problems of the Southern struggle." The primary focus was the idea of a regional organization to fight injustices in segregated transportation. The name was changed from Southern Negroes Leaders Conference to the Southern Leadership Conference on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration. It was decided

that a permanent group should be organized. According to Garrow (1986), "Two months later, close on the heels of the successful Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott (which ended in December 1956), SCLC came into being, in New Orleans, Louisiana." The organization meeting was held in the City of New Orleans at New Zion Baptist Church, led by Rev. Abraham Lincoln Davis, Jr., the Southern Leadership Conference on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration was ultimately organized into the Southern Leadership Conference, soon afterwards expanded to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Israel Meyer Augustine, Jr.

Dr. King recognized the importance of legal assistance and counsel and tapped Attorney Israel Meyer Augustine, Jr. as the first Legal Counsel and Co-founder of SCLC. Atty. Augustine was born in New Orleans on November 16, 1924. He received a B.A. degree from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and obtained his juris doctorate degree from Lincoln University in St. Louis, Missouri. Atty. Augustine was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1951 and in 1962, he could practice before the United States Supreme Court. Augustine became the first African American in Louisiana elected as a Criminal District Court Judge. A year later, he presided over the Black Panther Trial in New Orleans, a case that brought national attention to both New Orleans and Judge Augustine. He established several community programs such as the First Offender; Angola Awareness; and the "Roots" Homecoming Program. Judge Augustine was considered a champion of the people.

Clarence Henry

On an early visit to Louisiana, Dr. King visited his friend Clarence "Chink" Henry, President of the Local 3000 Unit, International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) in New Orleans. In September 1959, Dr. King spoke at a mass meeting at the ILA Union Hall Auditorium, sponsored by the SCLC New Orleans Chapter. The newly constructed art-deco ILA building was located at 2700 South Claiborne Avenue at the corner of Washington Avenue. The ILA building had a construction costs of \$500,000. The design was like no other in the New Orleans area. It was topped with an elaborate exterior truss system (which somewhat resembled the super-structure on a cargo ship) and its sides were sheathed in Vermont Verde, an exotic deep-green serpentine marble with white markings. President Henry invited the SCLC New Orleans Chapter to meet at the ILA and the Civil Rights movement found a home there. The area from South Claiborne Avenue and Washington Avenue to Washington and LaSalle Street was the epicenter of direct-action and the struggle for Civil Rights in the metropolitan area.

Andrew Jackson Young, Jr.

Next, there is "Andy" Young. A "Son of New Orleans," Andrew Jackson Young, Jr. is one of the remaining living leaders who was at the site when Dr. King was assassinated. A Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, Young served as the first African American Ambassador to the United Nations, a Member of Congress and Mayor of the City of Atlanta. But before the national and international accolades; before his political career; and before his involvement in the modern-day Civil Rights Movement was New Orleans. The son of a dentist, Andrew Jackson Young and teacher, Daisy Fuller Young, he was born on March 12, 1932, in New Orleans. Because of segregation practices and racial

policies, he had to travel from his neighborhood to attend all-black schools. Young entered the Gilbert Academy, a preparatory school for Dillard University located in Uptown New Orleans. He graduated at age 15 and attended Dillard for one year before transferring to Howard University. After graduating from Howard, he studied at the Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut. In 1955, Young became an ordained minister. In 1961, Andrew Young, Jr. works as a trainer with the SCLC Citizenship School and in 1964, he became the SCLC Executive Director. While in this position, he helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Moving Forward

As New Orleans celebrates over 300 years as a city, the SCLC New Orleans Chapter continue to hold true to the motto: “Redeeming the Soul of America.” The Chapter sponsored a Louisiana Historical Marker in the name of Coretta Scott King and the SCLC, honoring the formation of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration – to be erected in the Spring of 2021. In the spirit of the “Beloved Community” and in response to COVID-19, the Chapter distributed more than 2,000 pairs of protective face mask and bars of soap to homeless and indigent citizens in the metro area. Requested by the Chapter, the City erected a “new” Martin Luther King, Jr. street sign marking the beginning of MLK Boulevard. The SCLC New Orleans has developed a plethora of collaborative relationships emphasizing voter registration and programs that uplift the community. Over the past several years, the Chapter has collaborated to award nearly \$5,000.00 to SCLC Black History Essay Contest winners. Members continue to serve in Louisiana with the American Red Cross in response to Hurricanes Marco, Laura, and Delta. The SCLC – New Orleans Connection continue to grow and develop as we strive to “Redeem the Soul of America.”

REFERENCES

1. Baton Rouge bus boycott's role in Civil Rights Movement commemorated with bench, plaque at McKinley High. http://www.lpb.org/index.php?/site/programs/signpost_to_freedom_the_1953_baton_rouge_bus_boycott
2. Cathelean Steele Keynotes SCLC New Orleans Chapter First Annual Symposium on Human Trafficking. <http://www.sclcmagazine.com/assets/sclc-magazine-w19-online.pdf>
3. Four Negro churches bombed in Alabama. <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1957/01/10/Four-Negro-churches-bombed-in-Alabama/8346918225410/>
4. Garrow, David J. *Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference*. New York: William Morrow. 1986.
5. SCLC New Orleans Chapter: At the Cross. <http://www.sclcmagazine.com/assets/sclc-magazine-mlk-birthday-2020.pdf>
6. This In SCLC. http://www.crmvet.org/docs/61_sclc_this-is.pdf

STAY WOKE!

By Cicone Prince

Childish Gambino's landmark song "Redbone" has in some ways become the unofficial anthem of Black America. The stylish ballad that was featured on the soundtrack of the groundbreaking movie "Get Out" softly sounded the alarm for anyone so adrift in the luxuries of life. It also quietly tip-toed its way into our conscience to alert those who have blinded themselves to our dire situation. As a part of the Get Out soundtrack, the relationship-based song took on a different meaning to issues facing Black America. Jordan Peele, writer, and director of "Get Out," said that he wanted to use the song because it encouraged people, especially Black People, to Stay Woke and Be Smart.

In my 51 years of living, I can honestly say that I have not witnessed a greater example of this than the recent 2020 Presidential Election. The record-breaking turnout was monumental on every level. Even given the Global Pandemic, inner cities which are known for having huge populations of African Americans turned out in record numbers, so much so that they shifted the tide in the election. I believe for the first time African Americans saw that their vote mattered and that they could enact change.

This awaking, in my opinion, has sparked a voting revolution that can change the course of politics for our country. Seeing how our collective voices cannot be silenced when we unify around a common cause has been amazing to behold.

Our youngest daughter was an hour and a half away at college on Election Day but still wanted to vote. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, it made it difficult for her to vote absentee. Since this was the first time she could vote after turning 18 and with the stakes being so high I made arrangements to leave home at 4:00 AM to get to her so that I could bring her home to cast her vote. And like the trooper that she is, she was WOKE and ready to make that hour and a half drive home to have her voice heard. Once she cast her vote we then had to turn around and take her back to college for her 2:00 PM class.

I know some may say that it is just one vote, but it was more than just one vote. In me sacrificing sleep, gas, wear, and tear on our vehicle and time, I proved to my daughter that her vote and her voice mattered. I didn't downplay that impact of her one vote, instead, I made it a priority for her to exercise her constitutional right as a citizen to vote. In doing so I know that the importance of participating in the democratic process has forever been etched in her mind and I'm sure that no other circumstances will keep her from doing the same in years to come.

In an interview with MSNBC Detroit Pastor, Dr. Steve Bland (Liberty Baptist Church) made one of the most profound political statements in recent history when he said;

"We're not deterred ... The Black vote in Detroit is higher than it's ever been and we will determine the outcome — because we've gone from picking cotton to picking presidents."

That statement should send shockwaves through our collective ranks and help shore up our resolve to become more active in the policies that shape our homes, our community, our city, our state, our country, and our world. We should never downplay our ability to enact change in the world around us. This should be an ongoing mission of every conscience African American breathing. Not only for ourselves but for our children and our children's children. We must drive home that **Our Lives, Our Voices, and Our Vote Matters** not just to the rest of the world but equally, if not more, also to ourselves.

Now that a lot of us are **WOKE** to the power that we have; our next mission is to **STAY WOKE** and not close our eyes. We can continue to move our country forward to the day that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of in his speech during the 1963 march on Washington. In the climax of his speech he said,

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last!

Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!

We are FREE to choose our course as long as we STAY WOKE.

Cicone Prince is an International Motivational Speaker, Amazon Best Selling Author, Leadership Development Coach, Conference Pioneer, and Personal Development Stagest. His latest book, Leadership That Last: Passing On 10 Solid Principles To Ensure An Enduring Legacy is available on Amazon as of December of 2020.

Wake Up!

"We should never downplay our ability to enact change in the world around us. This should be an ongoing mission of every conscience African American breathing."

AMERICANS WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS WILL BE LEFT OUT OF THE RECOVERY IF WE DON'T FIX THESE POLICIES

By By Sheena Meade and Jabari Paul

This year has forced a long overdue examination of this country's excessive use of force against Black people that stretches back to the days of slavery. As social justice activists who work with underrepresented communities, we believe a critical step is recognizing that people with a criminal record are not disposable.

It is important to remember that a racially biased system of over-policing and over-enforcement has created a population where about one in three adults in America have a criminal record. The failures of our policing policies are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the failures in our criminal legal system.

Look no further than how we handle record clearing. Clearing a criminal record, through remedies like expungement or sealing, is one of the most powerful tools used to enable people with records to move on with their lives. It allows people to provide for their families and build a stable economic foundation by removing barriers to employment, housing, education, health insurance and more.



Many Americans with criminal records don't have a fair shot at new employment opportunities, for example, as companies turn a blind eye to applicants who are forced to check the box indicating they have a criminal record. They continue to be burdened by the estimated 45,000 collateral consequences of a criminal record.

As communities begin to rebuild from the economic devastation caused by the pandemic — one that is taking a disproportionate toll on Black and Brown Americans — State and local governments must address the millions of Americans looking for a fair shot at a second chance. They can do that through clean slate policies like automatic record-clearing for certain cases, which would give people with a criminal record a reasonable chance for



economic recovery.

Some states already have this system in place. While each state law differs, under the clean slate model, criminal records that may be eligible for automatic clearing range from misdemeanors to non-violent felonies, and can also apply to those who have remained crime-free for a certain number of years. Manually clearing a criminal record is a cumbersome, costly process that often requires the need to hire an attorney. While states generally allow people to petition the court to have certain records cleared, the vast majority of people who are eligible don't obtain this relief because of cost, complexity of the process, lack of legal representation or because they don't even know they have the option. If someone is unable to pay for and navigate the process, the record will remain for life.

If we fail to enact policies that enable workers with criminal records to get back on their feet during the eventual recovery, we'll be leaving behind tens of millions of vulnerable families — signaling that we are ok with the fact that a criminal record means a life sentence to poverty. Meanwhile, nearly half of US children now have at least one parent with a record. The barriers associated with a parent's record will continue to devastate families if states fail to act, resulting in long-lasting family economic instability. This can also severely limit a child's life chances, hampering children's development, educational attainment and even their employment and earnings potential as

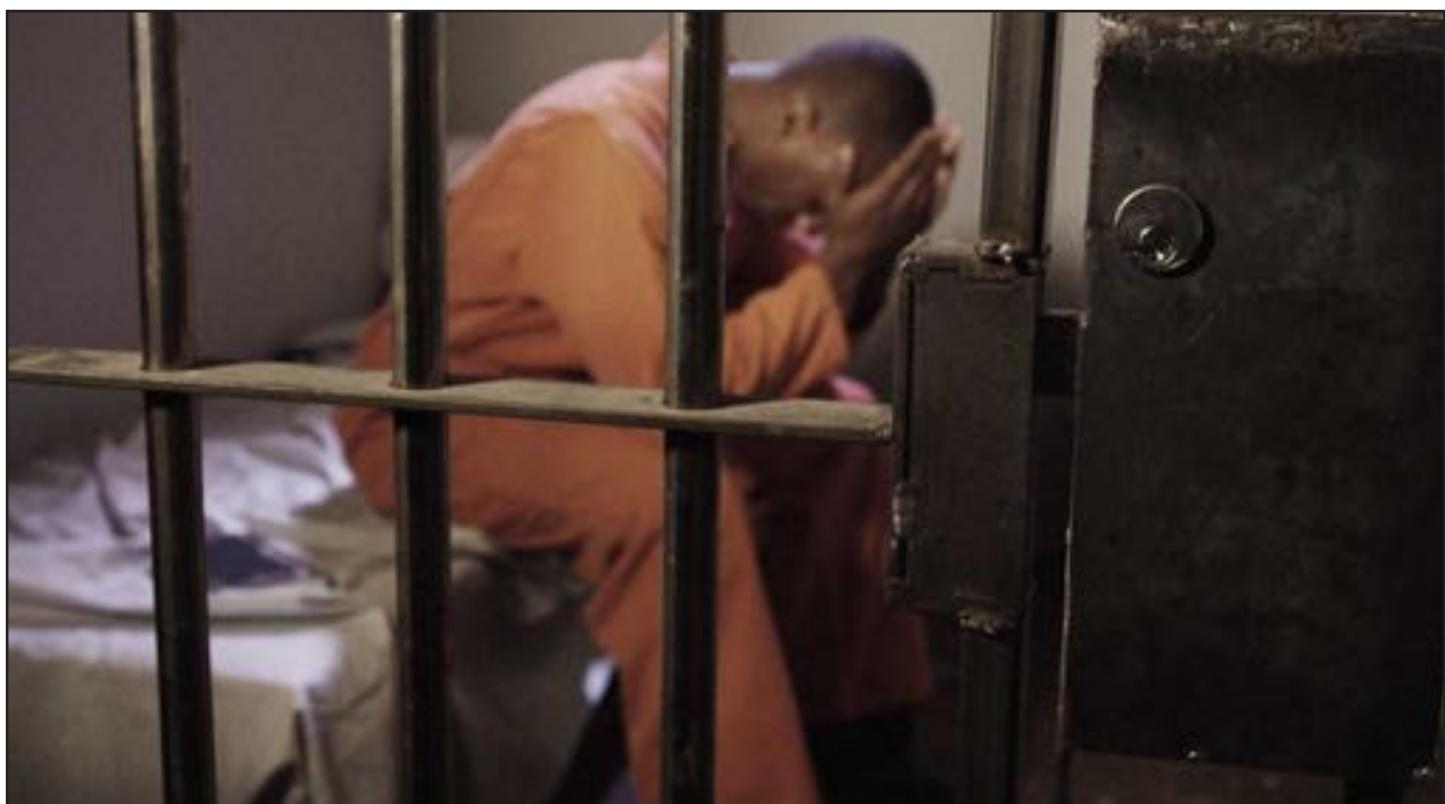
an adult. At a time of historical economic uncertainty, many families are struggling to make ends meet. Those who have a criminal record are that much more disadvantaged in finding meaningful work and housing, magnifying the impact on their children.

Automating the clearance of certain criminal records via clean slate laws, like Pennsylvania and Utah have done, provides the opportunity to clear records at scale and bring relief to everyone who is eligible, without the burden of filing and processing individual petitions.

Automation also presents significant advantages in the current moment, when people seeking to have their records cleared are not only facing even greater financial challenges, but are unable to hand-deliver petitions to the court. The automated model also promises to be a boon to cash-strapped states by reducing burdensome agency workloads.

As the nation considers long-term recovery efforts, we must demand more from our governors and state legislators regarding the failures of our criminal legal system, starting with automating the expungement process and helping to put millions of Americans back to work.

Sheena Meade is the Managing Director for Clean Slate Initiative, a national bipartisan coalition advancing policies to automatically clear all eligible criminal records across the United States. Jabari Paul is the U.S. Activism Manager at Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc.



Pratt Industries
1800 C Sarasota Business Park
Conyers, Georgia
www.prattindustries.com

We Join the SCLC in Honoring the
Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
May his dream become a reality for all people.

Gordon®
FOOD SERVICE

*Provides equal opportunity for all,
regardless of race, color, religion, sex,
sexual orientation, gender identity, natural
origin, age, status as a protected veteran
or qualified individual with a disability.*


Southern Farm Bureau Casualty
Insurance Company


Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 2227 [REDACTED] Decatur, Alabama

Serving 37,000 Farmer Members in Alabama & Florida

Burgess Pigment Co., Inc.
Beck Boulevard
Sandersville, Georgia

 Mitsubishi International
Corporation

655 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

**Committed
to our
community**

We are proud to invest in institutions like the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that carry on the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by promoting economic justice, civil rights and racial equality.

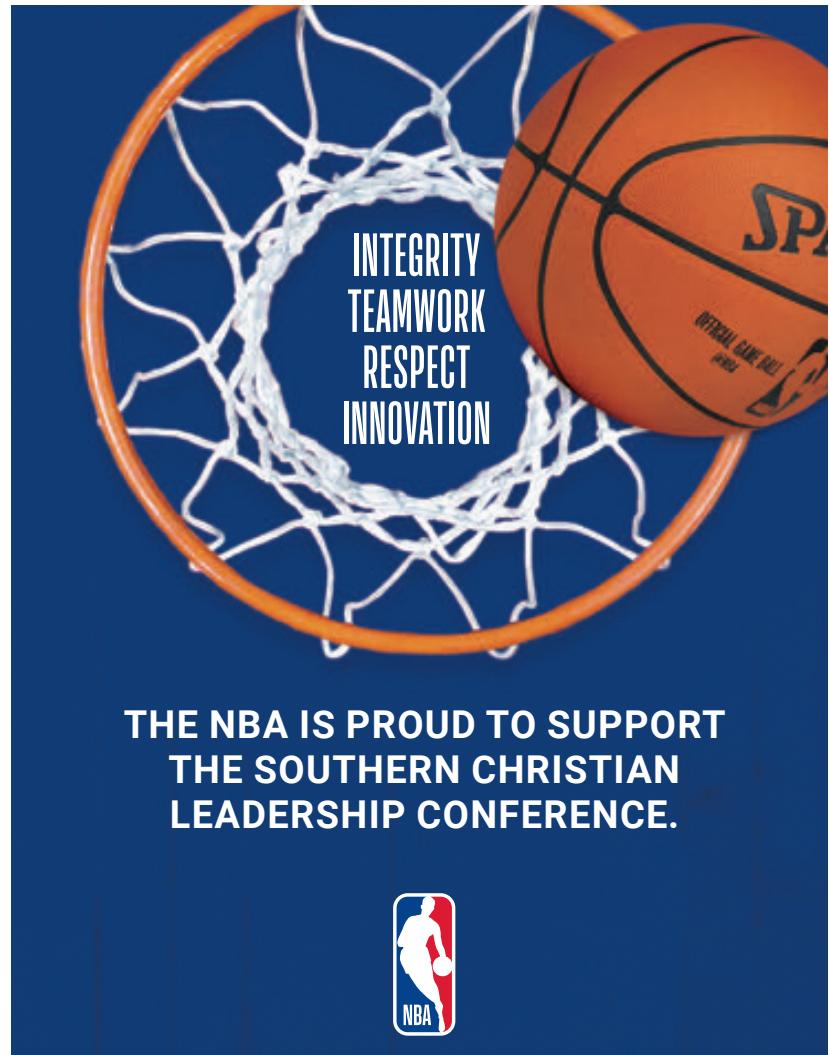
 **FIRST
HORIZON.**

©2020 First Horizon Bank. Member FDIC.

ACS
Advanced Control Systems

Tel: 770.446.8854 • Norcross, Georgia • www.acspower.com

MOLDEX METRIC INC



Gallagher

Global Headquarters
2850 Golf Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
www.ajg.com

 **CENTRAL**
Garden & Pet

1340 Treat Boulevard, Suite 600, Walnut Creek, CA 94597



GREENSBORO
AUTO AUCTION INC.

3907 West Wendover Ave. | Greensboro, NC 27407



BODDIE-NOELL ENTERPRISES, INC.
"We Believe in People"®

P.O. Box 1908, Rocky Mount, NC 27802



HOW I FEEL ABOUT SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS AS VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

By Reagan Robinson

On November 7th, 2020 Senator Kamala Harris made history as the first black Vice President-Elect of the United States of America. This is a huge leap in history and many Americans including myself feel empowered and inspired. I have always looked up to the black leaders in my community, and when I heard the news about Senator Harris, I felt so enthralled to learn more about her career in politics. I am so excited to share with you on how I feel about Senator Harris and her achievements.

On November 7th 2020, Senator Harris was voted as the Vice-President of the United States. This is a huge leap in history because she is the first black Vice President of the United States of America. She has influenced many young people since she made the accomplishment, especially black girls like myself. Senator Harris has not only influenced me, but she also made me feel proud and inspired.

On November 7th, when Senator Harris was voted as the Vice president-elect of the United States, she made history as the first black Vice President- Elect in this country. Because she set that barrier, I feel so proud, and inspired. I feel really proud, not only to see a woman



in office, but to also see a black woman make history as the first Vice President of the United States. I also feel really inspired. I feel inspired because Senator Harris has made me feel even more interested in voting awareness and politics. Another reason why Senator Harris has inspired me is because she is involved in such a high level in government. It is great to see another black person, let alone a black woman in politics, but I have never seen a black woman work in the Ceremonial Office. I also feel impressed because of the history Senator Harris has accomplished in her career in politics.

Kamala Harris did not get her start as the Vice President of the U.S. First, she became a Senator out of California and when she became a senator, she made history already. On January 3, 2017, Kamala Harris was the second black woman as a senator and the fifth black person to be in the Senate. That alone made me feel very impressed with Senator Harris's career, and when

she became Vice-President, she amazed me even more, and I hope her career in politics continues to grow further and further!

I feel so euphoric about Kamala Harris's career in politics and her position as Vice President of this country. She has inspired me in so many ways and continues to amaze me with the legacy she leaves behind. It feels so enchanting to see the first black woman work in the Ceremonial Office! I truly believe Kamala Harris will be perfect as the new Vice President of the United States of America.

Reagan Robinson is a 7th grader attending The Children's School in Atlanta, GA. She is an active Cadette Girl Scouts and is reigning Rookie of the Year for A+ Squash.



SIXTY-FIVE YEARS LATER: IS THERE ANYTHING NEW UNDER THE CIVIL RIGHTS SUN OF JUSTICE?

A LOOK INTO JUSTICE SOMETIMES REVEALS THAT IT'S JUST US

By Taryn Branson

Murder in Money: A Tale of Two Teens, Two Towns and Two Law Enforcement Agencies

The murder of Emmett Till made national news in the small town of Money, Mississippi some 65 years ago on August 28, 1955. Alleged to have whistled at a white woman, an account of which we now know to be false, Till was taken from his uncle's home by two white men. Till's body was found three days later in the Tallahatchie River. Roughly three generations have since passed after the murder of Till and the persistent question remaining is whether Black children across the South and elsewhere are any safer than the previous generations when it comes to locating missing and exploited Black children. In the neighboring state of Louisiana, the family of Quawan Charles is left to answer that same question.

Quawan "Bobby" Charles was a thriving yet shy 15-year old kid who enjoyed spending time with his beloved dog whom he affectionately named "My Baby." October 30, 2020, appeared to be another normal evening. Quawan was at his father Kenneth Jacko's home in Baldwin, Louisiana. Sometime during the evening of October 30th, Quawan was picked up by Janet Irvin and Gavin Irvin, a white mother and son, and taken from his home without permission. That was the last time Quawan would be seen alive. Quawan's body was found four days later in a shallow ditch near a sugar cane field just outside the Irvin's rented trailer.

Though much of what is known about Till's and Quawan's stories give an account of events transpiring around their deaths, little attention has been given to the story behind the length of time between both Till and Quawan's disappearance, rather kidnapping, and the lack of involvement of law enforcement. So much has changed by way of advancements in civil rights, technology, and even social media when it comes to missing persons, but still so much has remained the same especially if the missing person is Black.

It is often said there is nothing new under the sun. When it comes to justice and the advancement of civil rights and missing and exploited children, the prospect of Black people's ability to rest peacefully in their home free from

the threat of danger, torture, harm, and murder, rests largely on the actions of law enforcement in the moments immediately following their disappearance.

Quawan Charles's family reported him missing the night of October 30, 2020. However, Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office never issued an Amber Alert for the missing teen. In fact, local law enforcement never alerted the media of his disappearance despite Quawan's mother and father pleas to law enforcement that their son did not have permission to leave the home with the Irwins. Further, police never used current technology such as pinging Quawan's cell phone the day he disappeared. The Quawan family attorney, Chase Trichell, noted that other children have gone missing in the same parish and police took much swifter action but failed to do so in this case because Quawan was Black. Authorities instead waited four days to ping Quawan's phone upon which time his body was found near a sugar cane field near the Irvin's home.

So why is there such a lack of care and concern for the safety and well-being of Black children?

Unaware of the lack of advancement by way of racial equality and equity of the South, Till could not have seen what was coming to him by such a seemingly innocuous action entering the hardware store. By all accounts, many know the story of Till as the young boy who whistled at a white woman. That whistle sent shock waves through the small town of Money, Mississippi. Only later did the rest of the world learn that Carolyn Bryant Dunham lied. Till never whistled. That one lie changed an entire family, but it altered an entire



country and sparked a movement, the Civil Rights movement.

Though Till's story and Quawan's story give an account of events that happened before, during, and after their murders, little attention has given to the story behind the length of time between both Till and Quawan's disappearance, rather kidnapping. Could law enforcement have acted more prudently, expeditiously, enthusiastically in the search for This year we commemorated the 65th anniversary of Till's death. Now in the year 2020, we continue to see this story play out all too often even today: when it comes to missing Black children and efforts to locate them, their screams are often the most silent in law enforcements' ears.

Three Days

In Atlanta in the 1980s widespread news hit of several Black boys and girls who were missing.

Notes:

- Mention effum and social media being used to find Black people are who are missing
- Till was taken from his home
- Charles was taken from his home
- Till and Charles reportedly drowned
- Milk carton in 1980s
- National child safety council
- 1996 Amber Alert

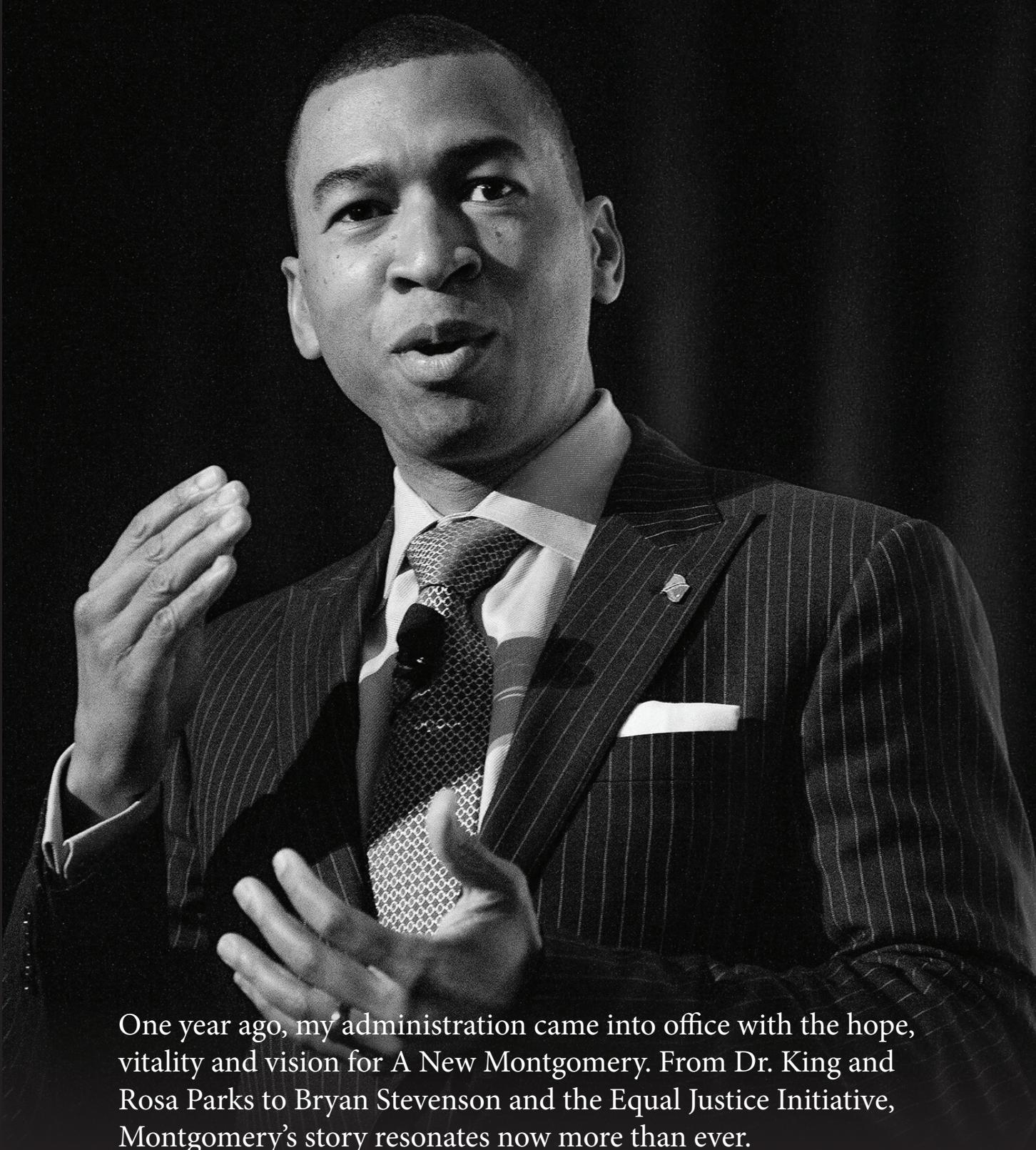
Till's body was missing and little to no effort was made in locating the young teen from Chicago. While there have been some advancements in locating exploited, missing, and murdered Black children across the country, much of law enforcements efforts in finding Black children remains the same. When we spoke most of Till, we speak of the condition of the teen mutilated body after having been murdered by a mob of white men who stormed the family's home in the wee hours of the morning on August 28, 1695.



Attorney Branson is admitted to practice before all Louisiana courts. She is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Association of Women Attorneys, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, the NAACP, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

**Dr. King's Dream lives on in Montgomery, Alabama,
the Birthplace of the American Civil Rights Movement:**

A legacy of leadership now extends to Mayor Steven L. Reed.



One year ago, my administration came into office with the hope, vitality and vision for A New Montgomery. From Dr. King and Rosa Parks to Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery's story resonates now more than ever.



City of Montgomery, Alabama

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Steven L. Reed, Mayor

Post Office Box 1111 PH 334.625.2000
Montgomery, Alabama FX 334.625.2600
36101-1111

American icon. Morehouse Man. Shepard to the lost. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was much more than his dream; he was many things to many people.

In Montgomery, Dr. King was the young, pioneering minister who would rise to become the conscience of our entire community. He was our national redeemer during a time of oppression, pain and sadness. Besieged by the systemic injustice and claws of Jim Crow ripping through cities and towns far and wide, Montgomery became the first battleground in the Civil Rights Movement.

It was here that Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy, E.D. Nixon and others ordained Dr. King to lead the movement for change. Fully embracing his role as leader, Dr. King risked much, but his sacrifice ensured America would climb closer to mountain top. As we commemorate his 92nd birthday, we reflect on his impact on our community, brace for the challenges still to come and rededicate ourselves to building bridges to a better future.

Dr. King often prophesized about the “Beloved Community.” This vision left our city the blueprint to become a place where all have access to a better tomorrow. Today, our city is steeped in revitalization and reconciliation. Our tourism industry – attributed to Civil Rights touchstones at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, the King Parsonage and EJI’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum – continues transforming Montgomery. And even as we embrace the tenets of the knowledge-based economy, evolving into a high-tech hub for innovation and job creation, the solid foundation set by leaders like Dr. King will continue to guide our path in the present and the future.

We thank Dr. King, Mrs. Coretta Scott King and their entire family for making Montgomery a beacon of hope and change, and we look forward to welcoming each of you on your next pilgrimage to Montgomery – the Birthplace of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Steven L. Reed
Mayor

NELSON MANDELA & MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. *OUR PROFOUND WORLD LEADERS*

By Heather Gray

As one who has been involved in both the civil rights movement in the United States and the South African anti-apartheid movement, I am invariably intrigued by the remarkable leadership of both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela. The challenge for both these renowned leaders was to seek the end of white supremacy and discriminatory, racist and often violent policies and actions by those in power. I might add importantly that in his biography Mandela notes that he was inspired by great Americans such as W.E.B Dubois and Martin Luther King, Jr. with the inference that there was a kinship in the missions of South African and United States activists.

1994 - Election of Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa



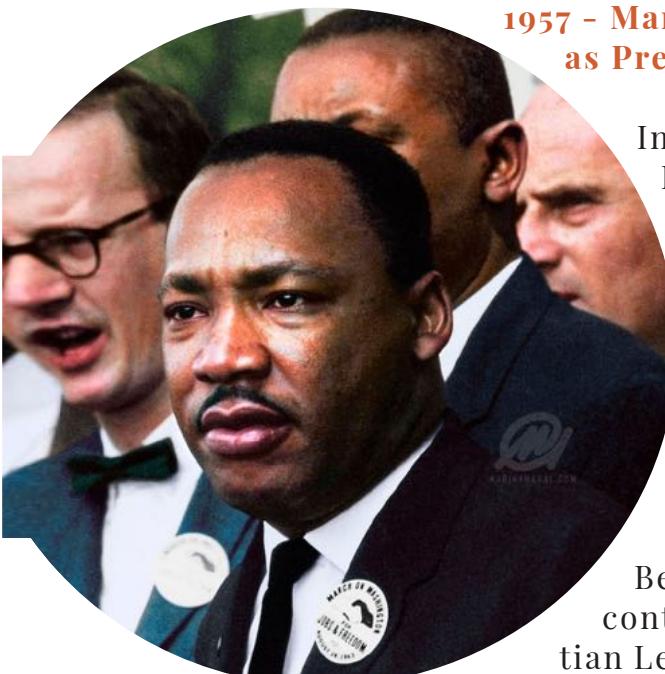
In 1994, I was fortunate to be an observer for the election of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa. Given this experience and my involvement in the anti-apartheid movement since the 1980s, and given the US elections in 2020, I thought how wonderful it would be to have someone like Nelson Mandela as president of the United States. I recently shared this thought with Prexy Nesbitt, one of the leading anti-apartheid activists in the United States who was also very close to Mandela.

While Mandela was, indeed, the president of South Af-

rica, Nesbitt noted that Mandela's leadership style was not one of a singular leader or spokesperson per se, but of a group mentality. In other words, whatever Mandela accomplished in his efforts to end apartheid was based on the group decision and directive. In fact, the South African leader Desmond Tutu noted Mandela taught that 'change is almost always possible...when gutsy leaders stand together, question the unquestionable and challenge the status quo'. (Epic Work/Epic Life)

This model of 'group mentality' is often considered very much an indigenous African conceptual framework. Mandela was, of course, from South Africa and a member of the African National Congress (ANC), that had been in existence for 82 years by the time he became the South African president in 1994. Without doubt, it was the ANC organizing efforts that played a leading role in ending apartheid and it was 'African' in spirit which was that of a 'group mentality' that made the difference.

1957 - Martin Luther King Selected as President of SCLC



In comparison to the South Africa organizing efforts, King was in the southern part of the United States and was one of the many activists involved in the creation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957. SCLC has, since its creation, played an on-going role in challenging racial oppression in the United States. It was, therefore, a new organization in the southern US in 1957 and by the time Dr. King was assassinated in 1968 it had only been in existence for a little over a decade.

Being in the United States, and not within the African continental 'collective' culture, still the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was created with civil rights activists and renowned civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther

K i n g , Bayard Rustin, Ella Baker, Fred Shuttlesworth, C.K. Steel, Joseph Lowery and Ralph Abernathy who themselves who has already made names for themselves in the movement for justice. Regardless of the leadership roles all of them had in their own communities, both local and nationally, they all recognized the importance of having a regional/national civil rights organization based in the South. They asked King, who was a Baptist preacher, to serve as the president.

In this United States setting, Dr. King did become the significant SCLC spokesperson and it was also his church background that played an important role in his leadership. In addition to Dr. King being a Baptist preacher, both his father and grandfather had been pastors as well, so his personal religious influence was profound. It is likely because of his religious and theological scholarship and experiences that most of

King's speeches have become legendary and helpful in further organizing, while offering a philosophical grounding for organizing initiatives in the south and throughout the country. As noted from the King Institute at Stanford University:

Martin Luther King, Jr., made history, but he was also transformed by his deep family roots in the African-American Baptist church, his formative experiences in his hometown of Atlanta, his theological studies, his varied models of religious and political leadership, and his extensive network of contacts in the peace and social justice movements of his time. Although King was only 39 at the time of his death, his life was remarkable for the ways it reflected and inspired so many of the twentieth century's major intellectual, cultural, and political developments. (King Institute)

But it's also important to mention that King's mentor, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, stated, regarding King's organizing philosophy: 'Coupled with moral courage was Martin Luther King Jr.'s capacity to love people. Though deeply committed to a program of freedom for Negroes, he had love and concern for all kinds of peoples. He drew no distinction between the high and the low; none between the rich and the poor.' (The Atlantic)

In many ways, the organizing work by King somewhat echoes the collective work of the ANC in terms of encouraging others to join in their activism, such as the 'March on Washington' in 1963 and the 1965 'Selma to Montgomery March'. Nevertheless, the likely greatest influence of King's leadership mode was that of his church background and philosophy that encouraged the organizing efforts of other leaders in the civil rights movement. So rather than always working together, as in the South African context, King, through his philosophy, encouraged others to work against the oppressive policies in their own communities.

King and Mandela as Nobel Peace Prize Winners

Both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela were Nobel Peace Prize winners: King in 1964 and Mandela in 1993.

In his Nobel speech, King referred to the freedom struggles in Africa, and Mandela made reference to King and others in his speech.

Here is a sample of King's Nobel comments about the African struggles:

Fortunately, some significant strides have been made in the struggle to end the long night of racial injustice. We have seen the magnificent drama of independence unfold in Asia and Africa. Just thirty years ago there were only three independent nations in the whole of Africa. But today thirty-five African nations have risen from colonial bondage.

And here is from Mandela's Nobel speech:

It will not be presumptuous of us if we also add, among our predecessors, the name of another outstanding Nobel Peace Prize winner, the late Rev Martin Luther King Jr.

He, too, grappled with and died in the effort to make a contribution to the just solution of the same great issues of the day which we have had to face as South Africans....

Let the strivings of us all, prove Martin Luther King Jr. to have been correct, when he said that humanity can no longer be tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war. (The Nobel Prize 1993)

Summary

We have been blessed to have had, in the 20th and into the 21st centuries, profound and inspirational leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr. We can still learn much from their philosophical and leadership models for our on-going work for justice in the African continent and in the United States. As they say in Southern Africa "A luta continua" (The struggle continues)!

References:

- '5 Lessons Mandela Taught the World About Change' (Epic Work/Epic Life 2020)
- 'Introduction' (The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute, Stanford University)
- 'Martin Luther King Jr.'s Unfinished Work on Earth Must Truly Be Our Own' (The Atlantic/2018)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. - Acceptance Speech (The Nobel Prize 1964)
- 'Nelson Mandela - Nobel Lecture' (The Nobel Prize 1993)



Did Rube Foster Go Mad Because He Pushed the Limits of White Major League Baseball?

By Harold Michael Harvey

In a surprising nod to our nation's racial reckoning efforts, Major League Baseball has integrated the record books from the segregated era of American history. The commissioner declared the exploits of Josh Gibson, Leroy Satchel Paige, Double Duty Radcliff, and others on even par with George Herman "Babe" Ruth, Walter Johnson, and Cy Young. Cliques abound: It is about time, a long time coming, and what kept you so long, MLB?

This year marks the 100th anniversary of an organized major league for Negro baseball players. In 1920, as with other facets of American society, sports followed the Plessy v Ferguson decision – and lived a white version of reality and a Black version.

In 100 years, a lot of water has floated under the dam. While this acknowledgment by MLB makes up for some of the harm done to Black professional athletes, it does not excuse the wayward thinking of the era that prohibited Black people from patronizing businesses, social clubs, banks, theaters, night clubs, and sporting events with dignity.

Since this was the rule of the day, Black people formed a parallel society with all-white life accouterments in America. It made the Black version of America no less equal than that of the white view. The primary difference is that one was white and the other Negro. One deemed the ultimate experience in America and the other an inferior imitation of life – one acceptable to the prevailing culture and the other not acceptable.

On February 13, 1920, Andrew Foster, one of baseball's more audacious team owners, dubbed the Rube Waddell of Negro baseball, and deemed at the time as the best pitcher in baseball, Negro or white, by his contemporaries on both sides of the color spectrum, called a meeting of eight owners of Negro baseball teams at the Paseo Young Men Christian Association in Kansas City, Missouri. The Paseo Y had opened six years earlier after the educational philanthropist Julius Rosenwald spearheaded a successful \$80,000 building fund.

The Paseo Y brought new life to the corner of 18th & Vine, where Duke Ellington, Jimmy Ruffin, Charlie Parker, Ma Rainey, Besie Smith, and a plethora of others were

stomping the blues. At the same time, Foster brought fresh energy to professional sports. He dared to believe that an upstart league could compete with white professional baseball.

While today's public knows of Foster's efforts as the Negro Leagues, Foster did not racially label his league. He named his company The United States Baseball League to give notice to the white clubs that there was a new game in the country willing to go toe to toe for the entertainment bucks Americans were spending on baseball.

As I wrote in my book on the Negro Leagues, *The Duke of 18th & Vine: Bob Kendrick Pitches Negro League Baseball* (Cascade Publishing House, Atlanta, 2020):

"The organization of an all-Black Negro Baseball League, a move in 1920, that if successful, would pit the Negro League in direct competition with white professional baseball. The league opened its doors to integration from the start. Foster brought together both Black and white owners to organize a rival to white Major League Baseball. With a stroke of a pen in Kansas City that day, Negro baseball team owners went from competing against each other for revenue to competing against major league baseball owners for the audience, innovation to the game, and the precious almighty dollar.

How in the world did a group of unorganized owners, more concerned with protecting their turf than helping another owner make money, unite over the idea of a professional baseball league that would rival the white Major Leagues?

Organized Black baseball was an instant success. So successful, somebody, if not careful, could get killed, and Bob Kendrick often hints that an attempt to kill somebody occurred three years before the stock market crashed in 1929.

Rube Foster, in Indianapolis for a game against the Indianapolis Clowns, laid unconscious in a hotel room full of gas fumes. Ostensibly, suppose one travels far enough down the rabbit hole. In that case, one can see a desire to blunt the rising popularity of Negro League Baseball because of the economic impact the all-Negro league had on white-only professional baseball.

Looking in the rear-view mirror that history affords those living in the present moment, one can reasonably assume that Black professional baseball's runaway success would have led to a different form of integration. The solution would not have been the wholesale sell-off of the talented Black players to the white league. It likely would have led to the merger of the Negro Leagues with Major League Baseball, like what occurred between the American Football League and the National Football League in the late 1960s.

Imagine this dichotomy in a Jim Crow world.

Right, you can't imagine it.

As a businessman, Foster was as sagacious, albeit differently, as two of his contemporaries, Alphonse Capone, and Marcus Garvey. The government, unable to compete with Capone and Garvey's business savvy, exiled them, Capone, to the federal prison in Atlanta and Garvey to Haiti.

In Foster's case, the authorities never found the cause of the gas leak in his room. Then, as the first third of the 20th century closed, the stock market crashed. Americans saw the country's economic revival under financial plans put forth during the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration. Despite the financial upheaval on Wall Street, the Negro Leagues caused money to flow into segregated Black economies.

Imagine further, if you dare, a merger between a Black baseball league and a white baseball league. Imagine a fantastic competition, the gate receipts, historical moments, and memorabilia sales. Imagine this dichotomy in a segregated world. The implications for race relations are enormous in terms of peacefully bridging the racial gap without the brutality of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the senseless murder of Emmet Till, the

massacre on “Bloody Sunday” on the Edmund Pettis Bridge, or the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Imagine, the Negro Leagues Champion squaring off against the winner of the Major League Baseball pennant in the World Series. It is too late to see this dream come true, all-Black teams no longer compete in professional baseball, but this vision, I believe, was the ultimate dream of Rube Foster.”

From the day in 1925, when Foster was pulled unconscious out of that gas-filled boarding house until he died in 1930, he was given to fits of anger and incoherencies. The United States Baseball League languished as Foster had all the receipts, he knew where to find the skeletons, and the once threat to the white American pastime was no more; it's talent ripe to pluck away 16 years later.

We applaud MLB's “Johnny Come Lately” respect to the exploits of the men and women who played the game when only the ball was white. We implore them to do more to correct the wrongs of this past discrimination in terms of the economic loss in the communities that had thriving Negro baseball franchises. Also, a more substantial commitment to more Black owners, general managers, scouting directors, and yes, more personnel down on the field would help immensely.

Lastly, for the love of Andrew “Rube” Foster, require the Atlanta franchise to find a name that does not denigrate those native to this land. In search of a new name, God forbid that Atlanta resort to the name of the minor league franchise that operated during segregation, The Atlanta Crackers. While I have white friends who proudly say of themselves, “I’m a Georgia Cracker,” which etymologically can either mean, “the cracking of the slave master’s whip or a poor white Irish person who had only crack corn to eat,” we don’t need to go from one extreme to another. Perhaps, The Atlanta Peaches more aptly portray the region and a significant cash crop grown in Middle Georgia.

Whether there was a conspiracy to blunt the growth of the United States Baseball League or not, MLB owes Foster a debt of gratitude for organizing Black baseball players in a professional league that would drive tremendous revenue into MLB coffers in the late 1940s, and especially in the 1950s, 60’s 70’s and 80’s.

Harold Michael Harvey is the Living Now 2020 Bronze Medal winner for his memoir Freaknik Lawyer: A Memoir on the Craft of Resistance. He is a Past President of the Gate City Bar Association. He is the recipient of Gate City’s R. E. Thomas Civil Rights Award, which he received for his pro bono representation of Black college students arrested during Freaknik celebrations in the mid to late 1990s.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR: THE CONNOISSEUR OF POETRY WITH A TOUCH OF JAZZ

By Arthur Reese and Kapryya Hunter

Martin Luther King, Jr is known as a statesman and civil rights icon. As a personal friend of King's late daughter Yolanda, I felt like I had more insight into his interests than most, but I was surprised to discover his love of poetry.

Many of King's early speeches can be described as rhythmic and poetic. He liked to use anaphora--the repetition of a word or phrase that is found in poetry--in his speeches. In King's "I Have A Dream" speech he repeats the title phrase many times while transitioning into the next sentence. It's not just the way King writes but how he speaks and represents his speeches that make them more poetic. His speeches can also be categorized as long spoken-word pieces. In "I Have A Dream" King uses alliteration and repetition, something I didn't notice right away. His speech also includes allusions, including several to cultural, historical, and religious events. In every speech you can tell that each word has been thought out and placed in a particular way to be powerful and influence the audience.

Since King liked poetry, of course he had friends who were poets including Langston Hughes. King and Hughes even traveled together and inspired each other. Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem" had a big influence on Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a Dream" Speech. King asked Hughes to write a poem as a tribute to A. Phillip Randolph, another civil rights activist. The poem Hughes wrote shed a positive light on dreams. Upon reading the poem, King began to view dreams as



something positive. He had previously viewed dreams in a negative way, which was surprising to know because he is so well known for his dream of peace, equality, and financial security. Before the 1960s, King did not view dreams as something inspiring and full of hope; instead he tended to be disturbed by them.

Weeks after the opening of "A Raisin in the Sun," a play inspired by "Harlem," King presented a very personal sermon called "Shattered Dreams." He brought Hughes' words to life in his sermon as he stated, "I am personally the victim of dreams deferred." King also got inspiration from Hughes' poem "I Dream A World." In his poem Hughes dreams of a world in which every man is free, no matter the skin color. While in King's speech he wants for the same things.



King even recited “Mother to Son,” a Langston Hughes poem, to his wife, Coretta, for her first Mother’s Day. In the same year Hughes wrote “Brotherly Love,” a poem about King and the bus boycott, which King appreciated as the subject of the poem. Although King and Hughes were good friends, King did not quote much of Hughes’ poetry or praise him in the media until after the 1960s since Hughes was being investigated for being a communist sympathizer in the 1950s.

Not only did Martin Luther King Jr. like poetry, he loved music. One of his favorite genres was Jazz. He once called jazz “triumphant music.” He gave a speech on the importance of jazz in 1964 at the first Berlin Jazz festival. “Jazz speaks for life,” he said. “The Blues tell the story of life’s difficulties, and if you think for a moment, you will realize that they take the hardest realities of life and put them into music, only to come out with some new hope or sense of triumph.”

With all the hardships of the 1950s and 1960s, for many African Americans as well as MLK Jazz was music that spoke about that life. He believed that jazz musicians shaped and influenced the civil rights movement.



Professor Arthur M. Reese received his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Virginia. Reese was the first and to our knowledge, is still the only African American to earn this degree from UVA. He was the coordinator of the Communications, Media Arts and Theatre division at Chicago State University and is now a professor of Technical Theatre at North Carolina Central University. Reese has done technical work for Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Pattie Labelle, Debbie Allen, Oprah, Maya Angelou, Nancy Wilson, Queen Latifah, Malcolm Jamal Warner, Samuel L Jackson and Denzel Washington, to name a few.

Kapryya Hunter grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina where she graduated from Terry Sanford High school. She currently attends North Carolina Central University. In school she was always interested in writing and theatre. She has written multiple spoken word pieces and recited a few as well as performing in multiple plays.



A Power Flame That Burned Brightly

By Harold Michael Harvey

Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from the book My C. T. Vivian Story: A Powerful Flame That Burned Brightly by SCLC Magazine contributing writer Harold Michael Harvey. Copies of the book are available at haroldmichaelharvey.com

I first became aware of Rev. C. T. Vivian, February 19, 1965, on the CBS Evening News. Dallas County, Alabama Sheriff Jim Clark sucker-punched him after Vivian told Sheriff Clark that he thought he was as big a racist as Hitler. I was 14 years old, perplexed by Jim Crow, and worried that Blacks, including myself, would never be free in America. A never-dying Jim Crowism was the daunting thought of my youth.

Two days later, February 21, 1965, I would meet Malcolm X via a news break during a Boston Celtics basketball game that announced Malcolm's death in the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem. I was bewildered, a freedom fighter whose life force I did not know had died, and another one received a punch to the jaw exercising his constitutional right of expression on a courthouse step.

Fifty-four years in the future, I still have my doubts about the free status of Blacks living in America. Vivian absorbed that punch, and with 55 years' worth of perspective, we can say that his work has brought us closer to that promised land foretold by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the night before King departed for eternal freedom.

Because Vivian's torch burned brightly, I can run a little further to see what the end will bring. Watching Vivian take a punch to the chin, something struck me peculiarly about the courage of this tall, thin man. His last name commonly used as a first name by women - at least the only people I had encountered in 14 years named Vivian were women - standing on the steps of a courthouse defying the sheriff to stop Black people from registering to vote.

In the few days since his transition, many friends and distant observers have used extraordinary superlatives to describe the life of Cordy Tindall Vivian. All these superlatives are accurate and befitting for a giant among giants who walked alongside

"Vivian was a doer, a thinker, a behind the scenes operative who could be counted upon to take care of business. "It's all in the action,"

ordinary people raising their lives to colossal heights. I could come up with a superlative equal to the others in profundity, like: "powerful flame that burned brightly," but, as Vivian would often exclaim: "What's the point of that Doc, right," why do that when so many catchphrases have honored Vivian's legacy so well. "That's the point of it," I can hear Vivian say.

This essay will approach Vivian's

legacy like Luke, the physician, approached the honor and inheritance of Jesus. By no stretch am I suggesting Vivian is Christ incarnate. Merely, I will use the humanistic approach to recall the life and times of a noble friend to me and humankind. I will write about the everyday man - Vivian - from the lens of a 27- year neighbor. I will make use of the freestyle, running conversations I held with Vivian during this time. There are no chapters, no walls, only a recollection of chats we engaged in whether in the streets of our neighborhood, in his home, or my home, over coffee, water, and often over dinner.

I called him "Doc." He called me "Brother Harvey." In public, he introduced me as "Michael Harvey, my neighbor." He wanted his friends and associates to know that he and I were neighbors. As if to say, you may know Michael Harvey, the professional, but I know him as a neighbor. His introductions always brought a smile to the corners of my lips.

Watching Vivian on television maneuver a southern sheriff into an act of violence caused me to want to know more about this man, but he seemed to fade from public view. Vivian stayed away from the camera for most of his life. The giants of the civil rights movement in full view were Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Jr., Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, Ambassador Andrew Young, Congressperson John Lewis, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Julian Bond, Rev. Hosea Williams, and Rev. Jesse Jackson. Vivian was in the trenches with them shaping the rugged journey up to the mountain top, and over it, scaling down towards the promised land after the assassination of Dr. King.



Vivian, to use a sports analogy, is perhaps the "most underrated" freedom fighter who has ever spoken truth to power. We can even go back to 1839 when Joseph Cinque, commandeered the Amistad in the Atlantic Ocean. And, coming aground at Long Island, New York, tested for the first time the nation's resolve to provide justice for all. Surely, Vivian belongs among the distinguished group of freedom fighters Cinque, Attucks, Delany, Tubman, Truth, Douglass, Washington, DuBois, Garvey, King, Abernathy, Lowery, Young, Lewis, Shuttlesworth, Bond, (Coretta) Scott King, Baker, Hamer, Williams, Parks, Chisholm, Jackson, X, Obama, and (Kamala) Harris.

In death, the news of his transition bumped from the news cycle in less than 24 hours. Another news story displaced news of his transition. His comrade in so many battles, John Lewis, had transitioned too.

Two days after Vivian bid us adieu, the CBS Sunday Morning program featured a full-length installment on Lewis' days as a civil rights fighter and congressman. Vivian's name as fate would have it, listed at the end of the program in a list of other Americans who died that week.

On that same day, an Atlanta television news station presented a documentary on the lives of Joseph Lowery, C. T. Vivian, and John Lewis, because they left us within four months of each other in the year of the 2020 pandemic. And there was Vivian, as in life, in the time of significant change and transition overshadowed by the light of other men with whom he shared a sacred history. I am sure, he chuckled that laugh of his, smiled, pointed his right index finger as he was wont to do, and was happy to see Lowery and Lewis receive the honor and praise due them.

Vivian was a doer, a thinker, a behind the scenes operative who could be counted upon to take care of business. "It's all in the action," he often said. He could spin a pun so tight it would discombobulate your mind trying to figure out what he had just expressed to you. Like the pun, he spun at Clark on those courthouse steps. Vivian knew Clark thought of himself as the meanest white supremacist in Alabama. Cunningly, Vivian told Clark, that in fact, he was a weak white supremacist. That no one would dare mention his name in the same breath with the disgustingly vile Hitler. That pun, spoken at that moment, was more potent than the punch thrown by Clark into Vivian's jaw. That pun set into motion a whirlwind of events culminating at summer's end with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

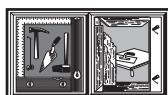
Harold Michael Harvey is the Living Now 2020 Bronze Medal winner for his memoir *Freaknik Lawyer: A Memoir on the Craft of Resistance*. He is a Past President of the Gate City Bar Association. He is the recipient of Gate City's R. E. Thomas Civil Rights Award, which he received for his pro bono representation of Black college students arrested during Freaknik celebrations in the mid to late 1990s.

The International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

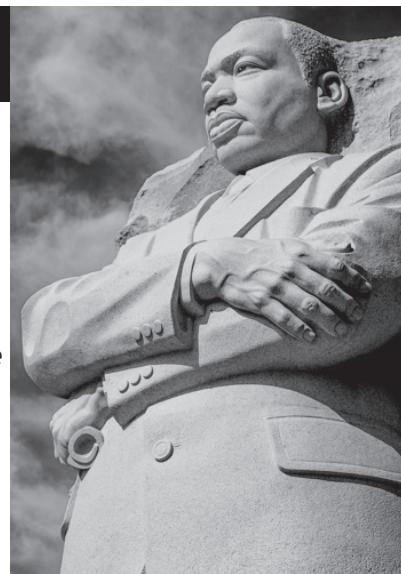
is proud to join with the
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
in honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King

"[Right to Work's] purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone....Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer, and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped."

Timothy J. Driscoll
President



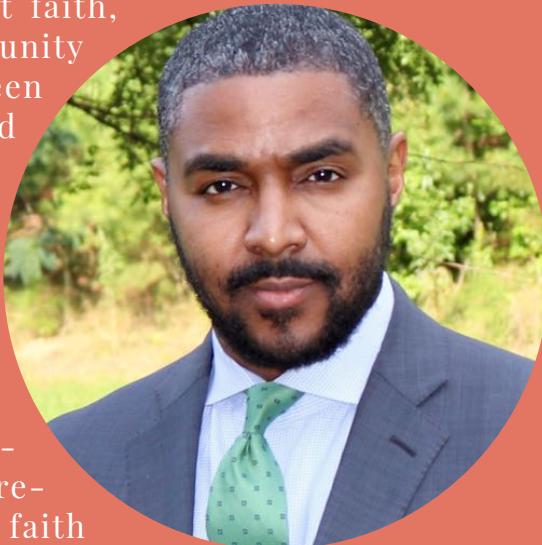
Bob Arnold
Secretary-Treasurer



WORDBYTES WITH

By Dr. Rob Hughes

2021 has the potential to connect faith, ethics, public policies and community actions in ways that have not been central to our national, state and local dialogues in over a decade; and for this I am hopeful and engaged. Our need for spiritual, moral and ethical leadership at all levels of society calls for thoughtful actions from every segment of our population with a mind towards healing our divided nation. I believe this work of repair and renewal starts with the faith community and extends to all communities and organizations of goodwill; a re-imagining of life, for the care of people as valuable and not disposable is necessary. We will benefit from the diversity of thought and experience that is shaping the incoming Biden Administration. My hope is that Americans will find value in the work of making a collective impact with our neighbors and that we will strive to move forward from being held captive by fear, violence and manipulation. 2020 served to identify the many polarizing realities experienced in American neighborhoods, in 2021 I would like to explore the possibilities that come with living in accountable and relational communities. It's time to release the potential!



WORDBYTES WITH

By Eric Harrison

As one of the most eventful elections in recent memory, the 2020 Presidential election is an onion that is worth exploring its varying layers.

President-Elect Biden, though consistently accused by his opponent to be left of the American people, seems to be working toward governing from the center-left. His Cabinet and Advisor announcements show him to forming a cabinet that has a diverse array of opinions and experiences. It also feels to be a purposely transitional President and setting things in motion for Vice-President Elect Harris to have a clear path for a run in 2024 and helping to build the back bench for the future.

Looking at the state and local level, I think it is likely that the Republicans will retain the two US Senate seats which have gone to a runoff in January. This is mostly due to the struggles Democrats have historically had getting their coalition energized for a runoff. While the Biden campaign was able to flip Georgia, that same energy did not generally continue down ballot.

Beyond that race, the Georgia Republican party has seen several factions arise, and the Senate race has put them front and center. These factions involve a combination of brand loyalty towards various personalities in Georgia politics, Trumpism, and to a much lesser extent traditional Republican value. Trying to support both has been difficult, as we have seen Governor Kemp and Secretary of State Raffensperger be threatened with a primary candidate from their right. The next party chair will have their hands full.

Eric Harrison is a campaign veteran and former legislative staffer.





REVERED DR SYLVIA TUCKER

Reverend Dr. Sylvia Tucker, National Board Chairwoman Emeritus for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, received a prestigious honor on December 10, 2020 with John Randolph Hospital naming the chapel in her honor. She was appointed Chaplain of the John Randolph Medical Center in 1985, making history as she was the first female African American hospital chaplain in the state of Virginia. This honor signifies the love and spiritual guidance that she brings to hospital staff, patients, and community in her role as the Director of Pastoral Care.

Reverend Dr. Sylvia Tucker's role on the Board of the National Southern Christian Leadership Conference and as the President of the Prince George Regional Chapter, SCLC has been irreplaceable. She brings a tenacity to our leadership team but tempers it with her calm demeanor, intellect and her steadfast work as a civil rights leader. We are proud to have her be noted as our first woman Chair of the Board of Directors.

The SCLC family salutes John Randolph Hospital for recognizing and enshrining her legacy as their Director of Pastoral Care. The SCLC Board of Directors salutes Reverend Dr. Sylvia Tucker on achieving another monumental milestone.

Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr.
Chairman National Board of Directors
Southern Christian Leadership Conference



Designed By:



S.dot Artists
sdotartists@gmail.com



Akyra Hedgman
akyradawngfx@gmail.com

TWU LOCAL 100

STANDING STRONG
FOR EQUALITY IN THE
WORKPLACE AND IN
OUR COMMUNITIES



NEVER ON THE SIDELINES

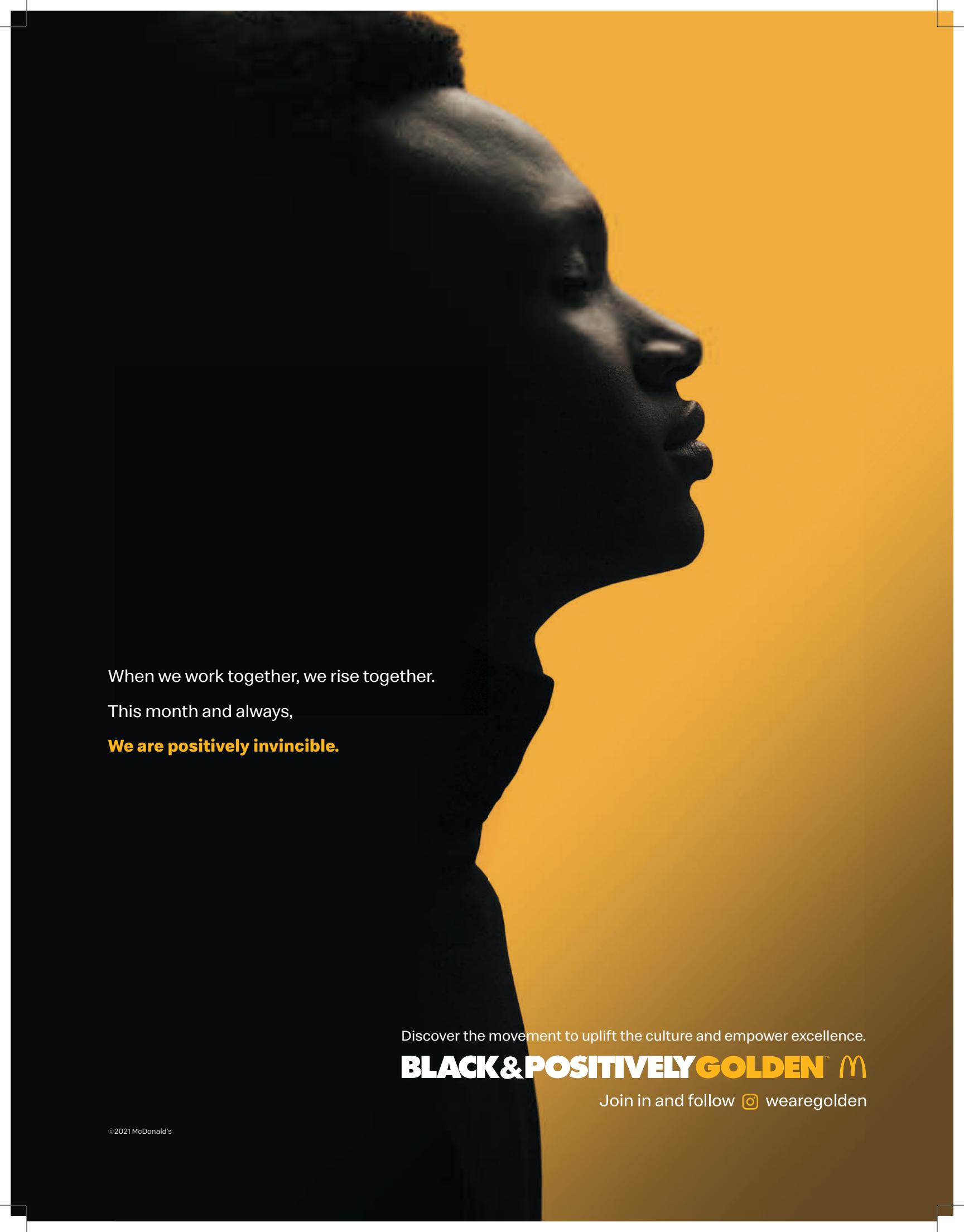


Latonya Crisp
Recording Sec'y

Tony Utano
President

Lynwood Whichard
Administrative VP

Earl Phillips
Sec'y Treasurer



When we work together, we rise together.
This month and always,
We are positively invincible.

Discover the movement to uplift the culture and empower excellence.

BLACK&POSITIVELY GOLDEN™ M

Join in and follow  [wearegolden](#)