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The Weekly Challenger

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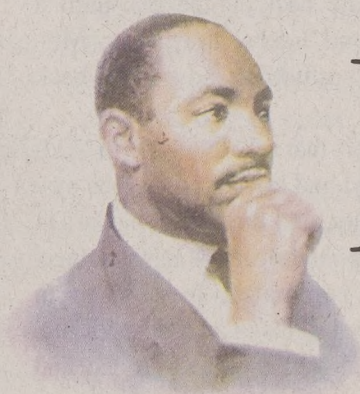
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In Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



I Have A Dream



Poems In The Key Of Truth:

Little Black Boy Don't Wait For Me

A Personal Tribute

By: Rosalie Peck



It may seem strange to you child, wonderin' why
We didn't fight for our rights before
The way we're fighting the battle now son,
That's right, knock on every door.

We fought hard in our own way child,
Yes we did, and we waited so patiently.
But hundred's a years?
You know that's much too long
So little black boy, don't wait for me.

It won't be easy to do child, I know.
I was once a little child like you.
That's right; stand tall, and never crawl.
Your Civil Rights are long overdue.

Dr. Martin Luther King's dream was for all mankind.
He died trying to make that dream come true.
So you must stay in school; have a dream of your own.
It's what he would want you to do.

He paid the final price for your liberty.
Thank God he did not die in vain.
Now it's up to you; and your generation too.
So get busy and educate your brain.

Be strong and take a stand in this God-blessed land.
America! Home of the brave and the free.
Before you're old and gray, claim your legacy.
But little black boy, don't wait for me.

Lou Rawls Dies Of Cancer

By JEFF WILSON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lou Rawls, who earned fame with his glorious voice and respect through his prodigious fundraising for the United Negro College Fund, died of cancer.

The Chicago-born Rawls began as a gospel singer and spent nearly five decades working his soulful, velvet-voiced magic on classic tunes including "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine" and "Lady Love."

"His voice was so unique," said legendary producer Kenny Gamble, who with Leon Huff wrote "You'll Never Find." "The other thing was that he had a sense of community. Thousands and thousands of young kids benefited from his celebrity."

With his wife, Nina, at his bedside, Rawls died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he was hospitalized last month for treatment of lung and brain cancer, said his publicist, Paul Shefrin. Rawls' family and Shefrin said the singer was 72, although other records indicate he was 70. A longtime community activist, Rawls played a major role in United Negro College Fund telethons that raised more than \$200 million. He often visited and performed at black colleges.

"He's just someone who recognized, like many African-Americans of a certain generation, that education was something that our kids didn't get access to and that it was critically important for their future, and for our communities' future and for the nation," said Dr. Michael Lomax, president and CEO of the

UNCF.

In September, Rawls performed in the organization's "An Evening of Stars," which was to be televised nationwide through the weekend.

"He appeared frail, but he

Frank Sinatra once called the "silkiest chops in the singing game."

Rawls was raised on the South Side of Chicago by his grandmother, who shared her love of gospel with him. He also

Sgt. Rawls rejoined The Pilgrim Travelers three years later.

In 1966, Rawls' "Love Is a Hurtin' Thing" topped the charts and earned his first two Grammy nominations. He also opened for The Beatles in Cincinnati.

During that period, Rawls began delivering hip monologues about life and love on the songs "World of Trouble" and "Tobacco Road," each more than seven minutes long. Some called them "pre-rap."

Rawls explained that he had been working in clubs where the stage was behind noisy bars.

"You'd be swinging and the waitress would yell, 'I want 12 beers and four martinis!' And then the dude would put the ice in the crusher," Rawls recalled. "There had to be a way to get the attention of the people. So instead of just starting in singing, I would just start in talking the song."

His "raps" were so popular that 1967's "Dead End Street" won him his first Grammy for best R&B vocal performance. The singer won three Grammys in a career that also included the hits "Your Good Thing (Is About to End)" and "Natural Man." He released his most recent album, "Seasons 4 U," in 1998 on his own label, Rawls & Brokaw Records.

"He was one of the few singers that you knew without hearing more than a few notes, that it was him," singer and composer Burt Bacharach said.

Rawls' main musical legacy is "You'll Never Find," released in 1976 after he signed with Gamble and Huff, architects of the classic "Philadelphia Sound."



Lou Rawls

was in good voice, and he was in great spirit," Lomax said. "He was there with his son, newly adopted, and his wife. He was a happy and contented man."

Aretha Franklin said Rawls was a "memorable musical stylist ... who made a serious impact in the interest of historically black colleges and black folks."

Rawls' trademark was his smooth, four-octave voice, which

was influenced by doo-wop and harmonized with his high school classmate Sam Cooke. The two friends were part of groups such as the Teenage Kings of Harmony.

When he moved to Los Angeles in the 1950s, Rawls was recruited for the Chosen Gospel Singers, then moved on to The Pilgrim Travelers. He enlisted in 1955 as a paratrooper in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

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The Weekly Challenger Newspaper We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

- A knowledge of history brings a feeling of fellowship that runs through the ages - be it a territory, a village, a district, or a nation.
- To live without history is likened to living without a form of memory.
- To be without history is to live without roots or a past, with the present having no real foundation, and very little meaning for the future.
- To know the events of our past (can help us) to know what future events can be.
- The *Weekly Challenger* is committed to featuring articles of all ethnic cultures for the reading enjoyment of both the young and old generations.

Whose New Orleans Will Live?



by: Eugene
Robinson

NEW ORLEANS - Wherever you go in this ghostly town, you hear the against-all-odds determination to rebuild. You hear it from evacuees picking through the remains of the Lower Ninth Ward and returnees in Lakeview wearing masks to keep out the mold and dust; you hear it from guests at an elegant house party in the largely untouched Garden District and from liquored-up Bourbon Street revelers weaving from bar to bar with strings of plastic Mardi Gras beads around their necks.

It's as if repeating the mantra that all the people of New Orleans are "in the same boat," as former mayor Marc Morial said last week, will somehow make it so. But if the recovery process continues to drift aimlessly, it appears certain that some parts of this city will live and some will die.

It's understandable (though not admirable) that city officials would try their best to avoid these life-or-death decisions. Would you want to explain to voters why a bunch of rich, white neighborhoods get primed and buffed to pristine splendor while poor, black neighborhoods get bulldozed and turned into green space? That's the outcome topography suggests, and in New Orleans topography is conterminous with wealth and race.

While city hall frets about politics, though, a new map of New Orleans is already being drawn.

In a sense, it's an old map. The wealthy strip of high ground alongside the Mississippi River that didn't flood - the French Quarter, the central business district, the Garden District, Uptown - resembles the footprint of the city circa 1850. They call this strip the Island, and while life there hasn't quite returned to normal, it's close enough for people to spend time devising new post-disaster routes for the upcoming Mardi Gras parades.

Out in what was marshland in 1850, much of the Lower Ninth is ruined. Some houses were swept off their foundations into the streets; others were simply pulverized into jagged piles of debris. Politics or no politics, whatever happens there will have to start with bulldozers.

The real problem lies in the endless city blocks, mile after mile after mile, that were flooded but not erased. You can start on the Island and drive north, toward Lake Pontchartrain, and soon you are in a silent, empty wasteland where all the

houses have a visible waterline, sometimes at the windowsills, sometimes all the way up to the eaves. These vast neighborhoods aren't destroyed, but they aren't habitable, either.

Last week I spent a morning in Holy Cross, the part of the Lower Ninth nearest the Mississippi, which never had real flooding problems until Katrina. It is, or was, a tightknit neighborhood of black homeowners where roots run generations deep.

Robert Smith, a 71-year-old retiree who could pass for 20 years younger, has been living near Dallas since the flood, but he was back in town last Friday working on his house in Holy Cross. Next door, the shotgun house where his mother, Mildred Bennett, lived until Katrina hit - a house that has been in her family for 127 years - is being rehabilitated as a demonstration project by the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The preservationists argue convincingly that it is cheaper and smarter to restore these moderately flooded older houses - which survived much better than newer homes, since noxious mold doesn't have an affinity for plaster but loves modern drywall - than tear them down and start over again. That should be true, they argue, in most of the city's empty zones.

But the homeowners of Holy Cross didn't have flood insurance. They weren't eligible for it because the area wasn't considered a flood plain. Without some sort of universal grant or tax credit, there is no way that most of the working-class evacuees from Holy Cross can afford to renovate. The neighborhood remains silent and empty.

In the coming months, the Federal Emergency Management Agency - which has already been so helpful - is expected to issue new flood maps for the city, and those maps could be decisive. If FEMA decides a certain neighborhood is a high-enough flood risk, insurers and lenders will stay away.

No one here wants a New Orleans that consists of just the Island plus a bunch of widely scattered residential atolls, washed by a bleak sea of abandonment. But that may be where things are headed unless something or someone intervenes.

Oh, by the way, President Bush is scheduled to visit New Orleans this week. I seem to recall his promising to do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to rebuild a great city. This will be his first trip here in three months.

and ride in the back of the bus until a courageous and God-sent woman, Mrs. Rosa Parks, refused to move to the back of the bus.

It was then, that fifty thousand individuals mobilized and boycotted the bus system. With valor, and the leadership of Dr. King, African Americans sought change. Unified and committed, they began to march for equal rights in all aspects of life. This stance proved to be sacrificial and dangerous, but not even unleashed water hoses and attack dogs could turn them back. With fervor they continued in spite of being jailed, beaten or killed. The bold marched on. On and on they marched, many weary, and at times, physically unable to continue. Yet, they marched on, chanting from the profundity of their souls,

"We won't be turned back." Unremittingly, they pressed on and change occurred. The fruits of their labor enabled me and all other African Americans to be treated as first class citizens.

As I sit here, privileged to write, I humbly thank you, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others, for my opportunity to write, teach, and speak unaffected and without incident. Thank you, for granting all African Americans the choice to be educated equally and fairly. I could never thank you enough, that I can eat at any lunch counter and enter all facilities using the front entrance. But more than that, I thank you Dr. King, because my four sons can play with all the girls and boys regardless of race, color or creed.

College Funds Or Yacht Funds?



by: Rev.
Jesse L.
Jackson, Sr.

One resolution for the new year: let's make clear the choices we are making as a country. I am certain that if Americans understood the choices that are being made, they would be outraged - whether conservative or liberal, male or female, rich or poor, whatever their race, religion or region.

If the current leadership has its way, the Congress will pass over \$100 billion in tax cuts early this year, the vast bulk of which will go to the very wealthy. At the same time, it will cast the final vote to make the largest cut in student college loan programs in history - some \$12.7 billion over five years.

I doubt that many Americans would support raising the cost of college for students in order to reduce taxes on the wealthiest Americans, yet that is exactly what the administration and the conservative leadership of Congress are planning.

Two thirds of all college graduates take out loans to help pay for their college. The average debt of graduates is nearly \$20,000. The student loan cuts just passed by Congress, according to experts cited by the Wall Street Journal, will raise the average cost over ten years by \$2000 to students and \$3000 to parents.

After factoring out inflation, private college costs have risen by over 1/3 in the last 10 years. Public college costs have soared by over 50%. States are cutting back public subsidies to colleges, forcing them to raise tuitions and fees. The result is to price college out of the reach of more and more American families.

These costs are rising just as we tell Americans that college or specialized training after high school is the sole ticket to the middle class. The good union jobs in industry that paid wages, pensions and health care are disappearing fast. Our leaders - whether Bill Clinton or George Bush - say they can't do anything about that. But, they argue, get your child a college education and they will do just fine in the global economy of the 21st century. Without that, the next generation is likely to face a future less secure and less fortunate than their parents.

Yet at the same time our leaders tell us that college is indispensable, fewer and fewer families can afford it. The Congressional Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance reports that by 2010 as many as 4.4 million high school graduates will be unable to enroll in a four-year college, and two million will not go to college at all because they can't afford it. Many students in college have to work long hours to help finance their education. Often that burden is too much for the young to bear. 53 percent of low-income freshmen that work more than thirty-five hours per week drop out and do not receive a degree. Parents, desperate to provide a future for their children, become saddled with college debts as well, even as they face the need to put funds away for their retirement.

At this moment, our leaders should be summoning the nation to a major effort to insure that college education is affordable to all. The wealthy should insist on paying higher taxes to insure that the children of all Americans can afford the education that they will need. Corporations should be unleashing their high priced lobbyists to demand that legislators increase grant and loan programs, and that states increase their subsidies to public schools. Instead, the Bush administration demanded cuts in student loans, and the right-wing that controls the Congress voted for the largest cut ever - even as they insist on cutting taxes on the wealthiest Americans. This doesn't make sense and isn't popular. So the Republican leadership mislead Americans about what they have done. Republican legislators have been on TV parroting the claim that the cuts will provide "significant new benefits" to students, by lowering fees and simplifying the application process. What they don't admit is that parents and students, already struggling to make ends meet, will end up paying thousands more in higher interest rates. Educating the next generation isn't a time for political posturing, for clever spin, for misleading parents and kids. Let's resolve to make the choices clear. And let Americans decide whether the choices made by the current crowd in power make sense for America.

Letters To The Editor

The Weekly Challenger welcomes letters and guest columns on public issues and events in the news. Your letter must meet the following guidelines to be considered for publication:

- You must supply your full name and signature, full street address and home phone number. No let-

ters are run anonymously.

- Letters are limited to 300 words; guest columns should be 650 words or less.
- Only one letter per writer every 60 days.
- All material is subject to editing and cannot be returned to you.

You can submit a letter several ways:

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MIDTOWN NEWS

Stereotypes May Affect Achievement Scores Of Minority Students

ST. PETERSBURG - New research from two USF St. Petersburg education professors shows standardized testing may impact minorities the hardest.

An article by Thomas Kellow and Brett Jones was published in the national peer-reviewed journal *Current Issues in Education*. Jones, PhD, said the research reveals that negative stereotypes about the academic performance of minority students may contribute to the achievement gap.

Kellow and Jones gave identical tests of mathematical reasoning to two similar groups of ninth-grade students at a Pinellas County high school. They told the first group that white and African American students scored about the same on the test — in effect — it was culturally fair.

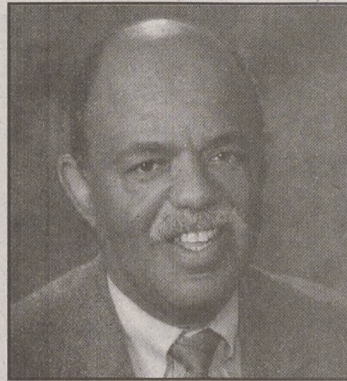
To the second group, they told students that the test was highly predictive of how

they would do on the FCAT in mathematics. Their goal was to find out if “stereotype threat,” the threat individuals feel when they believe they may confirm a negative stereotype based on group membership, such as ethnicity, could be detected by manipulating the nature of an academic test.

Results from the first test show African American and white students scored about the same after controlling for students’ prior achievement level in mathematics. However, on the second test, African American students scored significantly worse than white students.

Researchers concluded that knowledge of negative stereotypes about their ability may cause African-American students to feel pressure to disprove the negative stereotype, even if they did not believe the stereotype to be true.

Bayfront Medical Center Local Doctor Receives Promotion



Paul McRae, M.D., a board-certified Gastroenterologist in private practice, was named Bayfront's 2006-07 Chief of Staff. During his two-year term, Dr. McRae will represent more than 650 physicians on staff in working with hospital leaders toward the goal of continuous improvement in patient care. Dr. McRae has been a member of Bayfront's Medical Staff for more than 25 years.

POEMS IN THE KEY OF TRUTH: A Personal Tribute To Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by: Rosalie Peck
CHALLENGER FEATURE WRITER

Freedom Ain't Never Been Free

Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves I know.
But only freedom of the mind can free your soul.
Like the pride in the eyes when a black girl smiles
And it's no fad that her man wears a 'fro.

Black is beautiful
White is beautiful
Yellow is beautiful
And so is red.

So it ain't worth a damn
Screamin' blackness to impress.
You got to feel it
Inside yo' head.

— Selected poems from *Threshold: First Book of Poetry*
by Rosalie Peck © 2001, All rights reserved.

SHE ALWAYS THOUGHT
SHE WAS SOMEBODY...

AND SHE WAS.

QUEEN LATIFAH LAST HOLIDAY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of St. Petersburg anticipates receiving federal funding in FY 2006/07 under the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant, Home Investment Partnership, and American Dream Down Payment grant programs. At this time the exact amount of grant funds is not known. Based upon the recent Congressional appropriation for the programs, it is anticipated that the total will be approximately five to ten percent less than the FY 2005/06 allocation of \$4,092,930. A second public notice will be published when an allocation announcement is received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In addition, it is estimated that \$1,297,000 in program income will be generated.

CDBG funds must be used to address one or more of the national objectives of the CDBG program: a) principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons; and/or b) eliminate slums and blight. In addition, a project must also be an eligible activity under the Federal regulations of the CDBG program. These activities include acquisition of property, relocation of occupants of property acquired, rehabilitation and preservation of property, public facilities and improvements, clearance, public services, home ownership assistance, match for other federal programs, code enforcement, economic development, historic preservation, and interim assistance.

HOME and American Dream Down Payment funds may be used for home ownership assistance and for acquisition, construction and/or rehabilitation of housing which is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons, including supportive transitional and permanent housing for special needs populations. ESG funds are used to provide services to the homeless, operational funding for shelters, and rehabilitation of facilities for the homeless.

On Monday, January 23, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. a public forum will be held to provide information on program implementation in FY 04/05 and to obtain input from citizens concerning the City's community development and housing needs, how these needs should be addressed in the future, and how the City has performed in implementing its past Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs. All interested persons are invited to attend the public forum to be held at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Avenue South, St. Petersburg. Any nonprofit agency interested in proposing a project for funding (including HOME/CHDO projects and programs) may obtain an application form by attending the forum or an application workshop to be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wildwood Community Center, 1000 28th Street South, St. Petersburg. Application forms will also be available after January 24, 2006 at the Department of Housing and Community Development, 440 Second Avenue North and on the City's website at www.stpete.org.

All completed applications for funding must be received at the Housing and Community Development Department reception desk at 440 Second Avenue North, second floor, by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, March 3, 2006 in order to be considered for funding. (FAX copies will not be accepted.)

For additional information concerning this notice, please contact the Department of Housing and Community Development. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, please contact the City Clerk, 893-7202, or call the TDD number, 892-5259, at least three business days in advance.



Inaugural Mayoral Ball
HOSTED BY
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ST. PETERSBURG

The Junior League of St. Petersburg invites you
To Celebrate the Magic of St. Petersburg at
The Inaugural Mayoral Ball

Honoring Mayor Rick Baker

Friday, January 20, 2006
The Coliseum
535 Fourth Avenue North

Proceeds benefit the following charities:
Doorway Scholarship Program – the Mayor's Charity Choice
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast
Junior League of St. Petersburg

\$150 per person
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Dinner, Dessert, Event Program and Dancing

OR
\$25 per person
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Dessert, Event Program and Dancing

Black Tie Optional

Cash Bar Available

R.S.V.P. by Saturday, January 14, 2006
727-822-1999

Winning With The 'N' Team Of St. Petersburg

by: Joyce Johnson
WEEKLY CHALLENGER
CORRESPONDENT

The 'N' Team is a shining example of what can happen when a slogan such as "win-win situation" actually evolves into a positive program combined with community assistance, and helps to rehabilitate prison offenders at the same time. The 'N' Team, using inmates who are under the work release program from the Pinellas County Jail system, provides exterior house repairs to city approved homeowners.

Vel Thompson, the City of St. Petersburg administrative manager of the 'N' Team explained in further detail: "We work hand in hand with the codes department to provide minor exterior repairs to homeowners who have low to no income, the elderly, and the disabled." Residents who have code violations, or need assistance, are usually referred from local area churches and neighborhood associations; but 80 percent are referred by the codes department. "We're on the other side of the coin," Jim Fiala, site supervisor said, referring to the initial referral from the codes department. "By helping the property owner, they know the city is helping them and cares."

Ms. Thompson has a staff of six, including the site supervisor and the detainees. "We do minor repairs like painting, wood repair, removal of debris, cleaning out overgrowth, minor roof repair, and building handicap ramps," Ms. Thompson noted. "All this is free of charge to residents of the city. Most of the material is donated from vendors, or the private sector."

The 'N' Team is under the umbrella of the Neighborhood Services Department. The program was originated by the late Bob Gelder. He was formerly in the community relations department and a legendary community activist. According to Vel, in 1993, Gelder listened to several citizens at a codes meeting, including an elderly woman with no money at all to make repairs. All were in danger of being fined for non-repairs. Gelder asked the board to give him 30 days to help



Vel Thompson, administrative manager and Jim Fiala the license contractor and supervisor on site, preparing the mesh for the windows.

solve the problems. The board instead, gave him 60 days to help the residents. Several people in the city and community were instrumental in turning Gelder's ambitious dream into a reality, including Ben Shirley, Mike Duff, Suzie Ajoc, Ellen McDowell, and Bob Jefferies. Major Pitts of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department was also a valuable piece of the puzzle to help get volunteers in the work release program involved with the plan.

"This is a unique program for educating and giving inmates the opportunity to learn a trade and also to help the community," Thompson said. She said 300 have been through the program and only a few have returned to prison since the inception of the program. Customer service skills and hands-on training is provided to members of the team. They are trained to use various types of equipment such as spray painters, lawn equipment and saws.

The workers back up Thompson's sentiments. One anonymous 31 year-old work release man from Tampa said, "We're giving back to the community. It prepares us for



Antwan Campbell, who is a part of the work release program, works with the City of St. Petersburg's 'N' Team to paint house of an elderly woman on First Avenue North.

release back into society and teaches us work skills and life skills, confidence that we can do something legitimate."

The 'N' Team has 3-5 work release workers for approximately 3 months. The 'N' Team completes 175-200 projects per year and have completed approximately 3,500 projects.

For more information about the 'N' Team, contact the City of St. Petersburg.



Norman E. Jones II

THE ART OF LIVIN'

MLK Day As I See It

Public Act 98-144 - To amend title 5, United States Code, to make the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. a legal public holiday. Be it enacted by the Senate and house of Representatives of the United States of America on Congress assembled, that section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code by inserting immediately below the item relating to New Years Day the following: "Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. the third Monday in January."

Section 2. The amendment made by the first section of this Act shall take affect on the first January that occurs after the two-year period following the day of the enactment of this Act. Approved November 2, 1983.

"Our nation has decided to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by setting aside a day each year to remember him and the just cause for which he stood. We've made historic strides since Rosa Parks refused to go to the back of the bus. As a democratic people, we can take pride in the knowledge that we Americans recognized a grave injustice and took action to correct it and we should remember in far too many countries, people like Dr. King never had the opportunity to speak out, at all."

But traces of bigotry still mar America. So, each year on Dr. King's day, let us not only recall him, but also rededicate ourselves to the commandments he believed in and sought

to live every day. "Thou shall love thy God with all thine heart and thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself."

"And I just have to believe if all of us, young and old, Republicans and Democrats, do all we can to live up to those commandments, we will see the day when Dr. King's dream will come true. In his words, "All of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring," said President Ronald Reagan.

It took three years to make this act an official document. On Monday, January 16, this year, America will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Day. This day celebrates the life and career of Dr. King. It is the only official American holiday that honors an African American in this country. Dr. King is the third American to be so honored. (Older American citizens will remember when George Washington and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays were official holidays - now it's Presidents Day)

OFFICIAL KING DAY DINNER - On Monday, when we sit down to eat, we should have fried chicken, cornbread, potato salad, corn, greens, ice tea, peach cobbler and home made ice cream.

Happy Dr. Martin Luther King Day!

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January 13th - January 21st

Fri., Jan. 13	Heritage Gala - Featured Performer: Five Men on a Stool 7pm Wyndam Harbor Island Hotel - Downtown Tampa \$35 person \$60 couple
Sat., Jan. 14	Street Festival - Featured Performers: Midnight Star & The Barkays 11am - 6pm Al Lopez Park - 4810 N. Himes Avenue
Sat., Jan. 14	33 rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet 5pm Surf's Edge Enlisted Club - MacDill AFB
Sun., Jan. 15	Street Festival - Featured Performer: Oleta Adams 12pm - 6pm Al Lopez Park - 4810 N. Himes Avenue
Sun., Jan. 15	Festival of the Bands & Drumline Extravaganza 6:15pm Tropicana Field - St. Petersburg, FL
Mon., Jan. 16	TOBA Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Breakfast 6:45am Hyatt Regency Downtown Tampa - \$25 per person \$400 per table
Mon., Jan. 16	Heritage Golf Tournament 12pm Rogers Park Golf Course - 7901 N. 30 th Street - \$75 fee - Shotgun Start
Mon., Jan. 16	Hillsborough County Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade 12pm Parade Route: Blake High School to University of Tampa
Mon., Jan. 16	SLC Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade 1pm Parade Route: Central Avenue & 4 th Street to Tropicana Field
Mon., Jan. 16	Living History Movie "Get on the Bus Tour" Negro League Players Present 6pm Tampa Theatre - Downtown Tampa - \$3.00
Mon., Jan. 16	William Packer - Producer of the movie "The Gospel" 6:30pm Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center - TECO Hall
Tues., Jan. 17	Negro Baseball League Exhibit Feb. 26 - 9 to 5 HCC - Dale Mabry - 2nd FL Library
Wed., Jan. 18	Leadership Luncheon - Speaker: "Xerona Clayton" 12pm - 1:30pm 34th Street Church of God - \$15.00
Wed., Jan. 18	Heritage Festival - Poetry Slam Semi-Finals 8pm Cotton Club - 2505 N. Albany Ave. - \$5.00
Thurs., Jan. 19	Genealogy Brown Bag Lunch - "Bring Your Lunch" 12pm - 1:30pm Walter L. Smith Library - 905 N. Albany Ave.
Thurs., Jan. 19	USF Speakers Series - Bishop Desmond Tutu 7pm - 9pm USF Sun Dome - 4202 E. Fowler Avenue
Fri., Jan. 20	Gospel Expo - Part I 17pm USF Marshall Center Ballroom - \$5.00
Fri., Jan. 20	Heritage Festival - Poetry Slam Finals - Poet: Taalam Acey 8pm The Shark Bar - 102 S. Tampa Street - \$10.00
Sat., Jan. 21	Historic Central Ave. "Get on the Bus Tour" \$10 (lunch included) 10am - 1pm Robert W. Sanders Library - 1505 N. Nebraska Ave.
Sat., Jan. 21	Gospel Workshop 8:30am USF Marshall Center - \$15 / \$20
Sat., Jan. 21	Gospel Expo - Part II 7pm USF Special Events Center - \$5.00

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MLK CELEBRATION

St. Petersburg is proud to host this dazzling line-up of MLK events

❖ The 27th Annual MLK Essay Contest Thursday • January 12

High school students make their final oratorical presentations at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S., 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Contact: Herb Sanders, 893-7134.

❖ The 21st Annual MLK Drum Major For Justice Awards Banquet Friday • January 13

Hilton St. Petersburg, 333 First St. S., 6:30 p.m. Dr. E. E. Cleveland, the keynote speaker, is a pioneer among civil rights leaders, a humanitarian and author. Tickets, \$30. Contact: SCLC, 327-0085.

❖ MLK Ecumenical Service Sunday • January 15

Open to people of all faiths, 4 p.m., at the Bethel A.M.E. Church, 912 Third Ave. N. Contact: Abdul K. Ali, 867-7067.

❖ The 21st Annual MLK Drum Major For Justice Festival of Bands & Drumline Extravaganza Sunday • January 15

Tropicana Field, 6:15 p.m. Performers include the world-renowned 375-member Florida A & M University "Marching 100" Rattlers Band. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Purchase advance tickets at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S., or at Looking Good Men's Fashions in St. Petersburg, Tampa and Bradenton. Contact: SCLC, 327-0085.

❖ The 20th Annual MLK Leadership Awards Breakfast Monday • January 16

Coliseum, 535 Fourth Ave. N., 7:30 a.m. \$25 per person, proceeds benefit student scholarships. Contact: 896-6556.

❖ The 21st Annual MLK Drum Major For Justice National Parade Monday • January 16

Starts at 1:15 p.m. The parade route begins at Third Ave. S. and Martin Luther King St., goes north to Central Ave., east to Bayshore Drive and north to Fifth Ave. N., disbanding at Vinoy Park. Contact: SCLC, 327-0085.

❖ The annual MLK Candlelight Vigil Monday • January 16

6:30 p.m., the St. Petersburg Museum of History, 335 Second Ave. NE. The candlelight vigil is free; participants should bring a flashlight or candle. Contact: 893-7894.

.....

For more information about the SCLC's Drum Major for Justice 21st anniversary events -- the awards banquet, festival of bands or parade -- contact the SCLC office at 327-0085 and leave a message.



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MLK CELEBRATION

"St. Petersburg Museum of History Site for 21st MLK Candlelight Vigil"



St. Petersburg, FL - The St. Petersburg Museum of History will be the site for the "21st Martin Luther King (MLK) Candlelight Vigil," to be held on Monday, January 16th. The event is co-sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg and the MLK Commemorative Celebration Committee, among many others.

Jessica Ventimiglia, the museum's new Executive Director, and Virginia Scott, a Family Life Educator, community activist and one of the founders of the MLK Commemorative Celebration Committee, are proud to join forces for this event. These two women from diverse backgrounds have a common goal...to encourage inclusion for all races, nationalities and backgrounds during the MLK Candlelight Vigil in support of "Tolerance" and "Diversity." They celebrate the life and legacy of a man who changed the course of a nation.

Jessica states: "The St. Petersburg Museum of History is honored to participate in the Candlelight Vigil and services on Monday, January 16th. Our communi-

ty, and the world remember with gratitude Dr. King's courage and compassion, and his personal example of unconditional love, nonviolence, forgiveness and service. The museum's commitment to diversity among board members, staff and volunteers is likewise reflected in the Exhibits and Educational Programs."

The anticipated MLK Candlelight Vigil on Monday, January 16th is as follows:

- Walkers gather at Demens Landing (non-walkers and performers arrive at museum) at 6:00pm.
- Walkers leave Demens Landing and follow a route along Bayshore Drive to the museum at 6:30pm.
- The program will include: community activist speakers, educators commentary and dance routines by Paulette Johnson, Artistic Director of the Soulful Arts Dance Academy. The program begins at 7:00pm.
- A 20 minute modern day Civil Rights video entitled "Faces in the Water" will be shown at the museum, featuring everyday people who are involved in the fight to use "Tolerance" as a means of fighting racism, hate and bigotry.

The MLK Commemorative Celebration Committee believes the best way to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior is to overcome your apathy and join the Candlelight Vigil.



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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

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MLK CELEBRATION

January 16, 2006



"We are not makers of history.
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- Dr. Martin Luther King

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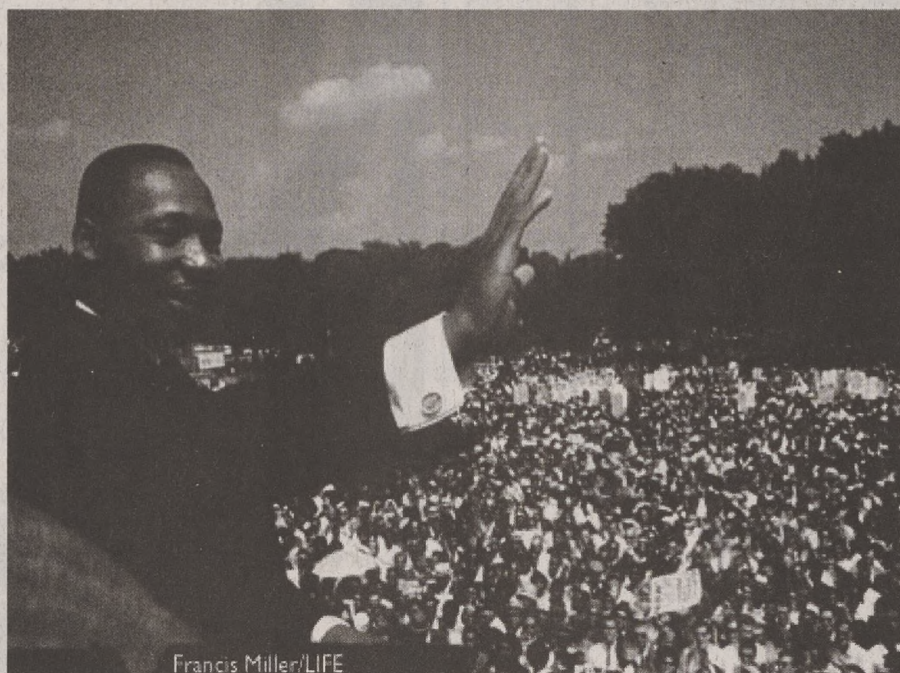
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**Pinellas County
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The Pinellas County Urban League joins the community in celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his day of observance on Monday, January 16, 2006.



"Now, I say to you today my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: - 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Martin Luther King Jr., *Speech at Civil Rights March on Washington, August 28, 1963*
US black civil rights leader & clergyman (1929 - 1968)

For more information on the Urban League's programs and services, please call (727) 327-2081.

MLK CELEBRATION

Red Cross Transportation Service Seeks Volunteer Drivers, Dispatchers In Clearwater

TAMPA, FL. — The American Red Cross Tampa Bay Chapter has an urgent need for volunteer drivers and dispatchers to operate its Transportation Program in Clearwater.

Drivers and dispatchers are needed to fill assignments from 8 AM - 1 PM, Monday through Friday, at the Red Cross Clearwater Branch, 2481 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater.

This vital Red Cross community service provides free transportation to those who have no other means of getting to critical medical and dental appointments, rehabilitation or therapy sessions.

The service has been in operation in northern Pinellas County since the mid 1930s.

Individuals interested in volunteering must be dependable, in good health, able to devote at least five hours (one day) per week to driving or dispatching, have a good driving record, be familiar with area street systems, have an eye for detail, be willing to undergo a background check and possess a strong sense of caring and helpfulness for the clients who use the service.

Dispatchers assist in scheduling and coordinating daily program operations, driver

assignments, dealing with client pick-up and drop-off schedules.

Prospective volunteer drivers and dispatchers undergo one to two weeks of training, which includes an orientation to the Red Cross and office computer systems, 'ride-alongs' with current drivers and participation in Red Cross CPR and First Aid courses.

Over the years, this Red Cross program has provided transportation for thousands of individuals throughout Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties. In northern Pinellas

County during 2005, Red Cross volunteers provided more than 3,000 trips for clients, logging more than 35,000 miles taking them to and from medical appointments. Volunteers donate an average of 430 hours each month transporting more than 145 clients.

For more information about becoming a Red Cross volunteer driver or dispatcher, contact the office of volunteers at (727) 446-2358, or send an email to: moran@tampabay.redcross.org.

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Everyone Is Invited to

The 2006 Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ecumenical Worship Service

Congregations United for Community Action (CUCA), on behalf of the St. Petersburg Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Corporation, invites everyone to the traditional Ecumenical Worship Service that is part of the civil rights leader's annual birthday holiday observance.

The service this year will take place Sunday, Jan. 15, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at Bethel A.M.E. Church — the oldest African-American church in St. Petersburg — 912 3rd Ave. North, just west of Martin Luther King Street North (9th Street).

The Rev. Earl Smith, former pastor of Lakeview Presbyterian Church, and original organizer of this community worship service, will give the keynote address, speaking to the topic of "Our Dream." Winners of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest sponsored by the Commemorative Corp. will read their essays. Choir and congregational singing will include traditional songs from the civil rights movement.

All are welcome at the service which will feature representatives from Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and B'hari congregations, among others. The service is expected to last a little more than an hour. Parking is in church lots and on surrounding streets.

Refreshments and socializing will follow the service.

For more information, please call 727-526-2823.

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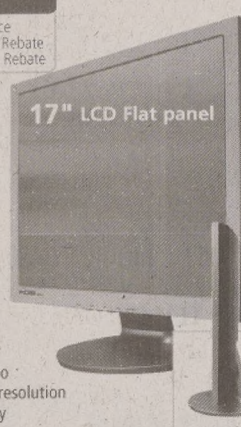
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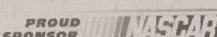
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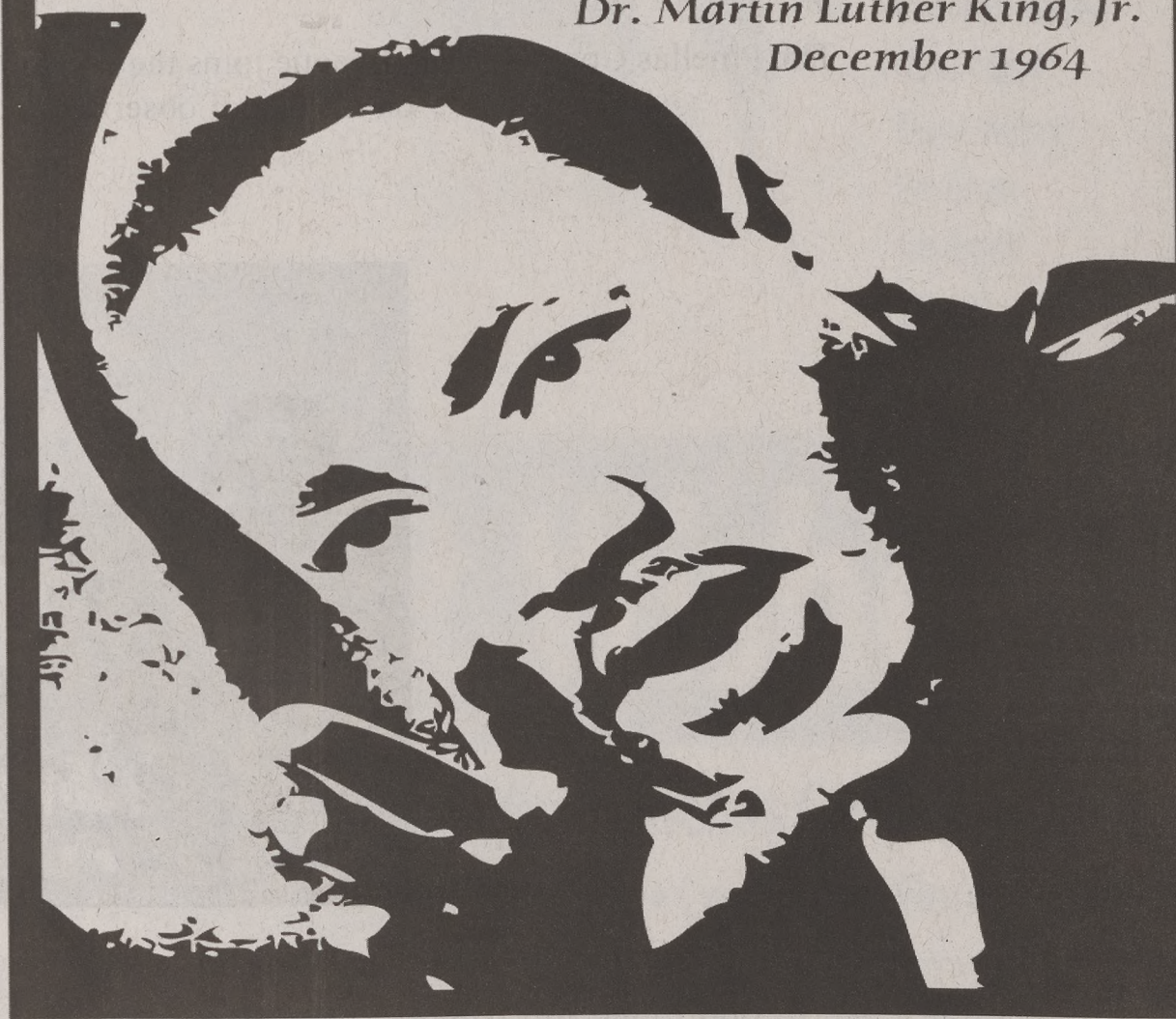


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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
December 1964



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NATIONAL NEWS



Rick Gee's
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"Remembering Lou Rawls"

Last Friday was a sad occasion for many folks all over the entire music world. That's when popular pop, jazz and R & B vocalist Lou Rawls passed away. A friend asked me at lunch, "Is it true?" and I hesitantly responded, "Yes, it's true." Lou Rawls had died earlier in the day, somewhere in California.

Lou Rawls and I go way back in the day. I can remember that it was sometime in the early 60's when I first took notice of his singing. One Sunday in the late afternoon, I happened to have been heating up dinner for my wife at the time, and me. I was in the kitchen looking at a television with a 10-inch screen, while my wife was taking a nap. Popular talk-show personality Steve Allen was hosting his regular Sunday program. I heard him say something about introducing a new blues and jazz vocalist, and what a terrific singer he was but I wasn't paying much attention to what he was saying. The television just happened to be on, and I continued to be busy getting Sunday dinner ready.

And then I heard it! This deep, deep, smooth, almost like velvet voice sang out "They call it Stormy Monday, but Tuesday's just as bad." Well, have mercy! My attention immediately focused on that wonderfully sounding voice. Whoever it was singing was definitely in the groove. Keeping my ear on the sound, I rushed into the bedroom where my wife was taking her nap, and yelled "Wake up, wake up! You've got to hear this cat. Man, oh man, can he sing." When the song was over, Steve Allen requested Rawls to do another tune, and he did. His encore was just as powerful as his initial song. He sang "I'd Rather Drink Muddy Water...and sleep out in a hollow log". Ooooh Wee! He had won me over with just the two songs. I was an immediate Lou Rawls fan.

Late Friday night, I searched through my record collection to pull out my Lou Rawls albums. I knew that I had several long-playing (LPs) records, but didn't know exactly where they might

be, due to the move I had made from New Jersey to St. Petersburg back in 2003. Unfortunately, I could only find two of them, "Black and Blue," and "Merry Christmas Ho! Ho! Ho!" I know I have the "Stormy Monday" album with Les McCann accompanying Rawls on piano, but I'll just have to continue with my search. "Black and Blue" has some great hits on it, such as "St. James Infirmary," "Goin To Chicago Blues," "Trouble In Mind," "World Of Trouble," "Six Cold Feet Of Ground," "Strange Fruit," and several others. In Don Buday's linear notes on the album, he says about Rawls, "Dipping into his rich Negro background, Lou has communion with every listener who's moved by soul and rhythm."

Rawls was born on December 1, 1933, in a pretty tough section of Chicago. In fact, it was so bad, that as soon as they could, his parents quickly saw to it that he got involved with the church providing Rawls with more of an opportunity to save himself from a life of drugs, alcohol and crime. Little did I know, and I wonder if some of you fans knew that Rawls was a childhood friend and long-time running partner of Sam Cooke. He sang with Cooke in the Teenage Kings of Harmony, one of several gospel groups that Rawls would perfect his gospel vocalization.

After serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, Rawls first job upon discharge

was as lead singer for the Pilgrim Travelers. In 1958, Rawls severed his gospel connection and went on along with Sam Cooke to try his hand singing popular R & B. After many years of "paying his dues", Rawls finally hit a turning point in his career signing on with Capitol Records. Soon afterwards, he picked up on "Love Is A Hurtin' Thing," which hit No.1 on the R & B charts. In the 70s, Rawls signed up with the great R & B tune writers (Kenny) Gamble and (Leon) Huff and their Philadelphia International Records. They wrote, "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine" for him. I'm sure I speak for us all, when I say that song "...is the bomb".

One cannot overlook Rawls' outstanding Humanitarian efforts, such as his more than 30 years involvement with the United Negro College Fund. It's been said that Rawls truly believed "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." And, although Rawls never attended college, he received numerous honorary degrees. In addition, a street in Chicago was named after him called "Lou Rawls Drive." His fascinating career also included sixteen performances in the field of Television landing roles on "Martin" and "Fantasy Island." He also played in more than fifteen movies, the most popular of them being "Blues Brothers 2000" and "Leaving Las Vegas." Rawls also recorded a total of 77 albums and



Lou Rawls

received 3 Grammy Awards.

Surely, many of you watched as I did this past Sunday, the television presentation of "An Evening of Stars: Tribute to Stevie Wonder. This was the United Negro College Fund event in which Rawls was involved, when celebrities make an annual appeal for UNCF financial support. Knowing that he had died just two days prior, an eerie-like feeling came over me when I watched as Rawls sang his songs, and spoke so effectively about the importance of making contributions. I couldn't help but think how much he is going to be missed.

Lou Rawls fans will all remember him in different ways. I'll remember him by his response to the question he was asked many times over, "What school did you attend?" His response "The School of Hard Knocks."

.....

Jazz fans - do you have any feedback? I would like to hear from YOU! Mail your letters to Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm, c/o The Weekly Challenger, 2500 ML King St., S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705

NAACP Chairman Says Alito Confirmation Would Jeopardize Civil Rights for All Americans

Alito criticized for opposing legal remedies for racial discrimination

Baltimore, MD - Julian Bond, Chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors, said that if Judge Samuel A. Alito is confirmed by the Senate for a seat on the United States Supreme Court, "the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans will be in immediate jeopardy." The NAACP opposes the confirmation of Alito because of his past indifference to the impact race and racism have on American society.

Bond, speaking at a press conference held in Philadelphia by the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary, said: "Wherever and whenever the rights of racial minorities have conflicted with his radical conservative views, Judge Alito's slavish allegiance to a narrow and extremely restrictive view of our Constitution

has prevailed."

As a judge on the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals, Alito has "disagreed with and dismissed widely agreed upon remedies for racial discrimination, equal opportunity protections in the workplace, the universally accepted principle of one-person, one-vote, and valued protections long established in our criminal justice system," said Bond.

Moreover, Bond said, "In his 15 years on the Federal bench, Judge Alito has almost never ruled for black plaintiffs in employment discrimination cases." He said Alito "has never written a majority decision for the Third Circuit in favor of an African American plaintiff on the merits of a claim of race discrimination."

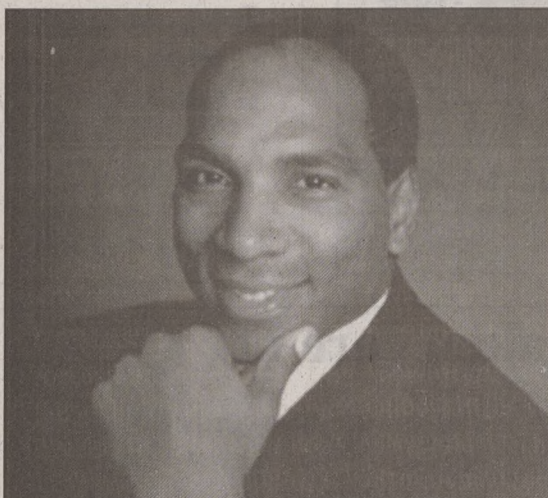
Bond, a former Georgia state legislator, said, "If Samuel Alito's views had prevailed, I would never have been elected to public office, nor would thousands of other minori-

ty candidates have had a chance to offer to serve their communities." A series of court rulings in the 1960s enabled Bond to become a successful candidate for the Georgia House of Representatives in 1965. "Judge Alito's disagreement with all or any of these voting cases, so basic to the very foundations of our democracy, is reason alone to reject his nomination to the high court."

Alito's record, Bond said, "taken whole or piecemeal, argues forcibly for his rejection."

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

Earl 'Butch' Graves, Jr., Named CEO Of Black Enterprise Magazine



Earl (Butch) Graves, Jr.

NEW YORK - Earl G. Graves Sr., founder of BLACK ENTERPRISE (BE), named Earl "Butch" Graves, Jr. as the company's new Chief Executive Officer and President. Butch Graves' appointment to the rank of CEO marks a milestone for the family-owned media company, whose flagship publication provides more than 3.7 million readers with information on African American business markets, financial management, entrepreneurship, and careers. Graves' promotion to CEO represents the transition of Earl G. Graves Ltd., parent company of BLACK ENTERPRISE magazine, to the next generation of leadership. Earl Graves Sr., who will remain Chairman and Publisher, founded the company in 1970 - establishing its mission to become the premier business news source for African Americans.

"Those who advance at Earl G. Graves Ltd. -- whether family or not -- must earn

their positions," said Earl G. Graves Sr. "Over the past 17 years Butch has excelled despite the challenges of an ultracompetitive and rapidly changing publishing industry. In 1988 BE had revenues of approximately 20 million. In 2006 we project that those revenues will exceed 60 million. As we have expanded our company, Butch's business acumen and instincts have helped triple our revenue."

"Under the next generation of executive management, Butch Graves will continue to lead the strategic positioning of the corporation, guide its overall profitability, and act as the top editorial decision maker. "I am excited about the opportunity to succeed my father as CEO of BLACK ENTERPRISE," said Butch Graves. "My mission is to build upon the success of what he established, while finding new media outlets that will grow our business and demonstrate all things possible to our core audience." Since joining BE in 1988, Butch Graves has helped transform the company from a single-magazine publisher to a thriving multimedia conglomerate. Under his guidance, the circulation of BLACK ENTERPRISE magazine grew from 200,000 to more than 500,000, due in part to an intense editorial focus on wealth building and homeownership. He led the company into broadcast media with the launch of The Black Enterprise Report, a nationally syndicated television show, and Black Enterprise Magazine's Keys to a Better Life report for radio, a joint venture with Clear Channel Communications.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character"

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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You are what you Drink

Water is essential for life. It is the solvent for the foods we eat and it helps with digestion. Blood Plasma, which is 90 percent water, passes through our arteries and veins carrying nutrients to our cells, kidneys and bowels. It takes less than 1 percent deficiency in the body's water to make us thirsty. A 5 percent deficit causes a slight fever, 12 percent is fatal. We should drink eight glasses or more of quality water per day. However the key word is "Quality". Chemicals in water can be both naturally occurring or introduced by human interference and can have serious health effects.

Fluoride in the water is essential for protection against dental caries and weakening of the bones, but higher levels can have adverse health effects.

Arsenic occurs naturally or by phosphorus from fertilizers. Needless to say high concentrations of arsenic are poisonous. Lead pipes, fittings, solder, and the service connections of some household plumbing systems contain lead that contaminates drinking water. Even bottled water which we have been trained to believe is safe is very under regulated. Water is best

stored in glass

The question then becomes, how does one get a clean, healthy drink of water? Using a point of use filtration device seems to be the logical answer. In most homes using a water softener does little for providing drinking water because of the increase in sodium. It provides better results for washing dishes, clothes, reducing the amount of soap needed and keeping dishes, sinks, showers and tubs free of water spots. Most water filtration units for the home only utilize carbon filters. However, carbon filters do not remove bacteria, parasites, chemicals or help with dissolved solids or heavy metals.

The Japanese have made significant breakthroughs in water purification for the home. First, by applying a magnetic field to water breaking down the molecules making it more absorbable for the body and then pushing the water through carbon and ceramic filters producing what they refer to as PiWater.

PiMag water was discovered nearly 40 years ago in Japan. Research botanists showed that pi-water, as they began calling

it, caused plants to grow faster and larger. In terms of human health, Pi-water behaves as an antioxidant because of its free-radical elimination properties. Pi-water also aids the body in oxygen absorption, important for many reasons, the least of which is the primary fuel of the body.

The Japanese import a variety of PiWater purification units for the home and travel which are available in the United States. Since we drink 70 percent of our water away from home, they have also introduced the PiMag Ionic Filtration Water Bottle, allowing you to fill the bottle with tap water while the filtration unit in the core turns it into purified water where ever you are.

We are what we drink. Including purified water in our daily intake can make a substantial difference in our long term health. Something to think about the next time you reach for bottled water.

.....

Angela Birdsong is a Wellness Consultant. For further information contact The Weekly Challenger, 727-896-2922.

OBITUARIES

LOCAL



EUGENE BROWN

Eugene Brown was born on August 22, 1924, in Waynesboro, Ga., to the late Mr. Hezekiah Warren and Ms. Ella Evans. He was converted at an early age. Mr. Brown passed away on December 22, 2005. His wife, Thelma, preceded him in death.

Survivors include two daughters: Junetta (James) Davis, St. Petersburg, Fla. and Emma Brown, Waynesboro, Ga., 17 grandchildren; 25 great grandchildren; one brother, Isaiah (Dorothy) Evans, Hartford, Conn.; three sisters-in-law, Gertrude (Johnny Lee) Lovett, Helen Jones and Elizabeth Thomas, all of St. Petersburg, Fla.; one uncle, Noah Brown, Waynesboro, Ga.; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.



LINDA JOYCE COHEN

Linda Joyce Cohen was born on January 23, 1954, in Jasper, Fla. to Alfordia Cohen and the late Edward Cohen. She attended J. R. E. Lee High School in Jasper.

Linda came to St. Petersburg in 1971, where she was a store clerk at C & J Produce Store. She was a Baptist.

Linda Joyce Cohen departed this life on Sunday, January 1, 2006.

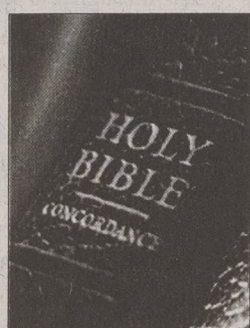
Survivors include two sons: Cornelius Johnson and Corey Cohen, both of St. Petersburg, Fla.; two daughters: Feleica Cohen and Marshall Mells, both of St. Petersburg; mother: Alfordia Cohen of St. Petersburg; three sisters: Brenda Cohen, Andrea Shanks, both of St. Petersburg and Edwina Coleman of Melbourne, Fla.; three brothers: Darrell Cohen, Oscar Cohen, both of St. Petersburg and Robert Shanks of South Bay, Fla.; maternal grandmother: Neomi Sowell of St. Petersburg; maternal grandfather: Frank Lester of Cordell, Ga.; five grandchildren: Keana, Jalise, Breana, Coreyeal and Jaheim; her godfather: Thomas Gaddis; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends.



EDDIE DELORD HILL

Eddie Hill was born on October 28, 1944, to Joe Hill and the late Magnolia Hill in St. Petersburg. Eddie was educated at Sixteenth Street Junior High School and in 1964 graduated from Gibbs High School where he was voted the "most popular and best dressed male" in his class. Eddie left St. Petersburg for New York City as a teenager, where he lived for approximately 20 years. In New York, Eddie began a lifelong friendship and professional collaboration with Raymond Harris, vice president of RCA Records (Manhattan). Raymond, Eddie and his nephew Dale Hill, embarked upon many business ventures together. On August 10, 1995 Eddie was united in holy matrimony to his soul mate of more than thirty years, Natalyn Patrice Allen. Within this union, two sons were born, Shawn Veldez and Blair Malik. Eddie moved to Lithonia in the year 2000 where he worked for Georgia State University as a maintenance supervisor until his retirement. In the latter years of his life, Eddie received the Lord as his Savior in 2003 at Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral, Pastor Dale Bonner. He was water baptized in 2003 at Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Atlanta.

Eddie Hill passed away at his home in Lithonia on December 21, 2005. Survivors include Natalyn, his wife; sons, Shawn and Blair; Joe Hill (father); his daughter, Annette Brown her sons Christopher and Bryce; daughter, Annette Jackson and his son, Anthony Haynes; six sisters, JoAnn Hill-Keene (Elder Keene) of Bridgeport, Sandra Bentley (Leon), Patricia McTier (David), Deborah Hill, Kayal Hill-Graham (Dennis), Pamela Hill, all of St. Petersburg, and a most caring and loving nephew, Dale Hill and Tracey of Atlanta; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and especially Ray and Lisette Harris and Ronnie Washington.



MARY L. JOHNSON

Mary Lillian Johnson was born on November 22, 1902, in Waycross, Ga. to the late Dostin and Nettie Harrington. She came to St. Petersburg, Fla. at an early age. On March 17, 1952, she was united in marriage to Fred Johnson, who preceded her in death in 1970.

Mrs. Johnson and her husband were registered foster parents, caring for more than thirty-six children. Many of the children were in their care from early age as toddlers until their late teen years. Even after the death of her husband, Mrs. Johnson continued to be a foster Mother, always under the title of "Auntie". The children were taught about God and His love for them on a daily basis. This is how she lived her life and taught her children the same.

Mrs. Johnson always placed Christ as the center of her life. Everyone that knew her had the opportunity to also know Jesus. Her life reflected that of a person that truly loved the Lord and she was a true soldier in God's army. She was affiliated with Elim Seventh Day Adventist Church since 1948, where she served as Sabbath School Secretary, Sabbath School Teacher and Community Service Leader. She also served as a Church Usher, a Prayer Band Member and a Sabbath School Investment Leader. She received numerous awards for her dedicated service at Elim Seventh

Day Adventist Church. In later years, Mrs. Johnson was a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and served with the Nursing Home Visitation.

Mary Lillian Johnson passed away on January 4, 2006. Survivors include family members: Kelvin King (Ernestine), Lucinda Kennedy, James Atkins (Cynthia), Linda Godwin, Robert Atkins, Clarence Gardner, Henrietta Thompson, Jackie Robinson, Kayla King, Karla King, Jamaal Atkins, Moses Atkins, Maurice Godwin, Joan Thompson-Burr, Velma Thompson Howard, Nathaniel Harrington, Kenneth Harrington and Geneva Gibbs; Rosie Mae Johnson (Ecsie), Gussie Golf, John Adams, Clarence Adams, Jerry Adams, William Henry, Lucille Hay, Larry Lang (Reverend Martha Lang), Bertha Holmes, Cleo Parsons, Hattie Calloway, Pastor Earl Lewis (Carrie), Cassandra Pressley, Herman Ford, Valerie Clark; and a host of friends and church members.



ROBERT V. SIMMONS SR.

Bro. Robert Vernon Simmons, Sr. was born to Annie Roberts and James Simmons in Valdosta, Ga., April 25, 1912. To this union five other children were born. They were Benny, Margaret, Jackson, Lucy, and George. They were all the descendants of Tom Simmons, a former slave, who used hard work and industry to accomplish much in life. Tom's Town, named in his

honor, still exists today near East Gordon Street in Valdosta, Ga.

He received his formal education from public schools in Valdosta. Ministerial training was acquired while attending Nashville Christian Institute under the late Bro. Marshall Keeble and The Bowser Institute. He then began preaching in several neighboring towns of Valdosta.

He married Lucy Blanche Smith and to this marriage six children were born. Later, they moved to Miami (Coconut Grove), Fla. There, Bro. and Sis. Simmons worked with the Christians to build the membership and a new edifice.

They served for five years before moving to St. Petersburg, Fla.

Through the recommendation and encouragement of the Bro. John R. Vaughner and the Bro. Luke Miller, Bro. and Sis. Simmons moved to St. Petersburg where he served as the minister of the Twentieth Street Church of Christ.

By far, the work with the Twentieth Street Church of Christ was a labor of love for Bro. Simmons. His ministry and service with this congregation was his longest and most remarkable. His dream and vision, with God's direction, was to see Twentieth Street grow in number and in spirituality. He worked toward this goal as a foot soldier, "preaching, teaching, training, developing," encouraging and cajoling, "struggling and expanding horizons."

Bro. Simmons died in the home of Tommie and Geraldine Simmons Young on December 31, 2005.

Mr. and Mrs. Simmons provided loving care along with the assistance of a number of dedicated helpers: Edward Robertson, Ken Damron, Diane Gray and Sis. Janette Baker.



SHERRY ANN TAYLOR

Sherry Ann Taylor was born on April 10, 1971, in St. Petersburg, Florida to Willielene Smith and Reverend Theopolis Leshore.

She attended St. Petersburg High School and was a member of New Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church. Sherry was employed as a Certified Nurse's Aide with several local nursing centers.

Sherry Ann Taylor passed away on January 3, 2006, at Palms of Pasadena Hospital.

Survivors include two sons: Theodore Reed and Darrius T. Owens, both of Largo, Fla.; one daughter: Keianna R. Miller of Largo, Fla.; Companion: Archie Reddick of Largo, Fla.; her mother and stepfather: Willielene and Robert Smith of St. Petersburg, Fla.; father and stepmother: Reverend Theopolis and Valecia Robinson Leshore of St. Petersburg, Fla.; paternal grandmother: Mary Leshore of St. Petersburg, Fla.; three sisters: Tiffany Gonzalez of Killeen, Texas, April Hillman and Nazereth Leshore, both of Clearwater, Fla.; two stepbrothers: Darren Pauling and Marquis Fitzgerald, both of St. Petersburg, Fla.; three stepsisters: Lakeisha Robinson of St. Petersburg, Fla., Michelle Mitchell of Orlando, Fla. and Jacqueline Coley of Savannah, Ga.

NAACP Mourns The Death Of Lou Rawls

■ Grammy award winner with smooth vocal style often performed at NAACP events.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) mourns the death of rhythm and blues icon and actor Lou Rawls who passed away in Los Angeles after being diagnosed with lung and brain cancer.

Bruce S. Gordon, NAACP President and CEO, said, "Lou Rawls was a special human being whose contributions to our community went well beyond his musical talents. He is one of a kind and cannot be replaced."

In the 1950s along with his schoolmate, the legendary Sam Cooke, Rawls began touring with gospel group the "Teenage Kings of Harmony," which provided the early foundation for soul music. After singing with Cooke and developing as an artist, Rawls' career gained respect from artists such as Frank Sinatra because of his distinctive voice and flair as a first rate entertainer.

Rawls recorded more than 75 albums and won three Grammy awards for hits including "Dead End Street," "A Natural Man" and for the album *Unmistakably Lou*. One of Rawls' most memorable songs, "You'll Never Find" (Another Love Like Mine), was a chart topper in 1976.

In addition to singing, Rawls had a love for acting. Rawls acted in both independent and feature films, guest starred and hosted television series and appeared on Broadway.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.WQED.ORG Although he never attended college, Rawls recognized the importance of an education and raised millions of dollars for black colleges through the annual United Negro College Fund (UNCF) telethon, "An Evening with the Stars."



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- Deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Monday
- Obituaries can be delivered or e-mailed to wceditor@tampabay.rr.com



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RELIGIOUS NEWS

CHURCH EVENTS LISTING

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of its dynamic, spirited, man of God, the Reverend Brian Kenneth Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation of St. Mark, extends to the community at large, its wishes that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives in the New Year. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central theme, a belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a world hungering for and thirsting after the enlightened word of God. At St. Mark, we are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for His awesome gift, His son Jesus Christ. Our prayer for our community is that you would join us in fellowship as we worship and praise the true and the living God.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2006

- Jan. 14: **Women's Bible Study** (9 a.m.) Don't miss this exciting morning of praise and worship, a continental breakfast along with an exciting Bible study on the topic - Entrusting Your Dreams to God: A Study of Hannah.
- Jan. 17: **Church Outing** - True Light M.B. Church located at 3318 Emerson Avenue South, Reverend Charlie Ward, Pastor. The Pastor and congregation will celebrate their church and pastor's anniversary. Services to begin at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 20-21: Evangelism

Workshop
• Jan. 25-28: Congress No. 2
ADDITIONAL MINISTRY INFORMATION
• **Sunday School** is held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday School starts each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come out and join us.
• **Baptist Training Union** is each Sunday at 5 p.m. Members and the general public are invited to come out and study the Bible with us and learn "What Baptists Believe."
• **St. Mark Tutoring Ministry:** Free tutoring is available for all school age children each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Mark under the direction of sis. Rhonda Jackson. Volunteers are both needed and welcomed.

As part of our ongoing ministry, we invite the public to join us in worship and fellowship during our weekly worship services, which include:

- **Early morning worship** (First Sunday Only) at 7 a.m.
- **Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.**
- **Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.**
- **Baptist Training Union** (Each Sunday) at 5 p.m.

Other weekly services include Children and Youth Ministry Meetings (Mondays at 6 p.m.); Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (Tuesdays at 7 p.m.); Senior Hour of Power Bible Study (Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.) and Prayer Meeting and Bible Study (Thursdays at 7 p.m.).

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"One body, one spirit, one hope."

The New Hope family invites you to worship with us on Sunday morning. The day begins at 9 a.m. with Sunday School. Bring the family to learn about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The worship experience continues with Praise and Worship at 10:30 a.m. The New Hope Mass Choir will lead the congregation in praise, with the assistance of the instruments being played by Michael and Vernard McKenny, Marcus Childs and directed by Bobbie Jenkins. God is a good God, worthy to be praised! The Bread of Life will be served by our Esteemed Pastor, Reverend Carlos L. Senior.

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Prayer Meeting/Bible Study - Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Join us in studying the Word of God.
- Prayer Band - Thursday morning at 11 a.m. "Fervent effectual prayers of the righteous avails much." Won't you join us?

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Youth Jumpoff - Saturday, Jan. 14 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon. This is an opportunity for old and new members to become aware of the 2006 calendar for the Youth Ministry.
- Trip to Zora Neale Hurston Festival - Saturday, Jan. 28.

"Take time to pray. It is the greatest power on earth."

FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Today I am devoted to thinking loving thoughts, seeing love in all and giving love to all."

The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Family, under the leadership of Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., an anointed man of God, its official staff and entire Church Family would count it a blessing if you, the community, would join us for worship service this week. We would be most grateful and count it all joy to have you fellowship with us as we sail the "SHIP" into the new year grasping "The Vision", arming for "The Venture", and proclaiming "The Victory" that overcomes the world; the victory through Christ Jesus.

Praising God for the

gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. What an awesome gift.

We are disciples of Christ, a body of Christian believers dedicated to "Serving and Saving," "Helping and Healing," "Inspiring and Instructing," "Praying and Praising," giving God the Glory for all of His greatness and his goodness.

Our theme for the month of January: "Getting Your Heart Fixed in 2006," Prov. 3:1-6.

We welcome you this coming week in the precious name of Jesus as we worship a true and living God in spirit and truth.

WEEKLY CHURCH EVENTS

- Wednesday: Brother to Brother Prayer at 6:30 a.m.
- Bible Study/Prayer at 12 p.m.
- Mid-Week Prayer Service/Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday: Youth Enrichment Hour at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday: Early Morning Worship at 7:45 a.m.; Church School 9:30 a.m.
- Mid-Morning

Worship/Installation of Officers at 10:45 a.m.

JANUARY 16-19

National Baptist Mid-Winter Board, Nashville, Tenn.

All are invited to come and worship at Friendship: 3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg.

Take a leap of faith. Faith is daring the soul to go beyond what the eyes can see.

"For we walk by faith, and not by sight." - 2 Cor. 5:7.

MT. ZION A.M.E. CHURCH

"You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth." Psalm 71:5

Sometimes during trials, we focus so intently on our experience that we forget to focus on God. Over and over in this Psalm he calls to mind the character and attributes of God; His glory, His power and strength, and His faithfulness. The one thing we must never lose sight of in the midst of our own suffering is the righteousness and goodness of God. We must remember that it is because of God's inherent goodness that we are able to trust Him in all things. When you are in the middle of your trials, everyone will have an opinion, a suggestion or remedy - and if they are from people you trust, you should consider them. But after all is said and done, there is only one thing that you can put all your trust in, and that is the Character of God.

Here at Mt. Zion A.M.E., we are excited about our vision for the future. We are willing workers and our focus is to win souls for Christ. Our doors swing open each Sunday morning at

7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. for morning worship; Church School at 9:30 a.m. and we are inviting each of you to come and lift praises to God with us. Our Agape Street Ministry will minister to the homeless and needy on Sunday, Jan. 15 with the Word of God and a nourishing meal.

Don't forget to join us on:

- Monday: Bible Study - 6 p.m.
- Wednesday: Vintage Bible Study - 11 a.m.; Prayer Meeting and Praise Service - 6:30 PM p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 17 - Official Board Meeting
- Jan. 21 - Youth Church Evening of Bowling
- Jan. 22 - Worship with Turner Chapel A.M.E., Palmetto
- Feb. 4 - Super Bowl Tea
- Feb. 11 - YPD Show Your Love Brunch

Be blessed and according to Robert Louis Stevenson, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

NEW PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

MLK Salad/Soup Festival

The fifteenth annual salad/soup festival in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will take place on Monday, Jan. 16. This event was founded by the late Verdya Robinson in January, 1991. Members of church family prepare soups and salads to serve the public following MLK parade. This year's gathering will be at the Sanderlin Center from 4 to 6 p.m. There is no charge for this celebration.

Church family is reminded of contribution to National Council of Negro Women on Sunday. This monetary gift will

also be given in memory of Dr. King and the late Barbara Bolden, who was a member of this organization.

Wyvonna McGee will present this offering to the council.

Children/Youth Sunday will be observed during mid-morning service. Young people will lead church family in praise and worship. Members are urged to make a sacrificial effort to be in attendance every third Sunday in support of our children and youth. Worship begins at 11:30 a.m. following Wisdom School at 10:30 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL TEMPLE C.O.G.I.C.

The youth of Pentecostal Temple did a wonderful job in their participation of the first youth service of the year. Two of our middle school students spoke on the Word Up! That word was "Goodness." They did an excellent job! Our guest speaker, Minister David Davis of Gainesville, Fla., spoke to us from the subject: "It's Not Easy, But It's Easier." The scripture reference was Matthew 11:28-30. He explained to us that being yoked with Jesus does not mean that we are burden free, but that the burden is so much easier to bear because He helps us along the way. He also did an excellent job declaring the Word of God.

Pastor Anderson and the Daughters in Ministry are excited and invite you

to join us for our ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY SERVICE on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 4 p.m. The guest speaker will be Missionary Mary Alice Martin of Haines City, Florida. Missionary Martin received the Holy Ghost at the age of twelve and has been in service to God for over thirty years. She is a prayer warrior and an anointed woman of God. She is also the daughter of Superintendent Charles E. Lewis of Winter Haven, Fla., one of the National Evangelists for the Church of God in Christ. The Christ Gospel Mass Choir will be our guest choir along with other guest participants from various churches. You are sure to be richly blessed in this worship experience.

Bush's Supreme Court Nominee Faces Questions On Abortion, Presidential Prerogatives

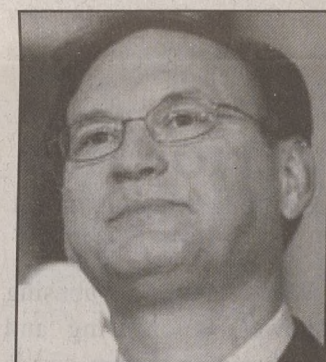
by: William C. Mann
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic senators, leery of President George W. Bush's push to steer the nation's highest court more to the right, are expected to notch up the pressure in the days ahead on Samuel Alito, the president's nominee for the Supreme Court.

The 55-year-old Alito, who Bush has put forward for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's swing seat in the politically divided court, listened to hours of partisan verbiage Monday from members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Abortion is proving to be a predictably heated issue among Democrats fearful of a high court that would overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion rights decision. Alito also will be peppered with queries Tuesday, when questioning begins, about Bush's use of domestic spying and other actions that critics consider unconstitutional extensions of presidential power.

That issue is proving particularly contentious as Bush faces steady opposition to handling of the war in Iraq and to what civil libertarians and many lawmakers say is an attempt to commandeer executive rights not afforded the president, particularly at the expense of Americans' civil liberties. The vocal criticism of domestic spying question by Republicans and Democrats alike reflect that this is an election year for



Samuel Alito

Congress. In writings early in his career, Alito favored giving presidents a wide berth in investigative and intelligence powers. Statements in the opening of Senate confirmation hearings Monday made clear that those will not be overlooked.

The 18 members of the Senate Judiciary Committee read statements to put on record their likely paths during Tuesday's first question-and-answer session for Alito's nomination to be the 110th justice of the nation's highest court.

"Your record raises troubling questions about whether you appreciate the checks and balances in our Constitution - the careful efforts of our Founding Fathers to protect us from a government or a president determined to seize too much power over our lives," said Durbin, the Illinois Democrat.

Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts said Alito's record shows "support for an all-powerful executive branch." The veteran lawmaker said this is troubling "in an era when the

ALITO
continued on pg. 12

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Fire Destroys Church Legendary For Contributions To Gospel Music

by: Karen Hawkins
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP) — The architecture was majestic, the gospel choir was inspiring and services at the Pilgrim Baptist Church were so popular that worshippers in the 1930s and '40s had to show up an hour early to find a seat.

On Friday, the 115-year-old church, an integral part of the development of gospel music, was destroyed by a fire so intense that its flames and smoke could be seen from miles away. The fire gutted the church and collapsed its roof and steeple. The cause wasn't known.

"It was a landmark church. God, it was just so beautiful," said Lena McLin, who was baptized at Pilgrim as a 12-year-old in the early 1940s. "It was very spiritual — you felt you were meeting the Lord there."

McLin's uncle was Thomas A. Dorsey — considered the father of gospel music — and Pilgrim was where he perfected his cross of the raw soulfulness of the blues

with the sacred music of his youth. His all-time greatest hit, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," was popularized by Mahalia Jackson and became a favorite of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

He was Pilgrim's music director from 1932 until the late 1970s. The church was designated a Chicago landmark in 1981.

Over the decades, the gospel stars who performed at Pilgrim included Jackson, Sallie Martin, James Cleveland and the Edwin Hawkins Singers. The funeral service for early 20th century boxing champion Jack Jackson was held at the church.

The congregation recently numbered about 300, but in its heyday in the 1940s it had about 10,000 members, said the Rev. Hycle B. Taylor, the church's former pastor.

It had been "the quintessential black megachurch," he said.

The church was a place where the famous architects Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler experimented with the features that made them



A firefighter walks in front of the Pilgrim Baptist Church as it goes up in flames in Chicago, Friday, Jan. 6, 2006. Fire destroyed the landmark 1890 church Friday on Chicago's South Side that played a major role in the development of gospel music in the 1930s.

famous — such as vaulted ceilings, amazing acoustics and ornamental designs, such as the terra cotta panels with intricate foliage designs, said Ned Cramer, curator of the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

It was built as a synagogue between 1890 and 1891, but it has housed the Pilgrim congregation since 1922. The surrounding Bronzeville neighborhood was a vibrant hub for blacks during the first half of the 20th century.

"It's like hearing a close relative has died or a good friend. It's heart-breaking," said Cramer.

Though no one was injured in the blaze, it is feared the church's archives — including old photographs and Dorsey's original sheet music — were destroyed.

McLin said she's hopeful that Dorsey's wife might have sent some of those mementoes to Fisk University, where the family choose to deposit some of Dorsey's

belongings. But she is sure a huge painting of her uncle — whom she lived with as a child — was destroyed.

Still, she said, she'll never forget the feeling of being in that church, surrounded by thousands of worshippers packed on the floor and the balcony, listening to gospel music.

"The spirit was just all over the place" she said.

— Associated Press Writer Anna Johnson contributed to this report.

Gospel Legend To Shoot Music Video In The Birthplace Of The Civil Rights Movement

■ Stellar Award Winner Vickie Winans teams with Award winning Filmmaker Darryl D. Lassiter to create video highlighting her successful career in gospel music.

MONTGOMERY, AL — Gospel legend, Vickie Winans prepares to shoot her new music video, but with a different turn. The songstress will travel to the birthplace of the civil rights movement, Montgomery, Ala. to shoot the video for her new single "It's Alright," from her upcoming double CD "Woman to Woman: Songs of Life." Scheduled to shoot on Jan. 15, the video marks a highlight in the careers of both Winans and Director, Darryl D. Lassiter. The two have collaborated on numerous videos and projects in a little more than a decade; including Winans' Stellar Award winning Video of the Year "Shook" in 2004. Lassiter states, "Working with Vickie is special, in addition to being an exceptional and dedicated performer, she trusts me to make things work."

An Alumnus of Alabama State University, Lassiter suggested shooting the video on the campus and featuring the university's award winning band, the Marching Hornets. He acknowledges ASU's tremendous impact to his career in



Vickie Winans

film and entertainment. "It is quite an honor for me to come back to a familiar place — my alma mater — and work with my former band. If it wasn't for Alabama State University, I wouldn't have been able to produce any music videos, nor a movie."

Lassiter, an award winning director, is also credited with starting the national craze of Black College Marching Bands with the original band movie "Pay the Price." While attending ASU, he played first chair in every band including the marching, jazz, symphonic, brass ensemble, and trumpet quartet, and won every major award in the "school of music." "Those were the best five years of my life. Now people all over the nation will get a chance to see just how good our band is," he

adds. Dr. James Oliver, ASU's Director of Bands, was receptive to the idea to feature the Marching Hornets in Winans' new video. "This will be the band's first video. Everyone is very excited. A fellow Alum, I've always told Darryl that if there was anything we can do to help, to let us know. When he called... I immediately said yes. We did have some other events planned but I thought this was a greater opportunity. It will be excellent exposure particularly for recruitment and endorsements."

Dubbed the hardest working woman in gospel music, Vickie Winans will release her 30-song double CD, entitled "Woman to Woman: Songs of Life," for Sony/BMG Verity Records in August 2006. "It's Alright," the first of three chart-busting singles will hit radio this month. This percolating, urban inspirational track will have listeners up and dancing the winter months away as Vickie reassures you that regardless of what you are facing in life... "Jesus Made It Alright!"

ALITO

Continued from page 11

White House is abusing power, is excusing and authorizing torture and is spying on American citizens."

Bush had hoped that Alito — son of an Italian immigrant father and a first-generation American mother — would be confirmed without much hubbalo and give him

breathing room from continuing low poll numbers. The same polls give Alito much higher approval numbers than Bush's 40 percent.

As a federal appellate judge, "I swore that I would administer justice without respect to persons, that I would do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I would carry out my duties under the Constitution and the laws of the United

States," Alito said. "And that is what I have tried to do to the very best of my ability for the past 15 years. And if I am confirmed, I pledge to you that that is what I would do on the Supreme Court."

The comments won approval from Republicans.

"Your modest approach to judging seems to bode well for our democracy," said Re-

publican Sen. Mike DeWine of Ohio, expressing the view held by many Republicans that the court's nine justices too often go beyond legal interpretation to revision of laws.

Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Bush's home state, Texas, left little doubt why he supports Alito. "Groups are trying to defeat your nomination because you will not support their liberal agenda,"

Cornyn said, "and the reason they oppose you is precisely why I support you."

Abortion, which many developed countries long ago settled as a legal issue, remains perhaps the most contentious subject for the American electorate.

Before he became a judge, Alito wrote against Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that found in the Constitution a right

to privacy that includes a right to abort a fetus. In 1991 he voted in an appeals case that a woman must tell her spouse should she seek an abortion.

In three other significant cases, his votes were on the side of abortion rights activists, including the Supreme Court's finding that a fetus is not a "person" in the legal sense.

"I agree with the

essential point that the court is making: that the Supreme Court has held that a fetus is not a 'person' within the meaning of the 14th Amendment," Alito wrote.

If confirmed, Alito would be the fifth Catholic on the court, the first time Catholics have held a majority.

Chief Justice John Roberts cleared the Senate but was renominated to head the court

when Chief Justice William Rehnquist died in August. Bush then named White House lawyer Harriet Miers, who withdrew her name under fire from conservatives.

"Given Judge Alito's past indifference to the impact race and racism has on our society, the NAACP is firmly and formally opposing his nomination."

— NAACP Press release

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Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

955 - 20th Street South
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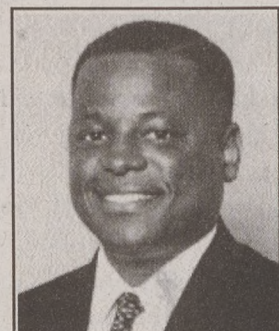
Phone: 894-4311
www.mzprogressive.org

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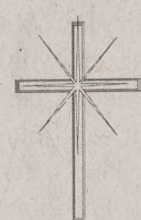
Worship Service: 8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m.

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Wednesday, Bible Study: 8:00-9:00 p.m.
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Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.

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Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr., Senior Pastor

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 1235, Clearwater, FL 33755
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Email: sjpbce@tampabay.rr.com

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Youth Bible Study Thursday 6:00 P.M.

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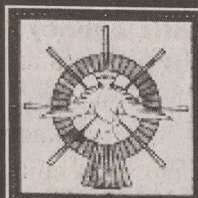
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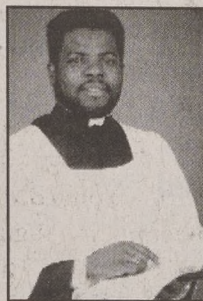
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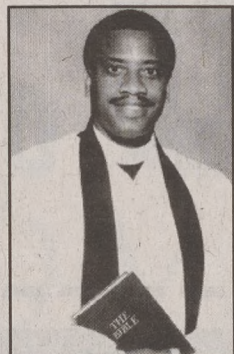
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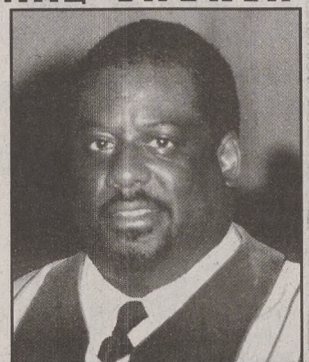
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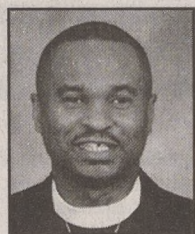
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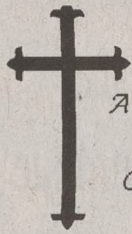
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Sealed bids will be received by the Purchasing and Materials Management Director, City of St. Petersburg, Municipal Services Center, 5th Floor, One 4th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33701 for: 910-39 Three-Year Contract for Custodial Services, Bid No. 6486, Mandatory pre-bid conference to be held at 10:00 a.m. ET, Tuesday, January 17, 2006, at location referenced above, bid opening at 3:00 p.m. ET, Tuesday, January 31, 2006. This bid and all addenda may be downloaded by accessing the City's website at www.stpete.org/purchase/solbidn.htm. The City of St. Petersburg, Florida reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. The City reserves the right to waive technicalities on bids. The decision as to what constitutes a technicality shall rest solely with Louis Moore, CPPD, Director of Purchasing and Materials Management.

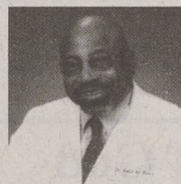
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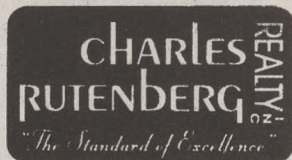
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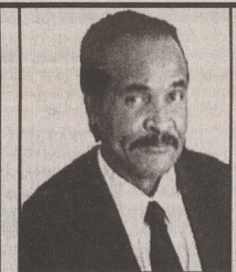
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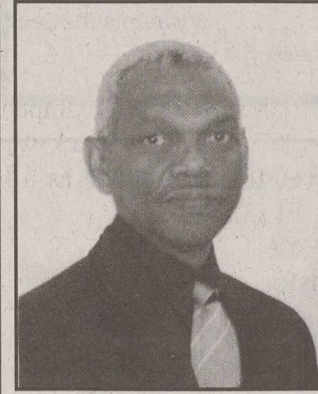
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Contact By: 01/20/2006. Apply to the Personnel Dept., County Annex Ofc Bldg, First Floor, Rm 121, 400 S Ft Harrison Avenue, Clearwater, Florida, 33756-5113; Tel. 727-464-3367, OR 501 Ofc Bldg, First Floor, Room 117, 501 1st Avenue North, St Petersburg, Florida 33701-3726; Tel. 727-582-7780, M - F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except holidays. Job Information Line 727-464-3745.

NOTE: Application may be downloaded from our Employment Opportunities page at www.co.pinellas.fl.us/persnl/emp&test/empopp.htm.

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Notice of Opening of Public Housing Waiting List Romayne Apartments

The St. Petersburg Housing Authority will open the waiting list and accept applications for Romayne Apartments, a public housing community located at 8601 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street North. Individuals and families of 1 to 4 persons are welcome to apply for these one and two bedroom apartment units. Rent for these units will be based on family income. Applications will be accepted by mail or in person as follows:

In Person
When: January 18th through January 27th, 2006 during the hours of 8 AM to 4 PM.

Where: St. Petersburg Housing Authority
3250 Fifth Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida

By Mail

Applications will be available for pick-up at the address below on January 18, 2006 through January 27, 2006. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 27, 2006.

Mail To: St. Petersburg Housing Authority
ATT: Romayne Apartments Application
3250 Fifth Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Disabled Applicants

Disabled applicants may call 727-323-3171, extension 373 beginning January 11th, 2006 to receive an application by mail.

Equal Housing Opportunity

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LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Tampa no later than 1:30 p.m. on the indicated Bid Date(s) for the following Project(s):
CONTRACT NO.: 6-C-14; Lake Avenue Enhancement - Rebid
BID DATE: February 14, 2006 ESTIMATE: \$1,000,000
DEPOSIT: \$60 SCOPE: Construction of enhancement features on Lake Avenue to include, but not be limited to, sidewalks, enhanced crosswalks, decorative intersections, parallel parking spaces, landscaping and irrigation. PRE-BID CONFERENCE: Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

Bids will be opened in the 4th Floor Conference Room, Tampa Municipal Office Building, 306 E. Jackson Street, Tampa, Florida 33602. Pre-Bid Conference is held at the same location unless otherwise indicated. Plans and Specifications for this work may be examined at the Department of Public Works, 306 E. Jackson Street, 4th Floor North, Tampa, Florida 33602. Copies may be obtained upon payment of the refundable deposit indicated for each set. Deposits are refunded if documents are returned in good condition within 15 days after bid opening. Deposits should be in the form of separate checks for each project. Mailing is available for an additional charge of \$10.00 per set. Check should be made payable to the City of Tampa. Subcontracting opportunities may exist for City certified Women/Minority Business Enterprises (W/MBE's). A copy of the current W/MBE directory may be obtained at www.Tampagov.net. Phone (813) 274-8456 for assistance. For Technical Questions: Fax 813/274-8080

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This Week In Black History

January 15:

1929

Martin Luther King, Jr., the man who was to become America's greatest civil rights hero, was born on this day in 1929. Actually, his original given name was "Michael" but it was later changed to Martin. He first rose to national prominence as the country's premier civil rights leader when he successfully led the 1955-1956 Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott by blacks angered by the arrest of Rosa Parks for her refusal to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man.



Martin Luther King, Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and the nation now celebrates his birth as a national holiday on the third Monday of each January.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.DJSPEDY-RODUCTION.COM

The R & B group **The Supremes** later changed their name to Diana Ross and the Supremes and the group rocketed to international fame.

1961

One of the original super groups - **The Supremes** - signs with black record company Motown on this day in 1961.

January 16:

1920

Zeta Phi Beta sorority is founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. by five socially conscious black women. It becomes one of the nation's leading black sororities. It was founded as a sister organization to the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.

January 17:

1927

Multi-lingual singer, dancer, and actress **Eartha Kitt** is born in a small plantation town called North, S.C. But when abandoned by her mother because her second husband did not want to raise a mix-raced child, Eartha is raised by an aunt in New York City. She becomes a star of stage and screen, including playing the role of Cat Woman in the "Batman" television series.

RIGHT: The U.S. entertainment industry would not touch Eartha Kitt, above, for nearly 10 years after a 1968 White House luncheon during which she angered President Lyndon Johnson's wife by criticizing the war in Vietnam.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMG.PHOTOBUCKET.COM



1942

Boxing legend **Muhammad Ali** is born on this day in Louisville, Ky.

January 18:

1856

Daniel Hale Williams is born in Hollidaysburg, Penn. He becomes a pioneering surgeon and is generally credited with performing the first open heart surgery. He was a strong advocate of the emerging antiseptic and sterilization procedures of his day. He believed that many patients died or became ill in the hospital because of the lack of cleanliness of doctors and facilities.

RIGHT: Daniel Williams' open heart surgery feat occurred on July 10, 1893, when he repaired a knife wound to the chest of James Cornish. The operation was a success and Cornish lived another 20 years.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MCLIBRARY.DUKE.EDU



January 19:

1918

The founder of **Ebony** and **Jet** magazines, **John H. Johnson**, is born on this day in rural Arkansas City, Ark. Shortly after the death of his father, Johnson's mother moved the family to Chicago where Johnson attended high school during the day and read self-help books at night laying the intellectual and motivational foundations for the eventual building of his publishing empire.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MCLIBRARY.DUKE.EDU

Johnson's classmates at Chicago's DuSable High School were Nate King Cole, Redd Foxx and future businessman William Abernathy. Johnson died last year.

January 20:

1947

Josh Gibson, perhaps the most famous and outstanding athlete to play in the old Negro Baseball League dies on this day in 1947.

Josh Gibson, "called by many 'the black Babe Ruth,' ... used a short, compact stride and a massive upper body to crush line drive home runs in ballparks all over North and South America."

— www.baseballlibrary.com
PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.THEFORGOTTENLEAGUES.COM



1986
The first national holiday in honor of civil rights legend **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** is celebrated.

January 21:

1773

Poet **Phillis Wheatley**, born in 1753, was freed on this day in 1773. Kidnapped in Africa and sold as a slave when she was only seven years old. Wheatley would become black America's first poet. She grew up in a prosperous Boston family which allowed her to learn to read. She not only mastered English but also excelled in Greek and Latin. Her first book of poetry received rave reviews in the United States and Europe.

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