

“DON’T GUESS, VOTE YES” NAACP Confronts Disinformation Campaign

RICHMOND

The NAACP Virginia State Conference met recently to address disinformation around the April 21 Referendum that is designed to confuse Black voters.

NAACP leaders have made clear that the civil rights community supports the amendment and encourages Black voters to vote yes.

Across the state, Black voters report receiving information in their mailboxes with 1960s civil rights imagery and misleading quotes by President Barack Obama and Governor Abigail Spanberger using the word “no.” The originator of this campaign is Democracy and Justice PAC, a MAGA-led group, with the intent to confuse Black voters.

Rev. Cozy Bailey, Sr., NAACP Virginia State Conference President, issued the following statement:

“As we stand here on this

Across the state, Black voters report receiving information in their mail with misleading quotes by Pres. Barack Obama and Gov. Abigail Spanberger, both supporters of the Referendum.



voices of Black voters. We are here to affirm that we will not be deterred; we will fight back.

“Redistricting is not merely a political maneuver; it is a constitutional imperative that occurs every ten years, following the census. It is a necessary process to ensure fair representation in our democracy. Yet, we have seen how this process can be manipulated for political gain.

...see YES, page 8A

READ A POEM

Take a moment.
Let words move you.

April is
National Poetry Month

START WITH
ONE POEM TODAY.



BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP: WHAT’S AT STAKE IN TRUMP V. BARBARA

By Keith Golden Jr.
Howard University
News Service

AN ANALYSIS

When the 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868, it was meant to answer a question the nation had long avoided: What makes an American?

In the wake of slavery and in direct response to Dred Scott v. Sandford – which declared that Black people could not be citizens – the amendment established that anyone born in the United States is a citizen.

It was a promise. One rooted in correction, in repair, in recognition.

More than 150 years later, that promise is back before the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Wednesday (April 1), justices heard arguments in Trump v. Barbara, a case



Photo: Keith Golden Jr./HUNewsService.com

People walking by the Supreme Court.

that could redefine birthright citizenship and test the limits of presidential power.

For generations, the citizenship clause of

the 14th Amendment has been understood to grant automatic citizenship to nearly all people born on U.S. soil, regardless of their parents’ immigration

status.

That interpretation was solidified in United States v. Wong Kim Ark.

...see **Birthright**, page 6A



Photo: Courtesy

(L-R) Rev. Jerry Holmes, Travis Barnes, Stacey Brown, Breona Barnes

Honored In Her Own Country

NORFOLK

The Historic First Baptist Church Bute Street in Norfolk, Va. paid tribute on Palm Sunday to the late Mrs. Elizabeth C. Moore Barnes, 102. After her death on Dec. 17, 2025. Her family learned for the first time that she was a member of the famed World War II all-female 6888 Battalion. ...see page 3A

Black Doctors’ Association Raises Alarm On Cuba’s Health Crisis

Special to the
New Journal and Guide

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Medical Association (NMA), representing the collective voice of Black physicians and the patients they serve, has sounded an alarm regarding the escalating health consequences of the ongoing Cuban blockade. This comes following a recent dialogue between NMA President Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr., and the Ambassador of Cuba Tanieris Diéguez.

Cuba’s healthcare system is currently experiencing severe strain driven by an intensifying energy crisis linked to restrictions on fuel access. U.S. sanctions



Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr.
NMA President

and blocked oil imports along with an outdated infrastructure and weak economy have created one of the worst energy crises Cuba has faced in decades. As a result, hospitals and

Cuba’s healthcare system is experiencing severe strain linked to restrictions on fuel access.

clinics are facing persistent power outages, disrupting life-saving services such as neonatal care, dialysis, chemotherapy, and surgical procedures. More than 96,000 patients are currently awaiting surgeries, including thousands of children, as the system is forced to delay care due to limited operational capacity.

“As physicians committed to health equity and global health justice, we call for immediate

removal of elements of the blockade that have led to the humanitarian and health impacts affecting the people of Cuba. We further encourage dialogue, transparency, and collaboration among the global medical and public health communities in response to the crisis to assist with access to care, medical supplies, and life-sustaining resources needed post blockade,” said NMA in its statement. ...see **Doctors**, page 6A

10 Va. Hospitals At Risk Due To GOP Medicaid Cuts

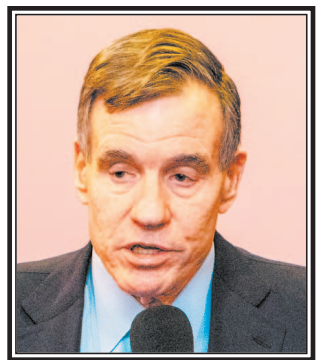
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Following a new report finding that Medicaid cuts have put ten hospitals in Virginia at risk of closure, U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine (both D-VA) underscored the devastating effects of the Republican budget law on communities across the Commonwealth.

“From Southwest to Northern Virginia, hospitals across the Commonwealth are now at risk of closure because of Republicans’ tax giveaway bill for the ultra-wealthy,” said the senators. “While the rich got trillions in tax breaks, hard-working Virginians are left paying the price. This latest report shows just how cruel and reckless this law is. Virginians, and Americans across the country, deserve reliable access to affordable, quality care.”

The report shows the Virginia hospitals at risk of closure are in mainly rural communities: Emporia, Grundy, Tazewell, Clintwood, South Boston, Woodbridge, Farmville, Galax, South Hill, and Tappahannock.

The report also highlighted



Sen. Mark Warner

how Farmville’s Centra Southside Community Hospital was forced to close labor and delivery and OBGYN surgical services, as well as outpatient care with its affiliated women’s center, because it “like other rural health care providers, must adapt to significant financial and operational challenges, including recently enacted reductions in federal health care funding.”

While the budget bill was being considered in the Senate, Warner and Kaine introduced a series of amendments in an attempt to improve the legislation, but Republicans blocked them.

FOR 1ST TIME EVER, ARMY’S CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS FIRED – BY HEGSETH

By Mark Wingfield
Baptist News Global

For the first time in history, the U.S. Army chief of chaplains has been fired by the Secretary of Defense.

Pete Hegseth made national headlines April 2 for firing Gen. Randy George, the Army’s chief of staff. But on the same day, Hegseth removed Army Maj. Gen. William Green, who had served in that post since 2023.

Traditionally, a person serves as Army chief of chaplains for a four-year term. No reason was given publicly for



Army Maj. Gen. William Green

Green’s dismissal, which was reported by KGW8 in Portland, Ore., and The New York Times.

Green’s unusual

SECDEF Pete Hegseth has fired or sidelined more than two dozen senior military leaders, heavily targeting Black and female officers.

dismissal came amid a shakeup of top Army brass deployed by Hegseth, an avowed Christian nationalist who believes America’s war in Iran is sanctioned by God. Hegseth also has pushed for changes in the work of military chaplains, telling them to be less therapeutic and more pastoral.

Within his one-year

tenure, Hegseth has fired or sidelined more than two dozen senior military leaders, heavily targeting Black and female officers and elevating white men to leadership roles in their place.

Green is a native of Savannah, Ga., and grew up on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

...see **Chaplain**, page 6A

INSIDE

Metro Ministers Conference Host Metro Honors ‘26

...see page 5B

Senior Black Members of Congress Dig In About Age

By Rosaland Tyler

Associate Editor
New Journal and Guide

In a span of nearly three-months, five influential and long-serving Black Congresspersons have encountered career-defining duels over their age.

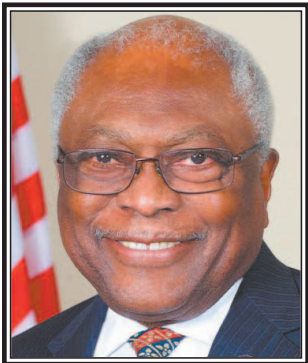
In January, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, (age 88), announced her retirement before the June 16 primary will be held.

A month later in February, California Congresswoman Maxine Waters, (age 87) heard her political opponent transform their age differences into a campaign issue on the stump in their South Los Angeles district months before the June primary will be held. Congresswoman Waters in November 2025 told CNN she does not plan to retire.

Norton is a former civil rights leader who helped plan the 1963 March on Washington, and an accomplished attorney. She was first elected in 1991. She said in a statement about her retirement at the end of this term, "Time and again, D.C. residents entrusted me to fight for them at the federal level, and I have not yielded. With fire in my soul and the facts on my side, I have raised hell about the injustice of denying 700,000 taxpaying Americans the same rights given to residents of the states for 35 years."

Norton added, "I will leave this institution knowing that I have given you everything I have."

The list also includes South Carolina Congressman Jim Clyburn, 85, who recently



Rep. Jim Clyburn, 85
... not retiring



Rep. Maxine Waters, 87
... not retiring



Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton
... is retiring at age 88

“Seniority is how you get things done in Washington.”

—Congressman Bennie Thompson, 78

announced his reelection bid, not his retirement. Clyburn will run this November in the heavily Democratic 6th District, where he is a favorite.

Clyburn said in a 2021 interview with Axios that there is a path for the next generation and that if they wanted his seat, to "come get it."

"The path is there for the next generation; I never asked anyone to die for me. I don't know why people come saying you need to step aside for me. No. If you want my seat, come get it," Clyburn said at the time.

Now, few of these seasoned political leaders are openly confronting the age issue. And few of their much younger opponents are openly addressing their own lack of experience.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries said Democrats need a net gain of just three seats to seize the majority in November's midterm elections.

"Seniority is how you get things done in Washington,"

Congressman Bennie Thompson told reporters after he easily defeated Evan Turnage, a 34-year-old who formerly served as counsel to then-Senate Majority Leader

Chuck Schumer and Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Thompson has held his seat for more than three decades. He will become chair of the committee overseeing the Department of Homeland Security, if the Democrats retake control of the House in November.

Another name on the list is Congressman Jim Clyburn. He recently told reporters at state party headquarters in Columbia after he announced his

reelection bid. "I'm here today to say I do believe that I'm very well equipped and healthy enough to move into the next term, trying to do the things that are necessary to continue that pursuit of perfection. And so I will run a very vigorous campaign."

Congresswoman Maxine Waters who in November 2025 told CNN she does not plan to retire, is being opposed by Los Angeles native

and cancer survivor Myla Rahman. She is a 53-year-old nonprofit executive. She has said Waters is out of touch with her constituents in California's 43rd district. Rahman previously raised less than \$35,000 for a state Assembly bid.

Rahman, in February, told The California Post that "people are sick and tired of the same old thing. We're getting momentum, momentum is getting strong, and we think that we will have what's necessary to be competitive and to win this race," Rahman said.

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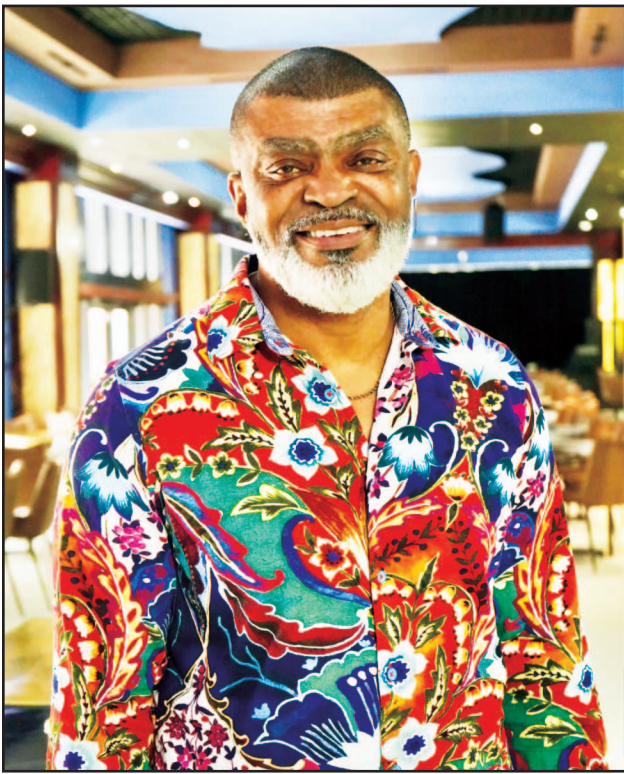
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Norfolk Office of Elections
810 Union Street, Suite 100

9 A.M. - 5 P.M. : SATURDAY, APRIL 11
9 A.M. - 5 P.M. : SATURDAY, APRIL 18

VOTER SATELLITE LOCATIONS

Berkley Recreation Center
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Jordan-Newby Anchor Branch Library
1425 Norchester Avenue

Lambert's Point Community Center
1251 W. 42nd Street

Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library
111 W. Ocean View Avenue

9 A.M. - 5 P.M. : SATURDAY, APRIL 11

9 A.M. - 5 P.M. : MONDAY, APRIL 13

9 A.M. - 5 P.M. : WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

9 A.M. - 5 P.M. : FRIDAY, APRIL 17

9 A.M. - 5 P.M. : SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Historic First Baptist Celebrates Posthumously An Unsung Heroic 102-Year-Old 6888 Veteran

By Rev. Dee Edwards

Special to the
New Journal and Guide

At 9:45 a.m., on Sunday March 29, 2026, members and visitors streamed into the sanctuary of Historic First Baptist Church Bute Street in Norfolk, Va. They were coming to worship the Lord on Palm Sunday. Very few people were aware that this day would also be a day of iconic revelation regarding a woman we had known for many years, but whose military legacy was obscure and unsung.

For the family, it was an exceptionally humbling and gratifying day to share the recent stunning discovery only after the death of their deceased loved one, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Moore Barnes. Mrs. Barnes died on December 17, 2025, at the age of one hundred and two. Her daughter Stacey Barnes Brown, grandson, Rev. Travis Barnes, granddaughter, Breona Barnes, granddaughter-in-law, Ashley Barnes, nor great-grands, Madisyn and Mayson ever heard that Corporal Barnes (then Cpl. Moore) had served in the United States Army from 1944 -1946 during WWII. She never told any of her living family members.

If you are wondering why, Mrs. Barnes never shared this with anyone, join the crowd. We can only speculate. We are told by her family that Mrs. Barnes even watched the Tyler Perry movie, "Six Triple Eight" in 2024 along with her family. It obviously was her desire to avoid sharing the details of an unforgettable life experience; knowing it would be discovered



Mrs. Elizabeth C. Moore Barnes

Photo: Courtesy



Photo: Courtesy

Rev. Dr. James Edwards, III (Retired Airborne Infantry Captain) presents the American flag to Corporal Barnes' daughter, Stacy Barnes Brown

For the family, it was an exceptionally humbling and gratifying day to share the recent stunning discovery only after the death of their deceased loved one, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Moore Barnes.

after her death. Her Army honorable discharge papers were discovered by her granddaughter, Breona.

It was even more incredible to find later that she served with the now, eminent ("Six Triple Eight") 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion. This was the only all-Black, all-female unit deployed overseas during World War II. It is recorded that the 855 women of this unit operated in Birmingham, England, Rouen, France, and Paris France. They were tasked with sorting a massive 17,000,000 pieces of mail backlogs to boost troop morale in six months ... they did it in three! Under the leadership of Major Charity Adams (later, Lieutenant Colonel

Charity Adams Earley) the unit faced racism and gender discrimination, but they all continued to serve and serve well, marching to the cadence of "no mail, low morale."

In honoring this great veteran, Senior Pastor Jerry L. Holmes asked Pastor Evelyn Lee to organize the beautiful program presented on that Sunday to surprise her family with meaningful and heartfelt keepsakes and providing the congregation, the privilege of sharing in their joy.

Rev. Dr. James Edwards, III (Retired Airborne Infantry Captain) presented the American flag to Corporal Barnes' daughter, Stacy Barnes Brown, Rev. Gary McCollum

(Retired Airborne Ranger Major) presented a framed Meritorious Unit Citation to the family. Ms. Clara Janette Hill-Potter (Retired Major) presented Corporal Elizabeth C. Moore Barnes' family with the military

ribbons she so proudly earned in service to her country. Pastor Holmes referred to her as a "hidden gem."

We all stood for a final ovation to our long-time First Baptist Church

member, leader and dedicated woman servant of God, and Norfolk Public Schools loving teacher that we knew; and to the overwhelming joy for a life, we just found out about, so totally well lived.

HISTORY OF THE 6888TH BATTALION

By New Journal and Guide

the 6888th with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The 6888th Battalion, also known as the "Six Triple Eight," was the only all-Black Women's Army Corps (WAC) unit to serve overseas during World War II. Their mission was monumental: to clear a massive 17 million pieces of mail for American soldiers stationed in Europe.

Facing overwhelming challenges, including mountains of undelivered mail and a lack of resources, these women rose to the occasion with determination and grace, fulfilling the mission in three months instead of the assigned six months. Their heroic story was told at the time and preserved in Black newspapers, including the New Journal and Guide.

Almost a full century after the end of World War II, new stories about their quiet heroism came to light in Tyler Perry's Netflix 2024 movie, "The Six Triple Eight," starring Kerry Washington.

In 2022, President Joe Biden presented

PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

In her book, "The Six Triple Eight," Priscilla T. Graham lists the names by state, including Virginia, of 842 women who served in the 6888th Battalion.

In addition to Mrs. Barnes from Norfolk are the names of PFC Lillie G. Bratcher; PFC Helen Ernestine Henderson; T5 Dorothy Mayfield Hutchins; SGT Marian Elizabeth Lawrence; and CPL Ruth V. Riddick. Others in the Hampton Roads area listed are PVT Virginia Leona Jones (Portsmouth); PFC Grace Lee Ruffin (Suffolk); PFC Rosa Gertrude Diggs (Suffolk); and PFC Kitty Cornelia Bowden (Hampton).

In the May 8, 1943 issue of the Journal and Guide, additional names of Hampton Roads women assigned to the 6888th were Evelene B. Thomas (Norfolk); Evelyn L. Bensley (Norfolk); Viola A. Jones (Portsmouth); and Louise . Jackson (South Norfolk).



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WHAT THE DATA SAY

By Wornie Reed, Ph.D.



PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SOCIOLOGY
VIRGINIA TECH

MORE ON BLACKS IN THE CIVIL WAR

During the Civil War, so many Black men went to Massachusetts to join the 54th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) that a second regiment, the 55th, was organized in Massachusetts. Men in the 55th Regiment came from 25 states, the District of Columbia, and Africa. Seventy percent of them had never been slaves. Five hundred could read, and over 300 could write. Forty-six trades and occupations were represented.

The literacy of one of the men, Nicolas Said, was notable. He was raised in Bornu, Eastern Sudan, and Central Africa, and was a member of the ruling class of his tribe. According to the commanding officer of the 55th Regiment, Said "spoke and wrote English, French, German, and Italian, while there is no doubt that he is master of Kanouri [his vernacular], Mandra, Arabic, Turkish, and Russian."

Despite all that literacy among the Black soldiers, the movie *Glory* depicted only one Black soldier as educated and consequently was a bumbling misfit as a soldier.

James Trotter was one of the prominent members of the 55th Regiment. Before heeding the call to enlist in Boston, Trotter taught in schools for Black students in Ohio. Educated and 21, he was quickly promoted from Private to Sergeant and ultimately to 2nd Lieutenant, the second man of color to achieve that rank.

Trotter was one of the leaders of the protest over the unequal pay of the Black soldiers. After the war, he became the first Black man to be employed by the U.S. Post Office Department. Following 18 years there, President Grover Cleveland appointed him Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia.

“It is a significant matter that the contributions of Blacks in America’s wars be known and recognized, because those bloody contributions stake the claims for all the rights and privileges of American citizenship.”

Trotter was the father of William Monroe Trotter, an uncompromising civil rights advocate who founded the Boston Guardian newspaper. William Monroe Trotter was the most prominent opponent of Booker T. Washington’s philosophy of accommodation. He, along with W.E.B. Dubois and others, established the Niagara civil rights organization in 1905. Trotter went to D.C. several times to protest racial segregation in the federal government that had been exacerbated by President Woodrow Wilson.

Black men and women were vital to the Civil War effort, both in and out of uniform. About 10,000 Black soldiers died in battle, and three times as many died from illness. Historian Robert B. Edgerton wrote: “Their death rate was proportionately much higher than that of white soldiers in the Union Army, in part because they were so often used as assault troops and in part because their medical care was usually even worse than that given white troops.”

Edgerton continued: “Many Blacks would serve in USCT labor battalions, but before the war ended, there would also be 120 Black infantry regiments, 12 heavy artillery regiments, 10 companies of light artillery, 7 cavalry regiments, and 5 regiments of engineers. In all, by the war’s end, Blacks made up 10 percent of the Union’s forces.” Black men and some women served as nurses, scouts, and spies. Men were employed as carpenters,

cooks, laborers, teamsters, and surgeons – as well as in infantry and artillery companies. Historian Philip Shaw Paludan wrote: “While their service had not destroyed prejudice, it had helped destroy slavery in 39 major battles and 449 engagements, with 21 Black Congressional Medal of Honor winners. The fighting by all the Blacks had produced claims on white sympathy, linked them with an admirable cause, and laid the groundwork for changing some of the nation’s racial ideas.”

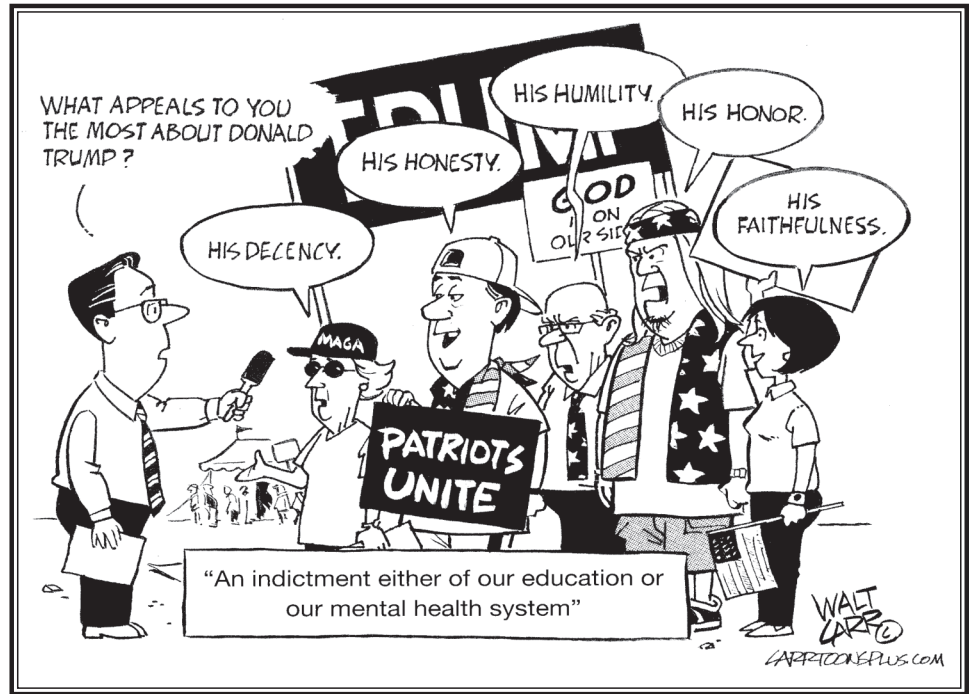
As white men grew reluctant to join the northern army, the number of US Colored Troops increased throughout the Civil War, helping deliver Union victory. Over 180,000 Black men, serving in the United States Colored Troops, provided crucial manpower that helped the Union win the Civil War. Their service, marked by bravery in 39 major battles, challenged racist attitudes and helped lead to equal pay.

The 54th Massachusetts Regiment’s heroic, failed attack on Fort Wagner (July 18, 1863) served as a critical turning point in the US Civil War by proving Black soldiers’ valor, forcing a reversal of racist military attitudes, and prompting mass Black enlistment.

It is a significant matter that the contributions of Blacks in America’s wars be known and recognized, because those bloody contributions stake the claims for all the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

CARRTOON By Walt Carr

From Laughin', Lyin' & Signifyin'



Where are Our Three Branches of Government?

By Dr. E. Faye Williams



Dr. E. Faye Williams

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

It has been reported that poor areas in Iran where people of African descent live have been among those first harmed. Others live there, too. Research has not confirmed how many of the students in the girls’ school that was bombed in the war against Iran had African blood, but they were God’s children and many were poor. Here’s what research found. This is a heavily documented and actively unfolding story.

What is confirmed across multiple major investigations is that on February 28, 2026, the first day of the 2026 Iran war, the Shajareh Tayyebah girls’ elementary school in the Shahrak-e Al-Mahdi neighborhood of Minab, Hormozgan province in southern Iran was destroyed by a missile strike. According to Iran state media, at least 175 people were killed, over 100 of them were school children. That is a tragedy no matter what their blood was.

The school was attended by a mix of children of military families and locals drawn by low tuition fees – some from the town of Minab itself, and others from outside. The fact that tuition was low might tell us many of the girls came from poor families. That would not be surprising.

Regarding the specific claim about African children of domestic workers: Reporting on the demographics of Minab notes that the people of Minab are a braided population – Arab, Persian, Baloch, descendants of African traders who sailed

How easy it is for Trump to dismiss the role we have been led to believe we pay federal taxes for – education of our people, healthcare, and so many necessities of life.

so many necessities of life. Trump and Hegseth are acting like kids playing games!

This war is not one of support or choosing by the American people or our representatives in Washington who were not even consulted! People who’re still struggling to buy gasoline to get to work, to buy food for their families, to send their children to college or to afford a comfortable home to live, didn’t vote for what the man who thinks he is king to decide his only job is to do away with the things families need, so he and Hegseth can spend their time conducting their wars we don’t support!

Amnesty International, which interviewed a teacher in Minab, and a Baluchi human rights defender, found where the girls died were children of people across the board, including the IRGC personnel and low-income families from the area, who include members of Iran’s oppressed Baluchi ethnic minority whether they were of African descent or not.

...see **Branches**, page 5A

BORN IN AMERICA MEANS AMERICAN PERIOD

By Marc H. Morial
To Be Equal



Marc H. Morial

The National Urban League has stood against every attempt to diminish the citizenship, dignity, and rights of Black and brown Americans since 1910.

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

– The 14th Amendment



They hoped we weren’t paying attention.

While the country was watching fighter jets and debating troop deployments, while the administration’s shock-and-awe news cycle churned through one manufactured crisis after another, and far more dangerous move was playing out in plain sight.

On the first day of his second term, President Trump signed an executive order attempting to end birthright citizenship in the United States. Not through Congress. Not through the constitutional amendment process the framers required. Through a stroke of a pen.

This is one of the most brazen assaults on American democracy this administration has attempted. And it was designed to slide through the

noise.

It must and will not.

The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, includes a citizenship clause that confers citizenship on anyone “born in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof.” The amendment simply constitutionalized centuries of precedent based on English common law.

And let us remind America, that this was a direct repudiation of the Dred Scott decision, which denied Black people the protections of U.S. citizenship. The amendment was the nation’s promise to itself that never again would the government get to decide that a person born on this soil was something less than American.

That promise is now under attack.

Trump has argued that the amendment “was meant for the slaves, for the children of slaves.” Let that land for a moment. The administration’s own framing acknowledges the 14th Amendment was written to protect Black people, and then argues that its protections should be

narrower than the text plainly states.

This is not a legal argument. It is a political ideology, rooted in White Supremacy, seeking to legally discriminate who really counts based arbitrarily by a select few.

The assault on birthright citizenship is anti-Black not only in its history but in its logic. When you establish the principle that citizenship can be conditioned on the legal status of your parents, you create the infrastructure for a permanent underclass. You open the door to generations of people born in America, raised in America, who are American in every lived sense, but who can be told they do not belong.

If Trump’s order were allowed to stand, an estimated 2.7 million additional people would be unauthorized by 2045, and 5.4 million more by 2075. These are not abstractions. These are children. And disproportionately, they are children of color.

...see **American**, page 5A

Merit-based Promotions Should Also Be About Fairness

By David W. Marshall

(TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM)

The fight for fairness will never be easy. Fairness is the quality of making impartial, just, and equitable decisions, free from bias, discrimination, or dishonesty. It involves providing equal opportunities and adhering to fair rules, often balancing individual circumstances to ensure just outcomes.

It means making decisions by being open-minded and objective. When people say they are anti-DEI, they are telling us they do not believe in fairness. They are exposing themselves as individuals who do not believe everyone deserves an equal opportunity to succeed.

They are revealing the degree to which they are willing to accept dishonest tactics that are developed to hold back women and people of color. The anti-DEI initiative has proven to be an effective offense ploy waged in the culture war against the Black community. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, who serves as the principal defense policy advisor to the President, knows he sits in a perfect position to dismantle



David W. Marshall

It is clear with this current administration that promotion to the highest ranks ... is all about white males.

change a culture corrupted by “foolish,” “reckless,” and “woke” leaders from previous administrations. We are constantly told that the Department of Defense, sometimes referred to as the Department of War, is now controlled by meritocracy.

While meritocracy is a system in which power and positions are assigned based on individual ability, talent, and achievement rather than social background, wealth, or nepotism, it still requires a fair promotion system. Meritocracy, in the true sense, still means that everyone has an equal chance to succeed regardless of background, race, and gender. Today, about 43 percent of the 1.3 million troops on active duty are people of color. But those leading the military are overwhelmingly white and male.

...see **Fairness**, page 5A

A MEMORABLE MEETING WITH STEVIE WONDER!



Appeared first in the New Journal and Guide

SAN FERNANDO, CA

Hampton Roads native Nicole Webb and her 6 year-old son, Loyal Montrell, now living in North Hollywood, CA worshipped on Easter Sunday at California Worship Center in San Fernando, CA., Pastors Warryn Campbell and Erica Campbell of the gospel group Mary Mary.



Photos: Courtesy

After the service, while walking to the parking lot Nicky stopped and said to Loyal, "That's Stevie Wonder, let's go and meet him." He was so nice and welcoming and asked Loyal a few questions, she said.

Then he gave Loyal a high 5 and hug and told Loyal he loved him. They took pictures with Stevie Wonder. Nicky and Loyal are the daughter and grandson of Angela Webb Gregory of Chesapeake.



American

Continued from page 4A

Advocates have warned this risks creating a "permanent underclass" for some immigrant groups, transforming the cultural and civic fabric of the country. Communities of color, already navigating the cumulative weight of structural inequality, would face an additional burden; proving their belonging in the only country they have ever known.

That is not America at its founding promise. That is America at its worst.

Every federal court that has considered a challenge

to the executive order has struck it down. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Trump v. Barbara* this week, and a majority of the justices appeared skeptical of the administration's position. Even Chief Justice Roberts noted that we may live in a new world, but we have the same Constitution. We agree. A Supreme Court ruling is expected by the end of June or early July.

The National Urban League has stood against every attempt to diminish the citizenship, dignity, and rights of Black and brown Americans since 1910. We know what it looks like when government uses the machinery of law to shrink the circle of who belongs. We have seen this before, and we have fought it before, and

we are fighting it now.

To the communities living under the shadow of this executive order, we see you. To the children whose citizenship should never have been in question, you are American, and we will defend that truth.

And to those in power who believe the noise of the moment will drown out accountability, it will not.

We are watching the courts. We are watching the Congress. We are watching the ballot box.

American democracy has survived every attempt to hollow it out from within, because the people it was built to exclude refused to stop demanding what was theirs.

This generation will be no different.

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Honoring Phillis Wheatley Peters:

The Mother of Our Literature

By New Journal and Guide

In January 2026, the U.S. Postal Service issued the 49th Black Heritage Stamp honoring Miss Phillis Wheatley Peters. Known to us as the "Mother of African-American Literature," her voice was the first to rise from the silence of bondage in 1773 to command the attention of a revolutionary world. For the readership of *The New Journal and Guide*, in April 2026, National Poetry Month, we remember and honor a woman whose genius was a fire that the winds of history could not extinguish.



Phillis Wheatley Peters

Wheatley Peters stood in the shadow of a young nation that sought to deny her soul, yet she used her pen to speak out about the events of her time.

Phillis. Arriving in Boston in 1761 among "refugee" slaves deemed too frail for heavy labor, she was named for the very vessel that carried her into captivity.

Phillis was purchased by the family of Susanna Wheatley, which eventually taught her to read and write. She enjoyed reading history, geography, the Bible, and British literature. By 1773, she had achieved the impossible: the publication of *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, making her the first person of African descent in the colonies to publish a book.

Her mastery of the craft allowed her to move within the highest circles of power. In 1775, she penned an epic address to George Washington, a man she would eventually meet in person, asserting her authoritative presence in the birth of a new nation:

"Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side, Thy ev'ry action let the Goddess guide. A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine, With gold unfading, WASHINGTON! Be thine."

— From *"His Excellency General Washington,"* 1775

Students of Phillis Wheatley Peters' poems note she carefully crafted her words. She often wrote with double meaning that allowed her to critique a nation founded on freedom yet maintaining slavery. Nowhere is this more potent than in *"On Being Brought From Africa to America,"* where her language performs a dual labor. The poem appears to give gratitude to White enslavers for bringing her from Africa to America. Yet, she concludes with a

sharp message to Whites, as Christians, about how they view and treat Blacks in America:

"Some view our sable race with scornful eye, Their colour is a diabolic die."

Remember, Christians, Negros, Black as Cain, May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train."

— From *"On Being Brought from Africa to America,"* 1773

Reclaiming Wheatley Peters' legacy is currently underway at the Boston Public Library and the New York Public Library which have become sites of pilgrimage in 2026. Workshops led by Professor Nicole N. Aljoe and Poet Populi Toni Bee are bringing the "Reconnecting with Phillis Wheatley" sessions to the people.

During National Poetry Month 2026, NJG lifts up the legacy of Phillis Wheatley Peters who died on December 5, 1784, at the age of 31. Wheatley Peters stood in the shadow of a young nation that sought to deny her soul, yet she used her pen to speak out about the events of her time. In doing so, she was a ray of hope, carving a path for every Black writer who has since dared to dream.

As we move forward, let us ask ourselves: How are we carrying the light she ignited? In a world that still challenges our humanity, how do we continue to honor the sacrifice of those whose voices were nearly lost to history? We honor them by refusing to let their stories fade, and by ensuring that the sacred genius of Miss Phillis remains a cornerstone of our communal narrative.

Fairness

Continued from page 4A

The New York Times reported that Defense Secretary Hegseth blocked the promotion of two Black men and two female Army officers who were on track to become one-star generals. According to the Times article, Hegseth pressed senior Army leaders, including Army Secretary Daniel Driscoll, to remove the four names from the list of about three dozen officers, most of whom are white men. Driscoll refused, citing the officers' decades-long records of exemplary service.

It is customary that after a service board approves a list of colonels to be promoted to general, the defense secretary is not supposed to intervene, military officials say. Despite standard procedures, Hegseth removed the four names from the list and announced that President Trump had approved his new list of 29 Army colonels for promotion.

"If these reports are accurate, Secretary Hegseth's decision to remove four decorated

officers from a promotion list after having been selected by their peers for their merit and performance is not only outrageous, it would be illegal," Sen. Jack Reed said in a statement.

What message does this send to the public about the military's ability to remain apolitical and free from society's cultural wars? What message does this send to minorities and women currently in the military who have hopes of moving up the career ladder based on merit?

And will there ever be another Gen. Colin Powell or Gen. Charles Q. Brown? Both were Black officers appointed as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest-ranking military officer in the U.S. Armed Forces. Gen. Brown was abruptly fired from that role by Hegseth without explanation.

Brown Jr. is an example of Black excellence. He is now a retired U.S. Air Force general who served as the 21st chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and, prior to that appointment, served as the 22nd chief of staff of the Air Force. Like so many other Black service men and women, Brown came from a proud military family. His father, Charles Sr., served for 30 years in

the Army, rising to the rank of colonel. His paternal grandfather, Robert E. Brown, was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II and served in the Pacific Theater, including Hawaii and Saipan.

For many Black households, the military was not just a job but a family tradition handed down from one generation to the next. It also served as a pathway to Black prosperity and the middle class.

When Hegseth denied four officers their rightful promotion, it was a painful and personal reminder to the two Black men and two women that discrimination within ranks and the Pentagon is still alive. It also serves as an unwelcome message to young Blacks from JROTC students to college graduates who believed the military glass ceiling was already broken.

It is clear with this current administration that promotion to the highest ranks will never be about merit or fairness. It's all about white males.

David W. Marshall is the founder of the faith-based organization TRB: The Reconciled Body and the author of the book God Bless Our Divided America.

Branches

Continued from page 4A

The Afro-Iranian community in Hormozgan (descendants of enslaved Africans brought via the Gulf trade) is real and historically documented — but the domestic worker framing as it applies to this school's population needs further sourcing to confirm.

May God help our country and protect us from our so-called leaders. Thanks to Pope Leo for speaking to the issue of war. It's not for our monetary gain!

Dr. E. Faye Williams, President of The Dick Gregory Society

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Take a moment.
Let words move you.
April is
National Poetry Month



THE DIGITAL DOWNLOAD
Breaking down technology,
one week at a time

By Delegate Cliff Hayes, Jr.

The Future of Work Will Be Human and Artificial

By Delegate Cliff Hayes

One of the most common questions about artificial intelligence is whether machines will replace workers.

The more likely reality is something different. The future of work will involve collaboration between people and intelligent tools.

Throughout history, technology has changed the nature of work. The steam engine transformed manufacturing.

The personal computer transformed office work. The Internet transformed communication.

Artificial intelligence represents the next stage in that evolution.

In many professions, AI can assist with repetitive tasks such as reviewing documents, organizing information, or identifying patterns in large datasets. When those tasks are automated, people can focus more on judgment, creativity, and leadership.

In other words, technology handles the routine work while people concentrate on the decisions that require human insight.

Workers who learn how to use AI tools effectively will likely find new

opportunities rather than fewer ones. The ability to collaborate with intelligent systems may soon become as essential as knowing how to use a computer.

Education and training will play an important role in this transition. Students and professionals alike must develop skills that allow them to adapt to new technologies.

The question is not whether artificial intelligence will influence the future of work. That transformation is already underway.

The real question is how prepared we are to work alongside it.

Doctors

Continued from page 1A

Fuel shortages are also impairing ambulance services, the transportation of healthcare workers, and the distribution of essential medicines. National pharmaceutical production has slowed significantly, and the stability required to store vaccines and critical medications is increasingly at risk due to ongoing electricity disruptions.

The consequences are particularly alarming for vulnerable populations. Shortages of antibiotics,

nutritional supplements, and basic medical supplies are contributing to worsening maternal and infant health outcomes, including tens of thousands of children experiencing delays in routine vaccinations due to logistical and energy constraints.

From a medical and ethical standpoint, these conditions raise urgent concerns, said NMA.

“Access to reliable electricity, essential medicines, and functioning healthcare infrastructure are foundational to modern medicine. When these are compromised, the result is preventable suffering, delayed care, and increased

risk of morbidity and mortality.

“Health is a human right. Public health systems must be protected from policies that unintentionally or disproportionately harm civilian populations, particularly children, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with chronic or life-threatening conditions.

“The NMA stands in solidarity with healthcare professionals working under constrained conditions and reiterates its commitment to advocating for policies that protect patient care, preserve human dignity, and uphold the fundamental principles of public health.”

Cuba's President Calls For Civilized Cuba-US Exchange

By New York Carib News

The government of Cuba has firmly rejected any suggestion that its political leadership or governing system could be subject to negotiation in ongoing discussions with the United States, as tensions between the two nations intensify.

Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernandez de Cossio delivered the

government's position unequivocally during a recent press conference.

His remarks come amid a deepening economic crisis in Cuba, exacerbated by U.S. restrictions on oil supplies that have triggered widespread energy shortages and hardship across the island. Despite these pressures, Cuban officials have maintained that sovereignty remains non-negotiable.



Photo: Courtesy

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel

Birthright

Continued from page 1A

That interpretation was solidified in United States v. Wong Kim Ark, where the court ruled that a man born in the U.S. to Chinese immigrants was a citizen.

Now, that precedent is being questioned.

At the center of the case is an executive order signed by President Donald Trump on Jan. 20, 2025 – his first day back in office.

The order, titled “Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship,” argues that birthright citizenship was never intended to apply to children of undocumented immigrants or temporary visitors.

If enforced, it would deny citizenship to those children moving forward and direct federal agencies not to recognize them as U.S. citizens.

FROM EXECUTIVE ORDER TO CONSTITUTIONAL SHOWDOWN

The policy was challenged almost immediately.

Civil rights organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, alongside immigration advocacy groups such as the National Immigration Law Center, filed lawsuits within days of the order's signing. A coalition of states – including California, New York and Illinois – also brought legal challenges, arguing the policy violated the Constitution and longstanding federal law.

Federal district courts moved quickly to block enforcement of the order, citing precedent and raising concerns about executive overreach, according to court filings and reporting from SCOTUSblog. Appellate courts later upheld those injunctions. After those rulings, the Trump administration appealed to the Supreme

If the court sides with the administration, future children born in the U.S. may not automatically be recognized as citizens.

Court, which agreed in December 2025 to hear the case on an expedited timeline, signaling the national significance of the dispute.

At its core, the legal question is not just about immigration policy. It is about power.

Can a president reinterpret the Constitution through executive action?

Or does changing the meaning of citizenship require Congress – or even a constitutional amendment?

THE PERSON BEHIND THE CASE

The “Barbara” in Trump v. Barbara is not a public figure, and very little personal information about her has been shared publicly. That understanding comes from the case's official court filings – the legal documents submitted by both sides.

Those filings identify Barbara as a named plaintiff in the case, meaning she is one of the individuals bringing the legal challenge against the executive order. While the documents outline her role in the lawsuit, they do not widely disclose personal details about her life. That is not unusual. In immigration-related cases, plaintiffs often limit what information is made public due to concerns about privacy, safety and potential legal consequences – a practice reflected in cases like Plyler v. Doe, where undocumented children were identified anonymously to protect them and their families.

What those records do make clear is that this case is not only a legal fight between the executive branch and the courts. It is also driven by individuals whose lives could be directly affected by how the law is interpreted. While

the case carries the name of a president, its impact is felt most immediately by people like the plaintiff at its center.

If the court sides with the administration, future children born in the U.S. may not automatically be recognized as citizens. Families could face new legal uncertainties, and federal agencies would be required to change how they issue and verify citizenship documents.

But for many, the implications run deeper than policy.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The 14th Amendment was not written with immigration in mind as it is debated today. It was written to ensure that Black Americans – newly freed from slavery – would be recognized as citizens in a country that had long denied their humanity.

That history is not separate from this case. It is the foundation of it.

As the justices hear arguments, the outcome remains uncertain – but what is at stake is not.

At the center of Trump v. Barbara is a constitutional guarantee meant to settle who belongs in this country.

The question now is whether that guarantee can be narrowed by executive power.

And if it can, what does that mean for those whose citizenship has always depended on that promise holding firm?

For Black Americans, whose citizenship was once explicitly denied, and for immigrant communities whose place in this country is still contested, this moment carries a weight that extends beyond the courtroom.

It is history, revisited in real time.

Keith Golden Jr. is a reporter and visuals editor for HUNewsService.com.

Chaplain

Continued from page 1A

Upon graduation from high school, he joined the U.S. Army as a cannon crewman and field radio repairman. In 1986, he left the Army to pursue theological education and ordination. He is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Savannah State University, with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice, and a 1992

graduate of Emory University with a master of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology.

He became an Army chaplain in 1994 with endorsement from the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. He has held chaplaincy leadership positions in the Pentagon multiple times and also has been posted to Fort Shafter, Hawaii; Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington; Wiesbaden, Germany; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Bragg, North Carolina;

Camp Casey, Korea; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with a silver and bronze oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Army Staff Badge.

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Anthem Honoring Juneteenth Debuts In Portsmouth, June 19 Will Be Sung In Norfolk, Too

PORTSMOUTH

"Juneteenth," an anthem to its namesake, the national holiday also known as Freedom Day, will debut on the Green Street Stage during Portsmouth's High Street Festival on Friday, June 19 at 4:30 p.m. as part of SAILVA 2026 Portsmouth.

Soloist Nailah Norman will preview the song's debut from the deck of the tall ship Gazela during the Parade of Sail before docking in Portsmouth. "Juneteenth" will be reprised on the Norfolk Main Stage that evening following a rendition of the beloved "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Composer Mark L. Carman, a grammy-nominated music producer and pastor of Green Lakes Baptist Church in Portsmouth, said he is "truly honored to present 'Juneteenth' to the world right here in Hampton Roads, a place rich with history, resilience, and the enduring spirit of freedom." He shared that writing the song required deep reflection on the meaning of that history, resilience and spirit "and the role music plays in honoring



Composer Mark L. Carman

stories that must never be forgotten."

At Carman's request, the Norfolk State University Music Department was tasked with choosing a soloist. Norman said she is honored to have been chosen "to share her talent in celebration of Juneteenth, using music to connect, uplift and celebrate culture and community."

The High Street Festival performance is part of an interpretive program charting the history of African-American emancipation and its challenges. Norman will open the program with "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and close the program with the

live performance debut of "Juneteenth."

The soloist will be accompanied on the Green Street Stage by vocal and instrumental ensembles comprised of Norfolk State University staff and fellow students under the direction of NSU Professor Frank T. Elliott. Elliott called the anthem "an extraordinary composition" and believes the song "will help others to better understand and appreciate the historical significance of Juneteenth and all that it represents."

Carman added that he hopes the song "will serve as a musical bridge connecting communities, inspiring reflection, and celebrating the strength and dignity of those whose stories deserve to be heard."

Carman said he believes the song "carries a weight and significance unlike anything I have written before. It's not simply a composition. It's a statement of remembrance, dignity, and hope; a musical reflection on history that invites the listeners to pause, reflect, and move forward together."

NORFOLK OFFERING GRANTS FOR JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION EVENTS

NORFOLK

This year's Juneteenth festivities on the Downtown Norfolk waterfront will feature free concerts with national performing artists, a spectacular fireworks show and new opportunities for local organizations to receive grant funding for community-based events. The city's Juneteenth observance will honor the historical significance of June 19, 1865, and the resilience, culture and contributions of African-Americans.

Norfolk's signature Juneteenth celebration will take place on Friday, June 19, at Town Point Park, produced in partnership with Festevents. The weekend

will bring together music, art, food and family-friendly activities that highlight the spirit of freedom and unity in coordination with Sail250 and Harborfest.

To support grassroots participation, the City is launching the Juneteenth and Norfolk250 Grant Program, offering funding to Norfolk-based community groups, nonprofits and neighborhood organizations interested in hosting events that celebrate multiculturalism across Norfolk.

Grant applications are now available at www.norfolk.gov/norfolk250. Priority will be given to events that are free, accessible and rooted in community-building.

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YES

Continued from page 1A

“We witnessed President Trump’s administration usurp the Constitution in states like North Carolina, Texas, and Missouri, redrawing district lines to gain an unfair advantage in the midterm elections.

This blatant power grab must serve as a wake-up call for all of us.

Virginia has no choice but to respond – to protect our democracy and ensure that every voice is heard.

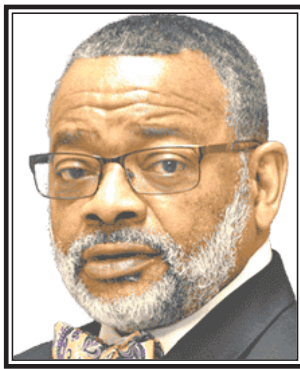
“The NAACP stands unequivocally in support of the Redistricting Referendum, a vital step toward safeguarding our voting rights. We believe that this referendum is essential for creating a fair and equitable electoral process that truly represents the diverse voices of our communities.

“We are here today to call upon all Virginians to vote yes for this referendum. Together, we can dismantle the barriers that have been erected to silence us. This is not just about redistricting; it is about our fundamental right to vote, to be represented, and to have our voices matter.

“Let us stand united against the disinformation that seeks to mislead and divide us. The fight for justice is not just a battle for today; it is a commitment to our future generations. We owe it to them to ensure that they inherit a system that values and respects their voices.

“I urge you all to remain vigilant, to educate yourselves and others about the importance of this referendum, and to advocate fiercely for the rights of Black voters in Virginia. Together, we can overcome the challenges we face. Let us be the change we wish to see in our democracy.”

Gaylene Kanoyton, NAACP Virginia State Conference Political Action



Rev. Cozy Bailey
President, State NAACP

“I urge you all to remain vigilant, to educate yourselves and others about the importance of this referendum, and to advocate fiercely for the rights of Black voters in Virginia.”

– Rev. Cozy Bailey

Chair, issued the following statement:

“Misleading mailers often misuse quotes from leaders like President Obama and Governor Spanberger, with dates buried in small print – many taken out of context. On this April Fool’s Day, don’t be misled into voting NO. Virginia can lead the way to a fair election in November.”

Early Voting is now until April 18, 2026. Election Day is Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Verify quotes, check for disclaimers, and report discrepancies to the Voter Protection Hotline, 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683).

Historic Black Church Shores Up Security For U.S.’s 250 Celebration

By Rosaland Tyler
Associate Editor
New Journal and Guide

Williamsburg’s First Baptist Church, home to one of the oldest Black Christian congregations in the nation, is increasing security before the nation’s 250th birthday celebration begins this summer.

Anticipating a higher volume of tourists, the church is also aware of historical facts. Places of worship have been considered “soft targets” in numerous attacks in the past decade.

A 2025 report by Domestic Religious Freedom, a nonprofit, tracked the number of incidents of hostility toward U.S. churches that occurred in calendar year 2024 at 415.

This included vandalism, arson, bomb threats, gun-related incidents, and other crimes, according to the report titled “Hostility Against Churches.”

Deacon Nat Brown, head of security at First Baptist, said, “We want to make it as safe as possible. Not only for the congregation members, but the visitors to the church



Photo: VisitWilliamsburg website

as well.”

First Baptist has added more cameras, increased the number of security guards and will have metal detectors by June. The church is already receiving more requests for tours, which will run six days a week starting in June.

“We are mindful not to make the church seem too much of a fortification,”

Brown said. “We don’t want to hinder people from coming to the church or feeling they can come.”

Artifacts inside of the church include signature items from former President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, who visited the church during its 240th anniversary. The former president rang the church’s freedom bell in a

“We want to make it as safe as possible. Not only for the congregation members, but the visitors to the church as well.”

– Deacon Nat Brown

National Harbor Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday From May To Labor Day

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

National Harbor kicks off its observance of America’s 250th Birthday with a summer-long activities schedule from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

This includes free weekly sunset concerts every Saturday showcasing premier U.S. military bands on the waterfront.

Other weekly activities include free Movies on the Potomac on Thursdays, and on Friday evenings, live musical performances featuring a variety of

styles from across the U.S. will be presented.

On May 23 and 24, Veterans in Pickleball will host its Annual National Harbor Pickleball Tournament featuring competition for beginner, intermediate and advanced intermediate players. Brackets will include men’s, women’s, mixed and senior 50+ divisions. Registration is required.

A host of other activities are planned with some offering discounted or free rates to veterans and active duty service

members.

The Spirit Park at National Harbor showcases one of the largest flying flags in the U.S. The large flag is surrounded by 13 smaller flags representing different military branches and first responders. Much of the park has been designed to pay homage to America’s founding and the flag.

For more information on National Harbor and the activities being offered to celebrate the nation’s 250th birthday, visit www.NationalHarbor.com.



VOTE YES BY APRIL 21ST

WE MUST STOP THE MAGA REPUBLICAN POWER GRAB.

THEY ARE:

- Erasing Black History
- Cutting education programs that help Black students
- Firing hundreds of thousands of federal workers
- Trying to take away our voting rights

VOTE YES TO PUT THE POWER BACK IN OUR HANDS!

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- Allows Virginians to approve temporary changes to our congressional maps
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- Preserves independent redistricting
- Protects our democracy

VOTING STARTS MARCH 6TH

VOTE EARLY FROM MARCH 6 – APRIL 18

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, APRIL 21

For more information, visit www.VirginiansForFairElections.com

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**THIS WEEK IN
BLACK HISTORY**
APRIL 9 - APRIL 15

April 9, 1950
Juanita Hall becomes the first African American to win a Tony

April 10, 1910
Charles W. Follis, first African American to play professional football, born

April 11, 1988
Willie D. Burton becomes the first African American to win the Oscar for sound for the movie Bird.

April 12, 1975
Leontyne Price, opera singer, is awarded The Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

April 13, 1997
Eldrick Tiger Woods wins the 61st Masters Tournament becoming the youngest person to ever win.

April 14, 1865
President Lincoln was shot and critically wounded at Ford's Theater in Washington.

April 15, 1980
Zimbabwe, formerly known as Rhodesia gains its independence.

Chesapeake Sheriff's Office To Host Ceremony Honoring Crime Victims & Their Families

CHESAPEAKE

The Chesapeake Sheriff's Victim Witness Assistance Program will host a Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony on April 15 to raise awareness of victims' rights and stand with those whose lives have been changed by crime.

The ceremony will honor crime victims and their families. It will begin at 3 p.m. in the Chesapeake

Sheriff's Office Administration Training Room. The event is part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which highlights the importance of supporting victims and ensuring they have access to resources and assistance throughout the justice process.

The Victim Witness Assistance Program provides support, information and advocacy to victims

and witnesses as they navigate the court system. Staff work closely with individuals to ensure they understand their rights and have access to available services.

One of the most meaningful parts of the program is the placement of ribbons on the memorial tree. The tribute honors lives affected by crime and remembers loved ones who will not be forgotten.



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**APRIL 11, 2026 | 8:30 AM
CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CENTER**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

HON. JAY JONES

Attorney General of Virginia

Please join us at this exciting breakfast for a festive morning of collaboration, comradery and fellowship.

The purpose of this breakfast is to bring together Men and Women in our community to help with decreasing the number of African American young Men and others from dropping out of high school. We all must serve as role models to our young Men and inspire them to value their education.

FOR TABLE SPONSORSHIPS, INDIVIDUAL TICKET PURCHASES AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.900MENSTRONG.ORG PLEASE CALL DR. KEITH P. HUBBARD 757-470-8607 OR SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH 757-627-7222 FOR ADDITIONAL CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION.

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GUN VIOLENCE IS NOT MENTAL ILLNESS, IT'S AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

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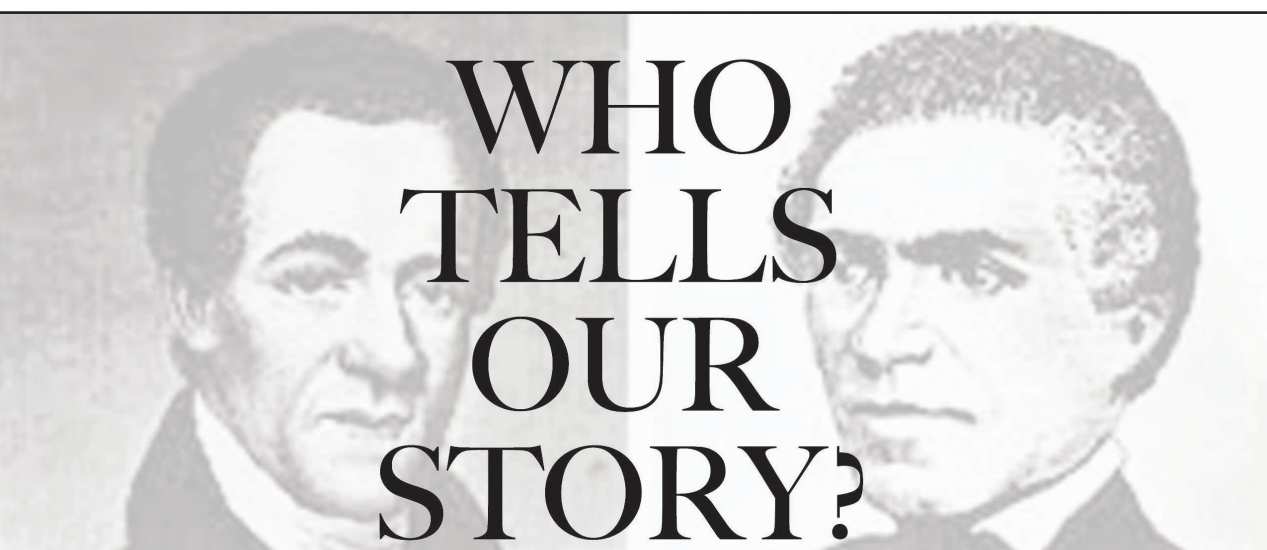
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HOW HAMPTON ROADS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NON-PROFIT GRANTS ARE IMPACTING THE HAMPTON ROADS REGION

Special to the New Journal and Guide

NORFOLK

Non-profits around the region will receive grants from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to address housing insecurity, support building projects, and to continue work in early childcare and education.

Among them, an emergency grant of \$200,000 was awarded to ForKids to mitigate the federal freeze by executive order in Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding. This federal funding provided supplemental funds for non-profit and governmental organizations to assist people with economic emergencies such as housing loss or eviction, lack of shelter, food insecurity or overdue utility bills. The last federal funding to come to Hampton Roads was in 2024.

ForKids provides services including eviction prevention, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing and supportive housing. In 2025, its housing hotline received more than 77,000 calls.

Hampton Roads faces severe housing instability, said Foundation President and CEO Deborah M. DiCroce.

"The region's loss of the federal EFSP funding has only heightened the severity of the challenge," DiCroce said. "Our hope is that this emergency grant to ForKids will help triage this loss."

Together with a \$300,000 grant awarded in January to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia, the Foundation has invested \$500,000 in Hampton Roads to lessen the impact of federal funding cuts for our neighbors.

The Foundation awarded nearly \$3.5 million in grants in March. Several organizations received funding for Vibrant Places grants, which allow non-profits to build or improve facilities. This funding provided supplemental funds for non-profit and governmental organizations to assist people with economic emergencies such as housing loss or eviction, lack of shelter,

food insecurity or overdue utility bills. The last federal funding to come to Hampton Roads was in 2024. It was frozen by executive order in January 2025.

The Foundation awarded nearly \$3.5 million in grants in March. Several organizations received funding for Vibrant Places grants, which allow non-profits to build or improve facilities.

The Foundation awarded \$500,000 to each of the following:

- The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation to renovate and expand the Jean MacArthur Research and Education Center on the MacArthur Memorial Campus in downtown Norfolk. The project will modernize 9,000 sq. ft. of existing archival space, double the archive and library capacity, and construct a 10,500 sq. ft. Education Center. The new center will provide classrooms, meeting space, digital production facilities, a dedicated podcast studio and an outdoor learning area. The grant will be paid over five years.

- The Virginia Arts Festival to support its capital campaign for major renovations at 485 St. Paul's Blvd., the former Hurrah Players building. The structure was first built in 1840 as Norfolk Academy and is one of Norfolk's most beautiful and historically significant buildings. The Virginia Arts Festival plans to use the building for rehearsal space, dance studios, educational activities, offices and storage. The grant will be paid over three years.

- The Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation to support its capital campaign to build Solace Springs Apartments. It will be a 60-unit attainable rental housing community with space for the National Alliance on Mental Illness Coastal Virginia. The grant will be paid over five years.

Other grants include:

- \$375,000 to Lynnhaven River Now for projects to restore vital habitat, build living shorelines and sanctuary oyster reefs.

- \$250,000 to the Up Center to support major renovations at its 19th Street location in Norfolk. The building

will be transformed into a modern Family Resilience Center including a mental health and recovery clinic, flexible group and tutoring spaces, a teaching kitchen, on-site laundry and shared partner spaces.

- \$150,000 to the Elizabeth River Project to transform five vacant industrial parcels along the water into Knitting Mill Creek Park. The space is adjacent to the Ryan Resilience Lab on Colley Avenue in Norfolk.

- \$150,000 to the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News to support construction of the Discovery Ecosystem, an outdoor, nature-based learning environment featuring immersive, hands-on STEM and conservation experiences for children and families.

- \$100,000 in a matching grant to Big HOMIES (Heroes of Minorities in Every Society) to construct a new Lincoln Street Center in Portsmouth.
- \$100,000 to The Salvation Army Hampton Roads Area Command to make upgrades to the Kroc Center in Norfolk. The project to modernize lighting will reduce energy consumption and long-term operating costs, allowing the savings to be invested in programs.

- \$90,000 to the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk to reconfigure and expand its conservation lab for its works on paper collection.

- \$80,000 to Sugar Plum Bakery in Virginia Beach to renovate an adjacent building as Sugar Plum Bakery to make handcrafted dog treats, creating additional training and employment space for adults with disabilities.

- \$50,000 to the Ability Center in Virginia Beach to renovate space in their building to create an expanded educational and recreational area.

Additionally, the Foundation awarded grants for Environmental Stewardship, for the practice of conservation and sustainable activities that protect the natural environment for future generations.

The following grants were awarded:

- \$197,000 over three years to Teens With a Purpose for its Bloom Force - Where Youth Bloom program. Participants engage in classroom instruction and hands-on training in green infrastructure, stormwater management practices that improve the Elizabeth River, urban food production and creative placemaking.

- \$50,000 to the Elizabeth River Project to continue and expand its environmental education programs for students in grades three through 12.

Finally, the Foundation awarded \$167,260 to Minus 9 to 5 for operating expenses. Minus 9 to 5 works to strengthen the health and school readiness of children from prenatal care to age five and ensures alignment of the early childhood system in the region.

About the Hampton Roads Community Foundation:

With roots dating back to 1950, the Hampton Roads Community Foundation is a permanent charitable endowment with about \$579 million in assets. It has awarded more than \$428 million in grants and scholarships since its founding.

APRIL 11: Alpha Beta Sigma Alumnae To Host Annual Rhomania

PORTSMOUTH
The Alpha Beta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. will celebrate their annual Rhomania Scholarship Luncheon Saturday, April 11th at 12 noon, at the Edmonds Center, located at 2714 Frederick Boulevard, Portsmouth. This year's luncheon event will focus on educating, supporting and uplifting youth as they meet academic and social challenges.

Alpha Beta Sigma Chapter membership over the years has played an active and impactful role in the Portsmouth community, as well as the larger Southside Hampton Roads communities. The goal of Alpha Beta Sigma Chapter continues to present scholarships to female and male youth who are motivated and show excellence in their preparation for life's challenges.

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Hello and welcome to the Bridge Corner. You can now double your bridge enjoyment with a game on Wednesdays and effective April 11, 2026, a game on Saturdays! Contact l.a.owes1@gmail.com for additional information.

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Wednesdays 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

The dates for the next three games are:

- 1) Wed., Apr. 15, 2026
- 2) Wed., Apr. 22, 2026
- 3) Wed., Apr. 29, 2026

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Effingham Street Family YMCA
1013 Effingham St.,
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Saturdays 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

The dates for the next four games are:

- 1) Sat., Apr. 11, 2026
- 2) Sat., Apr. 18, 2026
- 3) Sat., Apr. 25, 2026
- 4) Sat., May 2, 2026

RESPONDERS | HIGH CARD POINTS (HCP)

BID OPTIONS	0-7 POINTS	8-9 POINTS	10-14 POINTS
No 4-card Spade or Heart	Pass	2 N/T	3 N/T
A 4-card S and/or H suit	Pass	Stayman	Stayman
A 4-card & a 5+ Major suit	Jacoby Transfer	Stayman	Stayman
5+ Major suit (S & H)	Jacoby Transfer	Jacoby Transfer	Jacoby Transfer

In this session, we will continue to list and explain the responses to the 1 No Trump opening bid. The 1 No Trump (N/T) opening bid, like EVERY one-level opening bid, is saying four things: 1) Giving point count (1 N/T = 15 to 17 points); 2) Indicating whether or not there is at least a 5-card major suit in the hand (1 N/T = no 5-card Spade or Heart suit in the hand); 3) If 1 Spade or 1 Heart is opened, then asking for at least 3 cards in the suit opened; if 1 N/T, 1 Diamond, or 1 Club opened, then asking for at least a four card major suit. So, when 1 N/T is opened, the opener is asking his partner for at least a four card Spade or Heart suit (Majors) and at least 8 points in order to respond.

In our previous session, we described the Stayman Convention: with a 4-card Major suit(s) and 8+ HCP, bid 2 Clubs = STAYMAN. This bid says "opener, do you have a four-card Spade or Heart suit? If so, name it. When the No-Trump opener answers this 2 Club bid, responder bids his point count.

With an 8-card Major

suit fit discovered
8 - 9 HCP bid at the 3 level in the discovered 8-card Major suit fit.

10 - 14 HCP bid at the 4 level (game) in the discovered 8-card Major suit fit.

With no 8-card Major suit fit discovered

8 - 9 HCP bid 2 No Trump.

10 - 14 HCP bid 3 No Trump.

Now, let's take a look at the **Jacoby Transfer** Convention: With 0+ HCP, bid the suit below your long Spade or Heart suit (must have 5+ cards in the Major suit).

2 Diamond or 2 Heart bid = 0+ High Card Points

This says "I have at least a 5-card Major suit in the suit directly above the one I named. * If I (the responder) bid 2D, I want you (the 1 No Trump opener) to re-bid 2H. * If I (the responder) bid 2H, I want you (the 1 No Trump opener) to re-bid 2 Spades. After the No Trump opener accepts the transfer, responder tells opener his point count:

5-Card Major Suit
Points 0-7: Pass
Points 8-9: 2 N/T
Points 10 - 14: 3 N/T

6-Card Major suit
Points 0-7: Pass
Points 8-9: Raise to 3 level in the Major
Points 10-14: Bid 4 Spades or 4 Hearts (game)

Tidewater Bridge Club's Winning Players In The Mar. 25, 2026 Game:

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- Wilma Home
- Marshall Hutto
- Sharon Kelly-Green
- Wanda Miller
- Shirley Nottingham
- Lawrence Owes
- Gene Payne
- Leon Ragland
- Aldis Raymond
- Sandra Starkey
- Elva Taylor

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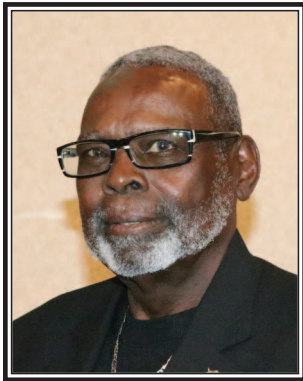
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LOCAL VOICES

Changing Time That Congress Members Can Serve

By Shedrick Byrd



Shedrick Byrd

Constitution and Congress has done nothing about it. He is destroying the country. Trump is taking away health care, causing preventable deaths. He is taking away child care, causing reduced household income and forcing job losses especially for women. He is failing to fund education, denying our children a quality education. He has never been brought before Congress for any of the many things he has done, including why failing to function on a fully funded budget.

The worst thing Trump has done was to unlawfully start a war against Iran without going through Congress. According to the Constitution, Trump was supposed, to go to Congress before starting any war. He violated the Constitution and should be punished. Congress has done nothing to him for violating the Constitution.

Any American can see that Trump is destroying the country. His mental behavior on a daily basis makes him seem out of touch with reality. Yet Congress does nothing. Trump needs to be removed from office.

Some information in this was taken Wikipedia and other media resources.

Shedrick Byrd is a contributor to the New Journal and Guide.

The total time served in sequence by members in The United States Congress should be changed to eight-year terms. Presently Congress has 535 members, 100 in the Senate and 435 in the House, who can serve for life if not voted out by elections.

Elections for the Senate are every four years and for the House of Representatives every two years. If this proposed change is made, members in the Senate who are reelected after a four-year term will be required to leave the Senate at the end of the current term. Members in the House of Representatives who are reelected every two years three times will have served eight years and will be required to step down. If members who have served eight years in Congress wish to serve again they should be required to wait four years before seeking another term.

Time limits of no more than eight years served in sequence should become law. As allowed today, the lack of time limits is not healthy for America. Some members of Congress seem to be reelected until they become stagnant, or just useless, when they serve too long.

Presently, Congress takes

too long to act on legislation that may be needed to save American lives. Americans desperately need attention on Health Care policies that are being held up waiting for Congress to approve or Trump to sign. Child Care legislation is being held up in Congress and legislation on Education is now in Congress while Congress is on break.

Congress is failing in doing the job they were elected to do, mainly, to uphold and carry out the articles of the constitution. Members of Congress are paid an annual salary of \$174,000. The Congress leadership e.g., speakers and committee chairs are paid more. Congress is in session about 150 days annually. They take a one-month recess in August and all federal holidays.

Donald Trump has made a mockery out of the

Hampton NAACP Hosts Town Hall On April 21 Redistricting Misinformation

HAMPTON

The Hampton NAACP hosted a town hall meeting titled "Understanding Redistricting: Combating Jim Crow Misinformation" on Monday, April 6, 2026 at Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church. The Hampton NAACP Branch is led by Gaylene Kanoytan.

The event was in response to NAACP efforts to confront the current misinformation campaign by opponents of the April 21 Referendum. Dr. Eric Claville, Political

Strategist and Attorney, moderated a panel of experts, including political scientists, legal analysts, and community leaders, who provided key insights on the upcoming redistricting referendum.

Panelists listed on the program were Congressman Bobby Scott, Tony Fairfax, CensusChannel LLC, Attorney Victoria Jackson, Voter Protection Director, Virginians for Fair Elections, Tony Lundy, Ai Consultant, Marvin Fowlkes, Cyber Security Analyst, and



Gaylene Kanoytan Hampton NAACP President

Keena Carson, Creatives for Virginia.

LOCAL VOICES

Sauer-est White-Man Dance

By Sean C. Bowers



Sean C. Bowers

If they have their way, Americans won't have enough documentation to prove their U.S. citizenship.

One of the chief justices asked the Solicitor General, "Are the children of Native Americans born in America U.S. citizens by your calculations?"

The Solicitor General began his ultimate White-man-lawyer, legal speakeasy, between the obvious racincuracies, outright racist sexist tropes, ending with the under-LYING theme that only whites matter and are worthy of citizenship.

The more the Whiter-Right clings to power by gerrymandering and lying to their own voters for more than thirty years on a public (FAUX) news national broadcast network platform, the more the Grand Ol Republican party has knowingly and intentionally backed themselves into this corner.

Their answer is to quadruple down, by implementing as many points as possible from their Project 2025 Handbook of racism and sexism, 101 and 202. Claiming they knew nothing of the sort as each executive order is signed dripping of O'rangred tanning excretions unlawfulness.

They do these things each day, while claiming their leader to be Jesus-like. Jesus never said, "I'll bomb you back into the stone age, where you belong," as the O'rangred Judas did last week.

To say that "American citizenship is in any way tied to how many generations of marked graves a family has in their local cemetery," as Vice-President J.D. VANCE recently remarked is a blatant steroid-ed WHITE AMNESIA. How many former slaves and free minorities were killed, by Whites and buried in unmarked graves, if buried, at all? The only thing the Republican party knows how to bury is the truth.

If they have their way, Americans won't have enough documentation to prove their U.S. citizenship. That is their goal. Unbelievably, they think that Only they can decide who is worthy of U. S. citizenship!

Unmarked graves, unobtainable documentations, pricey passports, copies of birth certificates, all slowed

by the Right's DOGE-(Y) cuts and illegal firings, have compromised our system's overall benefits, response to health care, and the fulfillment of necessary documentation needs and requests for ordinary American citizens.

Breaking the system is not fixing it.

Republicans own this broken economy. They are the party in charge, with control over all three branches of government voted in by a whopping 1.6 percent margin.

Responsibility for these rising economic prices, the up two points inflation, higher interest rates, downgraded U.S. credit ratings, and the IRAN war belongs to them. Worldwide revisionist history views our NATO trusted partners, now scattered to the wind, looking at the U.S. as an old, hot air-filled O'rangred blow hard, daily press-conferenced vomited hollow promises, threats devoid of decency, truth, and facts, a hijacked version of its former self.

Leadership builds a consensus. It does not wreck all world relationships or destroy faith in America. Our reputation is at an all-time low! All created and brought DIRECTLY to you, by Sir-How-Low-Low-Low, Can-You-Go-Go.

Losers blame others, and invoke GOD as only being on their side. They play to the fears of the very voters they frighten. A real leader embodies a positive outlook for the future and the country.

This so called "leader" has brought our country to the brink of war, blatant bullying and improper seizure, and extinguished some of the light our country shared with the world.

His whole plan is "break and take," fake news, and

in the cash rake. "Mini-minded, 2-CENT," is all our predicament. He promotes his children and family to supreme deal-and-steal agents of cash intake. In reality, they are just morphing into surface-pretty uglier versions of their decrepit comb-over old dementia-ridden freckled farced father. They see the public coffers, the public trust, as theirs for the taking.

Our nation of the people, by the people, for the people decides these issues and our destiny, not you, Sir.

We will throw off the yokes of these yokels for all your lying White-only fantasy desired world. A President who starts wars as someone who has never served, is the ultimate chicken hawk, I say, I say.

Let's put our influences as Americans into bringing those half-brain-washed redeemable Republicans right back into the human reality fold, from the O'rangred desolation and cold.

No doubt this upcoming election will be contested by an administration that cannot accept either the truth or losing. They are the loser-posers they try to mock and then steal their rights, benefits, wealth, and citizenship. Don't believe the great White hype! The O'rangred One is the problem, NOT the answer, the quagmire of fear he has created.

The people have spoken.

Sean C. Bowers has written for The New Journal and Guide, CHAMPIONING overcoming racism, sexism, classism, and religious persecution. More of his work can found by searching "Sean C. Bowers" on the NJ&G website, on social media at LinkedIn.com or by email VIZUALIZE@aol.com



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MOMENTS of MEDITATION

By Rev. Dr. Archie L. Edwards, Sr.

DEVOTIONALS:

THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOSPEL READ:

1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-25

For Christ sent me ... to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words ...

- 1 Corinthians 1:17

How thankful I am that the way of salvation does not depend upon human wisdom and the ability to understand a complex, philosophical presentation of religious truths. If that was necessary, few could be saved! It was Abraham Lincoln who said, "God must have loved the common people since He made so many of them. I would change this to read, "God must have loved the common people, since His plan of redemption was designed especially to reach them."

One need not be educated to be saved, or be steeped in philosophical studies to know the Lord. One need not have a certain I. Q. to "qualify" for His favor. No, salvation is a matter of faith - it's believing God: accepting by faith His Word concerning His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and

trusting Him completely for salvation.

That's what Paul had in mind in 1 Corinthians 1:20, 21 where he writes: "... hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that ... the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them THAT BELIEVE."

Whether educated or uneducated, enlightened or ignorant, intelligent or "just plain dumb," anyone who is accountable can BELIEVE. No one will ever be able to stand before God and say, "I'm not saved because I couldn't understand." Oh, no, not as Paul says in verse 21: "... it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save that BELIEVE." Have you believed?

Now, this doesn't mean that there is no profound wisdom in the message of God's Word. On the contrary, there are far deeper and more marvelous mysteries for the believer to explore than the world ever dreams. But these things

are reserved only for those who have been enlightened spiritually - for those who have been "born again." That's why Paul goes on to say: "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect ... which none of the princes of this world knew" 1 Corinthians 2:6, 8.

Tell all men without an exception, "whoever believeth shall live." Though guilt may have stained every action The blood of the Lamb cries: "FORGIVE!"

THOUGHT: The head may seek God, but it is only the heart that finds Him!



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METRO MINISTERS CONFERENCE HOSTS METRO HONORS '26

By New Journal and Guide Staff

HAMPTON ROADS

The Murray Center's Taste N See banquet hall was filled with Clergy, church members, family, and friends of the Metro Ministers' Conference of Virginia when the group recently held its Metro Honors '26. The annual event pays tribute to the historic purpose of the Conference and the dedicated service of their members.

The ministerial association which is open to Clergy of any denomination had its founding in 1882. It is now serving the Hampton Roads community under its 59th Administration, led by the Rev. Joseph A. Fleming, Third Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va.

This year's "Metro Monumental Moment" evening of recognitions offered a full course fellowship dinner prepared by the staff. It included a Proclamation from the City of Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander, who was in attendance. The formal program recognized Past Presidents and welcomed New Members of the Conference. The event took place on the same date as the nation's observance of U.S. Presidents Day, February 16, 2026.

Two Resolutions that

had been adopted by the Conference were read and presented to Rev. Dr. Theodore R. Little, Jr., '51 as the Most Senior Past-President, and Rev. Dr. Charles Hart, '45 as the Senior Past-President. These honorees were also given the opportunity to invite 40 of their family, friends, and former churches with which they have Pastor-Emeritus and Pastor-Retired distinction.

Pinning the METRO Lapel PIN on the 59th Administration, Past-Presidents, and New Members was deferred to the March 2 Conference meeting.

Prior to the reading of the Resolutions, four Metro Posthumous members were recognized by The Very Reverend S. Anthony Justice (Metro Conference Secretary and Metro Honors '26 Host & Coordinator) and The Elder James Booker (Metro Honors '26 Co-Host).

Those remembered in this part of the Ceremony were:

- Metro's First President Rev. John M. Armistead
- Metro's First WOMAN-Pastor Member Rev. Rosalind Moats-Hairston
- Metro's First (and only) President to serve two Ministers Conferences as President Rev. Dr. Joe B. Fleming '44
- Metro's First President



Photo: Courtesy

(L-R:) Rev. Dr. Ronnie D. Joyner I '42; Rev. Dr. Charles Hart '45 - Senior Past-President; Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Van Guns '48; Rev. Dr. Theodore R. Little, Jr. '51 - Most Senior Past-President; Rev. Dr. Bruce Ewell Childs '55; Rev. Dr. Ervin Marcellus Scott '56; Rev. Dr. Keith Ivan Jones '57; Rev. Dr. Melvin T. Blackwell I '58; The Honorable Rev. Joseph A. Fleming - The President; (Not pictured Rt. Rev. Dr. Curtis Eugene Edmonds I '50; Rev. Dr. James Edwards III '54 and The Very Rev. S. Anthony Justice - The Conference Secretary

to serve a 3-Year Term Rev. Dr. Milton Roy Blount '52

In presenting the Resolution and highlighting the Presidential Medallion to Rev. Dr. Hart, 87, as the second oldest President among his peers, he was lauded for answering the call to Pastor at Mount Zion Baptist Church, Berkley, in 1975. It was resolved that September 6 would be recognized annually on the Conference Calendar as Brother Charles Hart Day, The 45th President of the Metro. He served as President from 1989-1991.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Little, also 87, served as President from 2001-2003, and was lauded for leading the change of officer tenure from two to three years. It was resolved that July 2 would be known as Brother Theodore R. Little Day, The 51st President of the Metro.

Additional Ceremony Leaders and Participants listed on the program were The Rev. Jamaar Trumane Jones, The Rev. Erdie Mae Hutchings, The Rev. Bobby Bowser (Metro Honors '26 Co-Host) The Elder Willie Moody, The Rev. Dr. Veronica Coleman, the Rev. Dr. Andrea Roby, and The Rev. Dr. Keith Jones.

Recognition and Historic First Baptist Church, and its Pastor, The Rev. Jerry Holmes.



Photo: Courtesy



Photo: Courtesy



Photo: Courtesy



From The Guide Archives

Archives taken from the pages of the (New) Journal and Guide

April 10, 1926
Edition of the Guide

SCHOOL NEWS:
John T. West

NORFOLK

A gala night will be at John T. West School for the Spring Festival and closing of the popularity contest, crowning of the King and Queen and the Prince and Princess.

Principal and teachers at the 10-year-old school wish parents would come out and visit more and not wait until someone is in trouble.

Homestead Grays
Playing In Norfolk

NORFOLK

Norfolk's first big game of the (new) baseball season is slated to get underway next week, when Cumberland "Cum" Posey's Homestead Grays of Pittsburgh engage the Norfolk Tigers in a two-game series at League Park.

The Grays are fast-swatting diamond aggressors and led by Cum, a high spirit in the baseball realm. "Smokey Joe" Williams, one of baseball's most brilliant performers is manager of the invading enemy and local fans are assured a rare treat.

The Grays have some of baseball's greatest players in its lineup: Cleo Smith and "Jap" Washington Owens. The Norfolk Tigers are ironing out the kinks in preparation for their first game of the season and each player is determined to give the Pittsburghers a battle of their lives. The local team is headed by George King and among the mainstays on the nine (member team) are J. Newman, Lloyd William., Bob Tolliver,

"Muffin" Bibbins, Preston Churchill "Sleazy" Foy and Damon Tucker.

April 9, 1936
Edition of the Guide

Dr. Watkins' Resignation

NORFOLK

The resignation of Rev. George W. Watkins as pastor of the Historic Bank Street Baptist Church was accepted by the congregation at a spirited church meeting last week which culminated in the resignation of ten deacons, three members of the choir, the church clerk, and several members of the Ways and Means Committee.

The meeting was adjourned with only one member of the church's deacon board remaining on the active list, and after Dr. Watkins has been paid his back salary in full.

The congregation voted to accept the pastor's resignation tendered the first time six months ago, as of March 31. Dr. Watkins was paid up to April 30 and was now "on vacation" he stated at the weekly meeting of the Baptist Ministers Conference held at First Baptist, Bute Street. Watkins said he would not relinquish the presidency of the conference.

Watkins preached at the morning and evening services at Shiloh Baptist church. Among the congregation were members of Bank Street who attempted to join Shiloh but were asked to wait until proper church papers could be secured.

March 26, 1927
Edition of the Guide

Pastor's Contest

NORFOLK

The present Pastoral Popularity Contest between Revs. Madison (Second Calvary) and Bowling (First Baptist Bute Street) are beginning to assume real citywide proportions. Large numbers of White citizens are being approached by the vote sellers of the two churches, are responding liberally and asking for receipt and admission cards for the closing contest program.

They have also been adding interest by their prediction forecast in favor of one of the pastors being the winner than of the other. Surprises are being sprung almost from week to week by the members and supporters of the two churches. And many wild rumors are circulating as to what is yet planned.

Enthusiasm is expected to mount even higher with forces locking horns each night between preaching series to start at the First Baptist Church. Each service will be in the nature of the contest. The church and its friends that come first will be granted the choice of seats.

In order to provide for the crowds expected to be in attendance at the closing contest program, the use of the City Armory auditorium has been secured.

April 11, 1936
Edition of the Guide

Skilled Workers Needed For Aberdeen Project

NEWPORT NEWS
A call for 40 bricklayers

and 40 carpenters to work on the Aberdeen Housing Project in Newport News was sent out this week from the office of United States Reemployment Service here.

The announcement stated the applicants must not be on relief to be eligible for the jobs. Edward Hornlein, Director of the district office at the Shipyard, will receive all applications.

Known as "Resettlement Administration Project 56-76-01" and located on Aberdeen Road, four miles from Newport News, the Project was started on February 24 with all Negro personnel in charge.

When completed the 300-acre site will present itself as a community of 110 homes exclusively for colored people with four-to-six rooms each with the construction of a church, school and community house.

April 9, 1966
Edition of the Guide

A Small Error

HAMPTON

Dr. Jerome H. Holland, President of Hampton Institute, received a check for \$10,000 for the college from the people of his hometown of Auburn, N.Y. A press release from the college's news bureau revealed the figure was erroneously reported as \$100,000. Dr. Holland received the gift during the recent "Brud" Holland Day activities in that city.

Holley Gets More Votes

PORTSMOUTH

Dr. James W. Holley, III., who made history as the first of his race to run

in a Democratic primary in Portsmouth, compounded his feat by emerging as the top vote-getter. But he was not completely satisfied with the turnout of voters.

Looking forward to the June 14 general election, Dr. Holley told the GUIDE: "We have got to get more people out to the polls. We must find a way to get at least 3,000 more citizens to vote in the general elections. Holley led the ticket by 31 votes and has a total of 3,400 out of 10,235 votes cast in the city. There were over 31,000 qualified to participate in this first poll-tax-free election including an estimated 12,000 colored voters. This was less than half of the qualified Negro voters, and observers are asking why?"

Highest Scouting Award

NORFOLK

The highest award in scouting - Eagle Scout - was awarded to seven members of the Explorer Post 109 in a Court of Honor ceremony at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Lindenwood. Five of the new Eagle Scouts are shown here examining the award. They are (front) George Hedgespeth Jr. (left) and Washington Ruffin Jr. Standing (from left) are Ernest Humphries, Jr., William Powell and Vernon Uzzell. Not shown are Armon Newkirk, a student at A&T College, Greensboro, and Clayton Ramey, student at Phillips Academy, Andover, Maryland. The Rev. H. T. Myers is pastor of the church.

April 10, 1996
Edition of the Guide

Hester Endorsement

By Brenda H. Andrews
Publisher

It has been said that "all is fair in love, war and politics." In a matter of politics, more babies have been kissed and more lies told to get persons into office than to the wedding chapel. When bad politicians get elected we all suffer.

Such is the case with an unnamed group of people claiming to be supporting the candidacy of Wes Swindell for Norfolk City Council's Ward 7 who are doing Swindell a disservice by threatening to add the GUIDE to its targets.

After our endorsement in last week's paper of one of Swindell's opponents, we received an unsigned irate letter from so-called "subscribers" making claims without substance or truth. It is the same diversionary ploy used in political campaigns to create confusion and feed into the spirit of intimidation in an effort to get a candidate elected at any costs.

Unsigned "Subscribers" charged that the motive for endorsing Daun Hester was economically driven (being financed by Whites on the "West Side") and that these "Subscribers" would form an "Anti-circulation" drive to force the GUIDE out of business. This displaced, childlike foot-stomping tantrum needs to be rechanneled into an intelligent and mature economic boycott of the real enemies of the Black community.

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SUDOKU

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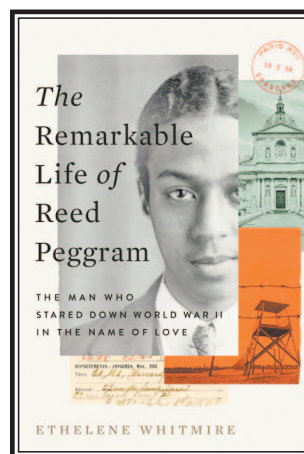
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

BOOKWORM REVIEW

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram: The Man Who Stared Down World War II In The Name of Love



"The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram: The Man Who Stared Down World War II in the Name of Love" by Ethelene Whitmire ©2026, Viking \$30, 308 pages

You couldn't escape it. When you fell in love, that was it: you were there for good. Leaving your amour's side was unthinkable, turning away was impossible. You'd do anything for that person you loved - even, as in the new biography, "The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram" by Ethelene Whitmire, you'd escape toward danger.

On August 28, 1938, Reed Peggram boarded a ship from Hoboken, New Jersey, hoping to "become a proper gentleman" and fulfill his dreams. A prolific writer and Harvard scholar of comparative literature, he'd recently been awarded the Rosenwald Fellowship, which put him in the company of literary stars like Du Bois, Hurston, and Hughes.

Both Peggram's mother and grandmother were then domestic workers, and they had big expectations for him. Reed himself was eager to study abroad, for professional and

that it was dangerous to stay in Europe.

And yet, Peggram loved Arne. He refused to leave without him and so, while most visiting Black Americans fled the war in Europe, "Reed was trying to stay."

There's so much more to the story inside "The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram," so much to know about Reed himself. Problem is, it's a long haul to get to the good stuff.

In her introduction, author Ethelene Whitmire explains how she came to this tale and yes, it needs telling but probably not with the staggering number of inconsequential details here. Peggram moved homes a lot, and many people were involved in keeping him in Europe. That alone can be overwhelming; add the fact that costs and other monetary issues are mentioned in what seems like nearly every page, and you may wonder if you'll ever find the reason for the books' subtitle.

personal reasons; he was "determined to become a French professor and an accomplished linguist" and "He also hoped to find love."

What better place to do it than in Paris?

Outgoing and confident, Peggram made friends easily and had no trouble moving "through the world of his white male peers." Where he faltered was in his lack of funds. He relied on the kindness of his many friends - one of whom introduced Peggram to a "man who would become so pivotal in his life," a Danish man named Arne.

Peggram and Arne had a lot in common, and they began to enmesh their lives and dreams of living in the United States. But there were complications: homosexuality was largely forbidden, World War II was in its early stages, and it quickly became apparent

Reading this book will take a certain amount of patience, so skip it if you don't have that fortitude. If you're okay with minuscule details and want a heart-pounder, though, "The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram" might be a good escape.

FUN PUZZLES FOR YOUR LEISURE

Theme: Insects

ACROSS

- Ira ____ of NPR
- Mr. Turkey
- Gives the boot
- Between octet and decet
- Ginger one
- Spherical bacteria
- Popular ursine meme star
- Public health org.
- Mountaineer's tool (2 words)
- *Fly larva
- *World's noisiest insect
- Comic book shriek
- Like some excuses
- Food safety org.
- Man Ray's genre
- Temporarily, legally speaking (2 words)
- Like unpleasant awakening
- 4th down kick
- Quarter-round molding
- Computer operating system
- Metal bar
- Mine passage
- Antonym of exhume
- Expert
- Strip of wood
- Throws
- It will
- Concurrence word
- Silo contents
- Romanian money
- *Bee's bounty
- *Boll weevil, e.g.
- Aquarium scum
- *Lightning bug trap?
- Brandish
- Part of a flower
- Bonanza find
- Courtroom excuse
- Whiskey grain, pl.
- Coniferous tree
- #52 Across, pl.

CROSSWORD														
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DOWN

- Econ. measure
- Good earth
- Wintour of "Vogue" fame
- Marsh plant
- Not impromptu
- Diplomat's asset
- Antediluvian
- Hajj destination
- Cocaine plant
- Got an A
- March Madness org.
- *Number of legs on an insect
- Famous Roman orator
- Mischief-maker
- Opposite of energetic
- * ____ fly, first living creature sent to space
- "I don't know," casually
- #43 Across, pl.
- * ____ beetle, world's strongest insect
- *Shape of a ladybug or carpet beetle
- Not tomorrow, not yesterday
- Like basketball's final eight
- *Lepidoptera members, not butterflies
- Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, e.g.
- Reason for suit
- Tutu fabric
- Duran Duran's 1984 hit, with The
- "Monkey ____, monkey do"
- Wiggle room
- "Have a great time!"
- Useful
- Performance with acts
- Lecherous look
- "Betcha Can't Eat Just One" brand
- Tea or beer
- Hawaiian flower garlands
- Major European river
- Acronym, abbr.
- "Roses ____ red"
- Bad-mouth, slangily

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... answers to this week's puzzles



BLACK POETS ACTIVITY SHEET

WWW.KEMETCOMIC.COM



Hi Everyone, Since April is the month that honors Poetry, let us consider the works of Black Poets. Black poets' work provides rich insights, brilliant writing, and essential stories. Their poems inspire us to reflect, resist, and understand Black history. Let's meet a few of the most notable as well as lesser known Black Poets.

WHAT IS POETRY?



Poetry is not fiction or nonfiction but it is its own genre that focuses on rhythm and a certain number of syllables, lines, or stanzas. Poetry is a type of literature that conveys a thought, describes a scene or tells a story. Poems can be structured or they can be freeform.

TYPES OF POETRY

Put a circle around all of the types you know. How many did you circle? _____ If you know at least 10, that is "Poetic". Research one type you would like to know more about.

- Free Verse, Kenning, Calligram, Cinquain, Limerick, Ballad, Ode, Tanka, Diamante, Acrostic, Sonnet, Haiku, Epic, Villanelle, Elegy, Couplet, Epitaph, Pantoum, Epigram, Sestina

WHO ARE THE POETS?

Black Poets are known to speak to us from their hearts, their experiences, their communities, and the world around them. They often speak words that inspire us, that causes us to feel and reflect.

Some well-known poets are Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, June Jordan, Maya Angelou, Phillis Wheatley, Amanda Gorman, Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Countee Cullen, Aretha Rodney, Daniela Gonyoe, and Pe Tehn Raighn-Kem Jackson. And in 2023, Sharmont Influence-Little was named New Haven, Connecticut's first-ever poet laureate at the Elm City LIT Festival.



ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute or less, match the Black Poets to their Poems.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nikki Giovanni
Washington" | "To His Excellency, General |
| Maya Angelou | "The Hill We Climb" |
| Phillis Wheatley | "Mother to Son" |
| Amanda Gorman | "Still I Rise" |
| Langston Hughes | "Ego-Tripping" |



NOTABLE BLACK POETS - LET'S SNAP IT UP!!

Phillis Wheatley
She was the first African American to write a book. The Wheatley family taught her to read and write English, and encouraged her to write poetry. Her book of poetry was published in 1773. It was called *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*. This book made Phillis famous in England and the thirteen colonies. In 1775, Phillis wrote a poem for George Washington, who praised her work. It was titled, *To His Excellency, General Washington*.

Amanda S. C. Gorman
She is an American poet and activist. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. She was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. She read her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of Joe Biden on January 20, 2021. She told book critic Ron Charles, "My hope is that my poem will represent a moment of unity for our country" and "with my words, I'll be able to speak to a new chapter and era for our nation."

Nikki Giovanni
She is a world-renowned poet, is known for being both outspoken and honest. Her work has been viewed as controversial, lyrical, empowering, and personal. Her work includes poetry anthologies, poetry recordings, and nonfiction essays. Her poetry has been praised for its ability to capture the experiences and struggles of black Americans, and she has used her platform to advocate for social justice and equality. Her collections of poems about black consciousness include: *Black Feeling, Black Talk, Black Judgement, and Re: Creation*. Giovanni's experiences as a single mother also influenced her poetry. *Spin a Soft Black Song, Ego-Tripping*, and *Vacation Time* were collections of poems for children.

Maya Angelou
She was an American author, poet, and professor. She also worked as a journalist, actress, and civil rights activist, using her voice and platform to speak out against injustice and inequality. She was best known for her poetry and several books based on her life, especially *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Throughout her life, she published many other autobiographies and collections of poetry, as well as children's books. In 1993, Maya Angelou recited her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Bill Clinton's inauguration. In 2011 President Barack Obama gave Angelou the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Langston Hughes
He was an important figure of the Harlem Renaissance. This was a period of great creativity among African American artists. Hughes wrote about the joys and sorrows of ordinary Blacks. He is known especially for his poetry, which includes *The Dream Keeper and Other Poems* and *The Weary Blues*. In addition to poetry, Hughes also wrote novels, plays, essays, short stories, and children's books. Through his poetry, plays, and stories, Hughes helped other black Americans to see themselves as part of a much bigger group of people.

A NEW POET LAUREATE... THAT'S YOU!

Many poets write from their own experiences or social injustices. What life experience would inspire your poem? Think about it and write your first stanza here.

THAT'S A FACT!

Fill in the blanks with the correct facts on the lines.

- "poetry, *The Pulse of Morning*", "National Youth Poet Laureate"
- The Hill We Climb "book, *To His Excellency, General Washington*"
- Spin a Soft Black Song, *Ego-Tripping, Vacation Time*
- The joys and sorrows of ordinary Blacks

Phillis Wheatley was the first African American to write a _____, titled _____

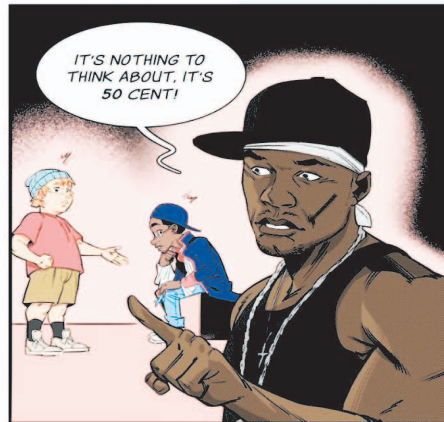
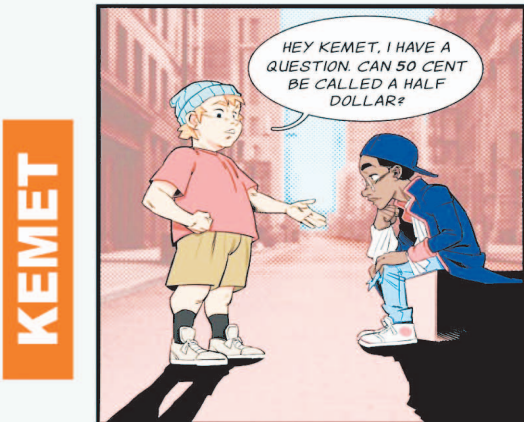
Amanda Gorman was the first person to be named _____

The poem that Amanda Gorman read at President Biden's Inauguration was _____

Name 3 of Nikki Giovanni's collection of poems for children: _____

Maya Angelou is best known for her _____ She recited _____ at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

Langston Hughes wrote _____ during the Harlem Renaissance period.



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ANSWER KEY

- ONE MINUTE MADNESS!**
Nikki Giovanni - Washington
Maya Angelou - "The Hill We Climb"
Phillis Wheatley - "Mother to Son"
Amanda Gorman - "Still I Rise"
Langston Hughes - "Ego-Tripping"

THAT'S A FACT!

- book, *To His Excellency, General Washington*
National Youth Poet Laureate
The Hill We Climb
Spin a Soft Black Song, *Ego-Tripping, Vacation Time*
The Pulse of Morning
The joys and sorrows of ordinary Blacks

BLACK POETS,

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Smooth 88.1

Where Jazz Lives

THE ESSENCE OF HAMPTON UNIVERSITY



LISTEN LIVE




WINS AND OUTS

WSSU'S TERRY WINS GAINES AWARD; AD HILTON OUT AT NC A&T, JOHNNY JONES LEAVES TEXAS SOUTHERN

TERRATERRY: First-year WSSU women's basketball head coach wins national award after leading Lady Rams to CIAA tourney title and NCAA Div. II Regional final

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NC A&T AD EARL HILTON STEPPING DOWN:

The administrator who has led North Carolina A&T athletics to incredible highs and controversial changes over the last 15 years, Athletics Director **Earl M. Hilton III**, is moving on.

The university's leadership announced Tuesday that Hilton will step down this summer when his current contract ends.

A national search for a new athletics director will begin immediately with Hilton continuing in the role until a successor is identified and seated.

"It has been my singular privilege to have worked with so many wonderful and talented student-athletes and the dedicated coaches and staff who support them," Hilton said in the press release from the university.

"I have been blessed to be part of a remarkable community of boosters and fans who have sustained us with unflinching resolve. I am honored to have witnessed historic academic and athletic achievement and look forward to our continued success under the leadership of (current) Chancellor (**James R.**) Martin (II) and the next athletics administration."

Referencing "our" continued success in his statement is notable as Hilton has embraced his role leading the athletics department with passion, dedication and a steely determination to look out for A&T's student athletes and its programs in an ever-changing and challenging athletics environment. The highs, lows, challenges, controversies and critiques come with navigating this current landscape. These realities are captured in this statement from Chancellor Martin.

"North Carolina A&T is tremendously grateful for the outstanding leadership Earl has provided for our student athletes over the past 15 years," said Martin. "He created an environment in which more than 300 student athletes each year never lose sight of the fact that they are students first and that success in the classroom comes before competition on the playing field."

"We have especially appreciated his steady hand in a time of unprecedented change throughout the NCAA."

Hilton came to A&T in 1999 to work under former AD **Alphonso Scandrett** and moved over to the university's auxiliary services department when Scandrett was fired in 2002. A lawyer by training, Hilton assumed the AD position on an interim basis in late 2010 before being named A&T's permanent athletics leader in February 2011.

He inherited a struggling program in "academic and organizational chaos," as one media outlet described it, and one facing legal scrutiny after the death of an athlete in a training exercise. Hilton's legal background was reportedly key to his ascension.

Working with other university administrators, Hilton set about bringing new order and discipline to the program under the banner of "excellence without apology" and recruited outstanding coaches, gifted student athletes and dedicated administrative professionals. A&T student athlete graduation rates increased by more than 51%, annual giving to athletics grew by more than 15-fold and the department earned more than 70 individual, team, conference, national and Olympic championships.

He has also been at the helm as A&T stunned its supporters and many in black college communities in 2020 as it left the cozy confines of 50 years competing in an HBCU conference, the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**, to join the predominantly non-HBCU Big South Conference and eventually moved to the predominantly non-HBCU Coastal Athletic Conference (CAA) where it now resides.

Those two conference-related moves have perhaps generated the greatest amount of criticism and polarization about his leadership as the Aggies have struggled to gain traction or produce standout programs since the moves. The moves were seen as an attempt to help A&T better align with other doctoral research universities while also delivering wider exposure for A&T sports teams and student athletes. The latter part of that assertion is certainly in question.

From 2015 to 2019, Aggie football teams won four Celebration Bowls, also known as the black college football national championship. In 2021, track and field athletes took home three medals — two of them gold — from the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. The following year, the men's track and field team took second place at the 2022 NCAA Indoor Championships, trailing only Texas. It was the highest indoor finish ever for any Division I HBCU. A&T also started two new varsity programs under Hilton — men's and women's golf.

Hilton's leadership was nationally recognized in 2019, when he was named an Under Armour Athletics Director of the Year for NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) institutions.



2026 women's "Baad Team" ballers

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

The 2026 edition of the **BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE** "Baad Team" of women's black college basketball all-stars is being unveiled this week.

Leading the pack of Div. I stars is **Howard's** 6-2, senior forward **Zennia Thomas**, who like her counterpart on the men's "Baad Team," Howard grad senior guard/forward **Bryce Harris**, led the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** in both scoring (15.2 ppg.) and rebounding (7.9 rpg.) while leading her team to regular season and tournament titles and an automatic bid to the NCAA Div. I Tournament.

Like Harris, Thomas was also the regular season and tournament most valuable player that cements her status as the 2025-26 Div. I "Baad Team" player of the year.

Among those joining Thomas on the Div. I first team are 5-5, grad guard and **Southwestern Athletic Conference** Player of the Year **Kalia Walker** of **Alabama A&M** who finished second in the league in scoring at 14.5 points per game and was the offensive engine to the Lady Bulldogs first-ever regular season SWAC title with a 17-1 conference record.

Also on the first team is 6-foot, guard/forward **Nakia Cheatham** of **Alcorn State**, named the SWAC's defensive player of the year, who was among the SWAC leaders in scoring (12.8 ppg., T6th), blocks (1.2 bpg., 5th) and steals (2.2, 1st) while helping propel the Lady Braves to a second-place (14-4) finish. **Norfolk State** junior guard **Da'Brya Clark** was an all-MEAC first teamer who averaged 13.9 points per game while leading the Lady Spartans to a second-place tie (11-3) in the conference standings.

North Carolina A&T redshirt senior, 6-4 center **Chaniya Clark**, in the final piece and lady in the middle after earning a first-team all-CAA designation averaging 12.7 points and 7.5 rebounds per game.



Thomas Walker Cheatham D. Clark C. Clark



Franklin Garner Charles Martinez Harris

Div. I - FIRST TEAM

Zennia Thomas, 6-2, Sr., F, Howard; **Nakia Cheatham**, 6-0, Gr., G/F, Alcorn State; **Chaniya Clark**, 6-4, R-Sr., C, North Carolina A&T; **Kalia Walker**, 5-5, Gr., G, Alabama A&M; **Da'Brya Clark**, 5-7, Jr., G, Norfolk State;
DIV I - SECOND TEAM
Indiya Bowen, 5-8, Jr., G, Arkansas-Pine Bluff; **Jasha Clinton**, 5-8, Gr., G, Norfolk State; **Ashanti Lynch**, 5-9, Sr., G, Maryland-Eastern Shore; **Taliyah Longwood**, 5-10, So., G/FTexas Southern; **Khila Morris**, 5-11, Sr., G, Coppin State

4th), **Winston-Salem State** standout forward **Maia Charles** (12.9 ppg., 9.2 rpg.), the centerpiece of the Lady Rams' run to the CIAA tournament title and to the finals of the NCAA Div. II Atlantic Regional.

CIAA Player of the Year **Bruni Martinez** of **Virginia Union** whose 14.2 points and 9.2 rebounds per game kept the Lady Panthers in CIAA contention and **Edward Waters** junior point guard **Imani Harris** (10.9 ppg., 5.1 rpg.) who led the Lady Tigers to the best record (23-6, 21-3) in the SIAC round out the team.

Div. II / NAIA

FIRST TEAM:
Samarian Franklin, 5-3, Fr., PG, Miles; **Atreonia Garner**, 5-10, G/F, Clark Atlanta; **Maia Charles**, 6-3, So., F/C, Winston-Salem State; **Bruni Martinez**, 6-0, Sr., F, Virginia Union; **Imani Harris**, 5-5, Jr., PG, Edward Waters
SECOND TEAM:
Dyani Bernstine, 5-10, Fr., F, Lane; **Breasia Coit**, 6-2, So., C, Livingstone; **Kendahl Spearman**, 5-6, Jr., G, Virginia State; **Jasmine Jenkins**, 5-8, Sr., G/F, Bluefield State; **Alyasia Nash** 5-6, Jr., G, Benedict

The "Baad Team" from the NCAA Div. II/NAIA ranks is led by a diminutive freshman who guided Miles to its third straight SIAC tournament title.

Five-three dynamo point guard **Samarian Franklin** averaged 12.4 points per game, led the league in assists (5.3 apg.) and was third in steals (1.1 spg.) and dominated postseason play as the Lady Golden Bears three-peated.

She is joined on the first team by SIAC Player of the Year, 5-10 junior G/F **Atreonia Garner** of **Clark Atlanta** (17.9 ppg., 1st, 8.1 rpg.,

BCSP Notes



Winston-Salem State Head Women's Basketball Coach

TERRA TERRY

WSSU's Tierra Terry wins Gaines Coach of the Year award

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (April 6, 2026) — **Winston-Salem State University** Head Women's Basketball Coach **Tierra Terry** has been named the **Clarence "Big House" Gaines College Basketball Coach of the Year** by the National Sports Media Association.

"This honor is incredibly meaningful, especially given Coach Gaines' legacy and what he represents to the game and to Winston-Salem State University," Terry said. "I'm grateful for our student-athletes, our staff and the support of Ram Nation. This recognition reflects the hard work and commitment of our entire program."

Terry will be honored at the NSMA's 66th awards banquet June 29, 2026, at Grandover Resort & Spa — a Wyndham Grand Hotel — in Greensboro, N.C.

The **Clarence "Big House" Gaines College Basketball Coach of the Year** award is presented to head coaches in NCAA Divisions I and II who may not receive recognition from mainstream outlets. The awards are voted on by an NSMA committee at the conclusion of the NCAA men's and women's tournaments.

Previous winners include Dawn Staley, who has won three DI national championships as head coach of the women's team at the University of South Carolina. Joining Terry as a Gaines Award recipient this year is Jai Lucas, head men's basketball coach at the University of Miami. The Hurricanes went 26-9 on the year.

The Lady Rams had a stellar season, embracing excellence both on and off the hardwood. They finished the year 28-4, going a perfect 13-0 at home and 14-2 in conference play earning Co-Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Southern Division Championship honors before winning the first CIAA Tournament Championship in program history.

In their NCAA DII Tournament debut, the Lady Rams won their first two games in wire-to-wire fashion by 17 and 19 points, respectively, before losing in the Atlantic Regional Sweet 16 final round.

Terry was named CIAA Coach of the Year, and **Breonna Roaf** was named CIAA Rookie of the Year. Under Terry's leadership, 13 Lady Rams earned a spot on the CIAA Commissioner's Honor Roll, which required a minimum 3.0 GPA, and the student-athletes performed community service by passing out water at the annual Mistletoe Run sponsored by the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina and reading to Ward Elementary students.

The Lady Rams' success inspired the Winston-Salem community while garnering regional, statewide and national acclaim for the institution.

"The Clarence "Big House" Gaines Coach of the Year award is highly prestigious, particularly

because of the legend after whom it's named," said Winston-Salem State University Interim Athletic Director **Eric Burns**.

"I'm sure Coach Terry will treasure this much-deserved accolade and use it as inspiration to push her student-athletes to continue their winning ways on and off the court in the upcoming 2026-27 basketball season and beyond. Because of Coach Terry, I am confident WSSU Women's Basketball will keep rising."

Clarence "Big House" Gaines coached basketball at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) for 47 years, from 1946 to 1993, compiling an 828-447 record.

He led the Rams to 18 20-win seasons, eight CIAA titles, and in 1967 led WSSU to a Division II NCAA Championship, making the Rams the first basketball program from a historically black college or university to capture an NCAA national championship.

Johnny Jones leaving Texas Southern to return to LSU

From HBCU Legends

Kyle Mosley, editor at online site **HBCU Legends**, received direct confirmation from **Texas Southern** Head Men's Basketball coach **Johnny Jones** on Tuesday that he is departing the TSU program to join Will Wade's staff at LSU as an assistant coach, ending weeks of speculation and bringing a significant chapter of HBCU basketball to a close.

The move ends an eight-year run for Jones in Houston, where he built Texas Southern into one of the most consistent programs in the SWAC. Under his leadership, the Tigers made four NCAA Tournament appearances, won nine consecutive postseason berths, and claimed the program's second-ever NCAA Tournament victory in 2021. Jones finishes his TSU tenure with a 133-125 record in conference play and a 90-49 mark in SWAC action.

Jones had previously pushed back on reports of his departure. When HBCU Legends first reached him in late March, he called early resignation reports "bogus" and "disappointing," confirming only that he was "in discussions" with LSU but that "nothing is concrete." Tuesday's confirmation from Jones directly to **HBCU Legends** closes that chapter definitively.

The move is a homecoming in the truest sense. Jones is a Louisiana native who played at LSU from 1980 to 1984, appearing on the Tigers' 1981 Final Four squad as a freshman. He later spent 12 seasons on Dale Brown's LSU staff as an assistant, helping guide the program to another Final Four in 1986. He returned as LSU's head coach from 2012 to 2017, going 90-72 and coaching 2016 No. 1 NBA Draft pick Ben Simmons — the most wins by any LSU head coach in their first five seasons. Wade succeeded Jones at LSU in 2017.

The announcement comes on the heels of **Alabama State** head coach **Tony Madlock's** departure to join Penny Hardaway's staff at Memphis and **Mo Williams's** decision to leave as head coach at **Jackson State** to join his son Mason at Kentucky, making Jones the third prominent HBCU head coach to step down for a Power conference assistant role in recent weeks.

Jones brings more than three decades of

Division I coaching experience to Baton Rouge — 34 years in total, including 18 as a head coach. His SWAC recruiting network, Louisiana roots, and HBCU credibility give Wade's staff direct access to a talent pipeline few assistants can offer. He also carries name recognition from his time coaching NBA talent including Simmons, Ben Simmons, Tim Quarterman, Jordan Mickey, and Jarrell Martin during his LSU tenure.

Texas Southern, who finished 17-18 overall and 10-8 in the 2025-26 SWAC regular season before bowing to **Alabama A&M** in the SWAC Tournament quarterfinals, now faces a significant rebuilding moment in its coaching staff. HBCU Legends reached out to leadership at TSU without a response.

Jones had signed a three-year contract extension in 2024 that would have kept him in Houston through the 2029 season.

Fifth HBCU All-Star game caps exciting week of activities in college basketball's final weekend in Indianapolis

Team Sam Jones defeated **Team Bob Dandridge** 96-89 Sunday at the fifth-annual **HBCU All-Star Game** at the Corvea Coliseum in Indianapolis before the NCAA Div. I national championship game on Monday.

Senior guard **Larry Howell** of CIAA champion **Fayetteville State** was named the game's Most Valuable Player after tallying a game-high 23 points for Team Jones. Howell was 9 of 12 from the field and 3 of 4 from the 3-point line.

He added six rebounds and three assists.

Joining him in double-digit scoring for Team Jones were four others including **Kentavious Dozier** of **Alabama A&M** with 15 points, SWAC champion **Prairie View A&M's Dontae Horne** with 12, **Corey Wells** of **Prairie View** with 11 points and 7 rebounds, and **Tyler Shirley** of **Florida A&M** with 10. Team Jones had players from the SWAC, CIAA and one player from **Hampton**.

The leading scorer for Team Dandridge was **Aaron Nkrumah** of **Tennessee State** with 19 points. Nkrumah was 12 of 12 from the free throw line. Also scoring double figures for Team Dandridge were **Bryce Harris** of **Howard** with 17, **Xavier Long** of **Hampton** with 15 and **Anthony McComb III** of **Norfolk State** with 12.

"The game was very competitive and very efficient offensively," said legendary coach **Cy Alexander**, part of the scouting committee that chose the team. Alexander also did color commentary for the game that aired on **Wish TV** but will be re-aired on BET at a date to be determined.

Both teams shot over 40% from the field with Team Jones shooting 54.7% from the field and 89% from the line.

The game capped a full week of "Black Excellence" said Alexander, that included a social justice forum, a career fair and awards ceremony. "It's all a God-driven vision by HBCU All-Star Founder and CEO **Travis Williams** and his wife, **Kya**."

