

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 30

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

April 4 - 10, 2024

Farewell to James A. Washington: A Trailblazer in Black Journalism and Community Advocacy

The president and general manager of the Atlanta Voice, Washington, always displayed a genuine concern for Black America and its longtime voice, The Black Press of America.

By Stacy M. Brown

As this week's Atlanta Voice headline was heart-breaking, it proved fitting. Straight and to the point, an obituary by Donnell Suggs

came with the headline, "James A. Washington, 73, a champion of Black press and journalism, passes away." Washington was straight and

to the point, a champion of the Black press, an astute spokesman for journalism, and a rare gem who earned trust on his first words in a



James A. Washington

conversation.

The president and general manager of the Atlanta Voice, Washington, always displayed a genuine concern for Black America and its longtime voice, The Black Press of America. In 2019 and again in 2021, Washington said he considered a run to chair the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association of the more than 250 African-American-owned newspapers and media companies in the Black Press of America. In both cases, Washington declined to compete against his friends, Houston Forward Times Publisher and former chair Karen Carter Richards, who

Continue Farewell Page 3

Hope is not the same as optimism, a psychologist explains – just look at MLK's example

By Kendra Thomas, Associate Professor of Psychology, Hope College



Civil rights leaders talk about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact on equality in education
Photo Credit: NNPA Files

On April 3, 1968, standing before a crowded church, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. painted his vision for justice. "I've seen the Promised Land," he said. "I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight

that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land." Twenty-two hours later, he was assassinated. King's prophetic words express the virtue of hope amid hardship. He was not optimistic that he would

reach the "Promised Land," yet he was hopeful about the ultimate goal. In conversation, "hope" and "optimism" can often be used as synonyms. But there's an important gap between them, as psycholo-

gy research suggests. Hope is often defined in psychological research as having strong will to succeed and plans to reach a goal. Hope is stronger than

Continue King Page 5



Texas Second Court of Appeals Reverses Crystal Mason's Conviction in Major Voting Rights Victory

After a 6-year fight, Mason is acquitted of the offense of illegal voting

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Texas Second Court of Appeals reversed Crystal Mason's conviction on Thursday evening, resulting in an acquittal. She had faced five years in prison for submitting a provisional ballot in 2016 that was never counted as a vote.

This is a victory for Mason, a Black mother of three from Fort Worth, whose life was upended by the state's aggressive charges. She was convicted of illegal voting despite believing she was fulfilling her civic duty and not realizing the state considered her ineligible to vote.

"I am overjoyed to see my faith rewarded today," said Crystal Mason. "I was thrown into this fight for voting rights and will keep swinging to ensure no one else has to face what I've endured for over six years, a

political ploy where minority voting rights are under attack. "I've cried and prayed every night for over six years straight that I would remain a free Black woman. I thank everyone whose dedication and support carried me through this time and look forward to celebrating this moment with my family and friends." Ms. Mason is represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, the ACLU, the Texas Civil Rights Project, criminal defense attorney Alison Grinter Allen, and civil attorney Kim Cole in her appeal of her conviction.

The court's move to reverse the conviction shows that nobody should face conviction or prison time for, at worst, an unintentional mistake made

Continue Crystal Page 5

Dallas Love Field Prepares for April 8th Total Eclipse

DALLAS, TX – Dallas Love Field (DAL) is preparing for the highly anticipated Total Eclipse event on April 8, 2024, expecting a significant increase in travelers due to this year's celestial

event. With projections indicating a 30% increase in roadway and passenger foot traffic between Sunday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 9, the

Continue Eclipse Page 6



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EDITORIAL PAGE

“My Day”

“The Day King Died”

Now, here we are...at the dawning of Dr. King's 56th Anniversary Assassination. He was only 39 years old. What has changed? What part did you play? Who made it happen? Are any fences mended? Is history fading to a repeat of Jim Crow? Through the years, we have navigated bouts of profound self-reflection, some rage, peace, progress, and hope. Here and now, we face mounting years behind that awful day. We must...fill this day with reflections.

Some notables remembering ... the day King died:

C. W. Whitaker, DFW BAM, A Favorite Native Son:

“In 1968, I was a student at El Centro College. On the night that I heard about Dr. King’s assassination, I was mad as hell. Yes, violence and lawlessness ran through my mind, but love, wisdom, and compassion toward one another was stated by Pastor E. A. Greer of Forest Avenue Baptist Church, which put me on the road to recovery. ‘Martin Luther King Jr’s life was not in vain’, he said. His words helped me to become the man I am today.”

The Honorable Felicia Pitre, Dallas County District Clerk:

“I remember the day that Dr. King was assassinated. I was only 8 years old, and my mother was preparing dinner while my brother and I played nearby. She cried out after hearing Walter Cronkite announce Dr. King’s assassination. Seeing my mother crying left me feeling confused, not fully understanding what had just happened but sensing something had occurred due to her reaction. I felt immense sadness without truly grasping its severity

back then. I owe much gratitude to Dr. King for his tireless activism that paved the way for me to obtain a position that was previously deemed impossible solely due to race or gender. His legacy continues to inspire generations to this date.”

Dr. Keisha Lankford, Lankford Avenue:

“I came on the scene in 1971, but as I began to study his life through books and documentaries, I realized how dangerous his mission was. I was astounded to learn that he fought and sacrificed for people he knew did not appreciate his efforts. This gives me strength daily to continue the fight for our children, community, justice, and equality.”

Dr. Rev. Alan Madison, Pastor and Principal, Evergreen Funeral Home:

“I remember that sad day. I was in the barracks shining my boots when the news came, and the next day I was flown to Chicago for an assignment to control the rioting and protesting.”

Debra Blair Abron, Elite News Legendary Publisher:

“When Dr. King was assassinated, I was 14

years old. That day, oh, I was shocked, crying, really hurt, and angry, to say the least. It was like a family member had passed away. You could just feel it; there was a shift in the atmosphere. How, why, would anyone kill him, a man who stood for justice, especially in a non-violent manner? I just knew this was an attack on us all! I felt he knew he was going to die sooner than later. As a people, I hoped we needed to do our part and stand on the platform he began to build on. I actually felt courageous and obligated to do more than ever.”

Art Fuller, U. S. Navy Retired, Washington, D.C., now 90 Years Old, Residing in Texas:

“Life was good. I was a happy man. The Navy recruited me from Miles College in Birmingham as a mathematician in the upstart of computer operations designing ships. I was the only African American in this department, which meant I had my own compartment and lunch alone. The television was on in my lunch room that day, and the story was interrupted. The first news story was about Dr. King being shot. Minutes later, he was pro-



Dr. J. Ester Davis

nounced dead. I was numb! My whole life changed. Upon moving to DC, I joined New Bethel Baptist Church, where Rev. Walter Fauntroy was pastoring. I left work early that day and went to the church.”

Michael Smith, Mike’s Air, Entrepreneur, Political Consultant:

“In 1968, I worked in Grand Prairie for LTV as a tooling mechanism. This was a large defense contract for Texas. We were making parts for the new 727 airplanes. On this day, with so many other assassinations before Dr. King’s, the mood was sobering but simmering in slow motion. The plant leadership thought it was a good idea to call it a day and sent everybody home.”

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Remembering Dr. King, And Adam C. Powell

By **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, a day those of us who are old enough will never forget. But April 4th is significant for another reason because on April 4, 1972, the Rev. Dr. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., a Congressman from New York, died in a Florida hospital. His death, although not related to Dr. King’s, occurred exactly four years, four months, and four days after the death of Dr. King. Both men represent great losses to humanity and to African Americans in particular.

We know of Dr. King’s achievements and sacri-

fices, but so much of Adam Clayton Powell’s record has gone unnoticed. Powell is the member of Congress that President Lyndon Baines Johnson went to to pass the Voting Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act, and the War on Poverty under the Economic Opportunity Act. He is responsible for the Arts and Humanities Endowments Act, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education Act, the Title VI Public Accommodations provision of the Civil Rights Act, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Act.

In all he authored more than 60 major pieces of legislation in his six years as Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee on which the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm also served. He authored the Older Americans Act and the Black Lung Legislation for those suffering from years of working in the nation’s coal mines. He was a voice for all Black Americans in particular, whether or not they lived in New York’s Harlem as his Congressional District.

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. died of cancer. Martin



Dr. John E. Warren

Luther King, Jr. died of an assassin’s bullet. We must never forget either, even as we honor others who came before and after them.

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

A MODEL OF AN EXEMPLARY CHURCH

I THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

PART II



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Paul, the established writer of I Thessalonians, wrote this first letter to believers at Thessalonica after founding the church there and moving on to Berea, Athens, and Corinth (Acts 17:1-18:1). This first epistle was written by Paul from Corinth about A.D. 51. This epistle was written during Paul's second missionary journey. Paul's aim in writing this letter was to confirm the converts he had made during his second missionary journey. There were no obvious factions among the Thessalonian believers,

thus this church served as a model of an exemplary church. I Thessalonians 1:1-10 may be outlined as follows: I. An Exemplary Church Commended – I Thessalonians 1:1-4; II. An Exemplary Church Committed – I Thessalonians 1:5-10.

I. II. An Exemplary Church Committed – I Thessalonians 1:5-10

In verses 5-6, despite the believers being persecuted for their belief, they received the gospel with joy of the Holy Spirit. They could read-

ly receive the gospel because Paul and co-workers' preaching among them was supported by their honest report. It has been often said: "I'd rather see a sermon lived than preached." Our message among others must be backed by a life of purity. Preaching and a pure life is a powerful testimony! What we preach must be backed with a life of practice. In other words, practice what you preach.

In verses 7-9, this church in Thessalonica was truly exemplary for she became a model for other believers in

Macedonia and Achaia. This church was especially noted for being a witnessing church. The church at Thessalonica shared their faith. The faith of these believers had spread, for it had been reported that these believers had turned from idols to serve the living and true God (v. 9).

So why was this church so noted to be imitated? This church was indeed noteworthy because it was a worthy church (v. 3-6), and a witnessing church (vs. 7-9) and a waiting church (v. 10). Although these

believers were quite active in service, they waited with a sure hope of the coming of Christ from heaven. Notice that the object of their wait is Jesus Christ. Even in the midst of their afflictions because of their faith, they waited on the One who died but rose triumphantly for them. They could wait because their faith was rooted; their love was vibrant; and their hope was sure.

Jesus Christ, the object of our wait, gives us blessed assurance. I know that He is coming back for His church because the word of God

says so. In the midst of your faith being tried, we have the blessed assurance that He is coming back, for St. John 14:1-3 says – "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

"May God Bless!"

Continued **Farwell** Page 1

held the post for two terms, and the current chair, Westside Gazette Publisher Bobby Henry. Instead, Washington pledged to support them.

"We've got to somehow forge a unity that this organization hasn't seen in a long time," Washington confided. "The potential for the NNPA has never been fully realized, but I know one day a light bulb will turn on among the greater population of the NNPA, and everybody is going to reap bountifully."

Washington wasn't your typical optimist; he was as much a realist as anyone. When others complained, Washington pushed to accomplish. When the NNPA began live-streaming programs during the COVID pandemic, Washington counted among the first guests. During an early broadcast, a business owner announced he had not previously been in touch with the NNPA, and Washington wasted no time educating the individual – an advertising deal resulted.

Washington later repeated his actions when then-Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban appeared on the NNPA's digital show. In the wake of George Floyd's police-related death, Cuban was among those who reflected on his lack of support to Black America, including the Black Press. Washington followed up, ultimately striking a deal with Cuban to partner with the Dallas Weekly, run by Washington's son, Patrick Washington. It was typical

James Washington; when opportunity knocked, his door was open. When it appeared opportunity was elusive, Washington either made a way, or found a way.

"I worked for James over 35 years ago – as an intern at The Dallas Weekly," Journalist Dorothy Gentry wrote on X. "I last saw him a few years back in Miami at NABJ. We laughed and shared memories. He will be missed."

A sales executive, Robert Walker-Smith, added that Washington's voice is silenced, yet his spirit lives forever."

Sugg's column noted that Washington had been involved in nearly every level of the communications field for over four decades. From his time as the publisher of The Dallas Weekly, a Black-owned and operated publication, to his work as the public relations manager for the Dallas Ballet, Washington had always been a strong representation of Black excellence and intelligence.

Washington has twice served on the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce board, the Dallas Arboretum, the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

He is a former tri-chair of Dallas' Commission on Race Relations and the Dallas Together Forum. He is also a former member of the Federal Reserve Bank's Small Business and Agriculture Advisory Committee in Dallas. Jim

Continue **Farwell** Page 5

Trump's Brand Is Selling Bibles Now

Did You Get Your Copy?

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

Growing up in the South has given me many memories. When I think about some of them, they make me smile. Thinking about yesterday makes me realize similar events are happening today.

During my childhood, we had a vegetable man who came to our neighborhood on Saturdays. My mom and other moms would purchase different vegetables from him. Of course, we kids were always near the vegetable truck.

Upon reflection, he claimed his produce was always fresh and that he was the brother of a famous television cowboy.

Were these two assertions true? I really don't know. All I know is that he

kept saying the same things, so I guess we believed him.

The former president reminds me of the vegetable man. Donald Trump has been saying the same things for so long that he has a lot of people believing him. Like the vegetable man, he has a steady clientele. These are people buying whatever he is selling.

Another similarity to the vegetable man is the frequency of his stops. We are seeing more of Mr. Trump. He is either in a courtroom or at a campaign stop almost weekly.

Our vegetable man also had seasonal vegetables; if we were lucky, we could get some at a sale price. It appears that the former president also has seasonal and on-sale items.

Mr. T has always been a self-promoter. You can find caps, cups, and cologne bearing his moniker. Recently, he began selling sneakers. Depending upon who you know, you can probably get these items at a discounted price.

If you are one of his hornblowers, you'll have some of his merchandise in

your closet. However, I am still puzzled about those sneakers. Would you wear them in the public square? I would opine that some of his more zealous supporters probably would.

Mr. Trump's latest venture has taken him to a new low in many people's eyes, and it is not party-specific. It is what I call bipartisan embarrassment. The former president is selling Bibles. What are you talking about, Willis? Yes, he is selling Bibles for \$59.99.

Last week, he said, "Happy Holy Week. As we lead into Good Friday and Easter, I encourage you to get a copy of the God Bless the USA Bible. All Americans need a Bible in their home, and I have many. It's my favorite book."

He is a pitchman, so I wouldn't expect him to say anything else. His audacity to sell Bibles is troubling to many of us. How do you become so brazen and cavalier to sell Bibles?

There are those who see Trump's selling Bibles as wrong and inappropriate. "It is bankrupt Christianity that sees a demagogue co-

opting our faith and even holy scriptures for the sake of his own pursuit of power and praise him for it rather than insist that we refuse to allow our sacred faith and scriptures to become a mouthpiece for an empire," said Rev. Benjamin Cremer on X.

The Trump camp has further gone down the road of indecency. These vile practices will continue until election day.

What can we do? The November election is coming up soon. This will arguably be the most important election in our lifetime. Simply put, it will be Biden against Trump.

If you want a positive outlook and hope for tomorrow, we must vote for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. They are keeping us within the boundaries of civility and humanity.

Let your friends know to vote because this is not the time for apathy and ambivalence. Democracy and the rule of law are on the ballot. Voting out the former president is the only way to rid ourselves of him.



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Trump Receives Mixed Court Rulings: Relief in Fraud Case, Trial Date Set for Hush Money Case

By Stacy M. Brown

It was a rollercoaster day for the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former President Donald Trump, who delivered victories and setbacks in his various legal battles. While a state appeals court granted Trump and his co-defendants a temporary reprieve by reducing the bond they owed in a civil fraud case, another judge scheduled the trial date for the hush money case involving Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen.

The state appeals court decision, announced Monday, March 25, provided significant relief for Trump, reducing the bond he and his co-defendants were ordered to post in the New York civil fraud case from \$464 million to \$175 million.

However, Monday brought less favorable news for Trump in another legal matter. Judge Juan Merchan, presiding over the hush money case, set the trial date for April 15, despite Trump's legal team's requests for a lengthy delay or dismissal of charges due to late evidence submission by prosecutors.

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Quinn Minute

Help! Help!

By Rix Quinn

My friend Lisa says there are more self-help books than anything else.

Lisa should know. She eats right, dresses well, and talks sweeter than a candy salesman at a dental convention.

She's been to more seminars than most caterers. And she's always looking for another body part to get fixed, tucked, expanded, or reduced.

Lisa separates her improvement library into five book categories:

1 "I'm in bad shape and need to get better fast...like by tomorrow."

2 "I feel really bad about myself, but maybe it's not my fault, which would make me feel really good about myself."

3 "I need to find my 'special calling,' which has nothing to do with how my cell phone rings."

4 "I honestly think I am a genius and would like confirmation."

5 "There is a success 'secret,' and if I find it I can make a lot of money, which means I can buy more self-help books, which can make me even cooler."

My neighbor Stan belongs to a self-help support group. When he gets overconfident, he calls another member who convinces him he needs more workshops.

"What worries me," says Stan, "is that just about the time my mind starts to suc-

ceed, my body will start to fail."

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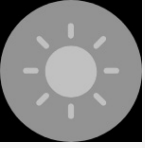
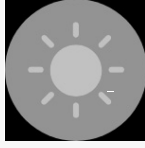



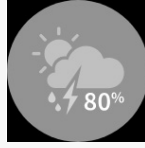
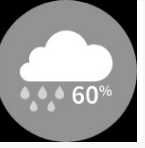


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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Apr. 4  H - 73° L - 51°	Friday, Apr. 5  H - 75° L - 57°	Saturday, Apr. 6  H - 74° L - 61°	Sunday, Apr. 7  H - 75° L - 60° 30%	Monday, Apr. 8  H - 73° L - 58° 30%	Tuesday, Apr. 9  H - 69° L - 60° 80%	Wednesday, Apr. 10  H - 67° L - 53° 60%
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VISIT DALLAS UNVEILS NEW “MAVERICK, CAN-DO” BRAND IDENTITY FOR DALLAS

Rooted in extensive market research and community input, this unified destination brand identity positions Dallas as an emerging, global city

DALLAS (Mar. 29, 2024) – Visit Dallas, an independent, not-for-profit organization that promotes Dallas as a premier business and leisure travel destination, today revealed a new, unified destination brand identity for Dallas – A Maverick, Can-Do Spirit – during a press conference held at the AT&T Discovery District in Downtown Dallas.

The new brand resulted from extensive research and collaboration between Visit Dallas and city leaders, community stakeholders, and residents. It is a dynamic and ownable identity that authentically reflects the qualities, personality, and values that make Dallas what it is today and will be in the future.

“Dallas has never identified a clear differentiator nor established a unified brand, and research shows that visitors still associate Dallas with cliché Texas stereotypes,” said Visit Dallas Chief Marketing Officer Jennifer Walker. “Our vision was to create a competitive positioning platform that could be adopted citywide to build equity and interest in Dallas as a world-class destination for years to come.”

To celebrate the brand’s

launch, Visit Dallas hosted a press conference attended by the city’s difference-makers, game-changers, tastemakers, connectors and visionaries. Remarks were provided by City of Dallas Councilmember Gay Donnell Willis (District 13), Jennifer Scripps, CEO of Downtown Dallas, Inc. and Mary Pat Higgins, President and CEO of the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum and chairwoman of the Visit Dallas board of directors, in addition to Visit Dallas executive leaders.

“There could not be a more opportune time for this work than the present. There is so much on the horizon for our city – such as the new and expanded Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas and FIFA World Cup 26™, when Dallas will host more matches than any other city,” said Willis. “Now is the moment for Dallas to shine on the world stage. And our city’s work on this destination brand is a wonderful underscore to Dallas’ ascension as a true global city.”

The event also included the introduction of “Can-Doers,” local visionaries, and community leaders who embody the essence of a Maverick, Can-Do Spirit

for each of the brand pillars. Portraits of the “Can-Doers,” commissioned by some of the city’s most renowned artists, were unveiled during the press conference. These “Can-Doers” include:

- Anastacia Quiñones-Pittman, Executive Chef, José
- Daron Babcock, Director of Community Transformation, Stand Together Foundation
- Daisha Board, Founder & Curator, Daisha Board Gallery
- Michelle Carpenter, Executive Chef & Owner, Restaurant Beatrice
- Cynt Marshall, Chief Executive Officer, Dallas Mavericks
- Arike Ogunbowale, Guard (#24), Dallas Wings
- Tim & Terrance Maiden, Co-Founders, Maiden Foundation

“These community leaders and luminaries represent the diversity, dynamism and swagger that power our destination story,” said Walker. “We’d also like to thank our incredibly talented local artists – Armando Sebastian, Haylee Ryan, Jeremy Biggers, Hatziel Flores, Blake Wright,

“Can-Doers”



Daron Babcock



Daisha Board



Michelle Carpenter



Arike Ogunbowale



Tim & Terrance Maiden



Anastacia Quiñones-Pittman



Cynt Marshall

Michelle Dekkers – for creating astounding portraits inspired by our ‘Can-Doers.’ These works of art will be displayed across Dallas over the coming weeks as a reminder of the can-do energy, pride, welcoming personality and even attitude that sets us

apart.”

In addition to the new brand, Visit Dallas also announced the launch of an official partnership with Big Thought, a Dallas-based nonprofit organization equipping youth in marginalized communities with the skills and tools they need to imagine and create their best lives and a better world. Through this partnership, Visit Dallas will donate the net proceeds of commemorative “We Do Can-Do” T-shirt sales to Big Thought to further equip the nonprofit with the resources needed to expand its reach and mission.

As Visit Dallas prepares to share this new position-

ing with national audiences, Dallasites are encouraged to get involved and learn more by visiting www.DallasCanDo.com. Website visitors can also nominate other “Can-Doers” and purchase branded apparel in support of Big Thought.

“Now more than ever is an inspiring time to be a Dallasite,” said Visit Dallas CEO Craig Davis. “This brand, like this incredibly diverse city, is nothing without the passion, contribution and ‘Can-Do’ spirit of our people. Simply put, this new brand is you, the people of Dallas. Your innovative and bold energy is unmatched in any city on earth.”

Continued Farwell Page 3

was named “Man of the Year” in 1986 by the Dallas Metropolitan Club of Negro Business and Professional Women.

Since then, he has been honored for outstanding community service by organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, Inc., United Way, Dallas Independent School District, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Daniel “Chappie” James Learning Center, the NAACP, KKDA, and KRLD radio stations, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dallas Museum of Arts, and the State Fair of Texas.

Washington earned his bachelor’s degree in English and Instructional Media

from Historically Black College and Southern University and his master’s degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

An author, Washington published his book *Spiritually Speaking, Reflections For and From a New Christian*, in 2019.

Washington is survived by his wife, The Atlanta Voice publisher Janis Ware; his children, daughter Elena Bonifay (husband David Bonifay) and son Patrick Washington (wife Jessica Washington); his grandchildren James Spencer Emanuel Washington, Penelope Elena Jimenez Washington and William Emmanuel Edward Austin Bonifay, and his nieces and nephews.

Continued Crystal Page 1

while trying to exercise their civic duty.

“We are relieved for Ms. Mason, who has waited for too long with uncertainty about whether she would be imprisoned and separated from her family for five years simply for trying to do her civic duty,” said Thomas Buser-Clancy, senior staff attorney for the ACLU of Texas. “The harms of the criminal prosecution can never fully be undone, but this decision is vindication for Ms. Mason and a win for our democracy, which can only thrive when people can fearlessly engage in the civic process.”

“Crystal Mason has bravely fought this grave

injustice for years now. No one should be forced to endure what she has, and Crystal’s victory today is an inspiration and cause for celebration,” said Sophia Lin Lakin, director of the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project, who argued this appeal.

“This ruling gives us hope not just for Ms. Mason but for the broader fight for voting rights in Texas,” said Christina Beeler, voting rights attorney at the Texas Civil Rights Project. “Crystal Mason was unfairly targeted because of bad faith actors in this state who are determined to use every tool at their disposal to attempt to intimidate voters, especially Black and Brown voters, but that approach will not work here in Texas.

We are proud to have assisted in securing Ms. Mason’s freedom, and we are proud of Ms. Mason — instead of intimidating Ms. Mason through her unlawful prosecution, the state has empowered Ms. Mason to continue fighting for voting rights alongside other advocates.”

“This should never have happened. Crystal and her family have suffered for over six years as the target of a vanity project by Texas political leaders,” said Alison Grinter Allen, criminal defense attorney. “We’re happy that the court saw this for the perversion of justice that it is, but the harm that this political prosecution has done to shake Americans’ confidence in their own franchise is incal-

culable.”

“We are very glad that the court followed the rule of law. It is clear that the state’s prosecution against Crystal was malicious and purely politically motivated,” said Kim T. Cole, civil attorney for Crystal Mason. “The state’s prosecution specifically stated that they wanted to ‘send a message’ to voters. They deliberately put Crystal through over six years of pure hell. She woke up every morning not knowing if that would be the day her freedom would be stolen.”

A copy of the ruling can be found here:
https://www.aclutx.org/sites/default/files/02-18-00138-cr_18138rremand_opinion.pdf

Continued King Page 1

optimism at predicting academic success and people’s ability to cope with pain. Plenty of scientific evidence suggests that hope improves individuals’ health and boosts their well-being.

But branding hope as a self-improvement tool cheapens this long-estab-

lished virtue. Hope has benefits beyond the self. Thus, many psychologists are expanding the study of hope beyond personal success. My research team defines this “virtuous hope” as striving toward a purposeful vision of the common good – a hope often shaped by hardship and strengthened through relationships.

Many leaders, including King, have channeled that lesson to inspire change. Centuries of spiritual and philosophical work describe hope as a virtue that, like love, is a decision, not a feeling.

The myth of time

King wasn’t known for looking on the bright side or expecting the best from oth-

ers. He faced repeated waves of criticism, and, at the time of his death, fewer Americans approved of him than of the Vietnam War.

In “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” King lamented the optimism of moderate white Americans who said they supported his goals but took little action. There is a “strangely irra-

tional notion that there is something in the very flow of time that will inevitably cure all ills,” he wrote. “Actually, time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively.”

He chastised society for believing that improvement would simply happen on its own. When he said, “The arc

of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice,” he was not describing its natural trajectory, but what people have the power to change. You cannot expect greener pastures if they are not tended today.

King was not alone in leveraging virtuous hope for

Continue King Page 6

Beloved Actor and Activist Louis Gossett Jr. Dies at 87

Gossett, who was born on May 27, 1936, in Brooklyn, N.Y., was 87. Recognized early on for his resilience and nearly unmatched determination, Gossett arrived in Los Angeles in 1967 after a stint on Broadway.

By Stacy M. Brown

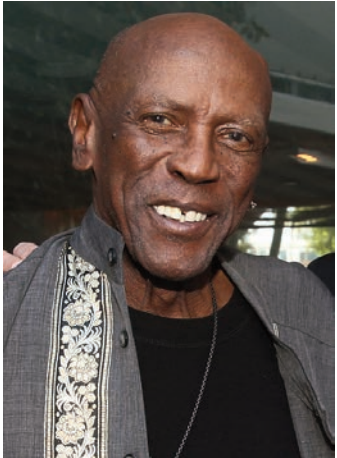


Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Louis Gossett Jr., the groundbreaking actor whose career spanned over five decades and who became the first Black actor to win an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor for his memorable role in "An Officer and a Gentleman," has died.

Gossett, who was born on May 27, 1936, in Brooklyn, N.Y., was 87. Recognized early on for his resilience and nearly unmatched determination, Gossett arrived in Los Angeles in 1967 after a stint on Broadway.

He sometimes spoke of being pulled over by law enforcement en route to Beverly Hills, once being handcuffed to a tree, which he remembered as a jarring introduction to the racial tensions of Hollywood.

In his memoir "An Actor and a Gentleman," Gossett recounted the ordeal, noting the challenges faced by Black artists in the industry.

Despite the hurdles, Gossett's talent shone brightly, earning him acclaim in groundbreaking productions such as "A Raisin in the Sun" alongside Sidney Poitier. His Emmy-winning portrayal of Fiddler in "Roots" solidified his sta-

tus as a trailblazer, navigating a landscape fraught with racial prejudice.

According to HistoryMakers, who interviewed him in 2005, Gossett's journey into the limelight began during his formative years at PS 135 and Mark Twain Junior High School, where he demonstrated early leadership as the student body president.

His passion for the arts blossomed when he starred in a "You Can't Take It With You" production at Abraham Lincoln High School, catching the attention of talent scouts who propelled him onto Broadway's stage in "Take A Giant Step." His stellar performance earned him the prestigious Donaldson Award for Best Newcomer to Theatre in 1952.

Though initially drawn to sports, Gossett's towering 6'4" frame and athletic prowess led him to receive a basketball scholarship at New York University. Despite being drafted by the New York Knicks in 1958, Gossett pursued his love for acting, honing his craft at The Actors Studio under the tutelage of luminaries like John Sticks and Peggy Fury.

In 1961, Gossett's talent caught the eye of Broadway directors, leading to roles in acclaimed productions such as "Raisin in the Sun" and "The Blacks," alongside legends like James Earl Jones, Cicely Tyson, Roscoe Lee Brown, and Maya Angelou. Transitioning seamlessly to television, Gossett graced small screens with appearances in notable shows like "The Bush Baby" and "Companions in Nightmare."

Gossett's silver screen breakthrough came with his role in "The Landlord," paving the way for a prolific filmography that spanned over 50 movies and hundreds of television shows. From "Skin Game" to "Lackawanna Blues," Gossett captivated audiences with his commanding presence and versatile performances.

However, his portrayal of "Fiddler" in Alex Haley's groundbreaking miniseries "Roots" earned Gossett critical acclaim, including an Emmy Award. The HistoryMakers noted that his golden touch extended to the big screen, where his role as Sergeant Emil Foley in "An Officer and a Gentleman" earned him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, making him a trailblazer in Hollywood history.

Beyond the glitz and glamour of Hollywood, Gossett was deeply committed to community activism. In 1964, he co-founded a theater group for troubled youth alongside James Earl Jones and Paul Sorvino, setting the stage for his lifelong dedication to mentoring and inspiring the next generation. Gossett's tireless advocacy for racial equality culminated in the establishment of Eracism, a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating racism both domestically and abroad.

Throughout his illustrious career, Gossett remained a beacon of strength and resilience, using his platform to uplift marginalized voices and champion social change. Satie and Sharron, Gossett's children, survive him.

Office of Community Care
FY2023-24#49

MLK REMEMBRANCE

..... Ceremony

Thursday, April 4, 2024

5 p.m.

**MLK, Jr. Community Center
2922 MLK, Jr. Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75215**

Keynote Speaker:
**Dr. Maria Dixon Hall, Associate Professor
Southern Methodist University (SMU)**

Continued **King** Page 5

justice. Brazilian educator Paulo Freire described hope as an "existential imperative" that promotes action. Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison, called hope a "powerful weapon."

Forged in adversity

What makes hope a virtue is not its ability to promote happiness and success but its commitment to a greater good beyond the self.

I study virtuous hope in a South African Zulu community, where there are few reasons for optimism. South Africa has the world's steepest inequality. Unemployment is high, and social mobility is low. This is the part of the country where HIV is most widespread, with the percentage near 50% in some communities.

We studied several people seen as embodying hope, based on their reputation and community suggestions. These individuals demonstrated an unwavering focus on striving for a better future, often unglued from expectations of personal success.

One local farmer nominated by his community struggled to buy seeds for his crops but still helped others apply for grants to buy them. Even when his own future was uncertain, he was not hoarding. He described his hope as a commitment to help others. His hope is not a positive expectation but a moral commitment.

Our interviewees did not describe hardship as a suppressor of hope but as its context to grow.

One unemployed young woman said she had applied for jobs for four years and would continue, though she was not naïve about the tough future. She said applying for jobs and reading to her child were her acts of hope. Her hope didn't expect a quick improvement, yet it warded off paralysis.

Many of our interviewees anchored their hope in their Christian faith, as did King. King often referenced St. Paul, one of the first Christian writers, who wrote, "Suffering produces endurance, produces character, and character produces hope. Now this hope does not disappoint us."

Hope, in other words, plays the long game: enduring suffering with integrity. Like King's, it manifests in hardship and is refined in adversity. Hope enables communities to march for justice and democracy even while tasting the danger of dictatorship, apartheid or oligarchy.

Hope knows it may take another generation to reach the Promised Land, but it acts today to bend the moral arc toward justice.

Continued **Eclipse** Page 1

airport is gearing up to accommodate the influx of visitors. As excitement mounts, DAL stands ready to implement measures to guarantee a smooth experience for travelers during this extraordinary event.

In anticipation of the heightened activity, DAL will deploy high-volume traffic procedures similar to those for major holidays or significant events. Preparations include additional staffing, enhanced monitoring of facilities, parking and roadway traffic, security patrols, and increased supply stocking.

As with any busy period, the airport strongly advises early arrivals, suggesting the passengers arrive at least 90 minutes before departure to accommodate potential congestion in parking, roadside traffic, check-in, and security screening. The FAA advises travelers flying along the eclipse path to be prepared for limited parking and potential delays because of the large number of aircraft and drones trying to view the event. The airport suggests checking the status of your flight and other important travel tips before heading to the airport on the FAA travel web page or directly with your airline.

In collaboration with the Frontiers of Flight Museum (FOFM) and the City of Dallas, DAL is happy to announce upcoming eclipse events featuring a range of community activities. The FOFM will host an all-day event; details can be found on their website. For City of Dallas eclipse-related events, visit the City of Dallas City Calendar here. For those planning to witness the eclipse, DAL urges adherence to safe viewing precautions provided by NASA, including using ISO-certified eclipse glasses or indirect viewing methods to prevent eye damage. Passengers at DAL during the eclipse will receive guidance on safe viewing practices, and all vehicle operators are urged to follow traffic laws and find safe viewing locations to prevent hazards.

For more information and updates, please visit the official Dallas Love Field website at www.dallas-lovefield.com or follow us on our social media channels.

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