

“When you tear out a man's tongue, you are not proving him a liar, you're only telling the world that you fear what he might say.” - Tyrion Lannister



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

August 24 - 30, 2017

Scenes from the 2017 NNPA BOARD RETREAT



Dick Gregory Dies at 84



By Stacy M Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Legendary civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory died on Saturday.

He was 84.

Friends, family and celebrities took to social media to honor the icon and innovator of the Black community.

“It is with enormous sadness that the Gregory family confirms that their father, comedic legend and civil rights activist Mr. Dick Gregory departed this earth tonight in Washington, DC,” said Christian Gregory, his son, in a statement posted on Facebook. “The family appreciates the outpouring of support and love and respectfully asks for their privacy as they grieve during this very difficult time.”

On Facebook, Roland Martin, a journalist and host of NewsOne on TV One said that he had enormous respect for Gregory.

“He was honest, truthful, unflinching, unapologetically Black. He challenged America at every turn. RIP,” wrote Martin.

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CONFEDERATE STATUES FALL, BUT ECONOMIC RACISM LINGERS

By Julianne Malveaux (NNPA Newswire Columnist)

Cheers to New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, one of the first mayors to take Confederate statues down and to make the strong point that these statues represent nothing but oppression. You should check out the speech he delivered, in May, at MarketWatch.com.

More cheers to Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh who had statues removed in the dead of night to avoid Charlottesville-type confrontations between racist White supremacists (also known as “good people” according to “45”) and those who oppose them. And though he does little that I agree with, in the interest of equal praise, I must lift up Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, who had the statue of Roger Taney removed from the Maryland state house. Taney was an especially vile racist who authored the Dred Scott decision in 1857. He wrote that Black people had no rights that Whites were bound to respect, and provided justification for enslavement, even as many in the rest of the nation were clamoring against the unjust institution.

As the statues are falling, economic racism is not fading. African Americans still earn just 60 percent of what Whites earn. We have just 7 percent of the wealth that Whites have. The unemployment rate for Black workers is double the unemployment rate of White workers. Even with equal incomes, Blacks find it more challenging to get mortgages or other access to capital and our economic rights are being challenged every day.



Julianne Malveaux says that the origins of the wealth gap lie in the theft of land from Black land owners and in the intimidation that kept African American people in near-slave status in the South.

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SPORTS - PAGE 5



Group of Browns players kneel, huddle together during national anthem

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Nothing can dim the light that shines from within.

~Maya Angelou

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

For with God nothing shall be impossible.

-Luke 1:37



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EDITORIAL PAGE



Rev. Johnny C. Smith
Editorial Columnist

“THE PSALMIST’S DECLARATION TO PRAISE THE LORD” PSALM 138:1-8

In this wonderful psalm, the psalmist declares his determination to praise the Lord. Every day of our existence, we should praise and bless the Lord’s name; in fact, He has been awfully good unto me and He has been the same to you! And because of the Lord’s infinite goodness unto us, we ought to join the psalmist in Psalm 145:1-3: “I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.”

In verses 1-3, David was determined to praise the Lord wholeheartedly before the gods and to extol His name for His loyal love and truth: “I will praise thee with my whole

heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee” (v. 1). David declared that he would praise God before the pagan gods because the Lord had answered his prayer. In psalm 18:3-6 the psalmist was going through a distressful period; yet he praised the Lord for his deliverance, for these verses read: “I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry came before Him, even into His ears. Similarly David says in verse 3,

“In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.”

In verses 4-6, David declares that all kings should praise God when they hear of His word and they should acknowledge His glory. These verses will be realized fully during the time of Christ’s Millennial reign. David goes on to state in verse 6 that the Lord regards the lowly but does not look to the proud, for this verse says: “Though the Lord be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly: but the proud He knoweth afar off.”

Finally, in verses 7-8, David expresses his confidence that the Lord will deliver him from his enemies: “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the

wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me” (v. 7). David was confident of God’s deliverance because of His power and His love. We too, should recognize that the Lord manifested His lovingkindness in safeguarding us from the many pitfalls of life and we should praise Him as the psalmist in Psalm 117:1-2: “O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people. For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord.” And finally, David is assured that: “The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands” (v. 8).

May God Bless!

Confederate Statues Fall, But Economic Racism Lingers

Continued from Page 1

It is important to note that these statues were not erected immediately after the Civil War. Of course, Southern Confederates—a bunch of losers – were too broke to build statues. They were still trying to recover from the devastation of the Civil War. How did they plan to recover? They needed a captive labor force to work their fields, just as enslaved people had before the war. So they ensured quasi-captivity through intimidation. That need was partially responsible for the emergence of the KKK. They inspired fear, suppressed resistance, and, through Black Codes and Jim Crow, engineered the near-re-enslavement of Black people.

Black people who wanted to leave the South after the end of Reconstruction had to do it in the dead of night. Black people, who had land, were often forced to concede it or be killed. The Emergency Land Fund, a now-defunct organiza-

tion that documented the Black loss of land, indicated that Black folks lost as much as 90 percent of their accumulated land by 1970, at least partially due to trickery and intimidation.

The origins of the wealth gap lie in this loss of land, and in the intimidation that kept African American people in near-slave status in the South. Confederate statues, flags, and Klan activity appeared wherever there was resistance—during and after the reconstructions, in the 1920s, after the Red Summer of 1919 and the return of Black men from World War I.

Again, we saw the rise of this activity, these statues and these flags, in the 1950s as the Civil Rights Movement pushed hard for equality. When people talk about taking “their” streets back, what they really mean is they want Black people (and other people of color) in their place; in their economic place and that place, for them, is subordinate.

So while Confederate statues are falling (not quickly enough—there are more than 700 of these odious symbols still standing), and Confederate flags are waving less frequently, the economic racism the Confederacy established is alive and well. Just ask the young Black couple redlined away from a banking opportunity, or the innocent arrested person who can’t pay bail. Ask the Black student whose loan burden is nearly twice that of her White counterpart, or the Black woman who pays more, and at a higher interest rate, for a car loan.

Sure, we have come a long way since those ugly days of enslavement or stark segregation, but some power comes from the Benjamins. And, according to some estimates, it will take more than 200 years to close the wealth gap. The statues may be falling, but economic racism is alive and well.

While I commend Republicans Lindsey Graham, Tim Scott, John McCain and so

many others for condemning their president for his abject and ugly racism, I wonder if any of them would be so forceful in condemning economic racism, or in advocating for reparations. Absent their willingness to do that, they can earn style points for their remarks, but they do not seem prepared to change the harsh realities of Black life in our country today.

I challenge those who would tear down the statues and take down the flags to show equal zeal in tearing down the walls of economic racism.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and founder of Economic Education. Her podcast, “It’s Personal with Dr. J” is available on iTunes. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available to order at www.juliannemalveaux.com at Amazon.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

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Dick Gregory Dies at 84

Continued from Page 1

“He was one of the sweetest, smartest, most loving people one could ever know,” said Steve Jaffe, Gregory’s publicist of 50 years, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Jaffe added, “I just hope that God is ready for some outrageously funny times.”

Singer John Legend tweeted that, “Dick Gregory lived an amazing, revolutionary life. A groundbreaker in comedy and a voice for justice. RIP.”

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay tweeted that Gregory “taught us and loved us.”

Quoting legendary entertainer Richard Pryor, sports writer Myron Medcalf tweeted, “Dick Gregory was the greatest, and he was the first. Somebody had to break down that door.”

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, also paid homage to Gregory.

“We salute and honor the living legacy of freedom fighter Dick Gregory. RIP,” Chavis wrote on Twitter.

Gregory had been in a Washington, D.C. area hospital battling an undisclosed illness. However, as late as Thursday, family members were said to have been upbeat about his recovery and he even had plans to appear at a show on Saturday in the nation’s capital.

Born Richard Claxton “Dick” Gregory in St. Louis, Missouri on Oct. 12, 1932, Gregory became a comedian and civil rights activist whose social satire changed the way Whites perceived African-American comedians, according to his biography.

Dick Gregory entered the national comedy scene in 1961 when Chicago’s Playboy Club (as a direct request from publisher Hugh Hefner) booked him as a replacement for white comedian, “Professor” Irwin Corey. Until then Gregory had worked mostly

at small clubs with predominantly Black audiences (he met his wife, Lillian Smith, at one such club), according to his biography.

“Such clubs paid comedians an average of five dollars per night; thus Gregory also held a day job as a postal employee. His tenure as a replacement for Corey was so successful — at one performance he won over an audience that included southern White convention goers — that the Playboy Club offered him a contract extension from several weeks to three years,” Gregory’s biography said. “By 1962, Gregory had become a nationally known headline performer, selling out nightclubs, making numerous national television appearances, and recording popular comedy albums.”

Gregory’s biography continued: “It’s important to note that no biography of Gregory would be complete without mentioning that he and his beloved wife, ‘Lil,’ had ten children, who have become highly respected members of the national community in a variety of fields. They are: Michele, Lynne, Pamela, Paula, Stephanie (a.k.a. Xenobia), Gregory, Christian, Miss, Ayanna and Yohance.”

While a student at Sumner High School in St. Louis he led a March protesting segregated schools. Later, inspired by the work of leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and organizations such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Gregory took part in the Civil Rights Movement and used his celebrity status to draw attention to such issues as segregation and disfranchisement, according to his biography.

“When local Mississippi governments stopped distributing Federal food surpluses to poor blacks in areas where SNCC was encouraging voter registration, Gregory chartered a plane to bring in several tons of food,” the biography said. “He participated in SNCC’s voter registration drives and in sit-ins to protest segregation, most notably at a restaurant franchise in downtown

Atlanta, Georgia. Only later did Gregory disclose that he held stock in the chain.”

Gregory’s autobiography, “Nigger,” was published in 1963 and it became the number one best-selling book in America. Over the decades it has sold in excess of seven million copies. He explained his choice for the title in the foreword of the book, where Dick Gregory wrote a note to his mother, his biography explained.

“Whenever you hear the word ‘Nigger,’ he said, “you’ll know their advertising my book.”

Through the 1960s, Gregory spent more time on social issues and less time on performing, his biography noted. He participated in marches and parades to support a range of causes, including opposition to the Vietnam War, world hunger and drug abuse.

Dorothy Leavell, chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Crusader Newspaper Group said that this was a sad moment and a great loss to America, especially Black America.

This is a sad moment and a great loss to America and especially Black America.

“Dick Gregory was a personal friend, but also a voice for Black America which has now been stilled,” said Leavell. “Dick was also a close friend to the Black Press and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).”

Leavell continued: “While we mourn this loss we are grateful for the many contributions he made that have helped us all.”

Chavis agreed.

“Dick Gregory epitomized the rare combination of being an intellectual genius and one of our greatest social visionaries,” Chavis said. “The National Newspaper Publishers Association deeply mourns the passing of freedom fighter Dick Gregory.”

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Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

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Schedule of Services

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Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Brotherhood (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Senior Mission (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Adult & Youth Bible Study (Fri.) - 7:00 p.m.

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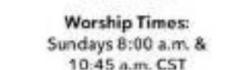


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Sunday School 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:45 AM
Wednesday Midday Bible
Study 12:00 Noon
Wednesday Mid Week Bible
Study 6:00 PM

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Rev. Dr. C.J.R. Phillips, Jr.

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Schedule of Activities

Sunday

Early Morning Worship- 8AM
Church School- 9AM
Morning Worship- 10AM

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Exposition 5:30 P.M.
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1st Sunday 5:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY
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Fred Green
Raymond Hart
David Phillips, Jr.
Johnnie Rodgers, Sr.

Schedule of Services

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Early Morning Worship
8:00 a.m.
Bible Class
9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship
10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.
Bible Class - 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY
Bible Class - 11:00 a.m.

Dallas West Church of Christ

3510 N. Hampton Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75212
P. 214-631-5448

Website: www.dwcoc.com



Sammie Berry
Minister

Calendar of Events

Sunday Bible School
8:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Song Practice
7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Class
9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
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Strategist Steve Bannon leaves

Donald Trump's turbulent White House

(AP) — Steve Bannon, a forceful but divisive presence in President Donald Trump's White House, is leaving.

Trump accepted Bannon's resignation on Friday, ending a turbulent seven months for his chief strategist, the latest to depart from the president's administration in turmoil.

White House spokesman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Friday would be Bannon's last day on the job.

A combative and unorthodox Republican, Bannon was a key adviser in Trump's general election campaign, but he has been a contentious presence in a White House divided by



warring staff loyalties.

The former leader of conservative Breitbart News has pushed Trump to follow through on his campaign promises and was the man behind many of his most controversial efforts, including

Trump's travel ban and decision to pull out of the Paris Climate agreement.

But Bannon repeatedly clashed with other top White House advisers and often ran afoul of the president himself.

Why We Need to Keep Ensuring Happy Birthdays for Medicare and Medicaid

By Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03)

On July 30th, our country marked Medicare and Medicaid's 52nd birthday—enacted as Title XVIII and Title XIX of the Social Security Act, and signed into law as part of Lyndon Johnson's 1965 War on Poverty. For the very first time in our country, all Americans aged 65 or older were assured hospital, post-hospital extended care, and home health coverage, while states gained the option of receiving federal funding to provide health care services to low income children, their caretaker relatives, the blind, and individuals with disabilities.

Over the decades, Republicans joined with Democrats on a number of bipartisan proposals to make the programs stronger, more responsive, and expanded them to include more vulnerable Americans. The history of these successful programs should serve as a roadmap for the current 115th Congress and its consideration of healthcare in this country.

Birthdays are celebrations, a time to reflect on the past and look to the future. Yet, for Medicare and Medicaid, this year is anything but a celebration. That's because these two programs—which provide healthcare coverage to over 125 million American seniors, working families, men, women and children—are facing hundreds of billions of dollars in heartless and senseless funding cuts, on top of a dramatic reshuffling in structure that threatens the very existence of the two revered programs.

Under the Congressional Republicans' proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) with the American Health Care Act (AHCA), also known as "Trumpcare," over 50 million seniors on Medicare and at least 70 million more Americans on Medicaid—including 30 million children, 20 million hardworking Americans struggling to simply make ends meet, 10 million people with disabilities and another 10 million vulnerable

seniors—may lose access to the medical care they need.

This means pregnant women lacking pre- and post-natal care, children unable to see their doctor, and countless seniors and Americans with disabilities unable to afford their prescriptions or the needed support services to live independently. Trumpcare would also end the ACA's Medicaid expansion, a move that would hurt nearly one million Ohioans, and take away healthcare coverage from at least 22 million newly-insured Americans. Even worse, Trumpcare jeopardizes coverage for 129 million Americans with pre-existing conditions including 10 million people with disabilities on Medicaid and imposes an age tax that would force older Americans to pay at least five times as much for their health insurance as younger people regardless of their health status.

That is why Democrats are fighting Congressional Republicans' dizzying attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and ram through Trumpcare and its dangerous \$750 billion cut to Medicaid. These cuts would devastate our social compact with those who can least afford it by gutting the program that one in three seniors will eventually need for long-term health-related services.

Today in America, 42 million people live in households with incomes below the poverty line—over 14 million are children, 10 million are working adults and some 4 million are people with disabilities. These statistics demand action, and Democrats are answering the call.

Democrats are very clear in our message and response: "Better Wages, Better Jobs, and a Better Future" and "A Better Deal for all Americans." Congress can help make this happen by passing the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act, H.R. 676. Introduced by the Dean of the U.S. House of Representatives and founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Congressman John

Conyers (MI-13), H.R. 676 would expand Medicare, guaranteeing that every American—no matter where they live or what they earn—can visit the doctor, go to the emergency room, purchase their prescriptions, and access long-term care and mental health.

The CBC, also known as the "Conscience of Congress," is fighting alongside our Democratic colleagues to stand up for these hardworking Americans to ensure their fears, including those of three million Ohioans on Medicaid, do not become reality. That people are not making untenable choices about whether to eat, go to the doctor or fill a prescription.

Our effort to beat back Trumpcare—working with countless men, women and children from across the country and political spectrum—is still ongoing. That is why, to borrow a line from the CBC, we must "Stay Woke." We cannot rest nor stay silent until every American family, senior, child, person with disabilities, and adult has the healthcare they need and deserve.

The ACA was an important first step, but no one has ever claimed that it is the end-all when it comes to the healthcare debate in this country. However, the false and misleading claims we hear from Republicans do nothing to advance a sensible debate. Instead of continuing to sow seeds of uncertainty and cut funding from Medicare and Medicaid—all to pay for a huge tax cut for the 400 wealthiest families in America—Republicans need to abandon their obsession with repealing the ACA and finally get serious about working with Democrats to improve and strengthen the healthcare marketplace.

In so doing, we can ensure that Medicare and Medicaid will continue to have very happy birthdays. A reality millions of Americans would celebrate.

Happy Birthday Medicare and Medicaid!

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SPORTS PAGE



7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, August 24

Friday, August 25

Saturday, August 26

Sunday, August 27

Monday, August 28

Tuesday, August 29

Wednesday, August 30

H - 84°
L - 71°H-87°
L-72°H-82°
L-70°H-83°
L-70°H-88°
L-70°H-88°
L-69°H-88°
L-71°

Group of Browns players kneel, huddle together during national anthem



(AP) -- A number of Cleveland Browns players knelt and huddled during the national anthem on Monday night before the preseason game against the New York Giants. Isaiah Crowell, Duke Johnson, Jabrill Peppers, Christian Kirksey, Seth DeValve, Jamie Collins, Kenny Britt, Ricardo Louis and Jamar Taylor were among the players who knelt together behind the team near the bench.

DeShone Kizer, Shon Coleman, Britton Colquitt and Jason McCourty were among players who stood with the group. Colquitt had his hand over his heart as he stood behind the group and pointed skyward at the anthem's conclusion.

DeValve is the first white NFL player to join players in

kneeling during the national anthem, according to Deadspin.

"As an organization, we have a profound respect for our country's National Anthem, flag and the servicemen and servicewomen in the United States and abroad," a Browns spokesman said in a statement at halftime. "We feel it's important for our team to join in this great tradition and special moment of recognition, at the same time we also respect the great liberties afforded by our country, including the freedom of personal expression."

NFL players have continued the national anthem protests made prominent last season by then-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who knelt during the anthem's performance before games. Other players joined in the protests by kneeling or raising a fist.

This preseason, other players have taken up the protests, most prominently Seattle's Michael Bennett, who has been sitting during the anthem. Teammate Justin Britt placed a hand on Bennett's shoulder. Chris Long put his arm around Malcolm Jenkins, who has been raising his fist during the anthem dating back to last season. Khalil Mack and Derek Carr of the Raiders stood together, with Carr placing his hand on Mack's back, during the national anthem recently, though both insisted there was nothing done in protest.

"What we wanted to do was show all the kids that look up to me, look up to him, that white kids, blue kids, brown kids, blue, green, doesn't matter, can all be loving to each other," Carr said, according to ESPN. "And that's what me

and Khalil are -- we're best friends and we love one another.

Kaepernick's protest was originally in response to multiple incidents involving police shooting unarmed black men. The protests re-emerged following violent white supremacist demonstrations in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Browns head coach Hue Jackson came under fire last week when he said, in response to a question about the anthem protests, "I hope that wouldn't happen here."

Jackson read a prepared statement later in the week, clarifying his feelings on the anthem protests.

"Our players know that I have a great appreciation for every single one of them," Jackson said. "I respect and support their right for peaceful protest; a right afforded to every American. We've always made it clear to our players that they should embrace the platform they have as an NFL player to improve our community and use their platform in a positive, thoughtful and respectful manner.

"I'm disheartened that I gave anyone that impression because I did not speak with enough clarity," Jackson added. "However, my words did reflect my concern - that I would express to any player - about protesting during the anthem. There are many effective ways athletes can utilize their platform if they so desire, but I would respect any individual decision, as ultimately, it would be the player's choice after much thoughtful dialogue."

NAACP WANTS MEETING WITH NFL COMMISSIONER ABOUT KAEPERNICK

(AP) -- The NAACP on Wednesday called for a meeting with the NFL to discuss the fate of quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who refused to stand for the national anthem to protest police brutality against African-Americans.

The former San Francisco 49ers quarterback once took his team to the Super Bowl, but he's a free agent now and no club has signed him.

Some Kaepernick opponents say he should not have sat or kneeled during the anthem, while others contend his lack of a job is more about his on-field talent.

Kaepernick's supporters, including some who planned to protest at the NFL's headquarters in New York City on Wednesday, say the quarterback is being blackballed for his advocacy.

The NAACP intended to join that rally, and Derrick Johnson, the organization's interim president and CEO, said in the letter to the NFL commissioner, Roger Goodell, that it's apparently "no sheer coincidence" that Kaepernick isn't on a roster today.

"No player should be victimized and discriminated against because of his exercise of free speech - to do so is in violation of his rights under the Constitution and the NFL's own regulations," Johnson said.

Hazel Dukes, the NAACP's state president in New York who was expected to be among the rally speakers, said: "Right now, the action of the league seems to imply to young black men that this league, which is comprised of 70 percent African-Americans, only values black lives if they are wearing a football uniform."

Carnival hits town as Mayweather and McGregor ready to fight

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The carnival finally hit town Tuesday, with Conor McGregor and Floyd Mayweather Jr. putting on a bit of a fashion show before promising to knock each other out in their highly anticipated boxing match.

Mayweather wore a fedora and gold rimmed glasses while McGregor sported a three-piece suit and tie and aviator sunglasses as they made separate appearances before a crowd of several hundred people in front of the arena where they will fight Saturday night.

The two got into an unplanned verbal confrontation as they moved between the outdoor stage and the arena, though it was brief. Bodyguards kept them apart and both fighters are smart enough not to do anything to jeopardize their immense paydays from what could be the richest fight ever.

"It's work," Mayweather said when asked if he was having fun. "My job is to be a fighter."

McGregor, meanwhile, reiterated his vow to knock Mayweather out within two rounds, and claimed the boxer was getting desperate in making comments about his weight and stamina.

"Let him keep praying about weight and fatigue. All he's doing is praying," McGregor said. "But he's praying to the new god of boxing."

The crowd for one of the final promotional events was small and not terribly vocal, especially after waiting an hour or two in 100-degree heat to see the fighters. There was no one in line at T-Mobile Arena's three ticket windows, where plenty of expensive tickets remain for the bout.

The big money for the two fighters will come from pay-per-view sales, and early indications are that it could break all records. Some 50 million people may watch in the United States alone, with millions more tuning in worldwide.

Estimates vary wildly, but Mayweather could pocket \$200 million, while McGregor might make \$100 million.

The promotion has been more circus-like than anything, but both boxers said they were serious about putting on an explosive show on fight night.

"This fight is not going to go the distance," Mayweather said.

"I believe I'll knock him out early, one or two rounds," McGregor said.

Both fighters seemed relaxed and confident, just days away from a fight that seemed improbable at times and impossible at other times. Yet they will meet under boxing rules in a scheduled 12-round fight that matches a UFC champion who has never boxed professionally against the master defensive fighter of his time.

McGregor said it was just another progression in his fighting career, and chided Mayweather for saying he hopes the referee does his job and doesn't allow McGregor to try any mixed martial arts moves against him.

"I may make him beg me to follow the rules," McGregor said.

Mayweather said he expected McGregor to come out wildly and use roughhouse tactics, something Marcos Maidana did effectively when he fought Mayweather in 2014. But he said the Irish fighter can't keep that up for 12 rounds and doesn't understand what it is to get hit by a real boxing champion.

"When he gets hit he'll find out it's totally different," Mayweather said.

While looking as fit as ever and insisting he is taking the fight seriously, Mayweather said he will be doing meet-and-greet experiences every night living up to the fight at his new strip club just off the Las Vegas Strip.

"I'll be at the Girl Collection every day this week," he said. "Every day."

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Weekly Commentary
Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

From the **CHICAGO SUN-TIMES**

After Charlottesville, push for real reform

BY JESSE JACKSON
August 15, 2017



White nationalist demonstrators walk into the entrance of Lee Park surrounded by counter demonstrators Saturday in Charlottesville, Va. (AP Photo/Steve Helber, File)

Racism, exposed once more in the terror visited on Charlottesville, Va., still scars America. Hundreds of neo-Nazis, white supremacists, klansmen and other fervid racists gathered — some armed with assault rifles, wearing camouflage. They marched with lit torches, yelling Nazi slogans, looking for trouble. They provoked the violence, terrorized a city, and took the life of Heather Heyer and injured many more. In the reaction to those horrors, character is revealed.

For Heather Heyer, the neo-Nazi assault revealed her passion for justice. She died standing for what she believed in, and her sacrifice helps to redeem an

America that is far better than the haters.

She joined a peaceful demonstration against the neo-Nazis, standing with African Americans and people of conscience unwilling to be intimidated by the mob. She was crossing an intersection when a 20-year-old man plowed his car into the peaceful demonstrators and took her life, injuring 19 others. She now joins the blessed martyrs of America's long struggle for equal rights. She stands with other angels who sacrificed their lives: Viola Liuzzo in Selma, Ala. in 1965; James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner near Philadelphia, Miss. in 1964; the four little girls — Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robinson and Denise McNair — blown up in the Birmingham, Ala. church bombing in 1963.

As Heyer's mother stated, "Heather's life was about — passionately about — fairness and equality and caring, and that's what we want people to take away from this."

Donald Trump's reaction to Charlottesville will be etched in infamy. He refused to condemn the neo-Nazis and white nationalists, choosing only to decry the "egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides." The haters heard his message. The Daily Stormer, a white supremacist website, saluted that Trump "did not attack us. ... No condemnation at all." His campaign for the presidency purposefully stoked the forces of bigotry and intolerance. Now, as president, he has failed a test of simple decency. He shames a nation that is far better than that.

Some Republicans showed they know better. Conservative Sen. Orrin Hatch tweeted simply, "My brother didn't give his life fighting Hitler for Nazi ideas to go unchallenged here at home." Sen. Marco Rubio spoke forcefully against the haters. Some Republicans even rebuked the president for his failure.

Decrying racism is necessary. Words are important, but actions are needed. Dr. Martin Luther King always warned against being satisfied with words: "Loose and easy language about equality, resonant resolutions about brotherhood fall pleasantly on the ear, but for the Negro, there is a credibility gap he cannot overlook. He remembers that with each modest advance the white population promptly raises the argument that the Negro has come far enough. Each step forward accents an ever-present tendency to backlash."

The terrible church bombing in Birmingham was denounced, but King pushed us to keep our eyes on the demand for civil rights reform. The hoses and clubs of Selma were decried, but King kept his focus on pushing for the Voting Rights Act. Denouncing hatred is important, but we need to focus on who is prepared to act.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe of Virginia denounced the haters that terrorized Charlottesville, and did so with a record of action. As governor of a Southern state, he pushed for voting rights reforms. He called on his legislature to accept the expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare that would have provided health care to poor working people of all races. He personally signed some 200,000 clemency grants of those who had served their sentences so that they could regain the right to vote and be reintegrated into the political community. His denunciation was important; his actions even more so.

We applaud Republicans who, unlike Trump, call out the neo-Nazis and the Klansmen. But the measure of their sincerity is how they act. The Trump Department of Justice, under former Alabama Sen. Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, has moved consistently to reverse and weaken civil rights. He's turned away from reforming discriminatory practices of police departments, even as Trump has celebrated police brutality. He's turned civil rights laws on their head, gearing up to investigate university affirmative action programs that allegedly discriminate against whites. He's backed off enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, which he has called "intrusive," opening the door to more efforts to suppress the vote.

Trump has pushed for a selective ban on Muslim travelers to the U.S., and he continues to prey on immigrants and posture on his "wall." The Republican Congress, with its push to strip millions of health insurance to pay for tax breaks for millionaires, and its budget plans to cut top-end taxes while gutting funding for education and for food and housing programs that support the most vulnerable, only adds to our entrenched injustice. The Republicans' actions speak much louder than their words.

America has come a long way from the horrors of slavery and segregation. We are a better people and a better country for that struggle. Yet, as Charlottesville revealed once more, hatred and racism still fester. Unprincipled politicians can still play on race and intolerance for their own purposes. Violent hate groups are literally on the march.

These must be denounced, even as we celebrate Heather Heyer and the forces of conscience. We must also act. A good response to Charlottesville would be a massive voting coalition to drive out the forces of division and push for a new era of reform. We must act, change the institutionalization of bias, protect and extend the right to vote, and fight to ensure equal justice and opportunity for all.

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