

“Monday, February 19, is President’s Day”.



The Dallas Post Tribune

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 15 - 21, 2024

BLACK HISTORY

Historic White House Gathering Celebrates Descendants of Civil Rights Icons

Prominent figures such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Emmett Till, Thomas Jefferson, and Sally Hemings were scheduled to attend.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

In a Black History Month event at the White House on Tuesday, Feb. 13, Vice President Kamala Harris addressed the descendants of some of the most influential civil rights leaders from the 1950s and '60s, along with other foundational historical figures. The gathering marked the first time many of those families convened in the same room.

Prominent figures such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Emmett Till, Thomas Jefferson, and Sally Hemings were scheduled to attend.

Harris praised the descen-

dants as “extraordinary American heroes” who embody the promise of the nation and the Constitution. “They’ve passed the baton to us,” Harris remarked during her address.

Stephen K. Benjamin, the director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, outlined the administration’s initiatives, including an executive order related to police accountability and President Joe Biden’s signing of the law establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

The group, known as “The Descendants,” gathered to pay homage to their familial legacies in celebration of

Black History Month. One of the coordinators, Joshua Jordison, revealed that discussions to bring this diverse group together began several years ago. “It was amazing that many of them had never met,” he said.

While invitations were extended to other notable families, some could not attend due to scheduling conflicts and other factors. According to Kenneth B. Morris Jr., a descendant of Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, the goal of The Descendants is to lead the nation in a spirit of collaboration and

Continue **Historic** Page 3



Vice President Kamala Harris



Photo Credit: The HUB

Mariah T. has been lighting up the dance stage for as long as she can remember, a passion that grows daily as a senior at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and

Black History Month Spotlight: Mariah T. on embracing her authentic self

BY THE HUB
Visual Arts.

Continue **Mariah** Page 6

BREAKING NEWS

One dead and multiple injured in shooting following Chiefs Super Bowl

- Article Page 5 -

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin’s Hospitalization Reignites Controversy Over Transparency Amid Health Concerns



Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin

By Stacy M. Brown

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin found himself back in the spotlight as he was urgently admitted to an emergency hospital on Sunday afternoon for symptoms related to a bladder issue, just weeks after his previous hospitalization. The 70-year-old cabinet official’s decision to withhold information from the White House about his earlier health episode has triggered a renewed wave of criticism and scrutiny.

The latest incident, detailed in a report by USA Today, saw Secretary Austin move to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for treatment—the announcement, made by Pentagon press secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder

disclosed that Austin is undergoing treatment for symptoms indicating a severe bladder issue, raising concerns about the gravity of his health condition.

This recurrence comes on the heels of Austin’s earlier hospitalization, a matter that was not promptly disclosed to the White House, Congress, and other Pentagon officials. The deliberate delay in communication has intensified scrutiny and fueled outrage among right-leaning media pundits and lawmakers.

During his prior hospitalization, Austin delegated his duties to his deputy, but the decision to withhold pertinent information from key stakeholders has ignited

Continue **Austin** Page 3



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Celebrating Black History Month

By Dr. John E. Warren
The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper

This year, perhaps more than ever, we need to be especially mindful of Black History. This time of banning books from local libraries, especially those that tell of the history and struggle of Black Americans against slavery and racism, poses a threat to both our presence and our future. It has often been said that if you don't know where you come from, you will have no idea of where you are going. Well, African Americans, in particular, must remember that we are here today because of strong ancestors who did not allow the circumstances under which they lived to stuff out their dreams of a future for themselves and their descendants.

We must remind ourselves that we are not to be defined by others, that we are not

disadvantaged or handicapped, that we are born with a right to equality, and that we have always demanded equity even though others have tried to deny it to us. We are "We The People". We must not allow the changes that have been removed from our bodies to be placed on our minds. We have the ability to remove ourselves from poverty by using the tools in our hands. We must remember that we now possess everything that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of when, in his 1957 speech, he said, "Give us the ballot, and we will place the right people in office to, in essence, further our cause. Today, so many of us have not because we will not use that which we do have. We have freedom of movement, of

thought, and how we use our minds. Yet, so many choose to squander these freedoms on how others tell us we should think and dress and what we should be with the few dollars that so many of us waste on things that are not necessary. We have freedom of worship, yet so many of us don't bother to pray until we find ourselves in crisis. In addition to Black History, Carter G. Woodson, left us a most valuable book, "The Miseducation of the Negro". It's time to honor this gift of Black History with our own personal contributions to the times in which we live and those we share this life experience with. Only when we engage in this level of thought and activity while making black history a daily experience



Dr. John Warren

can we truly honor what we have been given beyond the month of February each year? Where do you stand, and what are you doing with what you have been given? Let's move beyond complaints and expectations by others to what each of us can do right where we stand. Let's get back to defending ourselves and not allowing others to do it for us.

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Are You Raising One of the Next Generation of Hoodlums?

ENCOURAGING YOUR BOY in the NEW YEAR

By Dr. Joyce W. Teal



Dr. Joyce W. Teal

There's nothing quite like the love between a parent and son. Try as you may, it's always a strong desire for a parent to want to encourage a son each and every day. Words of encouragement have a way of striking a chord in the heart, inspiring courage, and giving children the strength they need to make it through both good and difficult times.

Words of encouragement can be written on a card or in a letter, but they can also be spoken out loud as a way to motivate your son whenever he faces a difficult challenge.

Be sure to share with your son that consistency and dedication to something will take you a lot farther in life than any form of education, but know that education is absolutely important! Make your child aware that learning how to master a skill requires practice. And after you finish practicing, you then need to practice again and again in order to really master the skill.

If you ever find that you are unable to complete a task for which you are responsible, be willing to tell the people it impacts. HONESTY is the truest apology you can ever give.

Make your son aware that storms come in everybody's life sometimes, and when the storms of life are raging, as my son whom I love dearly, you have been the sailor who has guided me to the shore, and your son will do the same for you one day.

Below is additional advice that you can share with your son in the New Year:

- One of the kindest things you can ever do for someone is to simply listen to him or her.
- Everyone wants something, even you. What is it you want? The sooner you know the answer to this question, the sooner you can get it.
- People will talk about you. They will laugh at you. They will try to make you like them. You are not like them. The only ones you are like are the kind ones.
- You either win or learn from the experience.
- You may hit a home run today, but it will not count at all towards tomorrow's games. However, the practice you get from hitting a home run very well may be the reason you win the rest of the season.
- You can only become a true leader if you lead by example.
- I could have been a better parent; there is no doubt about that.

- But I swear by everything true, I could have never asked for a better son.
- Wherever you go, my thoughts are with you, and I want you to know that you are loved.
- You are the best thing to ever happen to me, and you have saved me in so many ways that you will not yet understand until you have a son of your own.
- No matter where you go, my thoughts are always with you. I want you to spread your wings and fly.
- You will have very few people in life who are truly your friends, but those people will do more for you than everyone else combined.
- Compassion and mercy are always an option.

Special note:
Readers are invited to visit www.untealthen.com and the Author's Facebook Page.

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Colossian Believers' Reception of the Transforming Power of the Gospel

Colossians 1:1-14

Part II



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

As stated in our Introductory Notes, the Epistle of Colossians is one of Paul's prison epistles. The Epistles of Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians were written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome in A.D. 61. It was during Paul's ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:10, 26) that the gospel had made its way outward to Colosse, a city located on the Lycus River in the Roman province of Asia. The church that came from this effort was primarily Gentile (Colossians 1:27).

Epaphras, who was instrumental in taking the gospel to the Colossians, had visited Paul and brought news of the church (Colossians 1:7-8). Some of the news was disturbing, for false teaching was threatening the faith of believers. So, to combat this issue, Paul presented some sound teachings, especially about the Person and work of Christ. Our

text, Colossians 1:1-14, may be outlined as follows: I. The Beneficial Effects of the Gospel in the Lives of the Colossian Believers – Colossians 1:1-8; II. Paul's Prayer for the Colossian Believers' Spiritual Growth – Colossians 1:9-14.

II. Paul's Prayer for the Colossian Believers' Spiritual Growth Colossians 1:9-14

Paul's thanksgiving for the Colossian believers was followed by a heartfelt prayer for their continued spiritual growth. The expression, "For this cause," in verse 9, refers to the good report Epaphras had brought. This good report spurred Paul to engage in unceasing prayer for the Colossian believers' progress. Paul was well aware that spiritual growth depends on spiritual comprehension.

Paul prayed that the believers "might be filled

with the knowledge of His will." "Knowledge" here refers to knowledge that comes by experience. Paul prayed further that "full knowledge" might be known "in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." "Understanding" refers to having critical discernment; that is, having the ability to discern the difference between right and wrong, truth and error, important and unimportant.

The Colossian believers were exposed to a heretical teaching that claimed to have superior knowledge; therefore, the believers needed to have "full knowledge" of God's will to combat this error. Having prayed for the believers' spiritual comprehension in verse 9, Paul now prays that the Colossian believers would display their spiritual comprehension in godly conduct (vv. 10-11). Comprehension, which is very valuable, must be revealed in godly character.

One who knows God's will is obligated to practice it. To walk worthy of the Lord is to conduct oneself in a manner becoming to one who bears His name. Our conduct must be pleasing to God in every respect. Believers having an obedient attitude will produce fruit, and the strength to bear fruit comes from the Holy Spirit within (v. 10).

In verse 11, the power of God enables believers to maintain stability in unfavorable circumstances. "Strengthened with all might" in verse 11 denotes "empowered with all power." God's mighty Arm is stretched out to give the needed stability. God's infusion of Divine power brings patience, long suffering, and joy. God's awesome power is available to help us persist in the face of unbearable circumstances! The virtue of long-suffering refers to our reaction to persons. It involves holding or putting a check to our anger

and irritability. As believers, we can experience the power of God's uncommon joy. Only by the power of God can we be steadfast and long-suffering with joy (v. 11).

Finally, in verses 12-14, Paul prayed that the Colossian believers be thankful. He revealed three things for which they should give thanks. First, they should thank God that He qualified them to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Our inheritance still awaits us in the realm of God's light, but we have title to it already. Second, in verse 13, thanks should be given to God for rescuing us from the power of darkness. At one time, we belonged to the domain of darkness over which Satan rules (Ephesians 6:12), but now God has delivered us from that horrific domain of Satan. Third, we should thank God because He "hath translated us into the king-

dom of His dear Son" (v. 13). The word "translated" means we have been transported from Satan's kingdom of darkness and transported to the kingdom of God.

Christ is here called "His dear Son" or "the Son of His love." The greatest bond of love exists between the Father and the Son. And the Father's love for mankind was displayed in the giving of His Son to expiate our sins. The Son is the One "in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (v. 14). Redemption speaks of setting free by the payment of a ransom. We are ransomed away from the slavery that once held us. Through this redemption, purchased by His blood, we now enjoy the forgiveness of our sins. The power of darkness no longer controls us.

May God Bless!

Continued **Historic** Page 1

community.

"This historic event marks the beginning of coalescing The Descendants' families and like-minded leaders and organizations to catalyze transformative positive societal change amongst the most significant challenges faced by our country," Morris emphasized.

Beyond the White House reception, a series of activities were planned for the descendant families in Washington on both Tuesday and Wednesday. The itinerary included stops at the U.S. Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court, and a tour of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Additionally, there were dinners and opportunities for group dialogue.

Ernestine "Tina" Martin

Wyatt, a great-great-great-grandniece of Harriet Tubman, was among those who expressed excitement about meeting the descendants of fellow freedom fighters. "It's an equal collaboration. We are all coming together," Morris asserted.

Nearly 100 other guests, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus and administration officials, attended the event. Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.), a featured speaker, commended the families for their personal sacrifices and tireless work to preserve and protect their ancestors' legacies. "At a time when our fundamental freedoms are once again under attack, we are grateful to President Biden not only for convening this event but for his commitment to furthering the progress that our foremothers and forefathers fought and died to achieve," Sewell stated.

Continued **Austin** Page 1

widespread criticism. Shortly before 5 o'clock, Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder announced that Kathleen Hicks had taken over as deputy secretary of defense.

The Pentagon's statement emphasized the urgency of Austin's hospitalization for symptoms related to a bladder issue. The White House,

the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Congress have all been informed about the unfolding situation.

The controversy surrounding the delayed disclosure raises fundamental questions about transparency within the Defense Department and the communication protocols governing the health status of high-ranking officials.

Will Parents Be Incarcerated

For The Actions And Decisions Of Their Children?

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

I can say with certainty my parents gave me a foundation built on love. I always felt cared about and safe. They poured their humanity into me every day.

Having a good name was important. Keeping a good name was even more important. You kept your good name by making good decisions. As children, we made some immature decisions, however those decisions did not cause hurt, harm or danger to anyone.

Being mischievous back in the day simply meant carrying out childish pranks. For example, you might leave an empty carton of juice in the refrigerator. The question would arise, who did it?

We had neighborhoods in Winston-Salem NC where everyone knew everyone. As

kids, we were always in and out of someone else's house. We were all pretty much social and there weren't any deep, dark secrets.

With a sense of pride and thanksgiving, I can say we had a caring East Winston community. If something strange or unusual was happening with us, parents would know about it and do something about it.

If you are of a certain age, you probably had similar experiences to mine. The formula was love, caring and communication. These three traits kept us out of confusion and gave us emotional stability.

My dear childhood friends, William Earl and Bishop Graham, whom I have known since elementary school, often talk about the joys we had simply being kids. Laughing, playing and joking were things we did in abundance. Our responsibilities were to do our best in school and to act like we had some sense. We managed to do both.

Being quiet and a loner didn't happen in our neighborhood. We played outside every chance we had even in cold weather. Being inside was not appealing to us. Being with our friends was

ten times better than watching television or listening to a radio.

Guns were not a part of our community. Deep in my spirit, I don't believe adults owned guns. That was just the way it was. Now it seems that everyone at least knows someone who owns a gun. Suffice it to say, things are just different these days.

Children and teens now have ready and immediate access to weapons. How can that be? It can be because parents leave guns out and visible coupled with the fact they are loaded. Restrictions on who can purchase them are weak, too.

Some parents have only minor restrictions on their children which sometimes lead to bad outcomes. The other side of that debate is that you want your children to be responsible and to learn how to make wise choices. That's the fine line that parents find themselves in today. Some parents become querulous and complaining while others remain silent and still.

I suspect the Crumbley family in Michigan grappled with that question. A few weeks ago, Jennifer Crumbley was found guilty of four counts of involun-

tary manslaughter. The jury found that she bore some responsibility for her son, Ethan Robert Crumbley, age 15 killing four students and injuring seven other people. This tragedy happened on November 30, 2021, at Oxford High School outside of Detroit Michigan.

The husband, James Crumbley is set to go on trial next month. He, too, is charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter. Reports say that Mrs. Crumbley is the first person to go on trial for a mass shooting carried out by their child.

This case will have reverberations with parents across America. Joe Tamburino, a criminal defense attorney said, "The case will create a huge precedent for further cases. Think about it, the next time there's some type of school shooting, they could arrest the parents. This is going to change the landscape."

Parenting today is both rewarding and challenging. There are no easy answers and solutions. Being thoughtful and proactive can be safeguards for parents as they raise and rear their children. We are living in perilous and uncertain times.

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Quinn Minute

Importance of organization

By Rix Quinn

I once read a book on getting organized. Unfortunately, right now, it's lost.

First, throw away stuff you don't need, like old gum wrappers, telephone books before 1997, and dead bugs. Keep important things like the TV, the DVD player, and any auto-graphed photo with a name

you recognize.

Next, sort your papers. For instance, school papers go in one pile. Bills and unreturned phone messages go in a different stack. So does toilet paper, unless that's where you write phone messages.

Look under couches, chairs, beds, and cabinets for small items like ear-

rings, necklaces, and watches. I found cuff links at one apartment, and I wore them proudly until someone told me they were actually paper clips.

Pack boxes by category. A box marked "bed" might contain sheets, bedspread, and pillows. Note: Do not try to put the entire bed in a box because it would be too

hard to lift.

Have you inspected your new apartment? Before you move in, check the carpet for signs of dirt. It's a bad sign if you have to check the dirt for signs of carpet.

Remember this saying: "It's good to have friends. But it's better to have friends who can help you move."

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Feb. 15



H - 65°
L - 57°

Friday, Feb. 16



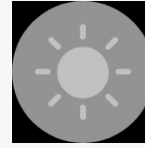
H - 69°
L - 39°

Saturday, Feb. 17



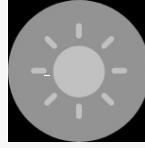
H - 48°
L - 37°

Sunday, Feb. 18



H - 56°
L - 42°

Monday, Feb. 19



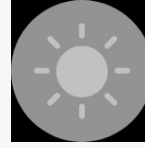
H - 65°
L - 53°

Tuesday, Feb. 21



H - 71°
L - 58°

Wednesday, Feb. 22



H - 72°
L - 58°

Mahomes' Magical Comeback: Chiefs Triumph in Super Bowl OT Thriller After Usher's Star-Studded Halftime Show

Whatever it was, Patrick Mahomes again proved why he's worth every penny of his mega \$500 million-plus contract and why, on the football field at least, he overshadows all the Travis Kelce-Taylor Swift nonsense.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Maybe it was Usher's star-studded halftime show that inspired the Kansas City Chiefs and their superstar quarterback Pat Mahomes in the second half to win their third Super Bowl in four years with a thrilling 25-22 OT victory over the San Francisco 49ers in Las Vegas. Or, perhaps, it was just inevitable that Mahomes, a Black quarterback, was inspired by the pregame singing of "Lift Every Voice" and the bold "End Racism" sign painted at each end zone. Or could it have been a combination of all of the above, along with the specter of playing a 49ers team where Colin Kaepernick took a stand for Black Lives Matter, that's cost him a football career?

Whatever it was, Patrick Mahomes again proved why he's worth every penny of his mega \$500 million-plus contract and why, on the football field at least, he overshadows all the Travis Kelce-Taylor Swift noise. Mahomes helped Kansas City overcome a stifling 49ers defense and San Francisco's potent offense after being stymied in the first half. The Chiefs trailed 10-3 at the half, and it appeared they couldn't figure out how to break through the

49er's defense, while the Chiefs' own defense had all kinds of trouble limiting Brock Purdy and his offense.

While they gathered in the locker room after two quarters, Usher took center stage and not only whipped out all of his classic hits but brought out several A-list superstars to punctuate the Apple Music Halftime Show. With Alicia Keys joining in with her hit, "If I Ain't Got You," and the collab "My Boo," chart-topper H.E.R. rocked the Allegiance Stadium crown with a blistering solo on U Got It Bad. Will.i.am then joined Usher on "OMG," and Jermaine Dupri, Lil Jon, and Ludacris helped close Usher's set with "Yeah."

After the halftime spectacle, the teams return to the field and the Chiefs got the ball to start the second half, but they didn't solve the 49ers. At least not immediately. However, Kansas City's defense finally figured out Purdy, and the trick plays that punctuated San Francisco's first-half dominance, and Mahomes worked his magic. After yielding an overtime field goal to the 49ers, the Chiefs had to at least match that to keep the game going under the new NFL OT rules that allow both



teams to have the ball on offense. A pivotal 4th down conversion helped propel the Chiefs before Mahomes threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Mecole Hardman, and Kansas City became the NFL's ninth repeat Super Bowl champs. "With all the adversity we've been through this season to come through tonight. ... I'm proud of the guys," said Mahomes, who earned his third Super Bowl MVP award. "This is awesome.

Legendary." The 28-year-old Mahomes becomes the fourth starting quarterback to win three Super Bowls — joining Brady, Joe Montana, Terry Bradshaw, and Troy Aikman — and second youngest.

"I am going to celebrate tonight, celebrate at the parade, and then work my way to get back in this game next year," Mahomes said. "I am going to do whatever I can to be back in this game next year. Three-peat."

BREAKING NEWS

- Page 1 -

One dead and multiple injured in shooting following Chiefs Super Bowl

By Tori B. Powell, Elise Hammond and Maureen Chowdhury, CNN
Updated 5:27 p.m. ET, February 14, 2024

- JUST IN: One person has died after a shooting at the end of a celebration in Kansas City, Missouri, for the Super Bowl-winning Chiefs, according to the police chief.
- At least 14 people were injured, including three patients in critical condition, five in serious condition, and one with non-life-threatening injuries, a fire department official said.
- Police said two armed people were taken into custody.
- The parade started with Chiefs players crowded on double-decker buses, waving to fans as they rolled through the city. Star tight end Travis Kelce was spotted on the same bus as quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

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Hip Hop Icons Head Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Nominees

Showcasing a diverse lineup of influential artists, the trio of hip-hop icons heads the list of nominees for the 2024 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

In a harmonious blend of iconic lyrics, Mary J. Blige's soulful anthem "No More Drama," Eric B. & Rakim's timeless declaration in "Paid in Full," and A Tribe Called Quest's rhythmic wisdom

from "Can I Kick It?" intertwine to create a symphony of musical mastery.

Showcasing a diverse lineup of influential artists, the trio of hip-hop icons heads the list of nominees for

the 2024 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Indeed, Mary J. Blige's impassioned plea for liberation from turmoil has always set the stage among hip-hop and R&B royalty. At the

same time, Eric B. & Rakim's poetic verses on pursuing success resonate powerfully in rap. A Tribe Called Quest's laid-back groove and infectious call to action infuse the narrative with unity and self-expression. Hip-hop has taken a front seat in the Hall, which has become a celebration of popular music from all genres.

The complete list of nominees comprises Mary J. Blige, Mariah Carey, Cher, Dave Matthews Band, Eric B. & Rakim, Foreigner, Peter Frampton, Jane's Addiction, Kool & the Gang, Lenny Kravitz, Oasis, Sinéad O'Connor, Ozzy Osbourne, Sade, and A Tribe Called Quest.

The 2024 induction ceremony will stream live on Disney+, with an exclusive

airing on ABC later and availability on Hulu the following day, officials announced in a news release.

Eligibility for nomination requires an artist or band to have released their first commercial recording at least 25 years before the year of nomination. Ten out of the 15 nominees are on the ballot for the first time, introducing a fresh wave of talent to the prestigious recognition.

John Sykes, Chairman of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation, expressed enthusiasm for the diverse list of nominees, emphasizing the impactful contributions of hip-hop artists. "This remarkable list reflects the diverse artists and music that the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame honors and celebrates. These hip-hop artists have

created sounds that have impacted generations and influenced countless others" he stated.

The nominees were unveiled in partnership with ABC/Disney+ at the TCA in Los Angeles and through the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's social channels. Nominee ballots will be sent to an international voting body comprising over 1,000 artists, historians, and music industry members. The evaluation criteria include an artist's musical impact, influence on peers, career length and depth, and innovation in style and technique.

Inductees for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Class of 2024 will be announced in late April. The induction ceremony is scheduled to take place in Cleveland this fall.

BLACK HISTORY POEM

My Ancestors

My ancestors suffered the degradation of slavery,
 Yet, history must paint them in multiple hues of bravery!
 My ancestors were ingenious inventors numerous times,
 Yet, for their inventions, many of them never got a dime!

My ancestors picked others' cotton and shucked others' corn,
 Yet justice recognized that for this they were not born!
 My ancestors were forbidden to learn to read and write,
 Still, many of them covertly studied late into the night.

My ancestors refused to belittle and hate themselves,
 Though it seems they were belittled and hated by everybody else!
 My ancestors persevered and remained strong.
 To survive they had to; slavery was brutal and long!

My ancestors were astoundingly resourceful women and men,
 Yes, my courageous ancestors triumphed in the end.

"HOW?"

I'm pleased you've asked.

Today, my ancestors' offspring sit on the Supreme Court.
 Many of them write current local and world news reports.

Today, my ancestors' offspring are Heads of State.
 Many of them can quote New York Stock Exchange rates.
 Today, my ancestors' offspring master high-level math.
 With them **BL@D**, my ancestors forged a path for me!

To the youth:

Honor your ancestors by making the most of opportunities
 for which they paved the way;
 Doing so will send a message that mere words could never convey!

Dr. Joyce Willard Teal

©

- Continued Page 1 -

Black History Month Spotlight: Mariah T. on embracing her authentic self



Photo Credit: The HUB

they bring something different to the table," Mariah said.

"Through the festival, I get to work with younger Black students who are just entering Booker T. and ready to share their culture."

Becoming secretary of the BSU also strengthened her connection to her culture. Through this organization, she empowers a strong community of student-leaders who are passionate about celebrating Black culture and identity.

"I was always scared to let my hair down. I would pull it back for dance class because it was kind of a battle wanting to straighten my hair. My mom would say, 'Your curly hair is beautiful,'" Mariah said. "I've learned to embrace my curls, and I love my hair now."

As Mariah continues to hone her craft and embrace her cultural identity, she

finds inspiration from trail-blazing dancers like Misty Copeland, the first Black principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre. "The willpower she had to get to where she is now makes me feel like I can be in any space and remain strong."

After graduating high school, Mariah plans on applying to a university with a focus on dance and communications or becoming a professional dancer.

Mariah's dance teacher, Kate Walker, says she is a dream to work with and a dynamic performer. She also believes Mariah will excel in accomplishing her future plans.

"I hope she remembers me when she's famous; that's my outlook on Mariah's trajectory from here," Walker said. "She's incredibly versatile as a performer and artist. Wherever she wants to go, she's going to get there."

EDUCATION

Spelman College Receives Record-Breaking \$100 Million Gift for Scholarships and Academic Advancement

The \$100 million donation is a testament to Stryker and Johnston's commitment to education and a significant leap forward for Spelman College in its pursuit of becoming need-blind, Gayle remarked.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Renowned businesswoman and philanthropist Ronda Stryker and her husband, William Johnston, Chairman of Greenleaf Trust, have bestowed a monumental gift of \$100 million to Spelman College. The extraordinary donation is the largest single contribution ever made to a historically Black college or university (HBCU).

According to a news release, Stryker, a devoted Spelman College Trustee since 1997, has dedicated decades of her life to the advancement of women through higher education, championing opportunities for marginalized groups. The \$100 million gift coincides with Spelman College commemorating 100 years since its official naming in

1924, marking a historic occasion in the institution's rich legacy.

Officials said a significant portion of the \$75 million donation is earmarked for establishing endowed scholarships to support future students. Officials continued that the move aligns with Spelman College's commitment to attracting the brightest minds and dismantling financial obstacles that may impede qualified students from pursuing education at the esteemed institution. The remaining \$25 million will go towards initiatives such as the development of an academic focus on public policy and democracy, enhancements to student housing, and the provision of flexible funding to

address critical strategic needs.

"We are invigorated and inspired by this incredible act of generosity," said Dr. Helene Gayle, president of Spelman College. "This gift is a critical step in our school's mission to eliminate financial barriers to starting and finishing a Spelman education. We can't thank Ronda Stryker enough for her selflessness and support as both a trustee and friend. There's no doubt that Spelman College is better because of her."

The \$100 million donation is a testament to Stryker and Johnston's commitment to education and a significant leap forward for Spelman College in its pursuit of becoming need-blind, Gayle remarked.

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