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The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 70 NUMBER 19

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 8 - 14, 2018

JUSTICE FOR DORIE MILLER!



By Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

Fittingly, the theme of Black History month this year acknowledges the potent historic contributions made by African-Americans in our nation's military. They have been heroic, and legendary.

Yet, if our nation is serious about honoring role of blacks that have risked their lives to defend liberty, free speech and our way of life, its leaders should begin by finally awarding the Medal of Honor to Seaman Doris Miller, a Texan who, with no thought for his own safety, saved the lives of others during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Robbed of his life at the age of twenty-four while serving on an aircraft carrier, it is unconscionable that Seaman Miller has been denied the medal that his actions demand.

Those that witnessed his actions aboard the USS West Virginia on December 7th, 1941 believed that Miller was deserving of the military's highest honor.

Yet, it was the secretary of the Navy, a civilian appointee during the Roosevelt administration, whose explicit racial bias resulted in Miller being denied the Medal of Honor.

Earlier in his term, the naval Secretary fervently argued that all Japanese Americans in the western part of the country be placed in internment camps.

In fact, the naval Secretary did not want Miller to receive the Navy Cross. Even after reading the battle report written by those who witnessed Miller's heroics, he only thought that Miller should receive a Letter of Commendation, the lowest of three awards given by the Navy, with no medal included.

Continues on Page 5

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of February, The Dallas Post Tribune will recognize the theme for Black History Month in 2018: "African Americans in Times of War" by honoring a few of the brave men and women who served their countries in the armed forces. Especially, the many who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the American Dream which will be highlighted in our weekly editions.



African-American U.S. Army nurses arrive in Europe in 1944. Bettmann / Getty Images via TIME

ADDIE RUTH FOX PARKER CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY!



On Saturday, December 16, 2017, Mrs. Addie Ruth Fox Parker celebrated her 100th birthday at a brunch at the Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas.

Mrs. Parker was born on December 14, 1917, to an African-American family in Jacksonville (Calhoun County), Alabama. Having been raised in her hometown of Jacksonville, Alabama, she also has lived in Anniston, Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama, as well as in Fort Worth, Dallas and DeSoto, Texas. She has been a Texas resident since 1972 and is a member of the Friendship-West Baptist Church.

She retired from a decades-long elementary school teaching career,

having taught in Alabama and Texas. While living in Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama in the late 1950s and 1960s, she served in the Alabama Civil Rights Movement as a dedicated and hard-working confidante, partner, participant, and supporter of her husband – Rev. Joseph C. Parker, Sr. – who was a founding pastor, servant, racial justice advocate, and leader of the Alabama Civil Rights Movement, starting in 1955 with his involvement in the Montgomery Bus Boycott; Montgomery Improvement Association; Montgomery Inter-denominational Ministerial Alliance (Secretary); NAACP; Selma to Montgomery Marches; the Birmingham civil rights protests; and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and alongside her husband's

Morehouse college friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, and Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Sr. and his wife, Juanita Jones Abernathy.

Mrs. Parker has five children: Marvice J. Sims, Rev. Dr. Joseph C. Parker, Jr., Esq., Gail B. Parker, Lynne N. Wheelock, and Linda A. Zanders. She also has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Parker's family and friends believe these words have contributed to her successful life and career – character: strong Christian faith, integrity, commitment, and action; personality: warm, compassionate, giving, loving, determined spirit, lively, and humorous; and intelligence: has had and still possesses a keen mind.

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SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

We
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because he
first
loved us
1 JOHN 4:19



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The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

EDITORIAL PAGE



Rev. Johnny C. Smith
Editorial Columnist

“THE PSALMIST’S SUMMONS FOR ALL CREATION TO PRAISE THE LORD” PSALM 148:1-14

What a magnificent psalm of praise we have before us. We cannot ever praise God enough: especially, because He has created us in such a marvelous way. David exclaims in Psalm 139:14, that we are so wonderfully created, when he says: “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” In fact, in Psalm 148:1-4, the psalmist calls on all creation to praise the Lord because of His creatorship. The elements of the heavens, as well as the hosts

(angels) are called upon to praise the Lord: “Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise Him in the heights” v. 1). Yes, the holy angels who are ministers of His, do praise the Lord, for Psalm 103:20-21 states: “Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts; ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure.”

As believers, we are created to praise and worship Him, for Revelation 4:11

says: “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou has created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” The Lord has established and decreed all creation by His awesome word; therefore, He should be praised (vv. 5-6). The psalmist then summons all earthly creatures and various elements of nature to praise the Lord for His creatorship (vv. 7-11).

Finally, the psalmist summons mankind to praise the Lord for His excellent and splendid name (vv. 12-14):

“Let them praise the name of the LORD: for His name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven” (v. 13). Now, how often should we render praise to our awesome God? The psalmist invites us to continually praise His name, for Psalm 113:2-3 states: “Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD’s name is to be praised.”

May God Bless!



Colleen White, Ed.D.
Editorial Columnist

A Little Bit of Faith: Pray Together

Is your home a place of comfort, love, and joy? Or is your home a place of confusion? Most people want their homes to be a place of love. Oprah Winfrey has said that our homes should be a place that greets us. However, I believe our homes should be a place where we find refuge and peace. Our homes should also be a place of prayer. Our most important prayers do not have to be done in a

church. They should also be done in our homes as well. It is important for Christian families to take the act of prayer seriously as a family. In the book of Joshua, it says “But for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

Perhaps you have tried to gather your family together to pray and they have not wanted to. Well, that’s okay. You can still set the tone for your family and pray any-

way. Pray in your living room or in your kitchen at a certain time every day. One of the things we do as a family is to read scripture and pray together every Sunday before dinner. Then during the week, I pray with my daughter every morning. Once you set the tone that this is what you do as a family, even if no one else joins you, your act of faithfulness will show your family that you take prayer seriously.

Prayer is the one thing that can be done anytime any place. And the one place it should be done often and consistently is in your home. Try having family prayer today. You never know, you might see your family become even closer because of it. What’s that old saying? A family that prays together stays together. You get the message. Why not give it a try? Pray together starting today! Amen? Amen.

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We welcome letters to the editor. Submissions must be signed, addressed and must include a daytime and an evening phone number. Please limit submissions to 350 words. We reserve the right to edit and correct all submissions although; every effort will be made to retain the intended meaning of the submission. Send your submissions via email to production@dallasposttrib.net or by mail to P.O. Box 570769, Dallas, Texas 75357-0769.



“I’m Going to Disney World!” Dallas-Area Teen Selected to Participate in Mentoring Trip to Disney Dreamers Academy

A Dallas-area teen is among the 100 extraordinary youths from across the nation announced by Disney to participate in its immersive, transformational four-day program, March 8-11, at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida.

The program, which is entering its 11th year with a new “Be100” campaign, highlights Walt Disney World Resort’s continued commitment to the next generation of teens by inspiring them at a critical time in their development to make a difference in their lives and to relentlessly pursue and realize their dreams.

“Each of these 100 girls and boys has proven themselves to be exceptional as students and as human beings, so it’s an honor to have them join us at Walt Disney World Resort,” said Tracey D. Powell, Walt Disney World Resort vice president of commercial management - resorts and Disney Dreamers Academy executive champion. “It is

our hope that this potentially life-changing program will help create the next generation of great dreamers and achievers.”

Participating students, known as “Disney Dreamers,” embark on a journey throughout the Disney theme parks and behind the scenes, turning the vacation destination into a vibrant classroom for students to discover new careers, pursue their dreams and interact with Harvey and other motivational speakers and celebrities. Among the celebrities who have participated in the past are singers Patti LaBelle and Mary J. Blige, NBA legend and business mogul Magic Johnson, gospel music star Yolanda Adams, NFL superstar Cam Newton, plus TV personalities such as “The Chew” co-host Carla Hall, “Good Morning America” co-anchor Michael Strahan and ABC correspondent T.J. Holmes.

Additionally, students participate in hands-on, immer-

sive career-oriented workshops, ranging from animation to zoology. Each student is given important tools such as effective communication techniques, leadership skills and networking strategies.

“Inspiring our youth to dream big and chase those dreams is a personal mission,” said Harvey. “Having a dream is one of the most important things in life. That is why engaging with these students is an annual highlight for me, and the 2018 Disney Dreamers Academy will be no exception.”

Since 2008, Walt Disney World Resort has provided all-expenses-paid trips to more than 1,000 students, plus a parent or guardian, to participate in the annual Disney Dreamers Academy. The students are selected from thousands of applicants who answered a series of essay questions about their personal stories and dreams for the future.

“At ESSENCE, we are committed to impacting the leaders of tomorrow,” said



Michelle Ebanks, president of ESSENCE Communications. “Every year, we continue to be impressed by the exceptional students selected for Disney Dreamers Academy, and it is our privilege to play a role in encouraging them to achieve their goals.” For more information, visit DisneyDreamersAcademy.com. Regular updates about Disney Dreamers Academy are also available on social media at [Facebook/DisneyDreamersAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/DisneyDreamersAcademy) or [Twitter/DreamersAcademy](https://twitter.com/DreamersAcademy).

BE KIND! Never speak harsh words. Be kind and gentle with your tongue. For it has been said that the tongue can be like a sword. Think long before you criticize your neighbor. Your tongue can be nasty. Living is one of the most beautiful things in the world. But the tongue can kill!

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2210 Pine Street, Dallas, TX 75215
P. 214-421-4119 Email: gnz2210@sbcglobal.net



Rev. Joe S. Patterson, Pastor

Services

Bible Study
Tuesdays @ 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Carver Heights Baptist Church

2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216
P. 214-371-2024



Pastor, Daryl R. Carter

Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.
Early Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship - 7:00 p.m.

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Mid-Week Revival Services - 7:00 p.m.

Visit us @ www.greatercornerstone.org

"A Good Understanding Wins Favor" Prov. 13:15

Greater Providence Baptist Church
5300 Marvin D. Love Freeway, Dallas, TX 75232
P. 214-339-5800



Rev. J.L. Eades, Jr., Pastor

Schedule of Services

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
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.



Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III
Senior Pastor

Worship Times:
Sundays 8:00 a.m. &
10:45 a.m. CST

Bible Study:
Wednesdays Word & Wonders
12:00 p.m. (G129) &
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7 p.m.

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8 p.m.

Women's Fellowship
1st Sunday
4 p.m.

Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church

1819 N. Washington Ave.
Dallas, TX 75204
(214) 823-7308
www.pilgrimrestdallas.org

Worship Opportunities
Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:45 am
5th Sunday, Combined Worship:
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Word Out Wednesday Bible Study
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2 Timothy 3:16

Services:
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

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Christ and to Share The Gospel
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Dr. Ronald Jones, Senior Pastor

New Hope Baptist Church (Founded 1873)

5002 S. Central Expressway
Dallas, Texas 75215
214.421.5296
Fax 214.421.1531
Website:
New Hope Bapt-Dallas.org
Email:

1newhope4all@sbcglobal.net

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

Saint Phillips Missionary Baptist Church

6000 Singing Hills Drive
Dallas, Texas 75241
P. 214-374-6631



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

Email Address:
stphillipsmbc@att.net

Schedule of Activities

Sunday

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

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
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www.mountziondallas.org
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Church School 9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Awana Club 8:30 P.M.
Evening Bible
Exposition 5:30 P.M.
The Lord's Supper
1st Sunday 5:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY
Music Ministry 6:15 P.M.
Awana Club 7:00 P.M.
Prayer/Bible
Fellowship 7:00 P.M.

"Let's Mount Up!"
Rev. Johnny Cabre Smith
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True Lee Missionary Baptist Church

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1013 S. Greenville Ave
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Associate Ministers:

John Bradshaw
Ben Myers
Patrick Worthey
Elders:
Harlee Glover
Fred Green
Raymond Hart
David Phillips, Jr.
Johnnie Rodgers, Sr.

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY
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.

Sunday Radio Broadcast
7:30 a.m. on 970 AM

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4013 N. Dallas Avenue, Lancaster, Texas 75134
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Samuel Bailey, Minister

Sunday Bible Study
8:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship
5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study
7:00 p.m.



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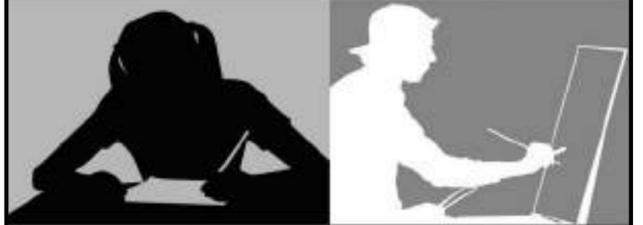
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THE BLACK ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS



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**PLAYWRIGHT'S SPOTLIGHT
"CEREMONIES IN DARK OLD MEN"**

Featuring the work of Lonne Elder, III -
Sunday, February 18, 2018 @ 5pm
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Physical Address: 1309 Canton Street
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Exploring the discontent of a generation that has grown old before its time, and the determination of the generation to avoid such a fate, this poignant story about Russell B. Parker, who is a prodigal father and failed barber, exists on memories and "ceremonies" of survival. He spends his time recounting atmospheric tales of his life in vaudeville and tells, in darkly comedic detail, about his days on the chain gang. Professional Stage Reading coordinated by actor/director AKIN BABATUNDE. Produced by CURTIS KING.

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The Dallas Post Tribune Prayer List

**If you have love ones who are no longer in need of prayer,
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SPORTS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, February 8	Friday, February 9	Saturday, February 10	Sunday, February 11	Monday, February 12	Tuesday, February 13	Wednesday, February 14
H - 62° L - 44°	H-67° L-50°	H-59° L - 31°	H-45° L-27°	H-53° L-42°	H-63° L-49°	H-58° L-48°

Pistons C Willie Reed suspended 6 games by NBA



(AP) — Detroit Pistons center Willie Reed has been suspended for six games by the NBA after the league investigated the circumstances surrounding his arrest on a domestic violence charge. Reed was arrested last August on a misdemeanor battery charge involving his wife. He entered a pretrial diversion program in October to resolve the

charge against him. The NBA conducted its own investigation. League officials interviewed all the parties involved and consulted with domestic violence experts. Reed will begin serving his suspension on Wednesday when the Pistons face the Brooklyn Nets. Detroit acquired him last week in the same deal that sent Blake Griffin to

the Pistons. The National Basketball Players Association called the punishment "excessive and inappropriate," adding it was filing a grievance and seeking an expedited hearing to get Reed back on the court quickly. The 27-year-old Reed is averaging 4.6 points and 2.9 rebounds this season.

Foles, Eagles outshoot Patriots for 1st Super Bowl, 41-33



(AP) - The Philadelphia Eagles' flight from last to first ended up with a Lombardi Trophy. In a record-setting shootout between Nick Foles and Tom Brady of the favored New England Patriots, the backup quarterback led a pressure-packed 75-yard drive to the winning touchdown, 11 yards to Zach Ertz with 2:21 to go Sunday night. Then a defense that had been shredded throughout the second half made two final stands to win 41-33. Brandon Graham strip-sacked Brady and Derek Barnett recovered, setting up rookie Jake Elliot's 46-yard field goal for an 8-point lead. Brady got his team to midfield, but his desperation pass fell to the ground in the end zone. The underdog Eagles (16-3), even injured starting quarterback Carson Wentz, came bolting off the sideline in ecstasy while Brady sat on the ground, disconsolate. "For us, it was all about one stop we had to make. We went out here and made that one stop," Graham said. It was the first Super Bowl title for Philadelphia (16-3), which went from 7-9 last season to the franchise's first NFL title since 1960. "If there's a word (it's) called everything," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said. "That's what it means to Eagles fans everywhere. And for Eagles fans everywhere, this is for them." Super Bowl MVP Foles orchestrated the victory with the kind of drive NFL MVP Brady, a five-time champion, is known for. The drive covered 14 plays, including a fourth-down conversion. "I felt calm. I mean, we have such a great group of guys, such a great coaching staff," Foles said. "We felt confident coming in, and we just went out there and played football." The Eagles had to survive a video replay because ball pop into the air as Ertz crossed the goal line. "If they would have overturned that, I don't know what would have happened to the city of Philadelphia," Ertz said. "But I'm so glad they didn't overturn it." The touchdown stood — and so did thousands of green-clad Eagles fans who weren't going to mind the frigid conditions outside US Bank Stadium once they headed out to celebrate. But not before a rousing rendition of "Fly Eagles Fly" reverberated throughout the stands once the trophy was presented to Lurie. Later, fans danced along with the

"Gonna Fly Now," the theme from "Rocky," the city's best-known fictional underdog. The Patriots (15-4) seemed ready to take their sixth championship with Brady and coach Bill Belichick in eight Super Bowls. Brady threw for a game-record 505 yards and three TDs, hitting Rob Gronkowski for 4 yards before Stephen Gostkowski's extra point gave New England its first lead, 33-32. Then Foles made them forget Wentz — and least for now — with the gutsiest drive of his life, including a fourth-down conversion to Ertz at midfield. Foles has been something of a journeyman in his six pro seasons, but he has been spectacular in four career playoff games. He finished 28 of 43 for 373 yards and three TDs. The combined 1,151 yards were the most in any modern NFL game, and Brady's 505 were the most in any playoff contest. The 40-year-old master finished 28 of 48 and picked apart the Eagles until the final two series. It was such a wild game that Foles caught a touchdown pass, and Brady was on the opposite end of a Danny Amendola throw that went off his fingertips. Eagles coach Doug Pederson brought home the championship in his second year in charge. Belichick is 5-3 in Super Bowls and his teams have only a plus-4 overall margin in those games. So this one was in keeping with that trend: breathtaking and even a bit bizarre. Brady and the Patriots looked more like five-time champions by opening the second half with a 75-yard touchdown drive. Gronkowski was unstoppable, grabbing four passes for 69 yards, including the 5-yard score. Philly didn't flinch, answering with a precise 75-yard march and three more third-down conversions; the Eagles were 10 for 16. The last was on Foles' perfect pass to Clement over double coverage. The rookie's reception was upheld by review, and the Eagles were back on top by 10. Brady shrugged and, getting steadfast protection, went over 400 yards passing on the next TD drive. Chris Hogan scored from the 26 as he turned around safety Rodney McLeod. When all the Eagles could manage was Elliott's 42-yarder for a 32-26 lead, it seemed inevitable the Patriots would go in front, then become the first repeat Super Bowl winner since they did it in the 2004 and

'05 games. Foles, Ertz, and — at last — a revitalized defense said otherwise. The weird image of Brady ambling downfield on a pass pattern came three plays after New England lost receiver Brandin Cooks to a concussion on a vicious but clean hit by Malcolm Jenkins in the second quarter. Amendola's pass required an over-the-shoulder grab and the ball fell off Brady's outstretched hands. When he got back to what he has done better than anyone in Super Bowls, Brady led a 90-yard drive following an equally strange play. Alshon Jeffery nearly made a spectacular attempt near the Patriots' goal line, only to juggle the ball into the air while off-balance. Duron Harmon picked it off at the 10. Moments later, Brady was connecting with Chris Hogan for 42 yards. James White broke several tackles with a brilliant 26-yard run and it was 15-12. That gave White seven touchdowns in his past three postseason games, including the overtime winner last year. But the Eagles still had 2:04 left in the half — and some more magic in their bag. A short third-down throw to rookie Corey Clement on a circle route turned into a 55-yard explosion down to the Patriots 8. Philly got to the 1 and on fourth down, it was Foles' turn to morph into a receiver. He did better than Brady. On fourth down, Clement took a direct snap, pitched to tight end Trey Burton, and the former Florida QB hit an uncovered Foles. The Eagles were up 22-12 at halftime, the most points New England has allowed in the opening half of a Super Bowl under Belichick. Each team started with 67-yard drives to field goals — New England had never scored a first-quarter point with Brady in a Super Bowl. Each kicker later faltered, with Elliott missing the extra point, his fifth failed PAT this season, after Jeffery's 34-yard touchdown. Then Gostkowski hit the left upright with a 26-yard field goal after holder Ryan Allen mishandled the snap. Gostkowski also missed an extra point. When LeGarrette Blount, who won the title last season with the Patriots, scored on a 21-yard burst, Pederson went for 2, but the pass failed, making it 15-3. The Eagles and Pederson brushed it off and stayed with their usual aggressive approach. Breathtakingly, it eventually paid off.

JUSTICE FOR DORIE MILLER!

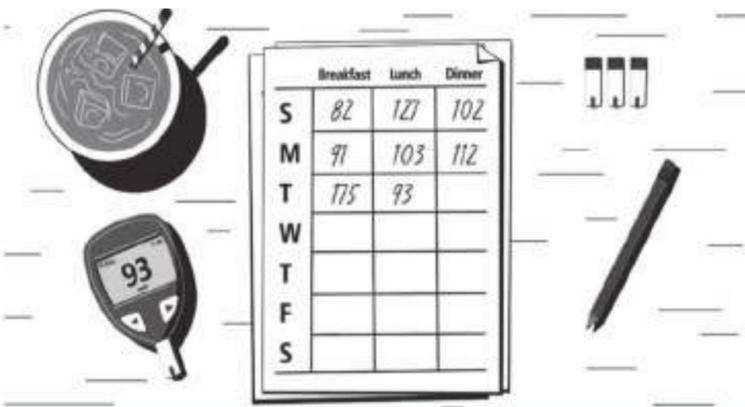
Continued from Page 1

When fair-minded officials in the Navy heard of the naval Secretary's position they protested directly to President Roosevelt, demanding that Miller receive fair and adequate treatment. Their case was so compelling that Miller was awarded the Navy Cross, essentially a compromise that did not subject the naval Secretary to scrutiny from the press, demanding to know why he had recommended a letter. Miller, himself, knew that he should have received the nation's highest military award, but was precluded from speaking publically about his actions aboard his ship because the battle

report was classified, and any mention of it would have resulted in a military hearing and dismissal from the service. Miller was effectively silenced. A number of naval historians that have studied the awarding of the Medal of Honor to members of the Navy have concluded that Dorie Miller's name should be among those who have received the honor. They point out that one of the factors that the Navy, itself, gives as a reason for a medal upgrade is racial bias. They have concluded that the actions of the naval Secretary amounted to racial biases, and are ready to testify before any panel that calls them to appear. Medal upgrades are not uncommon in our nation. In

2014, More than twenty veterans of the Army were awarded the Medal of Honor because they had been denied the award due to ethnic reasons. Most of the honorees were Jewish and Hispanics-Americans. Like Miller, most of them were deceased at the time of the upgrade. The decisions brought great joy to their family members, and to prudent members of the Congress and military. Since I made my first appearance in Congress, I have advocated for a medal upgrade for Dorie Miller. I shall not stop now. Seaman Miller's heroics and our nation warrant that justice prevails.

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OPINION: 2018: THE YEAR OF THE BLACK WOMAN

By **Monica Simpson**
 (Executive Director, SisterSong)

There is a reckoning afoot in this country. On one side, Trump has emboldened and embodied a virulent and reckless hate that targets women, Black people, and immigrants (among many others). Each day brings a new outrage. On the other side, #MeToo has followed #BlackLivesMatter as a hashtag-turned-movement, led by courageous truth-tellers who are sick and tired of a violent and largely ignored status quo. The conversation about race and gender in this country has broken open, and now we must all contend with the truth of who we are as a nation.

While this may feel like scary and unfamiliar territory to some, in reality, the U.S. is just catching up to an understanding and analysis that Black women in this country have had for a long time. Black women have never had the luxury of ignorance—not to police violence, not to the rampant sexual harassment and assault that women experience at home, school, and work. In 2018, we should look to the work of Black women to see the path forward for a troubled and divided nation. In a way, Black women scholars and organizers have left breadcrumbs for us to follow to liberation, if we'll only pay attention.

In 1989, legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term “intersectionality” in her paper for the University of Chicago Legal Forum to explain how Black women’s oppression on the basis of gender combined with oppression on the basis of race to create something altogether new, an experience of discrimination did not match what either white women or Black men experience. This concept would lay the groundwork for social justice organizing that now spans the globe, and provided a vocabulary for something Black women experience on a daily basis. While intersectionality risks dilution as an increasingly popular buzzword, the analysis it provides is a crucial tool to cut through the noise and understand the Trump administration’s policies and their impact on different communities.



Take for instance the recent Jane Doe case, and similar cases, of the Trump administration blocking young immigrant women from getting reproductive healthcare. The mistreatment of the “Janets” (as they’ve come to be called) at the hands of the Trump administration targets them both as women and as immigrants, and the two identities cannot be pulled apart. “Intersectionality” provides an analysis that explains why their treatment is so much more extreme, and its impact so severe.

Just five years after Crenshaw’s groundbreaking work, the reproductive justice movement was founded by Black women who, like Crenshaw, saw that their perspectives and experiences were being, once again, left out of the equation. Reproductive justice brought intersectionality and a global human rights framework together with a nuanced understanding of U.S. policies of reproductive coercion. The founding mothers of reproductive justice rejected White feminism’s focus on the birth control and the legality of abortion as too narrow, and described a vision for a world, where we can all prevent pregnancy if we want to, end a pregnancy if we need to, and have and raise children in healthy environments and without fear of violence.

Reproductive justice broadened the lens of abortion rights to include low-income women and women of color “and” broadened the entire conversation to recognize the ways in which U.S. policies denied motherhood to some women even while forcing it on others against their will.

This framework is crucial to connect the dots among Trump’s reproductive policies. Trump wants to make birth control unaffordable, push abortion out of reach,

and punish women for having children. What seems inconsistent on the surface is, in fact, all part of one agenda to coerce and control a woman’s decisions about pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting.

When Trump was first elected, Black women were the least surprised. We saw Trump coming from a mile away and we already knew how deep this country’s anti-woman and anti-Black sentiment ran. Now, more than a year later, the work of Black women will help us understand and combat Trump’s agenda, with Black women leading the fight.

Let 2018 be the year of the Black woman.

Let 2018 be the year Black women’s brilliance, leadership, and analysis are heeded at last. Let 2018 mark the beginning of a new era of listening to, respecting, and trusting Black women. Just stop for a moment and imagine what might happen, if we actually made those words a reality.

The day after the Alabama Senate race, the hashtag #TrustBlackWomen was all over social media. And yes, we should trust Black women voters, because they’ve kept us from the brink many times. But Black women’s wisdom and contributions have so much more to teach us all—and we’re going to need to understand that if we hope to keep Trump from dragging us backward.

Like many other Black women across the country, I was standing up in my living room cheering and clapping my hands as I watched Oprah deliver her passionate speech at the Golden Globes. The next day the media went wild with hopes for and critiques of a theoretical run for president—but they missed the point. While the thought of it made me smile, what I saw was an invitation.



By the time she’s ready to attend college, the majority of all jobs will require education and training beyond high school. Jobs in healthcare, community services, and STEM will grow the fastest among occupational clusters. To be ready for these jobs of the future, students in grades K-12 need learning experiences that meet them where they are, engage them deeply, let them progress at a pace that meets their individual needs, and helps them master the skills for today and tomorrow.

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