

“Be the kind of woman who, when your feet hit the floor each morning, the devil says ‘Oh, no! She's up.’”

- Joanne Clancy



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VOLUME 69 NUMBER 17

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

January 26 - February 1, 2017

My Open Letter to “US”



T.I. says that we can no longer continue to get caught up in having material abundance and yet be fundamentally and spiritually broke. (Hustle Gang)

By Tip “T.I.” Harris (Founder, Grand Hustle)

As I write this letter, I can't help but express my frustration and concern for “US.” I also can't help, but question my contribution to the status of where we are. I understand that I, too, have been guilty of doing the very things that put US here. Even still, right now, the state of our community is more alarming than ever. And, while I know that this letter may be misunderstood by many, unduly dissected and misconstrued by most others, I still need to write and speak about these things that deeply concern me.

You see, all of US sometimes feel that one of the most difficult things in the world is to talk to US about US in an effort to help US. However, we cannot dismiss the fact that we can't fix what we do not address. You see, we've somehow allowed ourselves to think it's okay to neglect and abandon our responsibility to ourselves and to our community. Everything cannot be blamed on THE SYSTEM.

We can no longer afford to be entertained beyond the point of accountability. We can't keep selling each other out and be willing to do anything to be seen, to be famous or to be rich. Our obsession with material things and lack of self-worth is evident in our need for an abundance of momentary luxuries and must-have amenities that have no true value, for real man. And I mean, we do it just to impress people that could care less if your children or your children's children have anything left to show for your life after you gone. You see, somewhere along the way, we've allowed the pursuit of fame and things to blind us to the issues that prevent us from moving upward. So, we cannot continue to get caught up in having material abundance and yet be fundamentally and spiritually broke.

Continues on Page 2

THE NIGHT “YES, WE CAN!” BECAME “YES, WE DID!”



President Barack Obama is joined on the stage by First Lady Michelle Obama, their oldest daughter Malia, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden on January 10, 2016 at Chicago's McCormick Place. (Derick Triplett/Chicago Crusader)

By Patrick Forrest (Chicago Crusader/NNPA Member)

When President Nominee Barack Obama won the election back in November 2008, the day was filled with hope as thousands of people from all walks of life clamored and screamed, “Yes we can, yes we can!” Obama had taken his supporters on a historical account of the experiences in the life of 106-year-old Ann Nixon Cooper in his acceptance speech. Before he finished, he had invited the nation on a new journey to correct the wrongs and change things for the better.

His election represented a dream realized and the hopes of many, but especially for future generations of Blacks. The number of people that came to support him far exceeded the capacity of Grant Park on that unseasonably warm November day. Similarly, the day he gave his farewell speech was warm for that time of year in Chicago and the supporters were filled with the same hope if not more, despite his looming departure from the office.

President Barack Obama returned home to Chicago in the final days of his presidency to deliver his national farewell address. He did so before a packed auditorium and cheering crowd at Chicago's McCormick Place on January 10.

Continues on Page 6

Seven Tax Tips for the Black Community

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Tax season has officially begun and it's time to find those deductibles and items that might help offset some of what you might have to pay the government by April 15.

For African-Americans, filing income taxes has never been simple – nor has it historically been anything to look forward to.

“One thing that's certain at the top of each year is tax season. Yes, that one thing that most of us dread yet we know we have a short window of time to complete what should be done as the new year begins,” said Cozette M. White, an acclaimed author, financial analyst and tax strategist. White is also founder and CEO of My Financial Home Enterprises, a financial management firm that helps organizations and entrepreneurs develop solutions that fuel business growth and transform products into accelerating profits.

White said it's important to decide early on who will be preparing your returns. “Tax preparers are the least trained, but the cheapest to hire,” she said, noting that enrolled agents are typically more competent than tax preparers but much less so than a certified public accountant.

Further, White said it's important to be organized – set aside a manila folder for all tax documents. “Schedule your appointment early, especially if you have a child applying for financial aid and, if you have not updated your payroll department with your new address, do so today to avoid delays,” she said.

The new tax year accompanies an interesting set of new facts for African-Americans, according to The White House.

Continues on Page 6



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From his legendary strides in health care reform, to his unwavering backing of the personal rights and freedoms of the American people, there is no wonder why President Obama will go down as one of the greatest and most influential world leaders of all times.

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Super Bowl LI
New England Patriots vs.
Atlanta Falcons

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

PROVERBS 31:25

SHE IS clothed
WITH STRENGTH
& DIGNITY
and laughs
WITHOUT FEAR
of the FUTURE



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EDITORIAL PAGE



Rev. Johnny C. Smith
Editorial Columnist

“A GREAT HALLELUJAH PSALM” PSALM 112:1-10

What a wonderful hallelujah psalm where the emphasis is on praising our God for His righteousness. Our God is indeed righteousness; and because of that fact, He must judge sin. What is sin? According to I John 3:4, sin is lawlessness, a vast defection from God’s standards. Our blessed Lord dealt with the sin issue by sending Jesus Christ on a missionary journey from heaven to die in man’s stead on a rugged tree on Calvary, for II Corinthians 5:21 states: “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” Yes, our Lord died on a rugged cross and was victorious over the grave; thus,

His finished work made it possible for us to be free from both the penalty and power of sin; for I Peter 2:24 says: “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” We cannot thank God enough for being so righteous!

In verse 1, there is a real blessing for one who fears the Lord and enjoys greatly God’s commandments as the psalmist expresses, “Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in His commandments.” In verses 2-9, the psalmist lists some of the blessings

from one who fears God. The one who fears the Lord is indeed blessed and is endowed with wisdom, for Proverbs 1:7 states: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Some of the blessings of a righteous man are: he is a witness to others (v. 4); he shares liberally with others (vv. 5-9); and he is steadfast in his faith despite difficulty (vv. 6-8).

The righteous man reminds me of the righteous man described in verses 1-3 of Psalm 1 that reads: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scorn-

ful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

In contrast to the blessings of the righteous man, the wicked will experience trouble, for verse 10 of Psalm 112 states: “The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.” Wickedness will be abolished! Hallelujah!

May God Bless!

My Open Letter to “US”

Continued from Page 1

Every one of us must do something to contribute to transforming our community for the better. We have been underserved, underprivileged and unfortunate for far too long. There are no more excuses. It’s not enough to have limited progress and allow our expectations and sense of purpose to evaporate. So, if that means we must sacrifice some nights at the club and give up buying the latest designer handbags and sneakers...well then damn, so be it. I can only hope that one day soon we’ll understand our true economic buying power by investing in our own communities and putting our money into businesses that keep our dollars in our community.

It is imperative for US to parent our children and educate them outside of the school systems, as the American education system was not designed to lift US out of oppression. If we know that the pipelines to prisons are multiplying, well we must ask ourselves, “what can we do to end it?” We must keep ourselves busy with finding ways to generate wealth for genera-

tions to come and work to pass down things to our children for them to pass down to their children. You see man, who wants to fight who on Instagram should not be as important as fighting for equality...and who’s f**king who should never be as important as creating a strategy to help break the cycle of economic oppression.

You see, if we don’t acknowledge and accept where we are failing, then we’ll never do the work that it takes to make it right for US. See, we are the benefactors of too much sacrifice and blood, sweat and tears to allow petty differences and trivial discrepancies to continue to separate and divide US, while we are being used, exploited and conquered. We should not live one more day ignoring the sh** that suffocates and strangles US keeping US imprisoned in our own communities. We cannot afford to not stick together and work together for the betterment of our community.

As we look to the future for US, there could not be a better time to assess where we go from here. And while there’s currently great turmoil, there is even greater

opportunity for US to work together to transform our community.

Far too many of our children are fatherless, far too many of our mothers are standing in the prison waiting rooms and far too many of our young people feel hopeless. We must work to reshape the need for our children to want to live so fast even if it means dying so young. Now, I am not here to demonize or vilify, but to pledge my commitment to help US do what needs to be done. You see, if we continue to devalue ourselves we cannot realistically expect respect from others.

Now, how can I sit here in a place of privilege and say such things and make such suggestions, you ask? Well, I answer simply, because I know what it’s like. I know what it’s like to not know where you’re going or how to get there. I know what it’s like to have no one around you who can teach you how to be what you hope to become. I know what it’s like to be so distracted by your surroundings and in the moment that it’s seemingly impossible to not get caught up in ‘em. I know what it’s like to feel so much smaller than the activities of your

environment that you can’t see how not to succumb to ‘em. I know what it’s like to not be able to focus in class due to real life hunger pangs. I know what it’s like to be disruptive just to pass the time and take your mind off what’s lacking at home. I know what it’s like to be laughed at by your teacher when you tell them what you hope to be in life. I also know what it’s like to be told by your teacher that you’ll never amount to anything. I know what it’s like to feel hopeless and to feel like you’re not good enough just because of where you’re from. I know what it’s like to be profiled and to be abused by the police. I know what it’s like to be racially profiled, treated unjustly and abused by the police just because of how you look. But even more importantly than knowing all these things, I know what it’s like to overcome ‘em.

Now, I know it’s not easy...but all of US can do something.

Respectfully Yours,
Tip Harris
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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!

Articles throughout The Dallas Post Tribune reflect the views of their authors, and not necessarily those of this publication.

THE DALLAS POST TRIBUNE REQUESTS YOUR HELP TO FIND 9 MISSING PICTURES OF DALLAS HEROES THAT BELONGS ON THE WALL OF FACES IN THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON, DC

Mrs. Janna Hoehn of Maui, Hawaii is leading a campaign with Texas local volunteers attempting to find pictures of all 330 Dallas County men killed in action for the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. She contributes her success in locating many of the missing pictures to; David Rippa, Tiffany Rippa, Danny Linn and Peggy Case all residing in Texas which she considers her “boots on the ground”.

The Wall of Faces will be a part of an underground gallery near the Vietnam Memorial, sometimes called “The Wall,” located on the mall in Washington, DC.

We are encouraging our

readers to please review the list of names to see if you recognize anyone on the list.

The following information was sent by Mrs. Janna Hoehn of Maui, Hawaii and due to the vital content in order to locate our Heroes it appears as sent without corrections.

Burrough, Jesse Clarence (Sep 2, 1948-Apr 4, 1968) (Black – Baptist – Never Married) (US Army - Co A, 3rd Bn, 39th Inf, 91D) Dallas, TX.

Butler, Henry (Dec 16, 1944-Aug 15, 1966) (Black – Baptist – Never Married) (US Army - Co B, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav, 1CD) Dallas, TX

Fisher, James Louis (Oct

15, 1930- Nov 17, 1965) (Black – Protestant – Never Married) (US Army - Co A, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav, 1CD) Dallas, TX.

Morris, Elroy (March 6, 1949-Feb 27, 1969) (Black – Religion Unknown – Single) (US Marine Corps - 1st CAG, Combined Action Program, III MAF) Dallas, TX.

Morris, John Lee (Feb 14, 1950-Mar 23, 1969) (Black – Baptist – Never Married) (US Army - Co C, 3rd Bn, 39th Inf, 91D) Dallas, TX.

Perry Jr., R.C. (Mar 17, 1936-Feb 13, 1967) (Black – Baptist – Married) (US Army - Co C, 2nd Bn, 22nd Inf, 4ID) Dallas, TX

Price, Charles Allen (Sep

18, 1948-Jan 19, 1969) (Black – Methodist – Never Married) (US Army - HHB, 41st Arty Group, I Field Force) Dallas, TX.

Williams, Rayfield (Apr 6, 1947-Feb 6, 1968) (Black – Religion Unknown – Married) (US Army - HHC, 1st Bn, 14th Inf, 4ID) Dallas, TX.

Williams, Vance George (Nov 21 1946- Apr 2, 1967) (Black – Baptist – Married) (US Army -Co D, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav, 1CD) Dallas, TX

If you have information regarding the missing Dallas heroes, please contact Janna Hoehn via email: neverforgotten2014@gmail.com.

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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.
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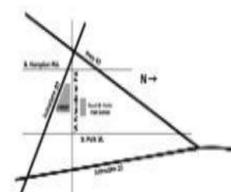
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Johnnie Rodgers, Sr.

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

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Bible Class - 7:30 p.m.

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Sammie Berry, Minister

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Samuel Bailey, Minister

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7:00 p.m.

Cedar Crest Church Of Christ

"A Church of Christ in the Heart of Dallas with Dallas at Heart"



Jonathan W. Morrison
Ministering Evangelist

2134 Cedar Crest Blvd. Dallas, Texas 75203-4316 • (214) 943-1340 • Fax (214) 941-3305

"All services are interpreted for the Deaf!"

Sunday

KHYN (970 A.M. Radio)
8:00 a.m.
Bible Class
8:45 a.m.
Children's Worship
10:00 a.m.
Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

--- Matthew 6:9-13



SPORTS PAGE



7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, January 26	Friday, January 27	Saturday, January 28	Sunday, January 29	Monday, January 30	Tuesday, January 31	Wednesday, February 1
H-54° L-36°	H-56° L-35°	H-55° L-37°	H-59° L-37°	H-63° L-45°	H-69° L-49°	H-74° L-51°

Super Bowl LI: Patriots vs. Falcons in Houston, Texas 02.05.17



HOUSTON 02.05.17

By **BARRY WILNER**,
AP Sports Writer

(AP) — There's this football game planned for Feb. 5 in Houston. Let's hope it turns out much better than most of the postseason matchups the NFL has provided this year.

To say Sunday's championship games were duds is being kind. Blame the two losing teams, the Packers and Steelers, who were so helpless that they looked like they should have been done playing last month. All credit to the Patriots and Falcons, of course, who could give fans an all-time great shootout in two weeks.

But don't count on it considering how eight of the 10 playoff contests were, well, no contest.

Wild-card weekend was everything except wild. Routs galore. Inept performances by the undermanned Raiders and Dolphins, inconsistent Giants, and they-don't-belong-there Lions.

It didn't improve any with the mismatches on the first day of the divisional round: Houston had no business being on the same field as New England, and only the Patriots' sloppiness kept that game relatively close for a while. Atlanta passed Seattle dizzy and cruised.

The respite from such lopsided and at times barely watchable matches came the next day with a classic Packers-Cowboys game. It was worth waiting for from beginning to end — the kind of product that

entrances everyone — and was followed by a tight Steelers-Chiefs game that seemed to bode well for the conference finals.

Then, deflation.

Sure, it was sweet for the folks in Georgia and New England, and they deserve to celebrate. The Patriots (16-2) are seeking even more history, including Tom Brady going for a record fifth Super Bowl crown by a quarterback. The Falcons (13-5) are an exciting offensive machine with an improving defense and a coach likely to entertain in Dan Quinn.

Odds makers expect a close one, too, making the Patriots merely a 3-point favorite.

"It's an honor to get to go and play in this game," Patriots receiver Julian

Edelman said Sunday night. "This is what you fight for. This is what you train for. This is what you get hurt for. This is what you get yelled at for, and prepare for, and go through the ebbs and flows of a season."

Unfortunately, the NFL this month has seen far too many ebbs. The conference championships punctuated that, which was surprising because the Steelers and, in particular, the Packers had performed so well in their previous two outings.

Maybe that was a big part of the letdown Sunday. Green Bay and Pittsburgh made so many mistakes almost from the outset that they never gave themselves a chance to reach Houston. Perhaps they simply ran out of steam, while

their opponents had a wild-card bye that kept them fresher.

Seemingly much fresher.

"If this has taught us anything, it's how important home-field advantage is," Aaron Rodgers said. "Being able to sleep in your own bed and practice and not have to travel and have the fan support, it makes a big difference. We've played in three of these now and all on the road. It's tough to win on the road."

For the Steelers, it's nearly impossible to win in Foxborough, where they are 1-5 since 2002; Brady was injured for the one Pittsburgh victory in 2008.

They might not have won against Boston College with the kind of showing they made this time.

"A lot of guys were feel-

ing good about this game, the game plan and everything else," right tackle Marcus Gilbert said. "Then the whole climate changed, we weren't moving the ball, we weren't converting third downs. Then they scored and we were behind, we tried to play catch-up, and that's when bad things happen. You aren't going to win football games like that.

"There is no next game, so I can't say we need to work on it. It's a disappointing way to end the season."

Just as, for the most part, it's been a disappointing postseason. Perhaps what the Falcons and Patriots bring to Houston will make folks forget that.

Dallas Hiring our Heroes Hiring Expo for vets, troops and spouses w/ Dallas Stars

With more than 200,000 veterans in Dallas and the surrounding Fort Worth metro area, local public and private sector leaders are experienced at supporting the veteran and military community. The result of their efforts has been a drop in post-9/11 veteran unemployment. But even in times of low unemployment, veterans, transitioning service members and spouses are always in need of additional support in their efforts to find a new or better job.

That's why, on January 31st, the U.S Chamber of Commerce Foundation in partnership with the Dallas Stars, are hosting a Hiring our Heroes Hiring Expo for transitioning service members, and military spouses. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit with employers looking to hire all ranks and levels of experience.

The day begins at 9:30am at American Airlines Center (2500 Victory Avenue, Dallas, TX 75219) with an employment workshop focused on resume building and interview techniques. The hiring expo follows the workshop lasting from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM with dozens of local and national companies looking to hire veterans in the area.

All pre-registered participants will be eligible to receive up to two free tickets to the evening's Stars vs Leafs game, while supplies lasts.

Additionally, Medal of Honor recipient Dakota Meyer will be at the Hiring Expo to give remarks and join a roundtable Q&A for employers that is open to the media.

Venus Williams Reaches her 21st Grand Slam



All Photos AP

(AP) - It was a long time coming for Venus Williams, who reached her 21st Grand Slam semifinal but her first at the Australian Open in 14 years. The 36-year-old Williams beat No. 24-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 7-6 (3) on Tuesday, becoming the oldest player to reach the semifinals here in the Open era. She'll be meeting a confident Vandeweghe, who dictated play against French Open champion Garbine Muguruza in a 6-4, 6-0 quarterfinal win.

The Night “Yes We Can!” Became “Yes, We Did!”

Continued from Page 1

“So, I first came to Chicago when I was in my early twenties, and I was still trying to figure out who I was; still searching for a purpose to my life. And, it was in a neighborhood not far from here where I began working with church groups in the shadows of closed steel mills,” Obama said. “It was on these streets where I witnessed the power of faith and the quiet dignity of working people in the face of struggle and loss.”

During his speech—slightly longer than 50 minutes—Obama marked his accomplishments over the past eight years and thanked those present, as well as those who could not be present, for the support they offered.

“If I had told you eight years ago that America would reverse a great recession, reboot our auto industry and unleash the longest stretch of job creation in our history...if I had told you that we would open up a new chapter with the Cuban people, shut down Iran’s nuclear weapons program without firing a shot, take out the mastermind of 9/11...if I had told you that we would win marriage equality and secure the right to health insurance for another 20 million of our fellow citizens...if I had told you all that, you might have said our sights were set a little too high.”

Though the audience listened attentively, some were overwhelmed with emotions, knowing that they were witnessing Obama’s final public address as president.

“I was there when he was in Grant Park in 2008—that was when all of this started, and to see this all come full

turn, it’s a lot to handle,” stated Maria McClain.

The president took time to return to the tone of his 2008 campaign and compared it to today. Specifically surrounding race relations, he observed there is still work to be done.

“After my election, there was talk of a post-racial America. And such a vision, however well intended, was never realistic,” Obama said. “Race remains a potent and often divisive force in our society. “If every economic issue is framed as a struggle between a hard-working, white middle class and an undeserving minority, then workers of all shades are going to be left fighting for scraps while the wealthy withdraw further into their private enclaves.”

Obama did contend that, even though race relations are frequently the subject of news headlines and are not good at the moment, they are better than they have been in the past.

“Now, I’ve lived long enough to know that race relations are better than they were 10 or 20 or 30 years ago, no matter what some folks say,” Obama said. “You can see it not just in statistics. You see it in the attitudes of young Americans across the political spectrum. But, we’re not where we need to be. And all of us have more work to do.”

Obama even laid out what he believes will help alleviate the problems.

“And we have shown that our economy doesn’t have to be a zero-sum game. Last year, incomes rose for all races, all age groups, for men and for women,” Obama said. “So, if we’re going to be serious about race going forward, we need to uphold laws

against discrimination—in hiring and in housing and in education and in the criminal justice system.”

The president also thanked Vice President Joe Biden for being “the first and best executive decision” he ever made, as well as his wife, Michelle. As they exited the stage, cheers of “Yes we can, yes we did!” could be heard throughout the auditorium.

“Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, girl of the South Side,” Obama said. “You took on a role you didn’t ask for. And you made it your own with grace and with grit and with style and good humor. You made the White House a place that belongs to everybody, and a new generation sets its sights higher because it has you as a role model.”

Obama’s second and final term as president will end January 20 when President-elect Donald Trump assumes the office.

Comments, criticism and praise immediately followed Obama’s address.

Among those expressing positive remarks was Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, representing Maryland’s 7th District. He noted that during his entire career in Congress, he had “never seen any president face the levels of obstruction that President Obama faced from congressional Republicans.”

In spite of that he said that Obama, in his farewell address, “exhibited the same poise and leadership he has exhibited since he was inaugurated in 2009.”

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Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson Releases Statement after Supreme Court’s Decision to Dismiss Texas Voter ID Case

Monday January 23rd, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson released the following statement after the Supreme Court’s decision to dismiss an appeal from Texas officials’ voter ID case:

“As a Texas native, I have witnessed many dark days in the fight to ensure voting rights for all people. The 2013 Supreme Court decision, *Shelby County v. Holder*, overturned portions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in historically discriminatory states and allowed those states to implement changes to election laws without any checks and balances.

“Today marks a step in the right direction and gives us that hope for fair and inclusive voting laws. I am encouraged by the Supreme Court’s decision to deny Texas officials’ appeal

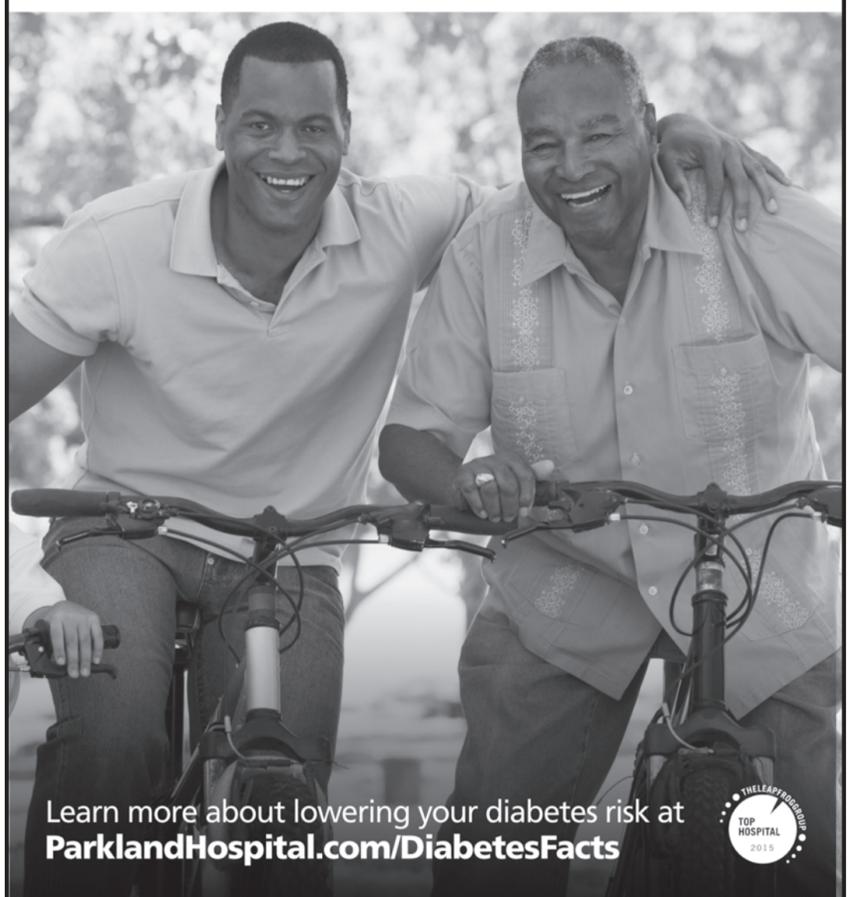
of the voter ID law ruling. This restrictive voter identification law has made it harder for the elderly, students, minorities, and rural citizens in Texas to vote.

“It is very clear that the voter ID laws implemented after the Shelby decision are discriminatory in nature. Republicans are losing this battle by attributing the need of strict voter ID requirements to voter fraud when the collected data refutes their argument. However, as the fight remains to stop discriminatory voter laws, I will be persistent in my role as a senior Member of Congress in vocalizing my concerns and providing solutions to this issue. I will not allow or accept laws that intimidate voter participation. And I am confident after today’s Supreme Court decision the lower courts in Texas will

find a way to respect the rights of all eligible voters.”

U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson is the ranking member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the highest-ranking Texan on the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure. She represents the 30th Congressional District of Texas, which includes Downtown Dallas, Fair Park, Kessler Park, Old East Dallas, Pleasant Grove, South Dallas & South Oak Cliff; all of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Hutchins, Lancaster & Wilmer and parts of Ferris, Glenn Heights, South Grand Prairie, Oak Lawn, Ovilla, Uptown/Victory Park and West Dallas.

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Seven Tax Tips for the Black Community

Continued from Page 1

For instance, the unemployment rate for African-Americans has seen a larger percentage-point decline in the recovery, much faster than the overall unemployment rate over the last year, President Barack Obama’s administration reported. The real median income of Black households increased by 4.1 percent between 2014 and 2015 and President Obama enacted permanent expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, which together now provides about 2 million African-American working families with an average tax cut of about \$1,000 each.

A recent report from the Census Bureau revealed that the real median household income grew 5.2 percent from 2014 to 2015, the fastest annual growth on record.

Income grew for households across the income distribution, with the fastest growth among lower- and middle-income households. The number of people in poverty fell by 3.5 million, leading the poverty rate to fall from 14.8 percent to 13.5 percent, the largest one-year drop since 1968, with even larger improvements including for African-Americans, Latino-Americans, and children.

The poverty rate for African-Americans fell faster in 2015 than in any year since 1999. While the poverty rate fell across all racial and ethnic groups, according to a Census Bureau study released last year, it fell 2.1 percentage points for African-Americans, resulting in 700,000 fewer African-Americans in poverty.

African-American children also made large gains in 2015, with the poverty rate falling 4.2 percentage points and

400,000 fewer children in poverty.

So, for tax time, it means more African-Americans need to better understand what they should and shouldn’t do; what deductions and credits might be available, White said.

The veteran tax expert urges contributions to 2016 Roth accounts and, if donations have been made to charities in any amount above \$250, be sure and have the proof to support the write-off.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) says that charitable contributions are deductible in the year made and donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2016 count for the 2016 tax year, even if the bill isn’t paid until 2017.

Also, checks to a charity count for 2016 if they are mailed by the last day of the year.

Taxpayers who are over age 70 ½ are generally required to receive payments from their individual retirement accounts and workplace retirement plans by the end of 2016, though a special rule allows those who reached 70 ½ in 2016 to wait until April 1, 2017 to receive them.

So, what else can be done to limit tax liabilities for individuals and businesses?

“Defer bonuses,” said Lisa Greene-Lewis, a certified public accountant and Turbo Tax expert. “If your hard work paid off this year and you are expecting a year-end bonus, this extra money in your pocket may bump you up to another tax bracket and increase your tax liability,” she said.

Folasade Ayegbusi, a certified public accountant (CPA) and owner of Suncrest Financial Services in Maryland, advises business owners to call their payroll

processing company and have them process a one-time annual salary amount to satisfy any S-Corp reasonable compensation requirement.

Also, she said, purchasing depreciable assets like a car, furniture, iPad, computer and other items needed for a business would help offset any tax burden.

Randy Hughes, founder of Counting Pennies, a nationwide tax and accounting firm that specializes in tax preparation, bookkeeping and debt management, said African-Americans need to immediately think about taxes and not wait until the April 15 deadline.

Hughes recommends making wise business purchases, maximizing health savings accounts and managing tax withholdings and exceptions.

“Employees that changed jobs or started a new job should review their tax withholdings and exemptions claimed on their new hire paperwork,” he said. “Claiming too few exemptions could result in giving the government more money than necessary, which could result in a cash flow problem for you during the year.”

Perhaps as important as any suggestions, the IRS said it continues to see an uptick in tax scams – one of the most recent involved a caller telling a taxpayer that he or she is entitled to a large refund, but first must hand over a certain amount of money first.

“Taxpayers across the nation face a deluge of these aggressive phone scams,” IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said in a statement. “Don’t be fooled by callers pretending to be from the IRS in an attempt to steal your money. We continue to say, ‘if you are surprised to be hearing from us, then you’re not hearing from us.’”