## "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."— Charles R. Swindoll



## The Dallas Post Tribune

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OLUME 69 NUMBER 24

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

# The Texas Public Policy Foundation Releases GOP Healthcare Bill by the Numbers



#### House Republicans' Health Care Bill By the Numbers

The Texas Public Policy Foundation has compiled a list of important numbers relevant to House Republicans' Obamacare "repeal-and-replace" legislation:

- 27-30 Percent—Extent to which Obamacare's insurance mandates would raise premiums, according to a 2009 Congressional Budget Office estimate
- 50 Percent Actual increase in average premiums in 2014 when Obamacare was implemented, with another 25% increase expected in 2017
- 15-20 Percent—Estimated increase in individual market premiums in 2018 and 2019, according to the Congressional Budget Office under GOP Plan
- 1—Number of Obamacare insurance mandates actually repealed in the Obamacare "repeal" bill; the actuarial value mandate would end, beginning in January 2020
- 1,031—Number of days between the bill's introduction (March 6, 2017) and the date on which the enhanced federal match for states that expanded Medicaid to able-bodied adults would finally end
- Never—Date when the Medicaid expansion ends; Section 112(a) of the bill explicitly allows states to keep their expansion of Medicaid to able-bodied adults—a change from the 2015 reconciliation bill, which repealed expansion outright
- 1,762—Approximate number of days until the bill may begin to reduce the deficit; the bill actually increases the deficit in its first five years, relying on budgetary savings in the "out years" that may or may not ever materialize
- 7,000,000—Estimated loss in employer-sponsored health coverage by 2026, according to the Congressional Budget Office, in part because "fewer employers would offer health insurance to their workers"
- \$100,000,000—Spending on the Patient and State Stability Fund, a new program that some believe could turn into a permanent bailout fund/entitlement for insurers
- \$361,000,000,000—Spending on the new tax credit entitlement in the Obamacare "repeal" bill
- \$20,000,000,000—Approximate level of total federal debt, which may lead some to question the wisdom of the spending on the two new programs outlined above
- 1411—Section of Obamacare regarding eligibility determinations; the House GOP bill would replicate that program to test eligibility for its own new insurance subsidies, even though Republicans have previously criticized Obamacare for enabling fraud and giving taxpayer subsidies to undocumented immigrants

The Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) has released a list of important numbers relevant to House Republicans' Obamacare "repeal-and-replace" legislation. TPPF's Center for Tenth Amendment Action Director Chip Roy issued the following statement on the numbers:

"As Washington is all abuzz about the Congressional Budget Office estimates – the Texas Public Policy Foundation thought it important to provide a few numbers that might shed some light on the discussion.

"Unfortunately, those numbers paint a bleak picture. Premiums stay high. Regulations stay in place. Medicaid expands further and stays expanded. Insurers get subsidized. Deficits get bigger until the "future," and nothing is done to truly improve healthcare access for Americans.

"Rather than repealing Obamacare fully and respecting the people and the states with legislation that would focus on increasing competition, driving down costs and empowering states – this bill focuses on coverage, and then miserably provides that coverage. The solution is markets and states, not Washington."

## State Representative Yvonne Davis Announces over \$450,000 for the 2017-2018 Urban Scholarship Program

State Representative Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas) announced that over \$450,000 in scholarships are available for high school graduates from Dallas and twenty eight other urban areas throughout Texas. Administrated by the Texas Association of Developing Colleges (TADC), the Urban Scholarship Program was created during the 74th Legislative session as part of House Bill 2128 with the cooperation of the three largest local telephone companies in the state of Texas at that time. This year's Scholarship Fund contributors are AT&T and Verizon Wireless.

Since the establishment of the Urban Scholarship Fund, over 15,000 students throughout the state of Texas have been able to begin or continue their college education due to over \$8 million awarded to them through the Urban Scholarship Fund.

"This fund was created to provide access to higher education opportunities for Texans who, without this assistance, might not be able to strive for a college education," said Rep. Davis. "Basically, all the problems facing our communities, including economic parity, high crime, building cohesive families, and other quality of life issues are related to the lack of education. By providing increased avenues of educational opportunity, we multiply our chances of improving the conditions of our State. The goal of this fund is to boost chances of reaching this target" Rep. Davis continued.

The 2017-2018 Urban Scholarship Fund is for Texas residents who are also U. S. citizens and full-time undergraduates in good academic standing at any accredited public or private non-profit college, university or technical college. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate financial need and have graduated from a high school in the following metropolitan cities: Abilene, Amarillo, Arlington, Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Carrollton, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Fort Worth, Frisco, Garland, Grand Prairie, Houston, Irving, Killeen, Laredo, Lubbock, McAllen, McKinney, Mesquite, Midland, Pasadena, Plano, San Antonio, Waco, and Wichita Falls. Students interested in applying for scholarships should contact their high school guidance counselor; college financial aid officer, or call the Texas Association of Developing Colleges at (214) 630-2511.

Applicants may also complete the scholarship application online at <a href="www.txadc.org">www.txadc.org</a> then print, sign and mail it with the required documents. The deadline for applying for the 2017-2018 Urban Scholarship Fund is Monday, July 10, 2017 (postmarked).

Students attending technical, junior or community colleges will receive \$700, public four-year college and university students will receive \$1000, and private four-year college and university students will receive \$2000. The number of awards is uncertain because of the varying funding levels to different types of institutions.

The Urban Scholarship fund was created in 1995 when Rep. Davis attached an amendment to the omnibus telecom bill creating a pool of funds derived from unclaimed telephone service deposits. Previously unclaimed funds went into the unclaimed funds pool in the State Treasury. Although these funds will be shifted into the scholarship account, local telephone companies will still teimburse consumers for any funds properly claimed in the future.

"We ask our students to study hard, make the grade and prepare themselves for the next level necessary to reach their goal. However, the continued rising cost of a college education presents an obstacle to some students. The Urban Scholarship Fund provides these students additional funding to help pay for their college education and ultimately realizing their goal," stated Rep. Davis.

Students from non-metropolitan areas of the State may be covered by the Rural Scholarship fund, which was also created by House Bill 2128.

Rep. Davis is currently serving her thirteenth term, representing District 111 in the Texas House of Representatives.

#### Remington College Dallas Campus Offers Free Salon Services for High School Students Headed to Prom

The cost for high school students to go to the prom can add up quickly - there are tickets, a dress or tux, a trip to the salon, and maybe a splurge on a limo or extravagant "promposal."

That's why Remington College Dallas Campus is again offering its Prom Night Makeover event so students can get salon services at no cost.

Students in the Remington College Cosmetology Program will provide students headed to prom

with free haircuts, updos, manicures, pedicures and make-

up.

All Prom Night Makeover services will be done in The

1640 Eastgate Dr. in Garland.

This is the eighth year that Remington College is holding its Prom Night Makeover event, which has provided more than 3,000 high school students across the country with free salon services.

Remington College's Cosmetology Diploma program teaches students the art of hair, skin and nail care through traditional classroom instruction and hands-on training in the Remington College School of Cosmetology, which allows students to work with real clients.

For more on the Remington College Cosmetology Program, visit remingtoncosmo.com or call

1-800-448-6405.



### IN THIS ISSUE...

Salon at Remington, located at

**SPORTS - PAGE 5** 



Can the Washington Wizards Win the NBA Title?

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

BE BRIGHT.
BE YOU.

### SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK



WEEP NO MORE;

BEHOLD, THE LION

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THE ROOT OF DAVID,

HAS CONQUERED,

SO THAT HE CAN OPEN THE SCROLL

AND ITS SEVEN SEALS."

ITS SEVEN SEALS."

REVELATION 5:5





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## EDITORIAL PAGE



Colleen White, Ed.D **Editorial Columnist** 

## A Little Bit of Faith: Remembering You (Dr. Theodore R. Lee, Jr.)

Remembering a special friend is what I do today. You've touched so many lives during your sojourn here. Your strength of character is what kept you moving forward. Your beacon light lit the path for many to follow along the way. You kept the community informed with the words you penned. Your quiet spirit moved mountains that were set before you then. With the power of your words you informed many. With the knowledge of yesterday, you tried to change today. Understanding that change doesn't come easily, you continued to inform the world about the dangers ahead. The headlines of yesterday, today, and tomorrow will Always have a hint of your strength. The paper you loved for so many years will continue To thrive off your dreams, strive for your hopes, and journal The truth that must be told. So, rest my friend for your work is done; we pick up where

## Educating "45" and "One-note Betsy" on HBCUs

You left off and carry the torch forward in your memory.

By Julianne Malveaux (NNPA Newswire Columnist)

Eighty HBCU Presidents did a "fly-in" to the White House in a meeting organized by Trump whisperer Omarosa, South Carolina Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.), and others. There was a White House meeting, a meeting at the Library of Congress, and more buzz than twenty beehives. People were prepped to hear that the White House Initiative for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) would move from the Department of Education to the White House and that this would have an impact on the resources HBCUs would receive from this president's budget.

Can somebody spell "hoodwinked?" Sure, the HBCU presidents came to Washington and got their photo-op with our nation's 45th president (I'll just call him "45"), but the listening session that was scheduled with some of Trump's cabinet members was interrupted in favor of the photo-op, which means that many of the presidents that were tapped to speak and who had prepared remarks did not have the opportunity to deliver them. Notably, Dillard University President Walter Kimbrough posted his remarks online, and made a few media appearances sharing his dissatisfaction. Outgoing Morehouse College President John Silvanus Wilson shared his disappointment in a letter with the Morehouse community.

To be sure, HBCU presidents are caught between a rock and a hard place when it comes to President Trump. HBCUs have often done well under Republican presidents, because they are low-hanging fruit. Located in the deeply Republican South, the senators who represent their states get points when they do the right thing, as do presidents who increase Pell grants

and Title III dollars, as well as encouraging Alabama, but Governor George Wallace contract opportunities with government departments. Those who didn't show up to the "fly-in" probably incurred the wrath of the vindictive Omarosa who said she was "taking names" and that 45's detractors would have to "bow down" to him. Presidents pretty much had to show up, and hope for the best. They went home empty-handed, with an executive order moving the White House Initiative on HBCUs into the White House, but with no additional resources to manage it. There was also lofty, but resource-devoid language in the executive order.

And can we just call Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "One-note Betsy?" Wherever she looks, she sees school choice, although our educational challenges transcend her myopic agenda. If an ant, enticed by honey, entered a charter school instead of the public school next door, she'd call that school choice. Still, there is no way she can justify her historically ignorant and irresponsible remarks about HBCUs and school choice. In describing HBCUs and "real pioneers of school choice" she ignored our nation's higher education history that offered no choice for African Americans who wanted college educations. She has since back pedaled her remarks, but she clearly is comfortable with her historical ignorance.

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was accepted to Columbia University on a speech scholarship, but turned it down when she showed up on campus and they discovered that she was a Negro. She matriculated at New York University, instead. Charlayne Hunter Gault and Hamilton Holmes chose to attend the University of Georgia, but their matriculation generated headlines, because White folks were not prepared to accept Black students in 1961. Vivian Malone and James Hood chose to attend the University of

blocked their entrance in 1963. When James Meredith chose to attend the University of Mississippi, the National Guard facilitated his enrollment. How dare you, Betsy DeVos talk about school choice to HBCU leaders, when our very reason for being was that choices were few and far between.

One-note Betsy is a frightening manifestation of ignorance. She is a songbird that must be muzzled before she further demonstrates her utter lack of knowledge. No matter what his rhetoric about HBCUs, our 45th President's choice for Secretary of Education suggests that history and logic are not part of her portfolio. This woman has a clear one-note agenda. It does not include support of the public schools that most students will attend. She is our nation's policy leader on educational issues and yet she simmers in educational ignorance. She doesn't understand history, nor HBCUs, nor the challenges that African American students have overcome in an educational system that is extremely racially biased. Can someone lock her up in the National Museum for African American History and Culture for a week or two? Or present her with classic tomes like "The Souls of Black Folks" by W.E.B. Du Bois (note the spelling, Betsy), and "The Miseducation of the Negro" by Carter G. Woodson to read before she offers another utterance?

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at www.juliannemalveaux.com at Amazon.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

## Choice Hotels International Brings Cambria hotels to Southlake, Texas



Raising Cane's loves 'man's best friend.' After all, the Louisiana-based chicken finger company is named after its founder's beloved yellow Lab, Raising Cane.

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each of Raising Cane's local communities.

Last week, Raising Cane's donated \$14,816 to DFW Labrador Retriever Rescue during a special check presentation with the organization's leaders.

"A big part of Raising Cane's mission focuses on supporting our local communities. Keeping pets healthy and providing animals with loving homes through organizations like DFW Labrador Retriever Rescue is one of our most important goals," said Tommy Van Wolfe, Regional Vice President for Cane's. "Caniacs

are some of the most generous people you'll find anywhere, and we're grateful to them for pitching in to help us make this donation possible."

Raising Cane's has ONE LOVE® – quality chicken finger meals. The restaurant is renowned for its ALWAYS FRESH, NEVER EVER FROZEN® chicken fingers, its craveable - some say addictive secret-recipe Cane's sauce, crinkle-cut fries, coleslaw, Texas toast, freshly brewed sweet tea and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

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Services **Bible Study** 

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

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



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



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

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Morning Worship -

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Wednesday Bible Study-

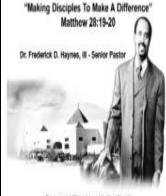
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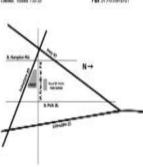
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#### Pilgrim Rest Missionary **Baptist Church**

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

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

12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm



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2 Timothy 3:16

Lady

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

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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



Drutch-School 9:30 A.M. Visiting Westrip 11 SGA M. Andrea Chibs § 30 P.M. Evenino Bible Experation 5:38 P.M. The Lotd's Supper 15 Sunday 5:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY tues Minerty & ES P.M. vana Clube T/01PIM. Fellowship 700 P.M.

"Let's Mount Up?"





Pastor Donald R. Parish, Sr.

**Sunday Church School** 9:00 a.m **Sunday Morning Worship** 11:00 a.m. **Monday Mission Meeting** 7:00 p.m.

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Minister S.T. Gibbs, III **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 P.O. Box 510, Lancaster, Texas 75146 (Mailing) 469-567-1822 (Phone) 469-567-1823 (Fax) www.coccv.org



Samuel Bailey, Minister

**Sunday Bible Study** 8:30 a.m. **Sunday Morning Worship** 

**Sunday Evening Worship** 5:00 p.m. **Wednesday Bible Study** 7:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m.

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The Dallas Post Tribune Prayer List



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Mrs. Alayastine Carr

Mr & Mrs. James Carr & Kids

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Mrs. Dorothy Love-Griffin

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#### ENTERTAINMENT





## SPORTS PAGE



## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, March 16

Friday, March 17

Saturday, March 18

Sunday, March 19

Monday, March 20

Tuesday, March 21

Wednesday, March 22



H-71°

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H-81° L-61° 423

H-7

A.

H-82° L-62° (4)

H-8

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H-85°

H-82°

# Mayweather heads 2017 inductees in Vegas sports hall of fame

(AP) — Retired boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. heads the list of 2017 inductees in the Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame in Las Vegas.

Hall officials announced Tuesday that Indy car driver and team owner Sam Schmidt, golf professional Butch Harmon, former football player and high school coach Overton Curtis and the Las Vegas Bowl will also be enshrined at a June 2 ceremony at the Orleans Arena.

Mayweather went undefeated in 49 professional fights, winning 12 world championships in five weight classes.

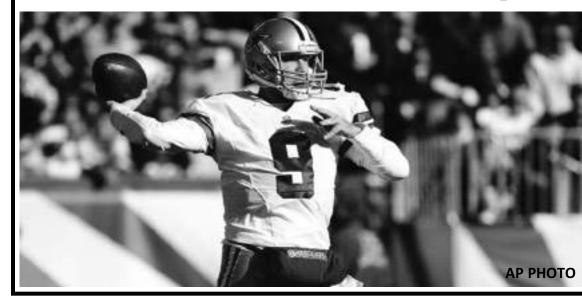
Schmidt was paralyzed in a 2000 crash before founding Sam Schmidt Motorsports and the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation.

Harmon is a former pro golfer-turned-instructor perhaps best-known as Tiger Woods' coach from 1993 to 2004.

Curtis was a star Las Vegas High School athlete who played at Utah State and signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers before returning to southern Nevada to coach high school.



## NFL: Dallas Cowboys to release Tony Romo



(AP) - A person with knowledge of the decision tells The Associated Press that the Dallas Cowboys will release quarterback Tony Romo when the NFL year opens on Thursday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the team hasn't announced a decision on Romo, who will get a chance to pursue a starting job elsewhere.

Romo will leave the Cowboys as the franchise leader in yards passing and touchdowns after losing the starting job to rookie Dak Prescott.

Dallas' 10-year starter broke a bone in his back in a preseason game last

Romo, who turns 37 next month, threw for 34,183 yards and 248 touchdowns, but could never match the postseason success of Super Bowl winners Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman.

If you have sports information that you would like placed in the DALLAS POST TRIBUNE Sports Section e-mail us at: production@dallasposttrib.net

# Can the Washington Wizards Win the NBA Title?



Perry Green of the Washington AFRO says that the Washington Wizards have a solid team, but they lack the star power that they need to win in today's NBA. This photo of John Wall of the Washington Wizards was taken

By Perry Green and Stephen D. Riley (AFRO, NNPA Member)

A few weeks ago, the AFRO Sports Desk debated if the Washington Wizards were built to be contenders for a deep playoff run. But after an impressive week that saw the Wizards start a five-game road trip out west by winning their first four games, it might be time to recalculate Washington's chances at winning the whole thing. The Wizards have been on fire lately and, at press time, are only two-and-a-half games away from first place in the Eastern Conference. The team is playing arguably the best basketball in the league. So, can Washington win the title? Perry Green and Stephen D. Riley, of the AFRO Sports Desk debate this exciting question.

Riley: Washington's roster isn't brimming with star power but from top to bottom it might be the most complete team in the NBA. Through advanced basketball metrics, John Wall and Bradley Beal have been rated as high as the second best backcourt in the league. Forwards Otto Porter Jr. and Markieff Morris are athletic enough at their positions to be effective on most nights while still spreading the floor with their deep shooting touches. Centers Marcin Gortat and Ian Mahinmi provide defense, rebounding and inside scoring at all times over the course of the game. Washington could win it all.

Green: The team is solid, but they lack that star power that you need to win in today's NBA. When superstar players like LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Steph Curry get going, there's not much you can do to stop them. We're fresh off of a NBA Finals domination from James that was unreal. That's what superstars do and I'm not sure if Washington can match that.

Riley: It hasn't just been about the starters. Washington's roster has finally been rounded out with key reserves like Bojan Bogdanovic and Brandon Jennings. We've seen in prior seasons that the team playing the best basketball at the end of the season is the one that wins no matter the strength of the opponent. A balanced roster and strong coaching are key ingredients and the Wizards have both. Coach Scott Brooks has been amazing and has the entire roster in sync. The way Washington is playing, they could match up with any team over a seven-game series.

Green: I'd be anxious to see them against James and Irving in a playoff series. We already saw how Cleveland's two superstars piloted them in a 140-135 overtime win back on Feb. 6. James recorded 32 points, 17 assists and seven rebounds, dominating the Wizards at times. Washington deserves credit for how well it's been playing but there's not a large enough sample size of game-play to definitively declare Washington as the next NBA champs.

The AFRO is a member publication of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Learn more about becoming a member at www.nnpa.org.



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#### **AMERICA'S MIDDLE NEIGHBORHOODS: NEIGHBORS ON THE EDGE OF GROWTH AND DECLINE**

By Congressman Dwight West Oak Lane just blocks Evans (PA-02)

Ever heard the term middle neighborhoods? If you haven't, you have likely visited, lived in or driven through one more recently than you think.

Middle neighborhoods are communities on the edge of growth and decline. When we discuss middle neighborhoods we are describing neighborhoods that have four main characteristics: neighborhoods where homeowners can purchase real estate for an affordable rate, neighborhoods where crime rates are low, neighborhoods where school performance is sufficient, and neighborhoods where employment are adequate. Essentially, homebuyers in middle neighborhoods are willing to test the odds with the hopes that their neighborhood will improve rather than decline.

Middle neighborhoods are areas that are doing just well enough. We are not focusing as much resources or attention on these neighborhoods because we have yet to see an increased need to invest in these areas. However, if we aren't careful these neighborhoods will teeter towards decline overnight.

In Philadelphia, over 40 percent of the population lives in middle neighborhoods. When talking about middle neighborhoods in Philadelphia's Second Congressional District we are referring to: Mt. Airy, Germantown, West Oak Lane, Roxborough, Wynnefield.

stake for America's middle neighborhoods. I grew up in North Philly and today I live in on an empty stomach.

away from Germantown High School, my alma mater.

Two main trends are contributing to decline in our middle neighborhoods. One, housing trends show that jobs are moving away from middle neighborhoods and second, many suburbs compete with new homebuyers for residents.

This brings us to the question: what are some ways we can counter these trends to help America's middle neighborhoods?

As a former Chairman of the Pennsylvania House Appropriations Committee, I fought hard to expand access to healthy, fresh foods for everyone in our city and across our state; and supported efforts to provide adequate funding for our public schools.

The first bill I introduced in the 115th Congress, the Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act of 2017, H.R. 922, would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow public school buildings to qualify for the rehabilitation credit which in turn would give our public schools the necessary resources and funds to make improvements to school buildings across the country.

In my district, Roosevelt Elementary School in East Germantown has not been updated in decades. How can we expect our students to better themselves when their classrooms are falling apart around them?

We need a public school system that supports the needs of our students, teachers and parents. Our students I know firsthand what is at already have a lot on their plates, and shouldn't have to worry about going to school

Thus, when we think about the issue of food insecurity in our middle neighborhoods we need to look for ways to broaden access to fresh, quality, affordable foods for people in our most underserved

During my time in the Pennsylvania State Legislature, I championed Pennsylvania's Fresh Food Financing Initiative which links public and private funds to expand and build grocery stores in food deserts across our state. Through the initiative we brought nearly 100 grocery stores to areas in Philadelphia and underserved areas across the commonwealth that previously had very limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Our middle neighborhoods need a clear lane in both our public policy and investment conversations. We need to be cognizant and incredibly vigilant as this relates to housing trends that are impacting our

Middle neighborhoods are home to real people like you and I. Now is the time to refocus, redistribute and reinvest our attention on building a policy agenda that puts America's middle neighborhoods back on top.

Congressman Dwight Evans is a member of the **Congressional Black Caucus** and represents Northwest. West, North, parts of South and Center City Philadelphia, Narberth and the western suburb of Lower Merion Township. He serves on the House Agriculture **Committee and House Small Business Committee. To** Congressman Evans' work in Congress please visit his Facebook, Twitter, and congressional website.

#### NUBIANPOETS.COM 2017 NATIONAL POETRY MONTH CONTEST This year's contest theme is "Why Black Lives Matter"

April is national poetry month and Nubianpoets.com is proud to have Latorial Faison who has been featured along with Iyanla Vazant, Danny Glover, and Dr. Cornel West in the 2003 NAACP Image Award winning book, Keeping the Faith: Stories of Love, Courage, Healing, and Hope from the Black Community as this year's contest judge.

Latorial holds a graduate degree in English from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, and has authored several books, which include: 28 Days of Poetry Celebrating Black History, Mother to Son, Secrets of My Soul and many more.

**Contest Prizes:** 

- \* 1st Place \$250.00
- \* 2nd Place \$100.00
- \* 3rd Place \$75.00
- \* And 5 Honorable Mention awards

Contest Rules

Anyone can enter the contest by submitting an original (non-published) poem 30 lines or fewer with a maximum of 60 characters per line, in any style. "Why Black Lives Matter" is the contest theme. There is \$3.00 reading for this contest; each contestant is allowed to submit only one poem. Poems must be submitted by U.S. mail and must include your legal/real name and address on each page of your entry. An official entry form can also be obtained by logging on to www.Nubianpoets.com.

Nubianpoets.com reserves the right to feature the winning poems on their web site. (Each contestant retains all rights to their poems, but is encouraged to keep copies, as none will be returned.) All entries must be postmarked by April 30, 2017. All winners will be notified no later than June 9, 2017, at which time all prizes will be mailed.

#### Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson Releases Joint Statement after the House passed H.R. 1301, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2017

"I am proud to join with my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), William R. Keating (D-MA), and Thomas Rooney (R-FL), to help meet the needs of individuals living with lupus," said Congresswoman Johnson. "Lupus is an unpredictable and misunderstood disease in which the immune system is out of balance, causing damage to any organ system in the body. More research is necessary to better understand this disease. Without sufficient

funding, research into the

cause of lupus and the discovery of new treatments will be severely delayed. With the establishment of this Lupus Research Program within the Defense Health Programs, we can gain valuable insight into this devastating disease."

"The fight against lupus is a cause near and dear to my heart, having lost my cousin Kathleen to the disease," said Congressman Rooney. "With 1.5 million Americans living with lupus, this funding is a critical step to further research and treatment development efforts to help improve the

quality of life for all people affected by lupus. It is my hope that this funding benefits the lupus community and helps to one day find a cure."

"The Congressional Lupus Caucus is a proud champion for members of our communities living with this debilitating disease, and I am honored to be a co-chair," said Congressman Keating. "The Caucus will keep fighting for additional funds to support lupus research and education as we take this positive step

towards a cure. "As the co-chair of the Lupus

caucus, I'm very pleased that that the Lupus Medical Research Program is included in the Defense Appropriations Act," said Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen. "This measure will help provide essential relief to the community of patients who often wait years to reach a positive diagnosis and whose lives have been affected by Lupus. It is my hope that increased research and awareness, will get us closer to that one day no one will be diagnosed with Lupus."

About 1.5 million Americans suffer from lupus. Even though

this disease can strike men and women of all ages, 90 percent of its victims are women. Lupus affects minority women two to three times as much as white women. Statistics from 2011 indicate that among active duty enlisted women, minority representation is very high: 47 percent are minorities compared to 22 percent of the population. civilian Furthermore, 31 percent of active duty enlisted women are African American, but are less than 15 percent of the

general population. African

Americans are among those

disease begins earlier in life and is generally more severe. More than 90 percent of active duty military personnel are age 17-40, which are the prime years in which lupus strikes (15-44). Approximately 11,000 women with lupus, active duty personnel and dependents, receive care through the DoD healthcare system and that number has been increasing in these last five years.

most at risk for lupus. Their