

# *The Annapolis Times*

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

*The Annapolis Times*

remember that

**FREEDOM  
IS NOT FREE.**

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**MEMORIAL DAY 2020**

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The American Legion pays tribute to America's fallen veterans

*See American Legion speech on page 6*



# Covid-19 has Ayesha Gallion dreaming of hiking, picking fruit on farms, visiting museums

By Stacy M. Brown

While the novel coronavirus pandemic has been a nightmare for just about everyone, it hasn't yet spoiled the summer dreams of Morgan State University alum, Ayesha Gallion.

"I don't know if or when New Jersey, Philadelphia and New York museums will be open anytime soon," said Ayesha Gallion, who works as a senior communications editor for a firm in New Jersey. "I have always taken my children to experience culture—picking fruit on farms, exhibits, performances.

"It's all virtual now, thus my strong desire to take a drive to Maine. But who knows—a lot of other people may have the same idea."

A divorced mom, Gallion's struggle coping is real not just for her, but for her 16-year-old daughter Imaara who is going into her senior year of high school; and her 11-year-old son, Adam, who will enter middle school in September.

"My son had a camping trip as part of his send-off with the school—a tradition where we live," Gallion said. "Of course, this was canceled, and to go along with that, my daughter really went through a difficult time of missing her friends."

To help compensate for the letdown, Gallion says she allows her daughter to phone and Facetime a lot later than usual. She sometimes takes both her children's grocery shopping, but following the state's best practices; she usually shops alone.

"I take them so that they can see what the shelves looked like when the pandemic really hit hard—so empty," Gallion said. "They are now seeing toilet



**Mother of two, Ayesha Gallion says she has always taken her children to experience culture. They have done things like picked fruit on farms, visited museums and attended performances. (Above) Ayesha Gallion (center); her daughter, Imaara; and son, Adam.**  
Courtesy Photo

paper return to the shelves, slowly by surely."

At Morgan State, Gallion says she found an alumni page that reminds her of a playground. "We share photos and even our comments on the [Instagram] "Verzuz" battles."

However, as the situation continues, Gallion says she sees the need to take a break from social media and focus on her physical well being which, like millions of others, was interrupted because of quarantine.

"For a while, our circadian rhythms were really wacky. To a degree, it has

not normalized," Gallion said. "I do try to get to bed whenever I can at a decent hour. I've also ordered several great books to keep my mind stimulated like Toni Morrison's 'Source of Self Regard,' and NAACP-award nominated book of my fellow Morgan State friend, Dr. Damaris Hill's, 'A Bound Woman Is a Dangerous Thing.'"

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## Covid-19: Now What America?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

America is now opening back up. People are starting to venture back to church. Places of work are reopening. Restaurants are reopening. State parks are reopening. The beaches are opening in many places. Most Americans are breathing a sigh of relief. Americans are sick and tired of Covid-19. We're tired of hearing about it and we're tired of the repercussions from it.

Today, more Americans are unemployed since The Great Depression and more unemployment claims have been filed than ever before. Many Americans filed for unemployment weeks ago and still haven't received a penny. I continue to hear from people who haven't received a stimulus check.

We are tired of the news and the latest countdown of every county's death stats from Covid-19. If you want to increase our risk of mental illness just keep watching television eight hours a day, as many Americans have been doing. In my town we have to hear about how many have died from every county in three states. Our hearts break and grieve for these families. It's just tough hearing the stats every day about so many counties in so many different states.

What must be next? We must find a vaccine for Covid-19. We must develop it in our country if at all possible, and we must not enrich China with billions of dollars with anything that comes out of that country. China has done and given us enough. We don't need more from China of anything. By the way, quit buying anything made from China.

Use commonsense! Be safe, be smart. Don't go to church if you don't want to! If you have health or age issues stay home or go walk the park. People in church are going to be in close proximity. It cannot be avoided totally. Hallways are narrow and restrooms are small at church. You are going to be close to somebody. You can go to church later. Pray at home, read your Bible at home and if you have any income you can mail your church a check. However, if you want to go to church then go but respect other people. Wear your mask for now and be distant. Be courteous.

Go back to work if you still have a job. Your employer doesn't want you to be sick. Your employer is financially struggling now too. He wants to keep the factory or the business safe and healthy. They can't make it if everybody gets sick. Go to work and be a part of the solution— don't be the problem.

Go somewhere if you can. America and actually the entire planet are stir crazy. Keep your mask handy and wash your hands a lot. Carry your disinfectants with you. Clean everything often. Respect social distancing. Be safe.

Next, start thinking about how you are going to vote this fall. If you don't like how your elected leaders are leading then you can change it by voting.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is an author and syndicated columnist. To contact him, email: GMollette@aol.com or visit his website: [www.glenmollette.com](http://www.glenmollette.com).

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## Community Affairs

### NAACP launches #WeAreDoneDying campaign

Washington, D.C.— The NAACP, the nation's foremost social justice organization, has launched a campaign entitled #WeAreDoneDying, aimed at exposing the inequities embedded into the American healthcare system and the country at large. From COVID-19 to running while Black in America, the abuse faced by people of color, particularly African Americans is devastating.

The campaign is a Call-to-Action and highlights the NAACP's policy interests and supported legislation for African Americans and people of color, a large demographic that is often left out of recovery effort conversations. The integrated and interactive content will create actionable steps for people to feel empowered by demanding action from their state's elected officials on issues such as healthcare, education, criminal justice, economic justice, and voting rights.

"With crumbling economic infrastructure, our community members face tough choices as access to food, good jobs, and a quality education slips further away,"

said Derrick Johnson, president and CEO, NAACP. "These issues are compounded by the lack of strong leadership from the White House. In the absence of adequate guidance, Black lives are adversely affected. We will no longer stand idle as our people suffer discrimination, marginalization, and are offered as disposable for poor decisions by this Administration."

As the incidence of COVID-19 cases and deaths rise, the black community is experiencing the worst outcomes. With more confirmed cases and deaths than any other country, African Americans are facing the brunt of this virus. The numbers continue to rise each day while states reopen non-essential businesses with little to no evidence that the country is ready.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the deep-seated racial disparity in America embedded in all aspects of life," said Leon W. Russell, Chairman, NAACP Board of Directors. "The NAACP Empowerment Programs' 111 years of advocacy and fighting for the rights of Black people positions us to lead the fight for our community's interest during this time of uncertainty."

To learn how you can join and get involved with the campaign, visit: [NAACP.org](http://NAACP.org).



## *The fight for the 2020 vote and the march to the ballot box*

**By Stacy M. Brown**  
*NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent*  
*@StacyBrownMedia*

Since the onset of COVID-19, voter registration in the United States has decreased by a whopping 90 percent.

Additionally, more than 18 million voters have been purged off the rolls since 2016, and, with the all-important 2020 General Election on the horizon, activists and others, are working to ensure the registration of millions.

On Monday, May 4, 2020, The Transformative Justice Coalition (TJC) and the Voting Rights Alliance held a tele-townhall titled, "The Fight for the Vote 2020: Our March to the Ballot Box."

Broadcast over Facebook Live, the presentation featured panelists who agreed that the election process would be severely hindered unless strategies are developed for more robust voter outreach and empowerment.

Panelists included National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., TJC Founder, and President Barbara R. Arnwine, Esq., Moms Rising CEO Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, and Vote.org CEO Andrea Hailey.

"A person without a vote is a person

while we sit here tonight, there are tactics, strategies, and efforts afloat in too many of these states to suppress the vote and to make people fearful of voting such was the case 50 years ago.

"We had to overcome those tactics of voter suppression, and we have to do it now."

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***"On Monday, May 4, The Transformative Justice Coalition (TJC) and the Voting Rights Alliance held a tele-townhall titled, 'The Fight for the Vote 2020: Our March to the Ballot Box.' Broadcast over Facebook Live, the presentation featured panelists who agreed that the election process would be severely hindered unless strategies are developed for more robust voter outreach and empowerment."***

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without protection," stated Attorney Daryl D. Jones, TJC's Board Chair, who served as a moderator.

The panelists tackled robust voter outreach and registration strategies, media, and specialized outreach to purged voters and those on inactive lists, creating voter contact systems, onerous absentee ballot requirements, and voter identification.

"The struggle for voting rights continues in America even amidst the pandemic the struggle for the most fundamental right, the right to vote, continues," Chavis stated. "We have to be concerned that

No excuses, and no barriers should be in place for mail-in ballots, according to Arnwine.

"Vote by mail works for White people, but it doesn't for a whole lot of people of color," she stated, adding that there were 1.3 million ballots mailed in Wisconsin, but 197,000 were not counted for various reasons, including the lack of postage stamps.

"In some of these states, they have this evil match law where if they don't think your signature matches, they will not count your vote," Arnwine said. "We

have to be clear, you have to not only have vote-by-mail options and absentee balloting, but you have to have on-site, distances, and personal protective equipment for workers and voters."

Rowe-Finkbeiner added that Moms Rising has more than 1 million members spread out across all 50 states. She said mothers are high targets of voter suppression.

"You change your name, and you get pushed off the rolls," Rowe-Finkbeiner stated. "You have to check your status and make sure you have at least five friends ready to vote. The situation has never been more urgent."

Hailey stated that Vote.org had team members working as late as 3 a.m. during recent primaries to monitor last-minute rule changes that affected voters.

"Confusion itself can be a voter suppression tactic, so we're trying to cut through all of that noise to make sure there's no confusion," Hailey noted. "We see it as our job to monitor this and to work with state and local officials to have an understanding of what the voter experience is going to look like. Every state should have no-excuse absentee voting. You should be able to have at least 20 days of early voting so that you don't have these long lines like you saw in Wisconsin. People should not have to choose between their health and their ability to cast a ballot."

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# The American Legion pays tribute to America's fallen veterans

Every crisis has new heroes. During the 9/11 attacks, they were the first responders running into burning and crumbling buildings as others ran out. Now, during the Coronavirus pandemic, the most visible heroes are the health care professionals, who are saving others and risking their own lives while doing so.

These heroes have much in common with the people that we honor today – America's fallen veterans. They are men and women who have sacrificed their own lives so others could live. They are both elite and ordinary. They are elite in the sense of character. Giving your life so others could live is the ultimate definition of selfless.

They are ordinary in the fact that they represent the diverse fabric of our country. They are rich and poor, black and white, male and female. They come from every ethnicity and background. In short, they looked like anyone of us.

As we celebrate the selfless and untiring performances of the healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, it brings to mind the military medics, doctors and nurses who sacrificed their lives while treating others on the battlefield.

One such hero was Pharmacist Mate Third Class Jack Williams. The Navy Reserve corpsman was only 20 years old when he landed on Iwo Jima 75 years ago.

On March 3, 1945, James Naughton, a Marine in Williams' unit, was wounded by a grenade. While under intense enemy fire, Williams dragged Naughton to a shallow depression and treated his wounds. Williams used his own body as a screen and was shot four times. Yet he continued.

After he treated Naughton, Williams dressed his own wounds. He then proceeded to treat another Marine, despite his own immense pain. While heading to the rear, he was hit by a sniper's bullet and killed. For his actions, Petty Officer Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor.

We also remember Army veterans like Lieutenant Sharon Lane. According to her biographer, Philip Bigler, Lt. Lane threw herself into her



work as a nurse. While serving in Colorado, she requested a transfer to Vietnam.

"There, at least, you are busy 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week," she said in a 1968 letter to her parents.

Her dedication was obvious, even as she treated enemy Viet Cong soldiers who would return the favor by kicking, cursing and spitting at their American captors.

In the early morning of June 8, 1969, Sharon's tour of duty ended. A Soviet-built rocket struck the hospital. Lieutenant Sharon A. Lane was killed in action at age 25.

If she were still here, her skills as a nurse might still be benefiting us during the current crisis. But not all of the heroes working during the COVID-19 pandemic are in the healthcare industry. Grocers, first responders, delivery workers and drive-through restaurant employees are just a few of the many people that we rely on to provide vital services for society while risking their own safety.

The military also has heroes in every occupational field. Truck drivers, cooks and administrative clerks have all paid the ultimate price. At sea, on land or in the air – military service requires great risk.

Roy Knight, Jr. was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. On May 19, 1967, he was shot down while attacking a target on the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. He was posthumously promoted to colonel. Last year, a joint team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency discovered and later identified Col. Knight's remains.

When his remains arrived at Dallas's Love Field, a crowd had gathered to witness the dignified transfer of the flag-draped casket from the Southwest Airlines jet into the receptive arms of the military honor guard. One observer reported that the entire crowd fell silent.

The Southwest flight was piloted by another Air Force veteran, Col. Knight's son, Bryan. Bryan Knight was only five-years-old when he said goodbye to his father as the elder Knight left for Vietnam.

This is yet another legacy that these heroes leave behind. A legacy that includes their sons, daughters, grieving parents, grandparents and friends.

Their heroic acts are sometimes performed to protect those with whom they serve. Corporal Jason Dunham was a squad leader with the Third Battalion, 7th Marines in Iraq.

On April 14, 2004, his squad approached a Toyota Land Cruiser. After his squad discovered AK-47s in the vehicle, the enemy insurgent exited and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the unit. The driver dropped a grenade.

To save his fellow Marines, Corporal Dunham made the ultimate sacrifice. He threw himself on the grenade and tried to use his helmet to shield the blast. Severely wounded by the grenade's fragments, Cpl. Dunham was taken off life-support eight days later. Corporal Dunham died so other Marines could live. He, too, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

Approximately one million men and

women of the U.S. military have lost their lives in defense of our nation since the founding of this great Republic.

Not all have died from enemy fire. Some have died from diseases that have too often festered around war zones. Often times, deaths from disease and accidents outnumbered casualties caused by enemy weapons.

During the Spanish American War, 60 soldiers of the all-black 24th Infantry Regiment volunteered to serve as nurses. Thirty-six of them would later die of yellow fever or malaria.

A generation later, the flu would kill nearly 16,000 U.S. soldiers in France during World War I. Another 30,000 American servicemembers died in state-side camps. These men and women could have isolated safely in their homes. But they knew they had an important job to do. A mission to accomplish. They were all on a mission to serve.

Even when the enemy is an invisible virus or a microscopic germ, the sacrifices made are just as meaningful. The U.S. military has already lost servicemembers to COVID-19. This Memorial Day as we continue to honor those who fell for us in battle, let's also pause to remember those who have also sacrificed their lives while serving others.

May God bless them and may God bless you for remembering them here today.

Thank you.

**Source: The American Legion**



# Memorial Day: NNPA Celebrates Profiles in Courage 365 days each year

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

Unlike Veterans Day, when we honor all who have served, Memorial Day is when Americans honor persons who have died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association of more than 200 African American-owned newspapers and media companies around the country, celebrates the sacrifices of all of our men and women in uniform, as well as their families, on Memorial Day and every day.

We are especially proud to honor our Black veterans; whose sacrifices and accomplishments went beyond the field of battle to include the fields and lots adjacent to where they lived, worked and worshipped.

For generations, African Americans returning home from service too often faced discrimination, disrespect, violence, and even death, according to the nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative. For instance, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps, a precursor of the U.S. Air Force, according to the History Channel.

Trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, they flew more than 15,000 individual sorties in Europe and North Africa during World War II and their impressive performance earned them more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, helping to encourage the eventual integration of the U.S. armed forces.

However, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, white supremacy was the law and custom throughout the nation, and many whites feared that Black soldiers who had experienced the pride of military service would resist the disenfranchisement, segregation, and second-class citizenship that still characterized the African American experience.

In August 1917, U.S. Sen. James Vardaman of Mississippi warned that, once a Black soldier was allowed to see himself as an American hero, it would be “but a short step to the conclusion that his political rights must be respected.”

Bringing Black soldiers home to the



*African Americans have proudly served all branches of the armed services. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice in support defense of our freedoms*

Photo: iStock/NNPA

South with expectations of equality, he predicted, would “inevitably lead to disaster.”

For Sen. Vardaman, Black soldiers’ potential as community leaders was terrifying, and the “disaster” would be a mass movement for African American rights, according to the Equal Justice Initiative.

Lewis was lynched in uniform in December 1918, just weeks after the end of World War I.

Black veterans of World War II also faced violence for the most basic assertions of equality and freedom. In August 1944, the white owner of a small restaur-



Indeed, many African American soldiers returned determined to fight for their freedom and equality at home. Veterans like Hosea Williams and Medgar Evers played central roles in what became the civil rights movement. For Evers, the battle for freedom would eventually cost him his life.

The effort to suppress the prospect of potential leadership made Black veterans targets, and many suffered brutal violence for protesting mistreatment or simply wearing their military uniforms.

In August 1898, a Black Army private named James Neely was shot to death by a mob of white men in Hampton, Georgia, for protesting a white storekeeper’s refusal to serve him at the soda counter. In Hickman, Kentucky, a recently-discharged Black soldier named Charles

rant in Shreveport, Louisiana, shot and wounded four Black soldiers he claimed, “attempted to take over his place.” He faced no charges, according to the Equal Justice Initiative.

In June 1947, a Black Navy veteran named Joe Nathan Roberts, studying at Temple University through the G.I. Bill, was visiting family in Sardis, Georgia, when a group of white men became upset because he refused to call them “sir.” Later that night, the men abducted Mr. Roberts from his parents’ home and shot him to death.

In November 1942, while stationed at Camp Polk, Louisiana, Private Merle Monroe wrote a letter to the Pittsburgh Courier describing the Black soldier’s struggle to maintain a sense of patriotic pride in the face of lynching. “Paradoxically enough,” he wrote, “our country spends millions annually in effort to build up Negro morale, both in and out of the army, yet, foolishly, destroys the blue print of its program by tolerating brutal killings without even a pretense of a fair trial.”

Today, our nation proudly honors the sacrifices of its heroes. “From the first African-American Medal of Honor recipient to current day soldiers, individuals have made their mark within the history of this nation with their courage, leadership and honor,” reads the lead-in to the Profiles in Courage salute to African Americans on goarmy.com.

African Americans have proudly served all branches of the armed services. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice in support defense of our freedoms.

Crispus Attucks, a former slave, was the first casualty of the American Revolutionary War when he was killed during the Boston Massacre.

On Sept. 28, 1918, while serving as squad leader of Company C, 371st Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division, Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Freddie Stowers went above and beyond the call of duty when his company led the attack at Hill 188, Champagne Marne Sector, France.

First Lt. Vernon J. Baker received a Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism in action near Viareggio, Italy, during World War II (at the time, holding the rank of second lieutenant). Baker demonstrated outstanding courage and leadership in destroying enemy installations, personnel and equipment during his company’s attack against a strongly entrenched enemy in mountainous terrain. The federal government later acknowledged that racism was the reason he didn’t receive the medal until 50 years later.

Pfc. Milton Olive III was posthumously awarded a Medal of Honor for saving the lives of four other U.S. Army soldiers during a battle early in the Vietnam War. Milton used his body to cover a grenade to save his fellow soldiers. “It was the most incredible display of selfless bravery I ever witnessed,” the platoon commander later told a journalist.

*In partnership with the NNPA, Wells Fargo remembers and honors African American service members this Memorial Day.*



# Jamila Blake and MCRC helping seniors fight economic insecurity

By Stacy M. Brown

Economic insecurity is a daily reality for thousands of older adults in Maryland living on fixed incomes and struggling to meet their obligations each month, according to The Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (MCRC), a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and financial inclusion through research, education, advocacy, direct service, and community organizing.

Many of these older adults are eligible for assistance programs that would help them to age in place.

Among the many helpful programs offered by MCRC is the Securing Older Adult Resources (SOAR) initiative where individuals provide financial coaching and counseling to meet the specific needs of seniors, including helping them to avoid financial hardship and access available benefits.

Individuals like Jamila Blake provide financial counseling and coaching to help improve the economic well being of older adults, including finding solutions to fill the gaps in the services offered to them. She also helps individuals access essential tax credits that could mean the difference between foreclosure and eviction.

Few are taking advantage of existing benefits, such as the Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit and Maryland Renters' Tax Credit. Older adults often need ongoing financial guidance and support, beyond what is being offered by other service providers, according to Blake.

"I enjoy working with the older population and coordinating services for them to keep them safe in their homes," said Blake, the mother of two. "Through



*Jamila Blake provides financial counseling and coaching to help improve the economic well being of older adults in the SOAR program. She also helps them access essential tax credits that could mean the difference between foreclosure and eviction.*  
Courtesy Photo

serving older adults I have learned so much about what their needs are and how aging in place looks so different for individuals when income, gender, race, ethnicity, regional and disability are factored in."

Blake was born in Cameroon and raised in Baltimore. She holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Human Services from Simmons College in Boston and an MSW in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. Blake has worked at MCRC since last year.

In addressing the needs of seniors as a financial counselor in the SOAR program, Blake provides screening and application assistance for the RTC and Homeowners' Property Tax Credit (HOTC) to older adults.

more than 600 people through application assistance and consumer education training," Blake said. "The MCRC wants low-income Baltimore homeowners and renters to 'Take the Credit.'

"These are 'forgotten' tax credits that thousands of folks can access but do not. They can put up to \$1,000 back into your pockets every year. These yearly tax credits can be the difference between foreclosure or eviction, so don't wait to take the credit."

Renters must be over 60 to qualify and have a gross annual income of under \$60,000. People under age 60 may be eligible but they must either be permanently disabled or have dependents under 18 living with them.

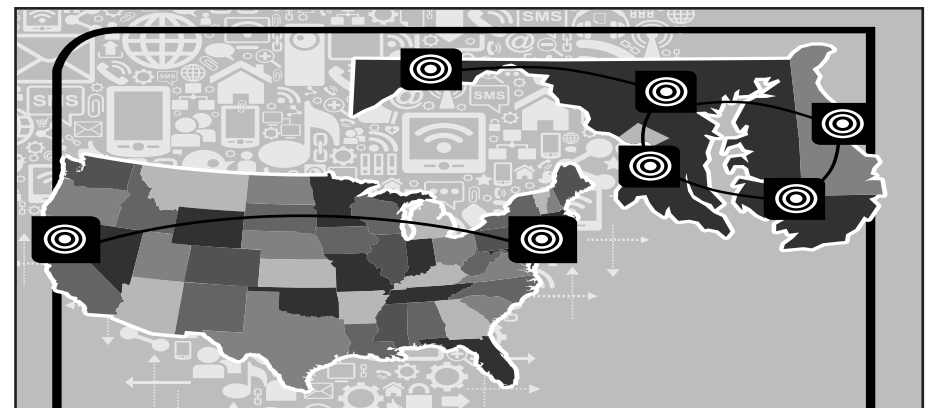
Homeowners must also be over 60 and must live in the home they own. A homeowners' net worth must be less than \$200,000, and their gross combined household income should be less than \$60,000 to qualify.

To find out if you are eligible for the Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit or Maryland Renter's Tax Credit, call the Maryland Tax Credit Hotline at 443-961-6220 or visit: [www.MarylandTaxCredit.com](http://www.MarylandTaxCredit.com) for help to fill out the forms. The deadline to apply is August 31, 2020. Everyone is encouraged to get immediate help to be able to take advantage of the yearly tax credits.

"I am passionate about older adults, and I believe in MCRC's mission—advocating and empowering consumers," Blake said.

To date, it is estimated that the SOAR program of the MCRC has reached more than 35,000 individuals through outreach.

"Counselors have directly assisted



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# Virtual Mini May Concert Series May 23 & May 30

By Stacy M. Brown

The Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District will be host a free virtual concert series, via Instagram Live @officialblackartsdistrict. Headliners include Tate Kobang; Deetranada; Davon Fleming; and George Lovett.

The two-part concert series will be held from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2020 and Saturday, May 30, 2020, as a virtual celebration of Baltimore's Black Arts and creative community.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis many local black Baltimore creatives have lost thousands of dollars in canceled gigs, according to Brion Gill of the Black Arts District.

In addition to teaming up with Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA) and Baltimore Creatives Acceleration Network (BCAN) to co-organize the Baltimore Artist Emergency Relief Fund, the Black Arts District also decided to host online programming in order to activate artists during this time and provide a fee for service to supplement lost revenue, Gill noted in a news release.

In 2019, Maryland Secretary of Commerce Kelly M. Schulz announced the designation of new Arts and Entertainment (A&E) Districts in Maryland, which included the area along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor in Baltimore. The Districts offer tax-related incentives to help attract artists, arts organizations, and other creative enterprises to these areas, and are aimed at developing and promoting community involvement, tourism, and revitalization. A&E District designations last for 10 years.

"Maryland's Arts and Entertainment Districts serve an important role in revitalizing communities across the state," Secretary Schulz said at the time. "This designation helps attract artists and creative businesses and gives counties and municipalities the ability to develop unique arts experiences that engage residents and attract visitors. I look forward to seeing how these districts utilize the designations for community and economic revitalization."

The Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts &

**MAY 23 || 30**

# MINI MAY

## Concert Series

**DAVON FLEMING ▶ GEORGE LOVETT ▶ TATE KOBANG ▶ DEETRANADA**

**MECCAMORPHOSIS || APRIL SAMPE || EZE JACKSON || ICON THA GOD**

**BLACK ASSETS || AKILAH DIVINE || J POPE || LITA LACHEY || DAPPER DAN MIDAS**

**BLACK CHAKRA || MIKE EVENN || KATYRAH LOVE**

**8PM-10PM EST** **LIVE** **@OFFICIALBLACKARTSDISTRICT**

Entertainment District spans the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor in West Baltimore.

The district's application was spurred from a community-led revitalization effort that brought together several organizations looking to the corridor's storied past as a hub of social, economic, and arts activity for Baltimore's black community.

In the area's heyday, performance venues such as the Royal and Metropolitan theaters and social venues such as the Arch Social Club, Bamboo Lounge, Club Casino, and Club Tijuana hosted a

who's who of black entertainers, and black-owned businesses provided a stable community anchor and locus of commerce on Baltimore's west side.

Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts & Entertainment District organizers plan to coordinate efforts to support arts, culture, entertainment, and creative enterprise that is of the community, and work towards eliminating blight and crime, creating a renewed Pennsylvania Avenue that is alive with the arts.

"The Black Arts District believes that in times of darkness, the artist becomes

essential. While documenting the times, they also help to restore hope," Gill said in the release.

Hosted by Lady Brion, executive director of The Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District, other featured artists include: Mike Evenn; Meccamorphosis; Black Chakra; April Sampe; Icon Tha God; Eze Jackson; Black Assets; J Pope; Akilah Divine; Dapper Dan Midas; Katyrah Love; and Lita Lichey.

For more information, visit: [blackartsdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:blackartsdistrict@gmail.com).



# Ravens Ray Lewis to start a podcast

By Tyler Hamilton

Baltimore Ravens fans flocked to M&T Bank Stadium every time Ray Lewis took the field from 1996 – 2012. The Super Bowl MVP and 13-time Pro Bowl linebacker even has a statute outside of the stadium. His story of overcoming a rough childhood and his drive to become great has served as motivation for so many people.

Imagine being able to listen to Baltimore Ravens Hall of Fame linebacker Ray Lewis tell stories and offer words of encouragement basically whenever you want. The idea of being able to have that kind of access to Lewis is a dream for most Ravens fans.

Fans can now get an up-close experience with Lewis because he is starting his own podcast called, “Everyday Greatness. The Ray Lewis Podcast.” New episodes will be available every Friday on iTunes, Spotify, Google podcasts, PodcastOne.com and other platforms.

Here is the description of the podcast from the home page: “Through compelling interviews and sharing personal



**Baltimore Ravens Hall of Fame linebacker Ray Lewis is starting his own podcast called, “Everyday Greatness. The Ray Lewis Podcast.” New episodes will be available every Friday on iTunes, Spotify, Google podcasts, PodcastOne.com and other platforms.**

**Photo Credit: Patrick Smith/Getty Images**

stories and life lessons— both on and off the field, “Everyday Greatness: The Ray Lewis Podcast” is an opportunity to join the former NFL linebacker in his life-

long quest to understand what inspires and motivates GREATNESS.”

Lewis says he decided to start the podcast after his daughter Diamond told him that all of his great stories should be shared with the masses. Throughout his

12-year career, Lewis was known as one of the NFL’s all-time best leaders and motivators. Countless teammates have said Lewis’ intense leadership helped push them to higher levels of Greatness.

Having led Ravens teams to the only two Super Bowl wins in franchise history, Lewis should have an extensive library full of stories to share on his podcast.

“I am excited to announce the launch of my new podcast. Every day we try to figure out a way to be better, a way to better our situation, a way to come out of bad situations. Now, I get this opportunity to sit back and share, travel the world and interview some awesome people, to actually chase what greatness is,” Lewis said on his PodcastOne.com homepage. “I believe, if you think about where we are now in this pandemic, we are in a place that you now have time to re-identify with yourself. So, I am asking you to come along with me on this ride and download new episodes of Everyday Greatness. The Ray Lewis podcast every Friday! It’s not what you have, it’s what’s inside of you that actually inspires greatness.”

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