

MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Ebonee Spears of Wilmington. The local Crimestoppers organization has joined with the Wilmington Police Department in offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information on Ebonee's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

OUTside

Looking IN

OUR VOICE



REV. JESSE JACKSON

GUEST EDITORIAL "Biden's Inauguration Gives Us New Hope and Energy"

BY REV. JESSE JACKSON PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

LET US BEGIN TO FIGHT

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This week, I heard some of the speeches of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the vision and knowledge they projected for the human race and how God wants us to live so that there may be healing and peace between the races, thereby making us a better America. I have seen the ups and downs to our justice system that Dr. King's ministry would help change, making better schools, housing, jobs, etc. However, I also see, as time goes by, the hatred that comes back, and we have come too complacent with the government statements and corrupt officials. This

Please see BRUNSWICK/ Page 2

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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U. S. CONGRESSMAN G. K. BUTTERFIELD

Rep. Butterfield buoyed to see Biden in: Determined to see justice done

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Wednesday was a bittersweet day for Congressman G. K. Butterfield. Naturally, the North Carolina First District Democrat was elated to see President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris sworn in as President and Vice-President, respectively, bringing with them the promise to heal a badly broken nation, trying to recover from four years of the Republican Trump Administration. Harris' becoming the first African-American woman sworn in as Vice President was particularly gratifying, as well.

However, Rep. Butterfield had a hard time enjoying the inaugural festivities. The U. S. Capitol, which fourteen days prior was the scene of the Trump inspired violent White insurrection, was an armed camp on Inauguration Day, with the Secret Service, National Guard, Capitol Police, and other forces on high alert for any attempt to disrupt the proceedings.

There were no 500,000 people-plus crowd extending to the National Mall (like Pres. Obama's first inauguration in 2009), and, though it was held outside, guests were subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Still, Congressman Butterfield was thankful for the positive change in leadership.

"I am excited about the Biden Administration," the eight-term Democrat exclaimed, noting that he supported the former Vice-President from the very beginning. Butterfield was pleased that Biden had

"a very elaborate, very detailed" plan for Black America through the campaign, demonstrating his commitment to diversity.

As far as other Biden-Harris proposed legislation Butterfield plans to support as it makes its way through the New Democratic Congress is concerned, there's the just announced \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, which promises to send \$2,000 checks to all Americans and add \$400.00 to unemployment compensation.

The bill will also include a refundable tax credit for low income people with dependent children who don't earn enough to pay taxes but could still use help making ends meet.

Rep. Butterfield also looks forward to a much needed national infrastructure package that would improve broadband, roads, schools, water and sewer systems in marginalized communities.

However, make no mistake! As much as the former NC Supreme Court justice is looking forward to the future, he has no intention of forgetting the past or ignoring the present.

While Congressman Butterfield's personal experience during the Jan. 6, 2021 U. S. Capitol siege was not as harrowing as many of his colleagues' (he stayed in his office in the Rayburn Building and never went to the Capitol until that night after the pro-Trump mob had been cleared out for the continuation of the electoral vote certification process), he realized after the fact just how bad it was.

He saw firsthand the destruction left behind, which left him in "shock." Heard from colleagues

on how 200 of them had been crammed into the Ways and Means Committee room during the height of the violence, something he called "a strategic blunder" because several Republican members were apparently COVID-19 carriers.

Rep. Butterfield says it appears the Capitol siege was "well-planned," and that it's obvious that the rioters had assistance, possibly from the inside. He recalls seeing people he found "interesting" touring the Capitol the day before the siege. That was strange because the Capitol had been closed to public tours since last March because of COVID-19.

"I feel that the protestors had information that they normally would not have had," Butterfield says, promising vigorous House committee investigations into all that transpired.

Add to this the fact that Republican members now want to bring guns onto the House floor, where they are absolutely not allowed. Some have already balked once metal detectors were installed shortly after the siege.

In the future, that could cost each complainant as much as \$10,000 out of his or her salary.

One good thing that has come out of the Capitol siege has been the unanimous acclaim for the bravery of Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, who is credited with misleading an angry White mob away from the Senate chambers during the melee, possibly saving lives.

"He is a hero by any definition," says Congressman Butterfield, agreeing that the Black officer is deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Wilmington Journal is still partially operating from a remote area. Our building has much damage and some of our equipment is still inoperable. Please continue to bear with us as we work to return to normalcy. The Staff and Management of The Wilmington Journal



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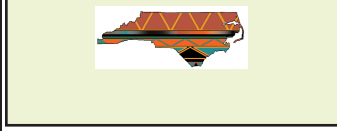
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BRUNSWICK  
Continued from Page 1

President who just left office proved my point. He has no morals, no common sense, no feelings for his fellowman, and no honesty. But people who see wrong or unjust and will not speak out against it are just as wrong for not speaking out against it are just as wrong as the corrupt elected officials themselves. When evil men plot, good men must plan! When evil men burn and bomb, good men must build. When evil men shout ugly words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love! Where evil men would seek to perpetrate an unjust status quo, good men must seek to bring into being a real order of justice! Let's begin to fight this unjust system right now with the help of the almighty God, our Lord and Savior, as our leader and the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. so that we can overcome this unjust system. Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP..

STATE BRIEFS



CREDIT SUISSE SPONSORS SCHOLARSHIP FOR NC HBCU STUDENTS

[RTP] Swiss bank Credit Suisse is sponsoring a new scholarship fund for students attending North

Carolina's HBCUs. The bank says it's created a \$1.2 million endowment with the United Negro College Fund. The bank now joins other companies in making meaningful contributions after the death of George Floyd.

SEN. BURR WON'T FACE INSIDER STOCK TRADE CHARGES

[WASHINGTON, D.C.] U.S. Senator Richard Burr

(R-NC) will not face charges by the U.S. Dept. of Justice for alleged insider stock trades just before the pandemic hit. Burr announced this week that he was informed that the case was now closed. He was accused of using classified information to make stock trades. Burr, who is retiring from the Senate after this term, maintained that he used public information to execute \$1.7 million in stock

trades.

KERNERSVILLE MAN ARRESTED FOR HIS PART IN U.S. CAPITOL SIEGE

[KERNERSVILLE] Federal authorities have arrested and charged Christopher Raphael Spencer, 40, for taking part in the Jan. 6th riot at the U.S. Capitol. Spencer allegedly live-streamed videos to Facebook from

inside the Capitol, according to an informant. Authorities recovered the videos with Spencer featured in them. He was charged with knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; violent entry and disorderly conduct on capitol grounds, and obstruction of justice.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

# Barber hails Biden's call for \$15/hr wage



REV. WILLIAM BARBER

BY CASH MICHAELS  
 OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

With his then Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris standing at his side, on January 14, President-Elect Joe Biden made it clear that one of the first things he'll do as President is to ask the Congress to

increase the national minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour for all low wage earners. "Nobody working 40 hours a week should be living below the poverty line," the former Vice-President said then. Republicans don't agree, saying that raising the minimum wage from \$7.25

(where it's been since 2009) is too much heavy lifting for small business owners. However, the Rev. Dr. William Barber, co-convenor of the Poor People's March: A National Revival, and president of the non-profit Repairers of the Breach, not only agrees, but has been wholeheartedly calling for the minimum wage hike for years. During a recent appearance on MSNBC's "Velshi," Rev. Barber reiterated his support, noting that \$15/hr minimum wage could lift 39 million Americans out of poverty. "There are 62 million people in this country who make less than a living wage. This is the right thing to do. If it's radical (as Republicans charge that it is), it is radical love." Studies have shown that, if

the national minimum wage had kept pace with productivity growth since 1968, it would be over \$24/hr, meaning that a minimum wage employee would earn \$48,000 a year, enough to cover the basic necessities for a single person. "It's economically insane not to do it," Rev. Dr. Barber maintained, "and if the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation, it would actually be \$9.00 higher." "We see it as a major victory of the Poor People's Campaign," Rev. Dr. Barber continued, "and, if people are paid this wage, guess what? It goes into economy and raises productivity." "It's the right way to go, and it's a powerful start for the Biden Administration," Barber concluded. History shows that Rev. Dr. Barber is not the first

national faith and civil rights leader to forcefully advocate for the poor to be treated fairly when it comes to making a living wage. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the originator of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign, pushed powerfully for that very thing during the waning days of his life, planning to bring thousands to Washington, D. C. in peaceful protest to do so before he was cut down by an assassin's bullet. It was no accident that he was in Memphis, Tennessee advocating for the local garbage workers who were charging low wages and bad on-the-job treatment. "God never intended for one group of people to live in superfluous inordinate wealth while others live in abject deadening poverty," Dr. King said in 1963.

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# News from the Brunswick County NAACP

BY CARL L. PARKER, PRESIDENT

## Reflections and care packages

2020 was a challenging and unusual year for all of us. It has created a degree of stress as a result of cultural, political, economic and health uncertainties. However, we must take time to pause, reflect and consider what we have learned about ourselves and others, so that we can move forward with great expectation in the coming year. Despite what may seem to be grim circumstances, there are still many things to be thankful for.

The Brunswick County NAACP Branch has continued to keep its charge and serve

the community in spite of the year's challenges. In 2020 the local branch aided in 91 disputes in Brunswick County (1 in Pender County) that centered around Environmental Justice, Climate Control, Educational and Political Reform. There were many contributors to our cause. Dr. Paula Hogan chaired an initiative "Boys to Teachers" which is geared toward creating more teachers of color who can serve as political role models in our public school systems. Mr. Brayton Willis, chairperson for the Gullah-

Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Multi-Use Greenway/Blueway Trail engaged community leaders about the importance of maintaining and protecting the integrity of the Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor within the state of North Carolina. This historical gem has been overlooked in our local communities for many years, yet the local branch acknowledged the importance of retaining its environmental authenticity.

2020 saw the senseless murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor,

George Floyd and many others. In an attempt to propose social justice reform, President Carl Parker and the Legal Redress team held very crucial positions in organizing peaceful demonstrations against many of the year's social atrocities. This was inclusive of demonstrations against Mike Forte and his racist behavior as well as the County Commissioner's stance on the county's gun sanctuary.

One of the largest contributions being made was via the COVID Relief Program. This horrendous pandemic which

has taken many lives and altered our nation in all facets left us reeling. The Brunswick County NAACP distributed Care Packages throughout New Hanover and Brunswick Counties. Over 4,500 face masks, 10,000 plus bottles of sanitizer, approximately 800 blankets, and numerous winter coats were delivered to several different entities throughout both counties. Among those that received supplies were the Center for Homeownership and Economic Development, Coastal Horizons-Clinical

Latina, Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and hosts of local churches and citizens. Thank you, to all our members and community leaders for your continued support of the Brunswick County NAACP Branch.

*Brunswick County NAACP Branch WEB page www.brunswicknaacp.org. Come and join us we can hardly wait to see you with our team.*

*Stay safe, love your neighbor, love one another, love yourself, wear a face MASK and SANITIZE.*

## Letter to Congressman David Rouzer

As president of the BC NAACP, it would be very remiss of me not to comment on the despicable actions of Pro-Trump rioters that attacked our nation's Capital as well as comments Trump and Congressman David Rouzer made to incite such violence. Spanish philosopher George Santayana is credited with stating "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." To understand what we are witnessing today, a history lesson is necessary. I am old enough to remember Barry Goldwater and how his strategies led to this much more right leaning Republican Party devoid of African American influences.

Similar to Trump, Goldwater was without a doubt a divisive figure. Detractors like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. compared his blunt, pull-no-punches rhetoric to Hitler. Goldwater vehemently opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other policies directly correlated to social injustices. What mattered to Goldwater's supporters as much as his policies was his candid, outspoken style. Crowds packed his rallies and greeted him as he made appearances. This is so eerily similar to modern day Trumpism. Goldwater touted that he would combat crime and lawlessness and restore order. He warned that "any

who do not care for our cause" did not belong within the GOP ranks. Today that "cause", the pursuit of a balanced budget and limited government, accompanied with a hardline stance on foreign policy and defense has become central to the party's mission.

Trump's "Save America Rally" included the president telling his supporters to "stop the steal" of the election, urging them to head to the Capitol to demonstrate against Congress certifying President-elect Joe Biden's victory. Trump decried that Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Michigan had serious fraud issues. The areas he concen-

trated his claims were in the heavily minority populated areas of Atlanta, GA; Philadelphia, PA; and Detroit, MI. The not-so-subtle implied bias is very telling of the mindset of Donald Trump. Sowing seeds of distrust and discord among American citizens through racial discord is the same playbook used by Goldwater. What ensued was even more alarming. During the Capitol riots among the crowd's battle cries was, "Fight for Trump! Hang Mike Pence! Stop the Steal!" and other dangerous chants.

David Rouzer in a recent post piggybacked on the erroneous claims of a rigged elec-

tion. He went on to state unfounded claims of Constitutional violations that were refuted judicially in multiple states that were up for debate. David Rouzer is complicit in the events that occurred at the Capitol. What Mr. Rouzer and Mr. Trump did was create an unmistakable cloud of division amongst the American people by claiming that insurrectionists that Capitol police killed 1 rioter and 4 Americans in the Capitol were patriots that supported and loved their country. This is undeniably unacceptable behavior and all who support the actions of these individuals are enemies to our democ-

racy. As American citizens it is time to unite and understand that a house divided will fall. Dr. King stated very eloquently, "Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." At some point we will need to live up to our country's ideal of the "United States of America." The time is always right to do what is right".

Respectfully,  
Carl L. Parker  
BC NAACP Branch,  
President Unit #5452

## Celebrating Dr. King

The Brunswick County NAACP is proud to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King's legacy encompasses influential decisions, courage, determination and a quest for human rights. Sometimes we minimize his contributions to one particular speech, "I Have A Dream", or his non-violent stance on social change. Yet, the true essence of the man is much more complex.

King was resolute about eradicating racism, poverty, and militarism. He was despite the non-violent moniker a radical in his own right. Years ago, NBC reporter asked Dr. King, "What is it about the Negro and every other group that came as an immigrant that somehow makes their cause different?" King's response is tactful, provocative and to some jarring. King: "White America must see that no other ethnic group has been a slave on American soil. That is the one thing that other ethnic groups have not had to face. The other thing is that the color became a stigma. American society made the negroe's color a stigma. America freed the slaves in... (Presidential executive order)1863 through the Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln but gave the slaves no land or nothing in reality...to get started on. At the same time, America was giving away millions of acres of land...in the West and the Midwest. Which meant there was a willingness to give the white peasants from Europe...an economic base. And yet it refused to give its black peasants from Africa...who came here involuntarily, in chains and had worked for free for 244 years not any kind of economic base. And so, emancipation for the negro...was really freedom to hunger. It was freedom to the winds and rains from heaven. It was freedom without food to eat or land to cultivate and therefore it was freedom and famine at the same time. And when white Americans tell the negro to lift himself by his own bootstraps...they do not look over the legacy of slavery and segregation.

Now, I believe we ought to do all we can to lift ourselves by our own bootstraps...but it is a cruel jest to say to a bootless man...that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps. And many negroes 3.5-4 million...have been left bootless as a result of all of these years of oppression...and as a result of a society that deliberately made his color a stigma...and something worthless and degrading."

The "Second Emancipation Proclamation":

King's rhetoric is just as relevant today as it was during the Civil Rights Era. The Poor People's Campaign was championed by King, particularly in his latter years. Dr. King's vision and work that still needs to be done remain at the heart of today's policy debates "Civil Rights Plus Full Employment Equals Freedom". Along with that police brutality, racial inequality, social injustice, economic reform and all kinds of evil have permeated our society in the worst ways recently. Dr. King's voice is seemingly more necessary now than ever before. Let us all just reflect on a few excerpts from his past communications and view how they resonate in today's landscape. Here are a few examples of King's words that evoke the spirit of today and days gone by:

"...I think America must see that riots do not develop out of thin air. Certain conditions continue to exist in our society which must be condemned as vigorously as we condemn riots. But in the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear?"

It has failed to hear that the plight of the Negro poor has worsened over the last few years. It has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice, equality, and humanity."

From "The Other America"  
"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

From "Strength to Love"  
"We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy."

From "I Have a Dream"  
"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

From "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea."

From "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

"I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos, without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world: my own government."


From "Beyond Vietnam"  
"Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective...No individual can live alone; no nation can live alone, and as long as we try, the more we are going to have war in this world."

From "A Christmas Sermon on Peace"

"Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction."

From sermon "Loving Your Enemies"

Montesquieu, a French philosopher {1689-1755} quotes "To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above them".





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The *Wilmington Journal* was founded on the principle of the Black Press Credo. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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## OUR VOICE

### GUEST EDITORIAL RAINBOW COALITION

#### Biden's inauguration gives us new hope and new energy

(Via TriceEdneywire.com)

On Monday, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's 91st birthday; on Wednesday, Joe Biden will be inaugurated as president, promising change after a dark period of division. Dr. King's relationship with John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson offers instructive lessons for today's movement for justice. Kennedy, inaugurated after eight years of Republican Dwight Eisenhower, brought new energy to Washington.

Kennedy favored action on civil rights but was terribly worried that trying to move a civil rights bill would get in the way of the rest of his legislative agenda. During his campaign, his call to Coretta Scott King when Dr. King was jailed, helped him capture immense Black support in a razor-thin election.

Yet, he was wary of King, unhappy that King and the movement kept demonstrating and forcing change. King appreciated Kennedy but understood the conflicting pressures he faced. The movement continued independently. The Freedom Riders in Montgomery, the dogs and water cannons in Birmingham, the sit-in in Jackson forced Kennedy to act. Even then the legislation — and much of Kennedy's agenda — was stuck in the legislature.

Kennedy's assassination brought Lyndon Johnson, the master of the Senate, to the presidency. Johnson decided to push civil rights legislation and put his enormous skills behind passing it. King conferred with Johnson and helped put pressure on legislators who were reluctant. King wasn't simply interested in protest; he wanted a change in policy and was prepared to work with LBJ to get it.

Johnson, like Kennedy, was wary of King. He often besmirched him in private, angry that King would not stop the demonstrations. Again, the movement — this time the dramatic scenes at Selma — forced action, and Johnson rose to the moment, leading to the passage of the Voting Rights Act. The collaboration of Johnson and King, however, soon ended. The Watts Riot angered Johnson who thought blacks should be grateful for what he had done.

When Dr. King went public with his opposition to the Vietnam War, the relationship was severed. The FBI under J. Edgar Hoover continued its efforts to discredit and intimidate King. Today the situation is different. Black voters were critical to Biden's election victory. He chose Kamala Harris as his vice president. He has reaffirmed his commitment to criminal justice reform, to addressing the continued disparities in education, housing, health care and opportunity.

What African Americans still seek is an even playing field. On economic justice issues, our agenda speaks to all: the right to a job, the right to health care, the right to a high-quality education, retirement security. To drive reform, the lessons of the 1960s still apply. The movement for justice must continue to organize nonviolent protest, challenging the entrenched systemic racism that still pervades our institutions. It must continue to build, as Dr. King did, a poor people's campaign across lines of race and region. The movement can't follow Biden's timetable; it must continue to build on its own agenda.

There should be no reluctance to work with Biden to help pass critical reforms, but at the same time, the pressure for outside must continue to build for there to be any hope of change. The 1960s offer another caution: the war on poverty, the progress on civil rights, was lost in the jungles of Vietnam, as that war consumed resources and attention as well as lives. While Biden's domestic pledges offer hope, he inherits a country mired in endless wars and gearing up for a new cold war with both Russia and China. Once more, follies abroad may sap the energy needed to rebuild at home.

Once more, the movement for justice must not be silent about the administration's priorities. Biden's inauguration offers new hope and new energy. He inherits severe crises — the pandemic, mass unemployment, extreme inequality, the climate crisis, racial upheaval. He'll need all the help he can get. And the best way the movement can help is to keep on keeping on.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., is the founder of Rainbow Coalition.

#### We cannot not lose sight of the historic milestones

Martin Luther King Jr. Day feels complicated this year. We have new reasons to celebrate. High on that list is the election of Rev. Raphael Warnock, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Rev. King preached, to the U.S. Senate.



Ben Jealous had the rare opportunity to vote for two senators at the same time. They elected Warnock, a pro-

gressive prophetic Black preacher, and Jon Ossoff, a young Jewish journalist and filmmaker. Seeing them campaign and celebrate together highlighted the vital partnership between Black and Jewish leaders in our struggle toward equality. It reminded me of that historic photo of King holding up pictures of the martyred civil rights colleagues James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner.

The people who made the Warnock and Ossoff victories

#### JEALOUS

Continued on this page

## VISUAL VOICE



## MATTERS OF OPINION

### Angry Old White Civil Rights Lawyer Not Tired Yet Blessed peacemakers

*Blessed Are the Peacemakers; They Shall be Called The Children of God. Matthew 5:9*

President Biden and Vice President Harris were sworn in at Noon on Wednesday with the openly racist spoiled brat, boasting and blaming everyone but himself for his Mess. Just like a spoiled brat, he left the mess for someone else to clean up after him.

Many people hope the Biden-Harris Administration will be Peacemakers. For some, the hope is so strong, they want to skip the first step to Peace. Justice first; then Peace. Truth First; then Reconciliation. Wilmington residents learned the hard way that reconciling with stone cold racists before their racist structures were exposed and dismantled, was a fatal mistake. Governor Aycock's Gatling Machine Gun, his vicious Red Shirts torching the Fusion newspaper of Brother Alex Manly, with the support of Aycock's militia left Wilmington a beautiful harbor, but a divided city. Wilmington has yet to experience the Artistry of a True Peacemaker.

The Peacemaker's Tool Box: There are some rusting tools, stored down in the basement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and in the lengthy Reports by the United Nations Human Rights Commissions, that have declared, over and over, that racist structures, which create disparate impacts on communities of color are banned by International law. The third toolbox is the rapid advance the Roman Catholic Church, with its first Latino Pope, Francis, at its Helm, which takes seriously the teachings of Jesus. I have studied its evolution on the Death Penalty, which caused NC almost wrongfully execute several Black men recently. Let us examine the Title 10 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which can be empowered with a

stroke of Joe Biden's pen-The Community Relations Service. President Johnson knew the virulent strain of racism in the Slave-South would be awakened with the passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965. So on February 10, 1966, he signed an executive order that spelled out the Functions of the Community Relations Service.

It shall be the function of the Service to provide assistance to communities and persons therein in resolving disputes, disagreements, or difficulties relating to discriminatory practices based on race, color, or national origin which impair the rights of persons in such communities under the Constitution or laws of the United States or which affect or may affect interstate commerce. The Service may offer its services in cases of such disputes, disagreements, or difficulties whenever, in its judgment, peaceful relations among the citizens of the community involved are threatened thereby, and it may offer its services either upon its own motion or upon the request of an appropriate State or local official or other interested person.

In 2009, after Hate Crimes against LGBTQ people were added to Title X (a fact most civil rights lawyers and, therefore, judges are not aware of) the CRS regularly used the Art of Peacemaking to help communities torn apart by Matthew Shepherd events.

The last trainings CRS conducted for law enforcement officers—a major issue today—were conducted in the 1990's and early 2000's. Free DOJ-CRS education for all police in

increasing trust, transparency, and community policing to identify the few bad apples who recently were discovered in the WPD, has not been addressed by the CRS for years. Recently, Rev. Kojo Nantambu and the group of ministers he has organized to investigate the extent of Bad Apples in the WPD, have requested the CRS to assist us in Wilmington. Listed below from the CRS Peacemakers website are some brochures CRS Peacemakers have published, to give us and the Biden-Harris Administration, a sense of the kind of work Peacemakers are ready to take on.

- Avoiding Racial Conflict: A Guide for Municipalities (1991)
- Community Dialogue Guide (September 2003)
- Conflict Resolution Assistance in Indian Country (2003)
- CRS Mediation of Community Racial Disputes and Conflicts (2003)
- CRS Programs For Managing School Multicultural Conflict (2003)
- CRS Fact Sheet (November 2001)
- CRS Bulletin - Hate Crime: The Violence of Intolerance (December 2001)
- Distant Early Warning Signs (DEWS) System (November 2001)
- Guidelines for Effective Human Relations Commissions (September 1998)
- Hate Crime Training: Core Curriculum for Patrol Officers, Detectives & Command Officers, (October 1998)
- Managing Major Public Events (November 2000)
- Planning for Safe Marches and Demonstrations (1998)
- Police and Urban Youth Relations: An Antidote to Racial Violence (1995)
- Police Use of Force (September 2003)
- Police Use of Excessive Force: A Conciliation

Handbook for the Police and the Community (June 1999)

Preventing Youth Hate Crime (1998)

Principles of Good Policing: Avoiding Violence Between Police and Citizens (September 2003)

Responding to Hate Crimes and Bias-Motivated Incidents on College/University Campuses (September 2003)

Responding to Incidents Involving Allegations of Excessive Use of Force: A Checklist to Guide Police Executives (September 2003)

So... You're a Demonstration Marshal (1998)

School Disruptions: Tips for Educators and Police (September 1998)

Student Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together (SPIRIT) (2003)

Twenty Plus Things Law Enforcement Agencies Can Do to Prevent or Respond to Hate Incidents Against Arab-Americans, Muslims, and Sikhs (November 2001)

Att. McSurely worked in the Civil Rights Movement from 1960 to 1968, when his family's home was dynamited in Eastern Kentucky. Margaret Herring and he were charged with overthrowing the Government of Kentucky by building moral fusion alliances with Appalachian coal miners and Black voters. He became a lawyer after 15 years of apprenticeship to Bill Kunstler, Arthur Kinoy, and Morton Stavis while they fought off charges of sedition and contempt. He earned his law degree from NCCU Law School and has been suing racist institutions ever since. He has worked closely with his friend, Bishop William J. Barber II. Five years ago, he married O'Linda Watkins, President of Moore County NAACP Branch.

#### JEALOUS

Continued from this page

possible—the dedicated organizers led by Stacey Abrams and her many colleagues and collaborators—made me think of earlier generations of voting rights activists like Fannie Lou Hamer.

This was the kind of moment for which King dreamed and worked.

Yet many of us were robbed of the chance to fully appreciate and celebrate these historic milestones. Because the day after the election, while votes in Georgia were still being counted, a mob of angry supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol.

I will not soon be able to forget the feeling in my gut at seeing a gallows and noose being erected outside the Capitol. Or the sight of the Confederate flag being paraded through the rotunda while rioters searched for members of Congress and the vice president.

While the mob failed to get their hands on elected offi-

cers, they killed a Capitol Police officer and left four other bodies in their wake.

We have just begun the truth-seeking that is necessary for accountability.

There is no justification for the Capitol being so poorly defended when far-right activists had been making their violent intentions plain for weeks. Journalists and researchers, including the Right Wing Watch team at my organization, People For the American Way, had been documenting threats of violence and calls for civil war by people who believed Trump's lies about the election being stolen from him and his supporters.

It is impossible to ignore the difference between the light security at the Capitol on Jan. 6 and the massive shows of force that were brought out for Black Lives Matter protests and other marches.

Did high-level law enforcement and military officials dismiss the threats from Trump supporters because they would be mostly white, because they were conservatives, because they were seen as allies of the law enforcement community? Their deci-

sions left on-duty officers, as well as members of Congress, vulnerable. It was a fatal mistake.

Or was it something worse? The history of lynchings and racist mob violence in this country is also a history of complicity by law enforcement officials. Sometimes police officers led the violence, as they did at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Sometimes they were conveniently absent, as they were when Freedom Riders were left open to attack by an angry mob.

We are about to have new leadership at the Justice Department. And we have congressional leaders who are motivated to get the truth about what happened at the Capitol and to hold people accountable.

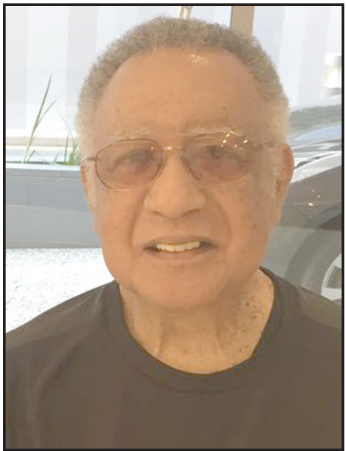
We the people have a role to play, too. We must demand that public officials not sacrifice accountability in the name of a false unity being called for by people who promoted the lies that fed rioters' anger.

And we can honor Dr. King, the late John Lewis, and the other civil rights heroes we

lost this year, by remaining alert and ready to resist the inevitable new attacks on voting rights that will come from politicians who are unhappy with the outcome of the 2020 elections and are desperate, like Donald Trump, to hang on to power.

And speaking of power, let's celebrate another historical milestone this week: the swearing-in of Kamala Harris, a Black woman and daughter of immigrants, to serve as the vice president of the United States. Congratulations, Madam Vice President.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.



**Mr. Alvin McKoy**

Mr. Alvin Leon McKoy, 77 of Mint Hill, passed away on Friday January 08, 2021 at his residence. Final resting place Sunset Memory Gardens Charlotte NC.

In lieu of flowers, an academic scholarship will be provided to a deserving student attending Fayetteville State University in Alvin's name. Direct-mail donations can be sent c/o Kelvin McKoy, 825 South Hill Street, Unit 1910, Los Angeles, California, 90014. Donations can be made via check payable to: FSU Charlotte Alumni, via CashApp: \$Kelvinmckoy, or via PayPal: PayPal.Me/kelvinmckoy. Please designate "Scholarship Fund in memory of Alvin McKoy" in the memo section of your donation. *Grier Funeral Service Inc. 115 John McCarroll Avenue Charlotte NC entrusted with arrangements.*

**Boyd W. Battle**

Boyd W. Battle, age 78, of Riegelwood, passed away Tuesday, January 5, 2021. A graveside service was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at Mt. Pleasant AME Zion Church Cemetery.

Boyd Winfield Battle was born on January 22, 1942 in Columbus County, North Carolina to the late Beulah Mae Waddell and Samuel J. Battle. He was reared in the Armour community.

Boyd attended Mount Pleasant African Methodist Episcopal Zion in Riegelwood, North Carolina. He was a faithful member. He graduated from Armour High School in 1959. After graduation Boyd moved to Brooklyn, New York.

He was preceded in death by his two brothers: Lemuel and Samuel and one sister, Gwen.

Boyd leaves to cherish his precious memories: his two aunts, Lossie Lanear W. Burgess and Emily Ruth Waddell (Morse, deceased);

one great uncle, Al Sutton (Martha); a nephew, Johnathan Ellison and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

**Thomas E. Dortch**

Thomas E. Dortch, transitioned to his heavenly home on January 9th, with his Lord and Savior surrounded by loved ones at his bedside. A graveside service was held at Greenlawn Memorial Park on Friday, January 15, 2021.

Thomas, the son of the late Thomas Dortch Sr. and Wilhelmina Smith was born and raised in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. He was educated in the Fayetteville school system and graduated high school.

Shortly thereafter, Thomas joined the United States Army and served during the Korean War. He later relocated to New Jersey bringing his mother, sister, and brothers along with him.

Thomas joined The New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey, and remained a faithful member for many years. He later joined Imani Baptist Church of Christ in East Orange, New Jersey. There he served as Chairperson of the Building and Grounds Committee and the Adult Usher Ministry and was also a member of the Trustee Ministry, the Political Action Ministry, and Crusaders Male Chorus. Thomas was affiliated as a watch member at St. Andrew AME Zion Church under the tutelage of Rev. Henry Gregory, Jr.

Thomas worked as a Bus Operator for New Jersey Transit and retired in 1993 after 34 years of service. Upon retiring, he stayed busy working in Security Operations for Newark International Airport and later transporting senior citizens to their destinations for Essex County Health Services.

Thomas leaves to cherish his memory: a loving wife of 51 years, Doris Ann Dortch; son, Darrell C. Dortch and his wife Janice Dortch of Wilmington, NC; daughter, Pamela; sons, Thomas, Tyrone and Kendrick Dortch of East Orange, NJ; grandchildren, Shadejah, Darrell Jr., Tyra,

Kendric Jr., Imani and Isaac; sister, Frances Brown of Irvington, NJ; brother-in-law, Joseph Kennebrew of Ellenwood, GA; ; sisters-in-law, Louise and Loretta of NJ; a host of nieces, nephews, greats, cousins; his special caregiver, Vickie Ahmed and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

**Byron P. Slade**

Byron P. Slade, age 36, of Seattle, WA, passed away Sunday, January 10, 2021. A graveside service celebrating Byron's life will be conducted at 12:00 PM on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at Gardens of Gethsemane Cemetery, 13670 US Hwy 64 Alt W, Rocky Mount, NC 27801. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

**George M. DeVane, Jr.**

George M. DeVane, Jr. was the son of the late George M. DeVane, Sr. and the late Willie Stafford DeVane. He was raised by his loving auntie, the late Eva Mae DeVane. George was born on October 11, 1942 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Soon after midnight on January 14, 2021 God called him home. A graveside service was held on Monday, January 18, 2021 at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

In addition to his parents and auntie, he was preceded in death by a sister, Geraldine A. Rollinson and brother, DeVoil Eugene DeVane, Sr. (Barbara).

George was educated in the Sampson County School System. After high school he married Marie Robinson and soon after he was drafted into the United States Army. While in the military he earned the rank of Sergeant E-5 and received a National Defense Service Medal as an Expert Rifleman. After returning home from the military George joined with United Parcel Service where he worked over 20 years. He left UPS to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a businessman and bought the Shamrock Motel in Burgaw, North Carolina; where he

and his wife ran for a number of years. He became an ordained minister on January 13, 1983 and he was on a battlefield for the Lord until his health failed.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his loving wife, Marie Robinson DeVane; son, George III (Pamela); daughter, Connie and son, Avery; 3 grandsons, Letrell, Terrence (Cheyenne), and Nigel; one great-grandson, Kane; siblings, Debra, Adrian, Elaine, Willie, Chester (Sharon), Bobby (Chanel), and Ronnie; four sisters-in-law and four brothers-in-law; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and a number of devoted caregivers, Sil, Renee with Senior Choices and April, and Elese with Wellcare. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

**Carol A. Burney**

Carol A. Burney, age 65, of Supply, passed away Thursday, January 14, 2021. A graveside service will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at Galloway Cemetery in Supply.

Her love and memories will remain in the hearts of her children, Marshco Furlow of Supply, Alvin R. Burney, Jr. of Bellingham, WA and Trenton A. Burney (Michelle) of Minot, ND; mother, Macie Draughon of Supply; siblings, Valereeta

Grant (Raymond) of Supply, Tommy Stevenson (Song) of Fayetteville and Calvin Stevenson of Supply, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhome-nc.com.*

**Constance M. White**

Constance M. White, age 65, of Southport, passed away Friday, January 15, 2021. A celebration of Ms. White's life will be conducted at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021 at Davis Funeral Home - Bolivia. Interment will follow in John N. Smith Cemetery. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhome-nc.com.*



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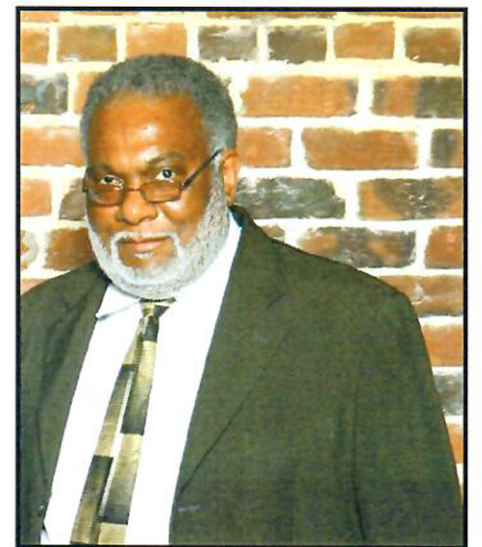
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## A WORD FROM THE LORD

## The spirit of the antichrist

The spirit of the antichrist is already in the (world) the United States as an angel of light: I want to share with you my study last week from 1John chapter 4, of the warning John was given to the Church and it is applicable for us today.

1 John 4:1-6 (KJV) "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. 5They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." This lesson was prepared from the POSB-Cmy

"This is a critical passage of Scripture. It deals with true and false teachers, in particu-

lar with the spirit of truth or error that fills their hearts. How do we know that we love God? We can tell by the spirits of the teachers we are following. If we are following the spirit of a true teacher, then it is a clear indication that we love God. If we are following the spirit of a false teacher, then it is a clear indication that we do not love God. We must test the spirits of teaching throughout the USA.



Rev.  
Naconiel  
Fullwood

first, test the spirits of teachers; test them to make sure they are of God. This is a strong charge given to believers. Note the word, beloved. This was John's tender address to the believers of the church. He is addressing believers, and this tells us a significant fact: believers can be misled by the spirits of false teachers. What kinds of spirits dwell within a false teacher" (I have been very disappointed in the attitude of churches and its leadership in upholding what took place last week in Washington DC" (It is the spirit of the Antichrist).

"A false teacher may have a spirit of light, especially in industrialized societies. The

spirit presents a way of life that seems to be the truth, the very way to live. He presents a way of life that seems to be intelligent and full of knowledge and enlightenment. His way seems to be the way to go, the way that leads to... o the good life o progress o development o assurance o satisfaction o fulfillment o education o good feelings o pleasure o possessions o recognition

A false teacher may have a spirit of righteousness. He may preach and teach righteousness, a self-righteousness.

A false teacher may stress the life and teachings of Jesus Christ-all the good qualities of life-all the traits that should characterize people. They may tell people to copy the life of Jesus and to focus their hearts upon the good qualities of life, and if they do, God will accept them.

"False teachers make one fatal mistake. The point in this verse is that we must test the spirits of false teachers, test them to make sure they are of God. Note one other fact: there are "many false prophets." Scripture is not talking about a few, but many. If there were many in the days of John, think how many more there are today. Think how many more religions there are; how many cults have sprung up around Christianity; how many denominations and

ministries have sprung up since John wrote these words. Just think of all the churches and pulpits and podiums that are being filled by the teachers of the world. Also, think about how many preachers and teachers claim to be true followers of Christ. There are many, thousands and thousands, of false teachers in the world today. Who are they? This is the discussion of this passage. This is what every person must test to keep from being misled" (the hope of America is not in the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party Its only in Jesus Christ, my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus name. On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sink sand). Amen.

"For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:18). "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also are transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end

shall be according to their works" (2 Cor. 11:13-15). "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preaches any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-9). There is only one way to God, "Jesus said I Am the Way, the truth and the life, no man come to the Father but by Me." (John 14:6).

"Test the confession of teachers. What is it that makes a teacher true or false? Jesus Christ. What a man believes about Jesus Christ makes the teacher true or false. What a man confesses about Jesus Christ exposes his spirit, a spirit of truth, or a spirit of error. And note what it is about Jesus Christ that exposes a teacher: the incarnation. That is, did Jesus Christ come in the flesh or not?

1. The true Spirit, the Spirit of God Himself, confesses that Jesus Christ did come in the flesh, that the

incarnation is true. If a teacher has the Spirit of God dwelling in him, then he confesses the incarnation, the wonderful truth that God did become Man and did come to earth to save man. The Spirit of God cannot confess anything other than the truth; therefore, every teacher who has the Spirit of God will confess the same truth. He cannot confess anything else because the Spirit of God Himself dwells within him. If he confesses anything else, then the spirit within him is not the Spirit of God. Now note the confession in detail, exactly what it is that a true teacher confesses: "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh." POSB-C Here is the answer in the Word God for America and the world: 2 Chron. 7:14-15 (KJV) 14If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 15Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place. Amen

Reverend Naconiel Fullwood currently the pastor of MRDRC Ministries (Miracle, Restoration, Deliverance, Revival Center Ministries Inc.) located in Wilmington, NC.

## TO BE EQUAL

## Capitol insurrection reveals 'Cancer' of racism within law enforcement establishment

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"The Capitol coup is the mirror we needed to overcome our warped sense of American exceptionalism. Becoming a truly equitable democracy requires work. It requires actively working against ideological forces that try to make America great for only a few. It means realizing that the American Civil War and Nazi Germany began just like this. It means being courageous to admit that what happened at the Capitol is who we are as the United States. It means realizing that being silent on this issue is accepting the side of white supremacy. So, if you are worried, scared, or fearful, you should be. How will we respond to fight for the soul of America?" --Rashawn Ray, University of Maryland Sociology Professor and

I used the opportunity to shine a light on the stark disparity between law enforcement response to attack on the Capitol and the response to Black Lives Matter protests over the summer:

On June 2, 2020, racial justice protesters peacefully gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to protest the death of George Floyd and other Black Americans at the hands of police. They were met with row upon row of military police in fatigues and armor lining the Memorial's steps.

The day before, on June 1, at least nine military and police aircraft hovered in the sky. Two helicopters eventually swooped low in a tactic usually reserved for combat zones, battering the protesters with tropical storm-level winds.

Park Police famously unleashed tear gas and fired

rubber bullets to clear a non-violent crowd from Lafayette Park so President Trump could stage a photo-op.

D.C. Metropolitan Police arrested 316 protesters on June 1, 2020

"The FBI knew that extremists were preparing to travel to Washington to commit violence and "war" on January 6. The insurrection was openly plotted on social media. One post on the platform 8kun declared "We will storm the government buildings, kill cops, kill security guards, kill federal employees and agents."

There were no National Guard troops in riot gear awaiting them. No military helicopters. There was no tear gas deployed as the mob showed its way past barricades. Vastly outnumbered police stepped aside and allowed the mob to storm the Capitol.

D.C. Metropolitan Police made only 61 "unrest-related" arrests on January 6. U.S. Capitol Police arrested just over a dozen.

Many Capitol Police executed their duty bravely and

with honor. Officer Eugene Goodman, for example, is being hailed as a hero for luring a mob away from the Senate Chamber. However, another officer did exactly the opposite, offering the rioters directions around the building as he donned a "Make America Great Again" cap.

January 6th may have been one of the most egregious examples, but it was certainly not the first. Again and again and again: In the eyes of far too many law enforcement officers, Black people are considered a threat simply for existing, while violent white people are cossetted, protected, pampered and indulged.

Even the author of the FBI report warning of the mob's murderous intent worried that a show of force might encroach on the rioters' free speech rights. Lt. Gen. Walter E. Piatt, director of the Army Staff, rebuffed requests for National Guard assistance because he didn't like "the visual" – a concern nowhere in evidence during Black Lives Matters protests.

In fact, much of the violence at racial justice protests over the summer was instigated by white supremacists and far-right extremists, yet this violence was used to rationalize military-level crackdowns on peaceful protests.

"Operation Relentless Pursuit" and "Operation Legend" – cynically named for a 4-year-old killed in a shooting that had no link to racial protests, sent federal officers to override local law enforcement in Black communities.

Far from trying to contain a violent insurrection where the symbols of white supremacy were on full display, police officers are under investigation for actively participating.

On January 6, we witnessed a violent mob motivated by racial resentment, by a conspiracy theory rooted in the effort to invalidate Black votes. The mob was met with empathy and deference from a law-enforcement and military establishment that harbors white supremacists among its own ranks.

The national reckoning over racially-motivated

police misconduct and brutality that began this summer cannot move forward until the institutions entrusted with public safety and national security rid themselves of the cancer within. We cannot heed the hollow cries for "unity" from the very collaborators who fanned the flames of insurrection and promoted racist lies. You cannot cure cancer by ignoring it. It must be cut out and burned away.

Reform efforts such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act are a necessary step, but only one part of the solution. We must use every means at our disposal to shine a light on racial injustice and fully commit, as a nation, to a zero-tolerance policy with regard to white supremacy in law enforcement and the military.

We are truly at a crossroads in America. The precedent we set here will have a profound impact on future generations. The world is watching.

Marc Morial is President/CEO of the National Urban League.



Marc  
Morial

## Celebrating Black women

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Rather than focus on recent violence that ravaged the Nation's Capitol, I'll celebrate Black women! It would be easy to join with others who're still attempting to provide an accurate explanation for the madness. To that subject, for the time being, I'll only say that because of the current political climate and incessant cultural conflict, I've become a sounding-board for the expression of legitimate fears for the Inauguration Day safety of VP-Elect, soon to be Vice-President, Kamala Harris.

While we should be concerned with the appropriate security being in place on Inauguration Day, contemporary social violence dictates that we must also be concerned about her safety every

day thereafter, along with that of Mr. Biden. We must not, however, allow those concerns to overtake our excitement of the election of Harris and Biden.

We Black women know how hard we worked to make Kamala's election a reality. The benefit of our effort accrued to Kamala and Joe equally. With respect to their present and future security, we must not allow our fears of what might happen overrule the exciting victory that we now experience. The important fact that must remain foremost in our minds is that



Dr. E. Faye  
Williams

we Black women have clear evidence of the positive results of our unity and common purpose. From many, we've heard laudatory acknowledgment of the exemplary role we've played in this most recent, and many other elections. As we congratulate our collective efforts and support the Biden-Harris administration, let us remember other Black women who did monumental things and are worthy of praise.

A person receiving great acclaim for her impact on the 2020 Presidential election is Stacey Abrams, who came into national prominence during the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election. Unable to be acknowledged as winner by 55,000 votes because of an opponent who orchestrated and managed the alleged purge of 1.4 mil-

lion voters, Stacey turned disappointment into action. She organized the voter rights organization, Fair Fight, undertook developing a network of attorneys to challenge specious changes to election laws and established voter education and registration initiatives which increased many African American voters and other voters of color. She organized a massive Get-Out-The-Vote effort to strengthen her voter registration efforts. To the regret of many Republicans, she didn't confine her efforts to the Georgia borders. Her efforts extended to jurisdictions which maintained the same type of legal and extra-legal obstacles that shut her out of the governor's mansion. Stacey lit a metaphorical fuse that brought explosive excitement to 2020.

Another significant effort by a Black woman in 2020 was by LaTosha Brown, Co-Founder of the Black Voters Matter Fund. Few need to be told about voter suppression in remote areas of the south. LaTosha and members of BVM addressed this problem by hitting the road in their campaign bus. Clocking thousands of miles, they crisscrossed highways throughout the south educating and registering voters who would've otherwise missed the opportunity to vote.

Looking forward, we can extend congratulations to the Black women who've been appointed to serve in the Biden-Harris Administration. We must be equally proud of Marcia Fudge as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Linda Thomas-

Greenfield as Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice as leader of the Domestic Policy Council, Cecilia Rouse as Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors, and many others who'll serve using the full measure of their skills and experience to "Build Back Better." Let's congratulate our sisters for preparing themselves for just such a time as this.

We know the truth, but few outside the "Beloved Community" will agree that throughout the history of our nation Black people, especially Black women, have been found near the center of most struggles and most successes of our nation. Black women have never faltered in meeting our challenges.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is President of the National Congress of Black Women.

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