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BLUELINE

Reparations, Reparations and More Reparations!

By Peter Bramble

The Wall Street Journal reported recently that the Joe Biden Administration is currently contemplating offering reparations to illegal immigrants who were separated at the border in the amount of \$450,000.00 each. So then, a mother and father with two children would get almost \$2 million dollars for the family. Can you believe that our government is prepared to pay people who have broken the law (criminals) that amount of money because they claim that they experienced “psychological pain and trauma” because of the separation?

Americans who broke the law and are arrested and taken to jail are de facto separated from their children and family. The children will no doubt experience some psychological trauma in seeing their dad carted off to jail. Are they also to get \$450,000.00 for the trauma caused by this separation? If so, thousands of black men who have been separated from their children when they broke the law, need to be compensated. And because they are American citizens, and not illegal aliens, they need to be paid at least twice as much as the money that is offered to people who have no right to be in the country.

The “woke” Americans seem to be guided by flawed thinking. How could anyone conclude that it is legal to reward illegals for breaking our laws?

There are laws, already on the books, controlling how immigrants qualify to legally enter the country. I know, because I followed those laws in order to become an American citizen.

Continued on page 12

Saluting America's Oldest War II Veteran



Lawrence Brooks, 112, is America's oldest surviving World War II veteran. He was raised in Louisiana and Mississippi. Brooks currently lives in New Orleans. The U.S. Army veteran is cared for by his daughter, Vanessa Brooks. (See article on Page 9) Courtesy Photo: Vanessa Brooks

Sorry Not Sorry

By Nikki Abraham, Nucleus Team Member, Positively Caviar, Inc.

Saying “I’m Sorry” is an automatic reaction. What we fail to recognize as humans is how often we apologize when it is not necessary. When I first started in the work force, I was sorry for EVERYTHING. I lived in a constant state of regret apologizing for everything, including things I had no control over.

One pivotal moment that changed how I viewed apologies happened when a colleague said, “stop saying sorry, you’re not a sorry person.” From then on, I started to change my outlook and encouraged others to do the same.

Two of my go-to confidence “booster” anthems are “Sorry Not Sorry” by Demi Lovato and “Sorry” by Beyonce. While both can be coined as “breakup songs” they rightly reiterate the importance of living boldly in your decisions and not being sorry about it. It’s important to adapt an air of self-assurance in your everyday life where you are comfortable talking the talk and walking the walk, unapologetically.

Pantene released a “Sorry Not Sorry” Campaign in 2014 that confirmed my views on apologies especially coming from women. The commercial highlighted women apologizing in different scenarios where an apology was not needed and then used the same scenario to show how you can take back your power by not being sorry—inspiring women to celebrate their strength.

I find that people in assistant or entry level positions tend to apologize more often than those in more senior roles. This is probably due to nervousness and the fear of making a mistake. As a senior leader you are more confident in the work that you do so, are less likely to apologize in every instance.

When a colleague apologizes to me, I always make it a point to make it a teachable moment by saying, “don’t be sorry.” Sometimes, I may even give tips to mentees or entry-level colleagues on phrases to use such as “Thank you for catching that” or “Thank for your feedback.” Successful professionals apologize by clearly outlining what



actions and steps they take to mitigate the mistake.

Making the decision to monitor apologies will make you more self-aware. Specifically for Black women in corporate America, it’s important to be intentional about how you express yourself. We often struggle with playing it safe out of fear of boldly expressing our real self but what I have learned is that people listen when you speak boldly and firmly with respect.

Saying sorry is not always a bad thing. There are times in life when apologies are absolutely warranted. If you apologize in moments where it’s unnecessary, a real apology will carry less weight later on when one is truly needed. They are many good reasons to apologize especially when you hurt someone or have crossed a boundary, and when you do, it should be sincere and effective. However, you should never apologize for expressing yourself, asserting yourself, taking up space, saying no, saying yes, having feelings, and most importantly being you.

Positively Caviar, Inc. (PCI) is a grassroots nonprofit organization focused on instilling mental resilience by way of positive thinking and optimism. Each month, a member of their Nucleus Team features a column focused on mental and physical health tips, scientific studies, nutrition facts and stories that are positive in nature to support a positive and healthy lifestyle. To learn more about how you can support, volunteer, or donate to Positively Caviar, Inc. visit: staybasedandpositive.com.

Famous Amos launches Ingredients for Success Initiative to support Black entrepreneurs

Chicago— Famous Amos, in partnership with the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC), announces the launch of its Ingredients for Success Initiative, a grant and mentorship program that aims to provide the necessary tools and resources to help Black business owners succeed.

According to a recent story by CNBC, there are about 2.6 million Black-owned businesses in the United States, equating to approximately 9.5 percent of all businesses. Yet nearly 8 out of 10 Black-owned companies usually do not survive the first 18 months. Famous Amos strongly believes that pairing these entrepreneurs early on with financial resources and mentorship is a key ingredient to contribute to a more positive direction.

“In honor of Wally Amos, the founder of Famous Amos, we are extremely grateful to partner with the NBCC to help create pathways for Black business owners to thrive,” said Rachna Patel, Senior Director, Distinctive Brands at Ferrara. “Famous Amos remains committed to fostering racial equity through the work that we do as a company and our connection to the communities we serve.”

In its inaugural year, a total of \$150,000 has been committed to award three Black-owned businesses, each receiving a \$50,000 business grant. Along with the monetary award, grant winners will receive a complete suite of mentoring and coaching resources and



tools provided by the NBCC to help drive sustainable growth and success.

“Our mission is the economic empowerment of Black businesses and communities,” said Charles H. DeBow III, executive director, National Black Chamber of Commerce. “We are pleased to partner with Famous Amos to provide mentorship, as well as the necessary tools and resources to the grant recipients to assist them to not only participate but to succeed in America’s economy.”

Grant applications will be judged by some of the nation’s foremost Black business leaders including Jeffery Beckham Jr., Chief Executive Officer at Chicago Scholars; Roby Mercharles, vice president of partnerships at The American Dream Fund & Marketplace; Steve Canal, co-founder of Flourysh, ONE Venture Group, Saint Miles and The Baptist Collection; and Mandy Bowman, and founder and CEO of Official Black Wall Street.

Businesses must be at minimum 90 percent Black-owned and have been in operation for five years or less.

For official rules and eligibility requirements, and to apply now, visit <https://famousamosingredientsforsuccess.info/>. All entries must be submitted by Monday, November 29, 2021, by 11:59 p.m. EST.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Democrats Failure at Federal Level Causes Catastrophic Losses in Virginia, Elsewhere

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Election night proved as much an indictment on current Democratic leadership and the party's inability to pass meaningful legislation. It was also a show of strength by Republicans as they continue to unite after former President Donald Trump's resounding loss in the 2020 election cycle.

In a state that President Joe Biden won by ten percentage points one year ago, Democrat Terry McAuliffe not only lost to Republican Glenn Youngkin, but the governor's race proved close to a landslide.

Youngkin and other Virginia politicians mostly kept Trump away from campaign events, even refusing to appear with the former president. While Trump endorsed Youngkin, he rarely mentioned the former president even if he embraced many of his policies that have led to other GOP governors crafting or pushing repressive voting and human rights laws.

On the other hand, McAuliffe did bring in former President Barack Obama and attempted to use Trump's endorsement of his opponent as a reason for voters to go against the Republican.

"All of these attempts to pinpoint the answer ignore the myriad ways that demographics, turnout, geography, candidate appeals, and policy mix together," opinion columnist Hayes Brown wrote for MSNBC.

Critical race theory proved a sticking point as well.

"Republicans don't need to let up, they need to double down," South Carolina Politician Graham Allen wrote on Twitter. "Don't mess with our kids."

Sirius XM radio personality Tim Young agreed. "The lesson of this election [is] don't [mess] with people's kids," Young exclaimed.

Youngkin spotlighted education during his campaign after McAuliffe weighed in with his thought that parents should not tell educators what to teach children.

Conservatives seized upon that, claiming that McAuliffe pushed critical race theory. In New Jersey, Incumbent Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy awakened Wednesday morning in a virtual tie with upstart Republican Jack Ciattarelli. With about 98 percent of the votes in, Murphy held less than a percentage point lead. Perhaps reading the tea leaves from around the nation, Murphy sounded a conciliatory tone.

"We're sorry tonight couldn't yet be the celebration we wanted it to be," Murphy told his supporters who, like many across the nation, expected the Democrat to have an easy win.

Summoning his inner Trump, Youngkin declared that Virginia would become "great again."

"This is the spirit of Virginia coming together like never before," declared Youngkin, the retired former CEO of the DC-based Carlyle Group.

"We will not be a commonwealth of low expectations," Youngkin continued. "We'll be a commonwealth of high expectations."

Political watchers said the GOP's landmark retaking of Virginia resulted from a massive conservative turnout, the failure of Democrats in Washington to keep campaign promises of old, and the dog-whistle of critical race theory creating an anti-white bias in the school curriculum.

"Democrats had one year, beginning with the 2020 election, and plateauing with the January 2021 Georgia runoff and the insurrection, to get their [stuff] together, and they failed," Amie Townsend, a Maryland poll watcher, declared. "President Biden, Sen. Joe Manchin, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, and so many top-level Democrats failed their voters, failed America. We can't live on promises. Even though so many Republicans represent the worst of this country, the worst in politics, they deliver on their evils. Bottom line: people want results."



Community Affairs

Federal Regulators Approve Pfizer Vaccine for Children Ages, 5 to 11

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

Children ages, five to 11 can now receive vaccination against COVID-19.

On Tuesday, November 2, 2021, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Rochelle Walensky signed off on a recommendation from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Dr. Walensky's authorization allows healthcare providers, pharmacies, and clinicians to commence coronavirus vaccine shots to children ages, five to 11.

Officials say shots would become available as early as Wednesday.

The Food and Drug Administration had previously authorized the two-shot regimen.

Each vaccine dose for the five to 11 age group contains one-third of that used for adolescents and adults.

White House officials have determined that there is enough of the Pfizer-

BioNTech vaccine for all 28 million children in America who are between the age of five and 11.

Pfizer officials say they placed orders for the doses last month, and have already began the process of preparing and packing the vaccines.

"We have been asking when we will be able to expand this protection to our younger children," Dr. Walensky stated during the committee meeting. "As you review the data today, it will be key to keep in mind the specific risks to children from this virus and the pandemic, and to put that risk into the context of other vaccine-preventable diseases."

Dr. Walensky added that committee members should recognize that children have historically received vaccinations against diseases like chickenpox, which reportedly kill far fewer children and put far fewer of them into the hospital than Covid-19.

"As you will all be aware, in this most recent Delta [variant] wave, we saw pediatric admission rates higher than they had in any previous wave of the pandemic, reaching a rate of 25 hospitalizations per 100,000 per year in children between the ages of five to 11," Dr. Walensky asserted.

We said we'd never forget: Will we?

By Joseph Reagan

For the first time in 20 years, we celebrate Veterans Day in relative peace.

On November 11, 1918, Ralph Lindsey wrote from his hospital bed in France “Armistice signed at 11 o’clock. Grand celebration all over France. War is at last over and I am still alive!” Later in life if you asked him about the scars on his chest he would simply respond with a shrug and say, “I ziggged when I should have zagged.”

Ralph was my great grandfather, and now, nearly 103 years after he wrote those words our nation once again finds ourselves celebrating the contributions of our veterans during a period where their sacrifices may be less visible than they have during the past 20 years of war.

After returning from WW1, like many others from his unit he found tremendous success, he took over the family business, and raised a family. His friends H.A. Durkee and Fred Mower,

both former Infantrymen, started a small company based on a unique marshmallow confection. Another from his unit, Walter Brennan, is one of only three men to win three academy awards, his distinct voice the result of the same gas attack that wounded my great grandfather. Take a moment to look at Brennan’s accomplishments—IMDb lists nearly 250 film credits and called him “In many ways the most successful and familiar character actor of American sound films.”

To be clear, the end of the United States’ involvement in the Afghan war doesn’t mean our service members are serving without risk. Our military will continue to execute missions across the globe in support of our national security, some of those more sensitive missions, may never be known to us. That aside, superficially this Veterans Day will be much like years past with parades, speeches, and free meal deals in honor of the nearly 19 million veterans living in our communities. Unfortunately, for many veterans—especially those who served in combat—may see this acknowledgement as at best, shallow and at worst, patronizing. Even before the fall of Kabul, many veterans complained that while they believed Americans were genuinely grateful for their service, few cared enough to actually learn about the sacrifices our all-volunteer military makes on their behalf. This civil-military divide is not only impacting the military’s ability to recruit new troops, but also our veterans’ ability to find meaningful post-service careers.

A few years ago, I was traveling from a conference in the District of Columbia in uniform. I was seated next to a young

man who was wearing a sweatshirt from a very prestigious college in the D.C. area. He was clearly bright, affable, and I was enjoying our pre-flight conversation when he turned to me and said, “So you’re in the military, did you not get a chance to graduate high school?”

This is just one of the many, many cringe worthy stories demonstrating the real-life challenges of this civil-military divide. This divide is even more pronounced in Congress where in the 1970s nearly 80 percent of the members of Congress had served in the U.S. Military but today, less than 20 percent of the 117th Congress, have ever worn a uniform. When my great grandfather and grandfather returned from WW1 and WW2, respectively, they entered a job market that was saturated with fellow veterans, who understood them and the value they bring to our communities as did our elected representatives.

A congressional study in the late 80’s looked at the return on investment on veterans programs (e.g., the GI Bill) found that for every dollar spent on veterans’ benefits, nearly \$7 came back to the community through some form of economic output. Having worked with numerous veterans’ groups since leaving active duty, I can tell you this figure is an understatement.

The truth about our veterans since the end of the draft in the 70’s has become increasingly diverse as individuals saw (and continue to see) the military as a way to achieve economic mobility. They are smart, driven, resilient and entrepreneurial—words that most Americans like my seatmate—don’t always associate with a veteran. After WW2 nearly 50 percent of veterans

owned their own business, like my great grandfather; and most veterans outperform their non-military peers in the long run.

There is still work to do, while many veterans thrive in their post-service years others struggle. Veterans continue to be over-represented in the homeless population, court system, substance misuse disorders, and suicide deaths. These are hard problems, but they are solvable ones.

For the past 20 years Americans have claimed we support our troops, but how we choose to treat our veterans over the next few years will be the measure of whether we meant it or not. As a nation we put an impossible burden on a small group of men and women who volunteered to serve—fully knowing the hazards of their chosen profession.

If we are truly a grateful their service, we will invest in those individuals who have invested so much in our freedoms. Each generation of veterans have shown time and time again, that when they thrive, our communities and our nation thrives as well.

Joseph Reagan is the Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for national nonprofit Wreaths Across America. He has over 10 years’ experience working with leaders within Government, non-profit, and Fortune 500 companies to develop sustainable strategies supporting National Security, and Veterans Health. He served 8 years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is a graduate of Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.

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Charm City Table CEO Simone Phillips:

'Foodie' Posted Her Way to Nearly 70,000 Social Media Followers

By Ursula V. Battle

For Simone Phillips, the first time she set out to start a successful blogging career was a charm— *Charm City Table* that is...a delicious venture that has netted her more than 43,000 followers on Instagram and just over 22,000 followers on Twitter. The Morgan State University graduate started *Charm City Table*, as an "Instagram blog" in spring of 2017 sharing the best of Baltimore's food and drinks scene.

Four years later, *Charm City Table* has grown into a small business and well-known local brand continuing to promote restaurants and other local food concepts while serving as a resource to local business owners. In addition to locals, *Charm City Table* is also utilized by celebrities, tourists and other individuals.

"I started by visiting restaurants and live events and would post my photos along with a little caption about my experience," recalled Phillips. "My followers would check these places out for themselves, or just enjoy the content. My posts were really a celebration of the restaurants, as opposed to critiques.

"Growing up, my family ate at restaurants like Golden Corral and IHOP all the time, which sparked my interest. When I got older, I got a job working in Harbor East and me and one of my co-workers would go out for Happy Hour. We wanted to explore the local food scene. We found we could eat cheaper during Happy Hour, and we could do it with our entry level salary. We both also liked trying new food."

Phillips said she and her co-worker were both "foodies"— people who have an avid interest in food.



Morgan State University graduate Simone Phillips launched Charm City Table in 2017, and now has over 43,000 followers on Instagram and over 22,000 followers on Twitter.
Courtesy Photo

"Me and my co-worker were always exploring new places for Happy Hour, and I would take pictures and videos of the food," she said. "I had so many photos and videos that I thought it would be good to have a platform. It all started from there."

Phillips said *Charm City Table* seeks to diversify food conversations in the Baltimore/DC area and create campaigns to elevate voices comprising the local food scene— representation she feels is typically excluded from the

local buzz in larger media outlets such as Black-owned restaurants, Baltimore gems, and historic foodways.

"Baltimore is known for crabs and crab cakes, but we offer a lot more than just crabs and crab cakes," said Phillips. "We have restaurants that offer Indian foods, Thai foods and other foods that people love. We also have many Black-owned restaurants with great food. There are a lot of wonderful restaurants here in Baltimore that people just don't know about."

The 30-year-old said her food platform

"took off" in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I was spending a lot of my own money to try to support restaurants and keeping my ear to the ground to see who was doing carryout," she recalled. "I was trying to keep track of restaurant openings and closings due to COVID. I put the information on Twitter, which supported the businesses and got the information out to people. People really responded well to that."

While it all began with Phillips exploring restaurants, restaurateurs are now pursuing the entrepreneur.

"Within the first thirty days of starting Charm City Table, I got my first invite by a restaurant to come out and eat and drink for free and to share my experience on Instagram," she said. "That was very exciting."

According to Phillips, businesses also pay to advertise on *Charm City Table*, and her portfolio has now expanded to include event hosting. She has also started *Patreon*, a website where people can subscribe to the 'Charm City Table Supper Club' or simply subscribe to for exclusive foodie content.

"Celebrities who are coming to town and political figures visit my page to get recommendations," said Phillips. "I never thought all of this would happen from posting delicious food."

To follow Phillips on Instagram, visit <https://www.instagram.com/charmcitytable/> and Twitter, visit <https://twitter.com/charmcitytable>.

To subscribe to 'Patreon,' go to <https://www.patreon.com/charmcitytable>. You can also email her at charmcitytable@gmail.com.

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Wreaths Across America's Mobile Education Exhibit National Tour Returns to Maryland

Baltimore— Wreaths Across America's (WAA) Mobile Education Exhibit (MEE), which has been traveling the country to honor and welcome home our nations' veterans returns to Maryland with five stops.

These stops are some of the last remaining on the MEE's 2021 tour before heading home and joining the "Escort to Arlington" convoy of trucks delivering wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America Day.

"The goal of the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is to bring community together and teach patriotism while remembering the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes," said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. "However, over the last year, in light of the current health crisis, we feel this exhibit has taken on even more meaning by providing the opportunity for people to safely participate in something that is both educational and inspiring, while



The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes as well as serving as an official "welcome home" station for our nation's Vietnam Veterans.

Photo Credit: WAA Staff

supporting and giving back to the communities it visits."

The MEE achieves this goal by bringing the local community, Veterans, active-duty military and their families together through interactive exhibits, short films, and shared stories. The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes as well as serving as an official "welcome home" station for our nation's Vietnam Veterans.

When the MEE pulls into your area, all veterans, active-duty military, their families, and the local community members are invited and encouraged to visit, take a tour and speak with WAA representatives and volunteers. They can also share more about the national nonprofit, and the work its volunteers do to support our heroes and their communities year-round.

Cont'd on page 14

VETERANS DAY 2021



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

The American Legion

salute our military veterans of all eras this November 11 - and every day.
Thank you for serving America with honor, courage and commitment.

Washingtonian Nominated for Three Young Artist Academy

By Ursula V. Battle

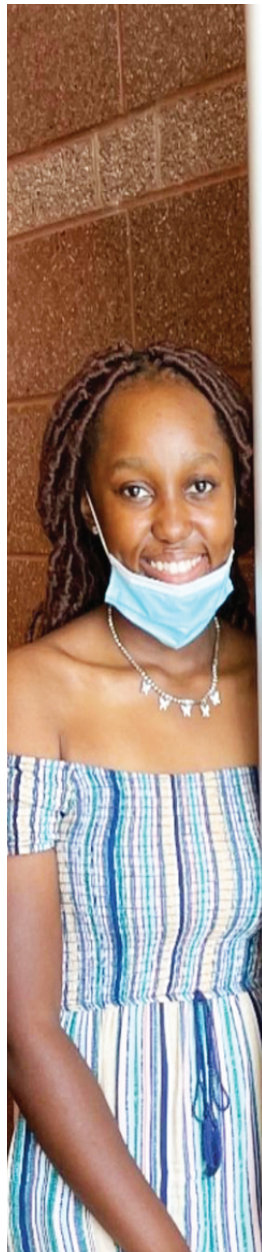
At just 17-years-old, filmmaker and actress Maya Jai Pinson's own life is the stuff of movie scripts when it comes to young, real-life go-getters and achievers. She has been nominated in three categories for the Young Artist Academy Awards and is the first artist from the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) area to achieve this feat. She authored a script which was made into a film entitled, "I'm Ready." The film won six awards, has been selected for 11 film festivals, and catapulted her into the running for three Young Artist Academy Awards.

Based in Beverly Hills, California and founded in 1978 by Golden Globes executive Maureen Dragone, the Young Artist Academy™ is committed to educating, protecting, and mentoring young artists through digital and events. The nonprofit 501(c)(3) produces Hollywood's first and longest-running youth awards and will hold its event virtually on November 6, 2021. Maya has been nominated in the Outstanding Producer, Outstanding Writer, and Short Film Teen Actress categories for "I'm Ready."

"It's truly an honor," said Maya. "I was really astonished. I wasn't thinking about the recognition and awards I would be receiving for my work. But it's just a wonderful feeling to know that I'm getting recognized, because I put a lot of hard work into it. I'm also glad that people are enjoying my film."

"I'm Ready" is about 'Lo,' a coming-of-age teen who finds herself starting to become interested in dating boys. The film seeks to open communication between teens and parents, which is where Maya says her motto, "Conversating before dating" comes in. The movie was featured at the Harlem International Film Festival, winning the 2021 Youth Award.

"All of this is great," said Maya. "It's really this lesson from God, because I know that this is what I was put on this earth to do."



Maya Jai Pinson has been nominated in three categories for the Young Artist Academy Awards based out of Beverly Hills, California. Maya plays a starring role in the new film Old School Rollers. Courtesy Photo

A native of Washington, Maya volunteers at various children's hospitals, food pantries, and organizations which include the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and the Ronald McDonald Charity House. She also plays high school sports and the cello. An entrepreneur, she also has a tee shirt line titled "Conversating Before Dating."

The talented teen's recent projects include playing the role of "Breonna Harrison" in the newly-released film "Old School Rollers." The film is about "Anthony Harrison," who retires after working for the same company for over 30 years to begin a new chapter in his life. His wife "Stacey" encourages him to pick back up his passion for teaching

roller skating lessons. As Anthony begins his new venture, he encounters disrespectful youths who tell him he's too old to be on their skating floor.

"Breonna Harrison is Anthony's granddaughter," said Maya, who also served as assistant director on the film to writer/executive producer and director, Tree Walters. "She's a very bubbly, respectful young lady and very supportive of her grandfather. She is there with him every step of the way. She has a love interest, but she doesn't move too fast. She's also cheerful, smart, and mature for her age. Anthony has a run-in with someone in my generation and that's what sparks a big battle."

Walters talked about Maya and "Old School Rollers," which premiered August, 2021 in Washington, D.C. The film was shown Oct. 1, 2021 at the City of Praise Church, and according to Walters, drew as many as 1,000 people.

"Maya is a talented actress, writer and director, so you can really see the whole package," said Walters. "She's definitely a prodigy for what she does. To see the level of excellence that she puts into the writing process from beginning to end tells me she's going to go far. She's definitely worthy of every nomination and award she has received."

He added, "The message of 'Old School Rollers' is about uniting two generations together, and celebrating a culture we have in the DMV, which is roller skating. I had a beautiful time writing it and working with Maya. I'm just loving the response the film has generated."

You can see Maya in "Old School Rollers" at AMC Magic Johnson Theater on Sunday, November 7, 2021. For more information about the film and other projects, visit her website www.mjaip.com.

Saluting America's Oldest War II Veteran

By Andrea Blackstone

From the time of Lawrence Brooks' birth on September 12, 1909 to the present day, the Land of Liberty has evolved into an extremely different place. America's oldest surviving World War II veteran pushed through notable periods such as the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, Hurricane Katrina, and now an unprecedented pandemic.

While Lawrence Brooks rested at home in New Orleans, Vanessa Brooks took a brief breather to trace footsteps of her 112-year-old father's journey which began when he was born in Norwood, Louisiana. Vanessa has been his devoted caregiver for 13 years. When Lawrence fell and broke his hip in 2018, Vanessa said that she was in the ICU keeping a watchful eye on her father. That is when she heard that the late Richard Overton—the icon who was previously the oldest U.S. World War II veteran—passed away. Thereafter, Lawrence acquired the title as Overton's successor.

Military recognition was already underway since Lawrence had been given birthday parties at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans since turning 104 or 105 or so. However, this is when Lawrence began to verbalize pieces of his life in the service.

"My dad only started talking about his service and his stories since he started going to the museum. Then, he started telling his stories," Vanessa said, while also mentioning that her father was drafted in the Army. "He was in the 91st Engineer Battalion, (which was) predominately Black, from 1942 to 1945.

Despite Lawrence's loss of sight in his right eye, and various health challenges which he has endured over time, Vanessa routinely provides fulltime care to make her father comfortable as possible at home.

"He doesn't want to go into a facility. He wants to be home, and this is this is my goal just to honor his last wishes, which is to stay home until... God come and take him home," Vanessa said.

A GoFundMe campaign organized for "America's Granddad" is a tool to



Lawrence Brooks was in the 91st Engineer Battalion. He was drafted in the Army. This photo was taken at Camp Shelby.

enable the public to support Lawrence with a special salute.

"The purpose of the page is to give my dad the extra love and caring that he needs in the home, meaning to pay somebody a decent amount of money, you know, to come in here and really put the heart and soul into helping me with my dad," Vanessa said. "I have had experiences with agencies, and I've worked for agencies in the past and they only paid me minimum wage."

The home where Lawrence resides needs repairs, too. Juggling her father's medical needs, and also managing a rotator cuff challenge led Vanessa to miss income while serving in her caregiver's role. She worked as an early childhood educator who kept children in her home for years and was employed in the security field.

"I've lived through a lot of sacrifices in my life and pulled out tremendously.



Mr. Brooks's great grandchildren A'jah and Joseph, (left) pose with him. Vanessa Brooks, daughter, (right) joins them. Photos: Courtesy Vanessa Brooks

Sometimes I didn't know how I made it out, but I made it out, so I guess it's fate. And I have faith that it's all going to be... all right in the end," Vanessa said.

Despite Vanessa's candor, and her father's riveting story, numerous individuals around the U.S. are just learning about Lawrence's historic role and daily needs. Although GySgt Tee Hanible USMC (Ret.) is well connected in the veteran community, even she is among them. The Northern Virginia resident who served in the U.S. Marine Corps is a philanthropist, author, national speaker, activist, and reality television personality from FOX's "American Grit" series.

Celebrating military history is a priority for Hanible. She even works with an organization called Montford Point Marines Association (MPMA) to preserve the legacy of African American U.S. Marines dating as far back as 1942.

After googling Lawrence Brooks to quickly familiarize herself with his story, Hanible began to gain knowledge about the icon's legacy and needs. She quickly expressed her desire to support him and spread the word about the oldest surviving American World War II veteran who is also African American. "So definitely, I think it's on all of us to kind of raise better awareness," Hanible said. "He is why we are on this American soil to this day, so who are we not showing more appreciation?" Hanible added that it is easy to get caught up in other issues that are unfolding, but it is equally important not to lose sight of stories such as Lawrence Brooks'. Please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/helpamericasgranddad> to support him.

Rambling Rose

**Baltimore musical son gives back
to children in Baltimore**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, I am hoping and praying that everything is healthy and good with you and your family. My lands of mercy, it has been so ruff for so long. I almost see a little teeny light at the end of the tunnel. It is still not safe to go into public places without a mask. As a matter-of-fact, for the events I will be talking about in my column this week, you must wear a mask, and for God sake, get your vaccine shots, your booster shots, and your flu shots, and if you are over 60 years old get a shingles shot too.

Okay, now that I've gotten that out the way, let's enjoy this good music I'm going to tell you about and about this dynamite musician from Baltimore who has used his skills, his gift and his education to help children. Now, you know I am a sucker for any good musician helping children of low income families. All they need is someone who cares. Gregory Thompkins is one of those people.

Gregory Thompkins is a saxophonist; a jazz and commercial music graduate of Towson University, receiving his bachelor of science degree in 1989. He has studied music with Hank Levy, George Garzone, Glenn Cashman, Denis Karp and Sara Nichols, just to name a few. He is the music director of "The Baltimore Jazz Education Project," which is a non-profit that seeks to raise funds to musically educate underprivileged youth in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Mr. Thompkins, a saxophonist with over 30 years under his belt has performed with such artists at the All Mighty Senators, Lafayette Gilchrist, David Murray, and Dave Ballou, just to name a few. He has recorded with Lafayette Gilchrist and the All Mighty Senators. As a saxophonist and teacher, his students have performed in first chair positions in their local school bands. Many of his students

have received music scholarships from Eastman School of Music; Towson State University; University of Michigan; University of Maryland; and University of The Arts. His organization, The Baltimore Jazz Education Project started in 2007 and has educated over 30 students at Winston Middle School, Patterson Park Public Charter School as well as private students. To support Gregory Thompkins and his organization go to his website: www.jazzbjep.com or his email;

Greg@rolandparkjazz.com

Okay, are you ready to clap your hands, pat your feet, wave your hands in the air and shout? Well, Honey Child, check this out! Shelia "Sandy" Holman from the radio station WOLB 1010 A.M "Early Morning Gospel" every Sunday 8:30 a.m. and her organization is having a benefit concert featuring Luther Barnes & The Sunset Jubilairs; The Fantastic Violineires; The Anointed Boy Sisters; The Christaineirs; Sparkle & The Tones of Joy; Deyntay & Nu-Direction; The M^{en} of God; and the Stroman Singers 3rd Generation on Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 3 p.m. at the Higher Dimension Christian Center, 2900 Liberty Heights Avenue in Baltimore. For more information, call 443-255-0662.

Well, my friends, I got to go. I am out of space, but remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



Luther Barnes & The Sunset Jubilairs are one of the headliners for the "Early Morning Gospel Radio Benefit Concert" on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at the Higher Dimension Christian Center located at 2900 Liberty Heights Avenue. For more information, call 443-255-0662.



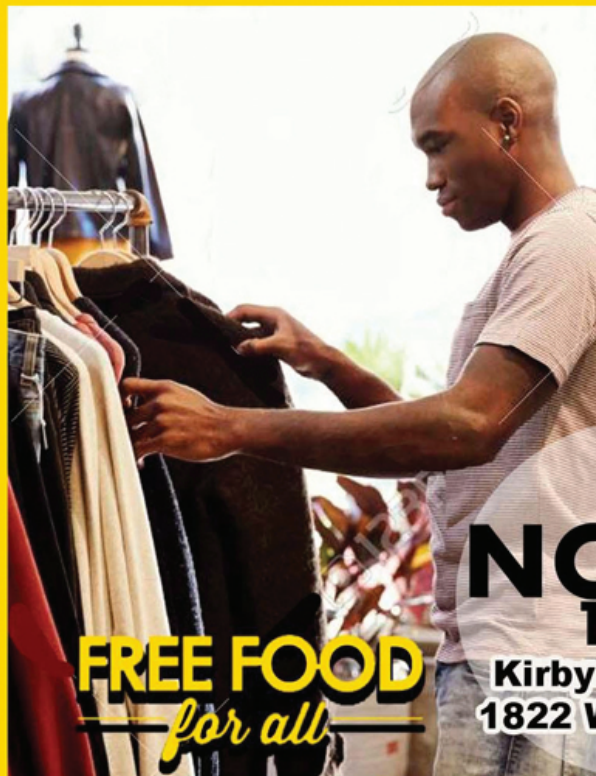
The Dells Revue perform on Friday, November 5, 2021, at City View located at 6700 Security Blvd. in Gwynn Oak, Maryland. Showtime is 5 p.m. Good food, good drinks. There is no cover!



Black Tigers Band aka BTB will performing at Not Just Crabs located at 8731 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Maryland on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Show time is 7 p.m. Good food, good drinks and great entertainment.



The Christaineirs will also be performing all your favorite gospel tunes at the "Early Morning Gospel Radio Benefit Concert" on Sunday November 7th at 3 p.m. at the Higher Dimension Christian Center.




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Reparations, Reparations and More Reparations!

Continued from page 1

to become an American citizen. Before getting a visa, I needed to get a medical that included blood tests, chest x-rays and an actual physical examination by a medical doctor of the American Embassy's choosing. For people who go the legal route, a medical exam is required and not from any old doctor—only doctors approved by the Embassy. Then, a police report from all jurisdictions in which the would-be immigrant recently lived was also required. Failure to follow these procedures guaranteed rejection of a visa by the American Embassy.

Of late, it seems as though all these laws which were put in place to safeguard the country from disease and crime have been discarded. Under the present administration of Joe Biden, anyone can walk across the border without a medical examination or criminal police report and be immediately considered entitled to large cash settlements if they are apprehended and placed in custody that required their being separated because they must go to a different facility because of their sex or because children are not detained in adult facilities. This is insanity on steroids!

Then, it has been reported that the award contemplated for these illegals exceeds the amount that is paid to families who lost a soldier in battle. Imagine this for a moment. An all-American son or daughter sent off to fight for the country loses his or her life and is by law awarded less money for their permanent separation from their families than what is promised to illegals who are temporally separated at the border after an illegal crossing. There is something massively wrong with this picture.

The reason that is given for the massive award to illegal families is that they have suffered “psychological and emotional trauma.” Got that one? Reparation for “psychological and emotional trauma” must be paid to people who deliberately broke our laws.

If that logic meets legal and moral modern standards, then many other

people who suffered much worse “psychological and emotional trauma” at the hand of the American government, need to be compensated.

Coming immediately to mind is the need for REPARATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS who have suffered much more than psychological and emotional trauma over a very long period of time. And they did not break any law. By the count of the woke leaders and trend setters, the trauma of black people in America began in the year 1619 and to this day has not stopped. Critical Race Theory, promoted by the woke thinkers of today, says that the problem is on-going and everlasting. Wow! And so, using the logical reasoning of those who say that such pain and trauma must be financially paid for, we know that reparations for black people must be coming next.

Therefore, the cry must go forward reminding us that no people have suffered as much trauma as blacks in America. CRT teaches that. And now, reparations must be paid out to blacks if reparations are to go to illegal aliens for their temporary trauma.

Who must now lead the fight for reparations for the past and continued suffering of African Americans? Who is best positioned to lead this fight in our government? I have the answer.

The Congressional Black Caucus must lead this fight. And there is no better time to do it than right now. Congressman James Clyburn led blacks to elect the current president whose administration is arguing that “psychological trauma” must be paid for by the US government. Blacks elected the current president whose administration is putting forward this logic. They think that the trauma of illegals is worth \$450,000.00 each. Jim Clyburn and the Congressional Black Caucus need to put a value on the trauma blacks have suffered in this country since 1619 to this day. And it better be more per individual than the \$450,000.00 the Administration plans to give for the psychological trauma suffered by illegal aliens separated at the border.

As our President Joe Biden loves to say, “this is not a joke!” There is no way in hell that illegals can be paid for their psychological trauma if black African Americans who elected Joe Biden and also the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, are not factored into

plans for reparation for past and current “psychological trauma” and economic loss over the centuries. Remember, according to CRT preached by the woke, black suffering began in 1619 and continues to this day. Four hundred and two (402) years! Reparations!

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³Based on customer experience reviews shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp as of February 2021.

Ravens look to improve tackling this week

By Tyler Hamilton

The bye week always presents an opportunity for some self-scouting. That's what the Baltimore Ravens did over the past few days. One of the things that came up in their self-evaluation was how bad the tackling has been for them recently.

Tackling is critical for any defensive unit. And, that's especially the case for a team like that Ravens that is so defensive minded. That's exactly why tackling was a focus for Baltimore this week in practice.

"We will. We have to, because we have to get better," Ravens head coach John Harbaugh said when asked about tackling. "We actually prioritize it all the time; it's not like we don't prioritize it. But we've got to keep coaching it. We've got to coach it better."

The Ravens have 58 missed tackles through seven games, according to Pro Football Reference. Those 58 missed tackles are the most in the NFL.

Missed tackles have been an ongoing issue for the Ravens. Baltimore had 134 missed tackles in 16 games last year, which was the second-most in the league.

Second-year inside linebacker Patrick Queen has had his share of missed tackles. He shared what's behind it and



The Baltimore Ravens have 58 missed tackles through seven games, according to Pro Football Reference. Those 58 missed tackles are the most in the NFL. Second-year inside linebacker Patrick Queen, who has had his share of missed tackles says that the only thing he can do now is to improve and help his team win games.

Photo Credit: AP Photo/Rick Scuteri

how he plans to rectify the situation.

"Thinking— thinking too much, overthinking. It's really simple when you think about it," Queen said last

week. "It's just technique— just go in there, break down, tackle, move your feet, wrap up. There are a lot of times that I just threw my shoulder in there. I

wish I could take those plays back and just re-do them, re-live them, and just execute on that part. It would've saved us a lot of yards, a lot of points. But the only thing I can do now is just improve on that, get better at that, and just try to help my team win more games."

The missed tackles fall on more than just Queen's shoulders. As mentioned earlier the Ravens as a team have the most missed tackles among all NFL defenses.

This week they will face the Minnesota Vikings and running back Dalvin Cook. It won't be easy to corral one of the league's best running backs. But it's a job the Ravens defense has to do.

No wonder tackling is one of the primary areas the Ravens want to improve this week.

"There's a lot that has to do with it— from understanding our responsibilities and doing our job, to the technique of tackling, to the angles, the rotation of our secondary, to the fits of our linebackers, to just getting guys on the ground," Harbaugh said. "And we'll be working on all those things. You have to. You have to be fundamentally great. If you're not fundamentally great, you have no chance. So, it starts with that. If you want to be a good football team, we've got to be great at the little things, and we've got to keep chasing that."

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Wreaths Across America's Mobile Education Exhibit National Tour Returns to Maryland

Cont'd from page 7

The public tours for the MEE are free and open to the public with social distancing, sanitation and COVID-19 safety procedures in place to protect the health of all visitors in accordance with the CDC's recommendation for large gatherings stemming from concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the media, dignitaries, veterans and other interested groups are urged to come, ask questions, share stories and experience this one-of-a-kind exhibit. For more information, visit: www.wreathacrossamerica.org.

Stops in Maryland include:

Owings Mills – Friday, November 5, 2021 – Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery welcomes the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit national tour. The WAA MEE is free and open to the public and will take place at the Harford Mall, 696 Belair Rd., Macy's Parking Lot from 10am to 6pm.

Bel Air – Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – The Governor William Paca Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution welcome the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit national tour. The WAA MEE is free and open to the public and will take place at VFW Post, 214 Tollgate Rd., from 10am to 6pm.

California, Md.— Thursday (Veterans Day), November 11, 2021 – The Cheltenham Veteran Cemetery Group welcomes the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit national tour. The WAA MEE is free and open to the public and will take place at Mission BBQ, 22599 MacArthur Blvd, STE 136C from 11am to 8pm.

Timonium, Md.— Friday – Sunday, November 12-14, 2021 – The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit national tour will stop at the Maryland Irish Festival. The WAA MEE is free and open to the public and will take place at the festival located at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium.

Odenton, Md.— Tuesday, November 16, 2021 – The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit national tour will be in town for a private event.

Wayback Burgers Salutes Heroes this Veterans Day by Donating Portion of Sales to Tunnel to Towers

Baltimore— **Wayback Burgers**, America's favorite hometown burger joint and one of the nation's fastest-growing burger franchises, will salute military heroes this Veterans Day by donating 10 percent of sales to the **Tunnel to Towers Foundation** Thursday, November 11, 2021.

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NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1274-Carrollton Avenue and Vicinity Water Main Replacements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **November 24, 2021**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall and can be watched live on Charm TV's Cable Channel (25/1085HD); charmmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE) 0842939 from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **November 5, 2021** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via virtual in Microsoft Team Meeting. 1 667-228-6519 Conference ID 358 187 551# on **November 10, 2021 at 1:00 PM.**

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- *Renew/Replacement of existing water services;
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