



OUTside
Looking IN

OUR VOICE



GUEST EDITORIAL
BY
GEORGE CURRY
"2014: Unfair and unbalanced media"
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BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE

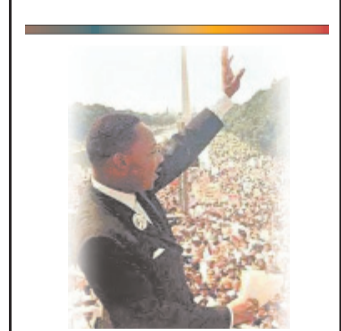


BERNEST HEWETT
2015:
Remember
Dr. King, Jr.

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brunswick County, we are soon to be into 2015. We will start the New Year by remembering Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and all his achievements that he made in the fight for freedom and justice and the price he paid for speaking the truth in a supposedly free nation. The weekend of January 17-19 will be Dr.

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—SALUTES—
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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VOLUME 88/No. 1

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FIFTY CENTS

WILMINGTON

Educator/civic leader succumbs

COMPILED BY STAFF

Just several days before her 81st birthday, Honorable Lethia Sherman Hankins passed away on Monday, December 29, 2014. The retired educator, beloved public servant and community activist, was born on January 2, 1934 in Georgetown, South Carolina to Benjamin Sherman and Mary Flowers Sherman. The Sherman family traversed to Wilmington, North Carolina when she was an infant, so she considered Wilmington her home. Mrs. Hankins attended and graduated from Williston Industrial High School in 1951. She went on to matriculate at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. Mrs. Hankins was later married and was the mother of three children.

After graduating from North

Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina, she became an English teacher in Hallsboro, North Carolina before returning to Wilmington in 1959, where she began teaching at Williston Senior High School, her alma mater. She taught numerous subjects at Williston including Yearbook Publications until Williston closed. Of the abrupt closing, she once told *The Wilmington Journal*, "[There was] a feeling of resentment first of all, because the community knew absolutely nothing about that. There were no community meetings, no input. Bam, it was closed. Hankins said, "They were beautiful years. I cherish them, I remember them because those are the years that prepared me for who I am and what I am."

In 1968, she was transferred to

John T. Hoggard High School following the integration of schools. Although it was a tumultuous period in local history, she actively organized "Speak Outs," which gave students an outlet to communicate with each other about the ugliness of racism. Years later, when the local community recognized a desperate need for racial healing, one-hundred years after the 1898 Wilmington riots, Mrs. Hankins was in the midst. Interracial Dialogue Study Circles were formed, and as the program grew stronger, it was handed over to the YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear to coordinate.

She also taught at John T. Hoggard High School, and E. A.



THE HONORABLE
LETHIA SHERMAN HANKINS

Please see **HANKINS/**Page 2

PREPARING FOR 75 YEARS



TRICE EDNEY WIRE/ROY LEWIS PHOTO
NNPA PRESIDENT DR. BENJAMIN CHAVIS

NNPA President envisions Black Press as 'mainstream'

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
OF TRICEEDNEYWIRE.COM

(TriceEdneyWire.com) Civil rights leader Benjamin Chavis, now president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, says he envisions Black newspapers as becoming the "new mainstream" rather than an alternative press as it is often called.

"The Black Press, I believe has an opportunity where it can make even more traction than it has in the past," Chavis said in a recent interview with the Trice Edney News Wire. "In other words, I don't see the Black press as a side press

from the mainstream press. I want the Black press to become the new mainstream because the demographics are changing."

Chavis was among the speakers at a gala celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the Washington Informer Newspaper, published by NNPA member Denise Rolark Barnes. Black-owned newspapers are often called specialty, alternative or minority press by government agencies and corporate America.

But, according to an analysis of U. S. Census Bureau population stats, people of color, including African-Americans, will gradually increase to

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LUMBERTON
Mrs. Lallian
Thompson
passes

COMPILED BY STAFF

Retired educator, civic, community and church leader Mrs. Lallian Stephens Thompson died at home in Lumberton, North Carolina early Monday morning, December 15, 2014. Mrs. Thompson was born in Robeson County, North Carolina, oldest daughter of Lawrence Simuel Stephens and Augusta Rickett Stephens.

After graduating from Redstone Academy in Lumberton, Mrs. Thompson graduated from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and completed her Masters of Art Degree from Columbia University, New York, New York in 1952.

She taught school in Anson, Columbus and Robeson counties for 37 years. She was a dedicated

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WINSTON-SALEM

Winston-Salem chancellor retires with legacy intact

SPECIAL TO THE NNPA

BY DONNA ROGERS
OF THE CHRONICLE

It was a long time coming, but Donald J. Reaves, 68, achieved his desire to be the leader of a historically Black college or university.

"I always said that I would like to lead an HBCU (historically Black college or university)," he said in an interview. His career path took him to opportunities to be high in the chain of command, such as chief financial officer, but

the Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) chancellorship allowed him to be a chief executive officer.

"This job was kind of the capstone in higher education," he said, because it called for all of the skills he had developed over several decades.

His chancellorship ended on Dec. 31.

Reaves said what he takes the greatest pride in is: "I believe that our body of work in Winston-Salem over the last seven years has resulted in improved perceptions of

the institution by virtually every constituency that matters."

Six or seven years ago, Reaves said, "this institution wasn't held in the highest esteem. We think that we made a lot of progress in that regard. We've improved the quality of everything:" the students who graduate, the faculty and his administrative staff.

"And all of that has worked, I believe, to change the perceptions that people hold about this institution.

That's critically important because it speaks to the value that people place on your degree."

Reaves started work at WSSU on Aug. 16, 2007. He had been at the University of Chicago from 2002 to 2007, where he had served as vice president for administration and chief financial officer. Before that, he had been executive vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer at

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Page 2



CHANCELLOR
DONALD J. REAVES



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BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

King's program here in Brunswick County. We will move into February to celebrate Black History Month. We then give honor to minorities who have made great advancements in society through leadership, science, and civil involvements. We do this as the year begins and talk about how much these people gave up or lived through to make sure we could vote, buy homes where we want, work on jobs with equal pay, marry whom we want, stay in public housing, ride public transportation, go to public schools, and many many, more acts of a free society, and we say we are proud of

HANKINS

Continued from Page 1

Laney High School, where she served in various capacities until her "retirement" in 1994.

Continuing the legacy of her parents, Mrs. Hankins was also very active in her home church, First Baptist Missionary Church, for over seventy years.

Additionally, Mrs. Hankins was a lifelong member of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority's Alpha Psi Omega Chapter and twice served as President and held numerous offices within this organization. She was a past member of the Wilmington City Council where she served on numerous committees. During her tenure as a member of the Wilmington City Council numerous high profile projects were completed such as the Wilmington

Convention Center.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Hankins received recognition for her longtime commitment to the betterment of the community and racial healing. She was the recipient of the YWCA International Dorothy Height Racial Justice Award and the Elderhaus Senior Service Award and a nominee for the YWCA Women of Achievement Award.

Her involvement in other civic organizations include: Co-Chair of the 1898 Foundation for dedication of the 1898 Memorial Park, Chairperson of the New Hanover County Human Relations Commission, Vice-Chairperson of the New Hanover County Library Advisory Board, Chair of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, of Wilmington Voting Precinct # 13, a member of Cape Fear Community College Board of Directors, a

member of Wilmington Housing Authority Board of Directors, a member of Board of Directors at the YWCA, a member of Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts Board of Trustees, a member of Commission on African American History, a member of Cape Fear Museum Associates, a member of Democratic Women, a member of Retired Teachers of the Cape Fear Area, a member of the NAACP, and many more.

Mrs. Hankins was loved by many; thus, memories of her will be cherished by many. Longtime friend and fellow educator and community activist, Bertha Todd told *The Journal*, "Lethia was a friend and co-worker at Williston Senior and John T. Hoggard High Schools. She was also my sorority sister for 40 plus years.

I worked very closely with Lethia when she campaigned

for elected offices for the New Hanover County Board of Education and The Wilmington City Council. We also worked together with the efforts of The 1898 Memorial Foundation.

I found Lethia to be a committed and disciplined person as she served humanity in each capacity. She will be remembered as one who left a rich legacy of service to mankind."

Mrs. Hankins was the mother of three adult children: her daughter, Angela H. Metts (Reverend Owen E. Metts, Sr.) of Bolivia, NC, (two preceded her in death: Harry Benjamin Hankins [2001] and Anita Jacobs Galloway [2007]); the nephew she raised, Derry Flowers (preceded her in death [2006]; she is the grandmother of five Anecia Latoye Jacobs of Raleigh, NC, Owen E. Metts, Jr.,

C. Alex Metts (two preceded her in death: Marcus Galloway [1984] and Danielle Johnson [2007]); she is the great-grandmother of Ava Leigh Jacobs of Raleigh, NC. She is also survived by her sister, Beulah Brooks (Willis Brooks [deceased]) of Jacksonville, Florida, aunt Florence Flowers (Stephen Flowers [deceased]), brother-in-laws Zack Davis (Rosalynd of New York, New York, Clark Davis of New York, New York, Shirley Flowers and Cephus Anderson of Georgetown, SC, Jeraldine Flowers of Charleston, SC, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and a multitude of other relatives and friends.

Lethia S Hankins' services will be this Friday, January 02, 2015 at 1:00 at First Baptist Missionary Baptist Church at 520 North 5th Street with Davis Funeral Home in charge.

THOMPSON

Continued from Page 1

elementary school teacher, teacher of the Glee Club, and a teacher in adult education in Robeson County. She provided piano lessons to many students and adored all types of music expressed best in her piano and organ playing. Her activities at Sandy

Grove Baptist Church included Minister of Music for over 50 years, Deaconess Emeritus, Sunday school teacher, member of the Music Ministry and the Harriett Whitted Senior Missionary Circle.

Her membership in civic and community organizations included chairperson of the Robeson County NAACP Fund Raising Banquet, mem-

ber of Ladies Auxiliary of VFW, Order of Eastern Star, Order of Tent, member of Redstone Academy/Thompson Institute Alumni, Lumber River Baptist Association, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Matron Guild, Senior Olympic of Robeson County and Golden Ladies of the Lumberton City Recreation Department.

Mrs. Thompson was the

Shaw Day Chairperson for the Lumber River Baptist Association for many years. She was an avid supporter of Shaw University, her alma mater, and the General Baptist State Convention.

On December 22, 1947, she married Angus Boaz Thompson, Sr., who preceded her in death. They were the parents of two children--Mischelle S. Thompson of

Greensboro, a Bennett College graduate and retired medical employee, and Attorney Angus Thompson, II Public Defender for Robeson County.

Funeral services were held on Friday December 19, 2014 at Sandy Grove Baptist Church in Lumberton where Rev. T. Shedrick Byrd is pastor. A *McMillan Funeral Home* service.

REAVES

Continued from Page 1

Brown University in Providence, R.I., during a 14-year tenure.

Debra Miller, chairwoman of the WSSU Board of Trustees, said, "As I look at all the statistics that indicate the accuracy of that direction, I am amazed that so much has been accomplished in what is a relatively short time in academic environments." She added, "Donald has certainly moved the university forward, and we have benefited from his expertise and his commitment."

WSSU is part of the UNC System of North Carolina universities.

"By any measure, Donald Reaves has been an outstanding chancellor for WSSU and positioned the campus for future success," UNC System President Tom Ross said. "Under his leadership, WSSU has raised academic expectations, strengthened the curriculum, improved graduation and retention rates and expanded graduate education in select high-demand fields." Reaves said WSSU has a great reputation in the health sciences. He said WSSU nursing graduates are in tremen-

these people and the debt they paid for us. Some have paid with their lives. Others have paid with harsh treatment from White people who unjust intentions.

The fight for freedom was hard and the price was paid for with blood, so I ask, "What now are you going to do to keep freedom going? Are you a member of the NAACP? Have you joined the Black Caucus? Have you joined the Citizens' League? Have you started the talk, an open conversation about race, police misconduct, and solutions to these problems that threaten our freedom? Then one of the greatest questions is when are you going to vote?"

Bernest L. Hewett is President of the Brunswick County Branch of NAACP.

dous demand.

Ross said that Reaves "has also streamlined operations to more effectively target scarce resources, overseen the development of a campus master plan and strengthened partnerships within the surrounding community."

A list of some major accomplishments credited to Reaves' leadership include:

*Increased student retention rates from 65 percent to more than 80 percent.

*Moved the six-year graduation rate from 35 percent to 46 percent.

*Moved from graduating 824 students in 2007 to almost 1,600 students in May 2014.

*Raised standards for tenure and promotion to improve faculty performance.

*Raised admission standards three times in order to admit students who were better prepared.

*Created a dual admission program with Forsyth Technical Community College to ensure that less prepared students could gain access to a college degree.

*Revamped and revitalized the curriculum to support student success in the 21st century.

*Construction of new dormitories to increase the number of students who live on campus.

*Renovated Hill Hall to create a state-of-the-art Student Success Center.

*Opened a new student activity center, which was named for him, to provide recreation, meeting and study spaces.

*Returned to the CIAA and won 15 championships.

Miller called Reaves "a courageous leader who has never been afraid to make right and hard decisions. No one could ever doubt where he stood no matter the challenge he faced or the controversy that might ensue."

And there have been challenges along the way.

For instance, Reaves faced strong opposition when he raised admission standards. Traditionally, HBCUs have lowered standards in order to

attract students who had not reached their full potential. However, Reaves believed that the better the student, the more likely he or she would graduate from college.

He has been vindicated. Graduation rates at colleges have risen to the point that President Barack Obama's administration has taken note of it.

"Cleaning up some of those policies, cleaning up some of those requirements, also have helped students clear their path from beginning to end," Allen said. "It all kind of came together to dramatically affect the graduation rate in a short period of time."

Michelle Cook, vice chancellor for university advancement, noted that the state of North Carolina cut the uni-

versity's budget by more than \$35 million during Reaves' tenure.

"You can never fill that kind of gap when you're losing that kind of state appropriation," she said. "But with direction from the chancellor, we were raising money for this university's most strategic priorities, and we saw pretty significant increases year over year."

Reaves said his goal was simple: "I want to improve outcomes for students," he said. "I want them to be better prepared when they leave here to successfully compete in the 21st century global economy."

Olivia Sedwick, a senior who is president of the WSSU Student Government Association, said Reaves leaves a legacy of improved

academics and two greatly appreciated new buildings for students: the \$25 million Donald Julian Reaves Student Activities Center, which opened in September 2013; and the \$13.5 million Student Success Center at Hill Hall, which opened in March 2014.

"I took this job head-on and tried to simply make sure this place was significantly better off when I leave than it was when I found it," Reaves said. "And if that happened, I'm satisfied. I have no regrets."



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REPORT FINDS A GROWING NUMBER OF UNAFFILIATED VOTERS IN NC



STATE BRIEFS

Voter turnout increased in North Carolina's recent midterm election, and several key voter sub-groups had a large part in influencing its

outcome. New data released by the advocacy and research organization Democracy North Carolina found that Democrats, older Americans and African Americans all participated in greater numbers, compared to the 2010 midterm. The biggest share of new voters came from independents, according to Bob Hall, executive director of Democracy North Carolina.

CAROLINA PANTHERS ADVANCE IN PLAYOFFS WITH LOSING RECORD

The Carolina Panthers advanced in the NFL playoffs Sunday although now posting a 7-8-1 record. They crushed the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday by a 34-3 margin to gain the right to face Arizona in a wild-card playoff game Saturday. The Panthers defense came up

big in the win with Roman Harper and Tre Boston returning interceptions for touchdowns, and Carolina recording six sacks on Atlanta's quarterback.

FEDERAL JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORMS WOULD SUPPORT EXISTING NC PROGRAMS

Congress is set to consider

updating a decades-old law that guides states on the custody and care of juveniles in the criminal justice system. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention act was introduced this month, and one big change is an incentive for states to lock up fewer children. Locking up children reportedly is expensive, costing about \$200 per day, per inmate. According to some children's

advocates, North Carolina is doing better than most states when it comes to reducing juvenile interactions with the court system. The latest data from the state's Division of Juvenile Justice in 2011 shows a 28 percent decrease in juvenile incidents, and placement in the state's youth development centers has dropped by 69 percent since 2000.

COMPILED BY STAFF

BLACK PRESS
Continued from Page 1

become a clear majority of America's population over the next four decades.

"All in all, minorities, now 37 percent of the U.S. population, are projected to comprise 57 percent of the population in 2060," according to a U. S. Census report. "The total minority population would more than double, from 116.2 million to 241.3 million over the period."

During that period, "the black population is expected to increase from 41.2 million to 61.8 million" as the White population will peak in 2024 - 10 years from now - and then grad-

ually decrease by 20.6 million by 2060, the Census reports.

Chavis sees this increase as a prospective boon for NNPA's more than 200 Black-owned newspapers as it anticipates its 75th anniversary in 2015 - but only if certain strategies are put in place.

First, he said, the Black press must focus on a stronger economic foundation by generating more revenue. African-Americans spend \$1.2 trillion dollars a year, he said, noting that Black newspapers must partner with the Black Church, Black banks, Black colleges and Black organizations to network and support the Black press.

This strategy would require much unity, Chavis says. "This

is beyond connecting the dots. The dots have to converge...There's too much disunity in our community. And I'm not just talking about organizational disunity. I'm talking about disunity even among the so-called personalities...In my long career in civil rights I've seen what happens when leadership goes in divergent paths...To me, it's a disservice to our community to allow personality conflicts to get in the way."

Secondly, White-owned businesses must be made to understand the value of supporting Black newspapers as businesses and as a sustainable institution, the same as the broadcast media, Chavis says.

"To reach people in our com-

munity. They can't just look at something on TV or hear it on the radio and act. They've got to look at it and read it more than once. That's the value of the Black print press," he said. "The pen has to have an economic undergirding so that what is written gets distributed; so that what is written gets circulated. Sometimes we overlook the necessity to the strong economic foundation in our quest for freedom, justice and equality."

Finally, Chavis said, Black newspapers must take full advantage of the digital universe.

"Technology, particularly digital technology can be a great equalizer. Some people think the digital will supplant

the print. I don't. To me, the digital will make more valuable the print press because every day it's about the content. We have the content, but we have not aggregated the content," he said.

Denise Rolark Barnes, who has been publisher of the Informer for 20 years, succeeded her now late father, Dr. Calvin Rolark, a prominent D.C. businessman and Black leader. Barnes recalls how the Black press has led America's media when it comes to many of the issues that have now emerged as headline news for White-owned media, such as police brutality, economic justice and voting rights.

"The more you do it, the more stories you realize need to be told; the more you realize that our community, our Black history every day is being thrown away," says Barnes, in an exhibit hall showing historic front pages and photos from the Informer. "I've learned that history does repeat itself and is repeating itself."

Hundreds of people packed into the Carnegie Library in Downtown Washington, DC to salute the Informer and its legacy during the event in late fall.

Iconic radio talk show host Joe Madison recalled how the Black press has been so audience-specific that readers know

that those who advertise in Black newspapers specifically want to reach Black people. "It means it's for us," Madison said.

Madison also underscored Black newspapers as a chronicle of Black history. "Most of us would not have known about Emmett Till had it not been for the Black Press. Most of us wouldn't have known, quite honestly about Martin Luther King Jr. if it wasn't for the Black Press because White media certainly wasn't publicizing it...The Black Press is, as Frederick Douglass would probably say, our North Star."

Ben Chavis is one who has benefited tremendously from the Black press. He is one of the historic Wilmington 10, who was pardoned by North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue two years ago in a 1971 firebombing amidst the civil rights struggle. The pardon finally came after *The Wilmington Journal* of North Carolina, published by Mary Alice Thatch, escalated the campaign for justice.

Concludes Chavis, "It is in the business of not only reporting the news, but defending the news when it comes to the interest of Black people. That's what gives the Black press its unique value, not only to Black America, but to the rest of America."

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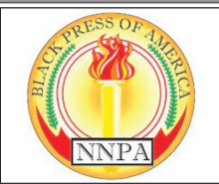
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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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.

The Wilmington Journal welcomes letters from its readers. All letters are subject to editing. We will not publish pseudonymous letters. All correspondence must include a home address and a daytime phone number. All correspondence must be signed, unless it is e-mailed. Letters may be sent to our Physical Address: 412 S. 7th Street, 28401 or our Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1020, 28402. We also accept letters via e-mail at wilmjourn@aol.com or via fax at (910) 343-1334.

Our Voice

CURRY'S COMMENTS

2014:

Unfair and unbalanced media

Fox News, which mislabels itself as "fair and balanced," was anything but in 2014, according to MediaMatters.org, the independent media watchdog group. The way that the right-wing network covered the deaths of police officers in 2014 is a case in point.

"The politicization surrounding the killing of two New York Police Department officers over the weekend was amazingly swift. Fox News led the right-wing media charge, immediately claiming Democratic elected officials were somehow responsible for the gun rampage..." the MediaMatters analysis observed.

"On Fox, hosts and guests were sure who was to blame for the tragedy; not the gunman necessarily, but political and community leaders like President Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, Mayor Bill de Blasio and MSNBC's Al Sharpton. Why? Because the men, to varying degrees, have spoken out about the troubled relationship between law enforcement and the black community, and raised concerns about two recent high-profile cases, Michael Brown and Eric Garner, in which unarmed black men were killed, and police officers responsible were not indicted."

The watchdog group continued, "...former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik told Fox News, 'I personally feel that Mayor de Blasio, Sharpton and others like them, they actually have blood on their hands.'"

"Let's talk about the president as well," responded Fox's Jeanine Pirro, suggesting Obama and Mayor de Blasio were to blame. "The two of them have undoubtedly created racial tensions that worsens, not better, the situation for law enforcement."

"Appearing on Fox News, former New York City Mayor Rudolf Giuliani insisted the message from recent Obama 'propaganda' was that 'everybody should hate the cops.' (No such Obama 'propaganda' actually exists.)"

MediaMatters noted, "Yet in stark contrast, as Media Matters has documented, Fox News has routinely paid very little attention to breaking news stories that feature right-wing, or anti-government, gunmen who target law enforcement officials as a way to deliver their warped political messages."

"And critically, when they have touched on those deadly attacks, Fox talkers have stressed that it's not fair to blame politics. Note that in 2013, after racist skinhead Michael Page started killing worshippers at an Oak Creek, WI., Sikh temple, and then murdered a police officer, Fox's Andrea Tantaros stressed that the killing spree was an isolated event that didn't have any larger implications. 'How do you stop a lunatic?' she asked. 'This is not a political issue.'"

"At Fox, that has been the pattern: These kind of deadly right-wing attacks are treated as isolated incidents that are mostly void of politics. Instead, the perpetrators are portrayed as lone gunmen (and women) who do not represent any cultural or political movement."

To buttress its assertion, MediaMatters stated:

"On a September night this year, 31-year-old marksman Eric Frein was allegedly laying in wait outside the Blooming Grove police barracks in northeastern Pennsylvania, preparing to assassinate state troopers. That night, state police officer Bryon Dickson was shot and killed as he walked towards his patrol car."

"...In the two weeks after the shooting, as a massive manhunt unfolded in the mountains of Pennsylvania, Fox programs mentioned Frein's name in just six reports, according to Nexis transcripts. One of the reports mentioned Frein's hatred of law enforcement, but none mentioned Frein's vocal anti-government leanings."

"When Frein was finally captured in late October, Fox News covered the stories a handful of times. Again, there was no emphasis on his possible anti-government motivations and why the 'survivalist' set out to assassinate law enforcement officers."

"Another police assassination attack unfolded in June. Claiming to be acting under the bloody 'banner of Liberty and Truth,' Jerad Miller and his wife Amanda entered a restaurant Las Vegas executed two local policemen while they ate lunch."

"...Fox News primetime hosts Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity both ignored the shocking cop-killer story the night after it happened; Megyn Kelly devoted four sentences to it. Fox has plenty of company on the right."

According to MediaMatters, the "Worst 2014 Smears From Right-Wing Websites" included:

The Daily Caller suggested that Obama's statement expressing his condolences to the parents of Michael Brown was calculated to boost Black turnout in the midterm elections." [Media Matters, 8/12/14]

In November 2014, Breitbart.com criticized the media for not mentioning that President Obama's nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch, "was one of the Clintons' Whitewater defense attorneys." But Breitbart.com targeted the wrong Loretta Lynch - the woman they named, a defense attorney for the Clintons, is a California based attorney who has worked on several prominent political campaigns, and is White. The nominee Loretta Lynch became a federal prosecutor in 1990, two years before the other Lynch participated in the Whitewater investigation, was appointed by President Clinton as a U.S. Attorney in 1999, and is Black." [Media Matters, 11/9/14]

Yes, Black lives matter. And so does the truth.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNAAP)*. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge and [George E. Curry Fan Page](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgeE.Curry) on Facebook.

Visual Voice



Matters of Opinion

Innocent Blacks and White cops - All lives are valuable

Rafael Ramos had been a school security guard before he joined the New York City Police Department two years ago. Ramos, 40, was married and had two children. The youngest child, Jaden, 13, fondly remembered his dad on Facebook and Twitter, describing his dad as "the best father I could ask for."

A l r e a d y, many in the Ramos family say they have forgiven the Ismaayl Brisley, the man who executed Rafael Ramos and his colleague, Wenjian Liu, on December 20.

Liu, 32, attended the College of Staten Island and Kingsborough Community College. He was a dedicated police officer who, according to news reports, chose his career out of a sense of duty and obligation. He had been married for just two months.

Eric Garner, 43, was also married and had six children; the youngest, Legacy, was born just three months before his father died. Garner's death was ruled a homicide, probably because he was placed in a chokehold, a forbidden police maneuver. At 400 pounds, he suffered from diabetes and

asthma, but - despite sinister efforts to blame Garner's health for his death - those diseases did not kill him. A cursory view of the last moments of his life show excessive police force and medical indifference to a man whose dying utterance, "I can't breathe," has become the mantra for a movement.

Tamir Rice never lived long enough to reach the legal age for marriage. He was just 12 years old when Timothy Loeman shot him to death. Loeman was described as "unfit" for police duty in Independence, Ohio but he somehow made it onto the larger, Cleveland police force. It took him all of two seconds to decide the precious little boy had a dangerous weapon, although the 911 caller who alerted the police said the gun was probably not real.

Richard Brown, described as a "gentle giant" by his friends, also had his life cut short. He was killed by a remorseless Darren Wilson, who pumped 12 rounds into the young, Black man who was looking forward to attending community college. His words, "hands up, don't shoot" have been printed on signs and T-shirts all over the world, as a symbol of police brutality and active resistance. A grand jury failed to indict Darren Wilson, whose testimony seems to have been coached by Robert McCulloch, a prosecutor whose actions were, at

best, questionable. His killing, linked with those of Tamir Rice and Eric Garner, has sparked an international movement against police brutality and excessive police force.

What links the deaths of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu? Some would say that one set of deaths was revenge for the other. Actually, all of the deaths represent a tragic loss of life. They represent losses for families and friends, tragedies for communities. The connection between Brown, Rice, Garner, Ramos and Liu is that all of these lives should be mourned.

Patrick Lynch, the president of the New York Police Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, has used incendiary rhetoric to link the killings of Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu to the international protests against police brutality. Lynch blames the killings of Ramos and Liu on New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio, whose compassionate words after a grand jury failed to indict Eric Garner's killer set just the right tone.

Instead of asking who is to blame for the tragic deaths, Lynch should focus on the mental illness that clearly compelled Ismaayl Brinsley to kill two police officers. It is troubling that the media has focused on "revenge" shootings without fully exploring

the possibility that Brinsley simply was "not all there." He shot his former girlfriend before heading to New York to kill police officers, and then he killed himself. These are not the actions of a rational human being.

Acting in absolutely righteous rage, tens of thousands of protesters have taken to the streets, sometimes in actions that have been carefully orchestrated, and other times in spontaneous outrage. Al Sharpton gathered thousands to Washington, D.C., flanked by the mothers of the Black men who were slain. Refreshingly, the protesters were multi-racial and multi-generational. "Hands up, don't shoot," and "I can't breathe" were their watchwords. There is no thick line, and probably not even a dotted line between the police killings and killings of black men except for the fact that we live in a violent culture.

When Adam Lanza killed 26 people in Newtown, Conn. in 2011, his deranged Internet postings were seen as part of his mental illness. Too many are focusing on Ismaayl Brinkley's supposed "revenge" and too few are focusing on his mental illness. And, most importantly, too few are focusing on the equivalence of life, the fact that every death is a tragedy.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, D.C.

Creating a global blueprint to the future

As we begin 2015, millions of people throughout the world will make their annual New Year's resolutions. But

for 42.7 million Black Americans, 2015 hopefully will be a year of socioeconomic, political, cultural and spiritual progress. But achieving these goals will require more than

just making a seasonal resolution. I believe that Black America's national leadership should immediately convene a summit to devise a "global" action agenda for the next year that will address the economic and political interests of African descendants around the world. The call for a national or international summit devoted to the sons and daughters of Africa is not a new idea. In fact, there have been numerous efforts to present action agendas for Black people in America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and in the

Caribbean. So what will be different this time? First, the "world order" has changed and will continue to change, as we have already seen in the case of Soviet Union and, more recently, Cuba. Consequently, people in Asia and in Africa will continue to exhibit a larger percentage of the world population and this major demographic shift will afford an unprecedented opportunity for new global strategic alliances.

Secondly, global economies that are now growing rapidly in Asia and Africa will provide a tremendous stage for the exchange of stronger business and trade relationships between Africans and other people of color throughout the world. In particular, 2015 can be and should become a time for Black American entrepreneurs and business leaders to secure stronger sustainable economic relationships.

Thirdly, the results of President Barack Obama's U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit last summer have been encouraging thus far. More than \$33 billion has been committed to economic development in Africa through the African Union.

President Obama said at time, "Even as the continent faces significant challenges, I believe a new Africa is emerging. With some of the world's fastest-growing economies, a growing middle class, and the youngest and fastest-growing population on Earth, Africa will help shape the world as never before."

To help assure this happens, national Black leaders from a broad spectrum of organizations, including the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), should gather to plan, develop and present a global agenda for equal justice, economic empowerment, youth leadership mentorship, and spiritual revitalization.

Naturally, the recurring crisis and devastating impact of racially motivated police violence has to be addressed in this setting. But the issue of police brutality and use of deadly police force should be viewed within the larger context of inequity and injustice.

For starters, here is my short list of priority concerns that should be addressed at the summit: Reaffirming and encouraging the emergence of young, committed, gifted and talent-

ed youth leaders; rededicating support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); strengthening Black-owned businesses with an emphasis on global economic development; establishing strategic alliances with the African Union; Organizing Black American trade delegations to China, Africa, the Caribbean, Brazil and Indonesia; participating in the planning for the execution of the 2020 U.S. Census; supporting and investing in expansion of Black-owned media; prioritizing legislative and public policy issues; coming to ending poverty; focusing on how we spend \$1.3 trillion annually; advancing the cause of freedom, justice and equality and inspiring a moral and spiritual transformation of American society.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNAAP) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/dr/bfc>.

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James "Bingo" Harrington, Jr.

James "Bingo" Harrington, Jr. died Dec. 21, 2014 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and Life Care Center. Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 27, 2014, at Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel. Burial followed in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

James affectionately known as "Bingo", son of the late James Winslow Harrington, Sr. and Marian Elizabeth Harrington, was born May 20, 1949, in Wilmington, North Carolina. "Bingo" was educated in the New Hanover County Public School System. He loved being a part of the Port City Wheelers Truck and Van Club. "Bingo" retired from the New Hanover County School System, where many friendships were formed. "Bingo" shared his life with the former Dorothy Grady Harrington of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and always commented that he had a life time contract granted to him. Being the loving and kind hearted person that he was, he will be truly missed by all who knew him.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his daughter, Tiria Grady Harrington; seven grandchildren, Shaneque A. Grady, Quaron A. Grady, Ykyra T. Grady-Moore, Wade and Jade Grady-Richardson, Ajaysia K. Grady and Sade' Grady; several sisters-in-law; several brothers-in-law; one uncle, John A. Powell of Brooklyn, NY; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends; including special friends, Omega Blue, Lawrence and Johnny Jones, who we also extend sincere gratitude. We appreciate you and also extend special thanks for your friendship to "Bingo", and for all your support and kindness. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Helen Wells Moore

Helen Wells Moore died Thursday, December 24, 2014 at the age of 95, at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington, NC. Funeral services were held Monday, December 29, 2014 at Willie L. Shaw, Jr. Memorial Chapel. Burial followed in Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

She was born March 28, 1919, in Wilmington, North Carolina to the late James and Sarah Wells. Aunt Helen lived in Wilmington all of her life and attended the local schools. She had been a member of Mt. Zion AME

Church in Wilmington for many years. She had an infectious sense of humor; was easy to talk with and was never at a lost to fill you in with her history through her life stories. Aunt Helen loved baseball and lively conversations. She held various housekeeper jobs and also worked in the laundry industry.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Moore and two brothers, James and Samuel Wells. She leaves to cherish her memories: nephews and nieces, James Sterling (Liz), Mary Lou Caperton, Samuel P. Wells (Sharon), Reginald Wells (Barbara) and Leslie Wells Sims (Roger). A host of grand-nieces and grand-nephews and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Deborah "Debbie" James

Deborah "Debbie" James died Wednesday, December 24, 2014 in Raleigh, NC. A memorial service was held 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2014 at the Willie L. Shaw, Jr. Memorial Chapel. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Mattie Bernice Lowe

Mattie Bernice Lowe died Thursday, December 25, 2014 at Azalea Health and Rehabilitation Center. Visitation was Tuesday, December 30, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 31, 2014 at Myrtle Grove First Born Holiness Church. Burial followed in Oak Grove Cemetery. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Anika Ashley Aikman

Anika Ashley Aikman died Saturday, December 27, 2014 in Brunswick County. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Ms. Barbara Jane Bowden

Barbara Jane Powell Bowden was born on February 23, 1941 in Wilmington, NC to the late Goldie Gertrude Powell and the late T. Rhedrick "Tick." The funeral service was on Saturday, December 27, 2014 at St. Luke AME Zion Church. Burial was in Greenlawn Memorial Park. Educated in the New

Hanover County School System, Bobbie Jane as she was affectionately called, moved to Jacksonville, Florida during the early 1960's where she resided with her first husband, Leroy Rogers for 15 years. She later married Ernest Bowden in the 1980's. She was employed with Cypress Pointe Rehabilitation Center until her retirement.

She will be remembered as one who possessed a heart-filled with love, and a very active participant in her church and community. Always eager to lend a helping hand, Bobbie could be depended upon to make another person's load lighter. Raised from early childhood in St. Luke AME Zion Church, she served on the inspirational and worship Choirs, as a Class Leader and as a Deaconess. Within the community, she held membership in the United Order of Tents, The Young at Heart, The Sr. Citizens, where she enjoyed attending every Tuesday, The Carolyn Sanders and Company Dance Ministry and the VFW Women's Auxiliary. She especially took pleasure in serving at the Wednesday HUMP DAY Bible Study and Meal.

Although she never had children of her own, she loved her nieces, great nieces and nephews unconditionally. Her humble spirit and generosity were a tremendous addition to their growth and development.

Memories of so many loving times with her will be fondly remembered by her husband Ernest Bowden of Chadbourn, NC; sister, Joyce Craig of Detroit, MI; sister-in-law, Bernice of Georgia, brothers-in-law, William C. Murphy, Sr. and Alton Bowden, four nieces, Mattie Murphy, Chinita Murphy (Reggie) of Wilmington, NC; Cheryl Scott (Ricky) of Detroit, MI; and Angela Bowden of Wilmington, NC; one nephew William Murphy, Jr. (Angela), special cousins, Paula Powell, Eleanor Jacobs of Snellville, GA; special friends, Ethel Mae Jeffries, Michelle, Rev. and Mrs. Aaron Moore all of Wilmington, NC; Chinita Burnett of Wilmington, NC and a host of other grand nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends who will forever cherish her memory. *Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrain-funeralservice.com.*

Card of Thanks



The family of the late Gloria Davis Bennett wishes to express our sincere gratitude for the e-mails, phone calls, flowers in the passing of their beloved sister.

Raymond (Johnsie) Davis, Bettie (Sam) Rodgers, Mike (Joselia) Davis, Mel Robinson and Ricky Davis

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Mama, I miss the talks we used to have, your wisdom about how to treat people and the message you shared with everyone about God's love.

Mama, I miss you singing "Ride Out Your Storm" and getting your praise on. You left such an impact on us and so many other lives you touched.

Mama, while I miss you I know you are in company of your brothers Leo, James (Nancy), Moses Nick (Alice) and Ulice (Marie). You are all "Safely tucked in the Arms of God" Rest assured, we will work while it is a day to see you again! Your children: Rozell (Joe), Ernestine (Jacque), Linda, Oretha, Dyann (James) and Terry (Daisey).

A tribute to grandmother

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- R- Respectful
- A- Anointed
- N- Nurturing
- D- Dedicated
- M- Material
- O- Obedient
- T- Testament
- H- Humble
- E- Encouraging
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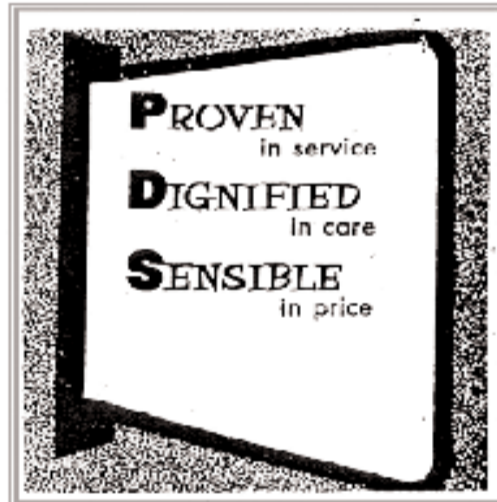
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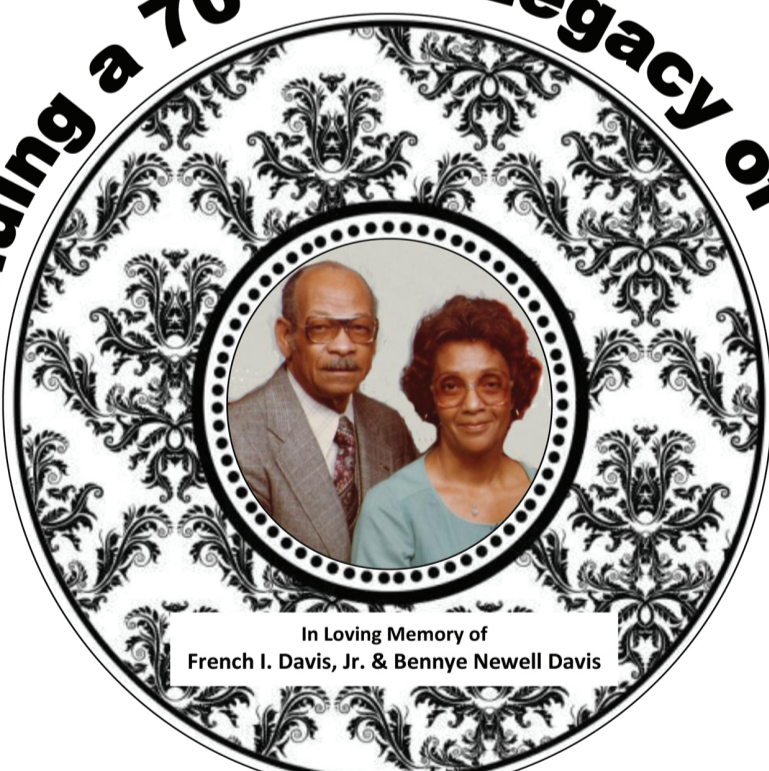
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