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Monument Quilt on Display on North Avenue



Baltimore— *The Monument Quilt by FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture* is an ongoing collection of stories from survivors of sexual and domestic violence and messages of support from their communities was on display on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at the corner of North Avenue between Charles and Howard Streets.

In its largest display to date, the Monument Quilt blanketed two blocks of North Avenue between Howard and Charles Street with 1,500 stories from survivors spelling out “NOT ALONE.” The daylong event included readings, discussions, workshops and performances. This project is a recipient of the 2015 PNC Transformative Art Prize and was acknowledged during the day’s events. The PNC Transformative Art Prize, a program of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts, supports communities in their efforts to improve their surroundings through high-impact, community-driven public art projects. Qualified community-based nonprofits may be granted funding up to \$30,000.

Courtesy Photo/FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture

Famed Tuskegee Airman Encouraging a New Generation

By Stacy M. Brown

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, the National World War II Museum in New Orleans plans a dedication ceremony for the newly restored P-51 Mustang, the first American built fighter plane to push its nose over Europe after the fall of France. The Mustangs met and conquered every German plane, according to the Boeing Center.

Perhaps just as significant during the war, the P-51 was used by the Tuskegee Airmen, America's first black fighter pilots who earned their military stripes as the iconic Red Tails.

"We began operations on February 14, 1944, patrolling Naples Harbor to the Isle of Capri, and we also did coastal patrol. My first patrol was on February 28 and we moved up to Capodichino on March 4, and did the rest of our tactical patrolling from there," said Retired Air Force Col. Charles McGee, a longtime Baltimore area resident and one of the fewer than 200 Tuskegee Airmen to fight in World War II who are still alive today.

McGee, 96, will be on hand when the P-51 Mustang is dedicated in New Orleans.

He vividly recalled the action he experienced more than seven decades ago, including the various aircrafts involved in his series of combat missions.

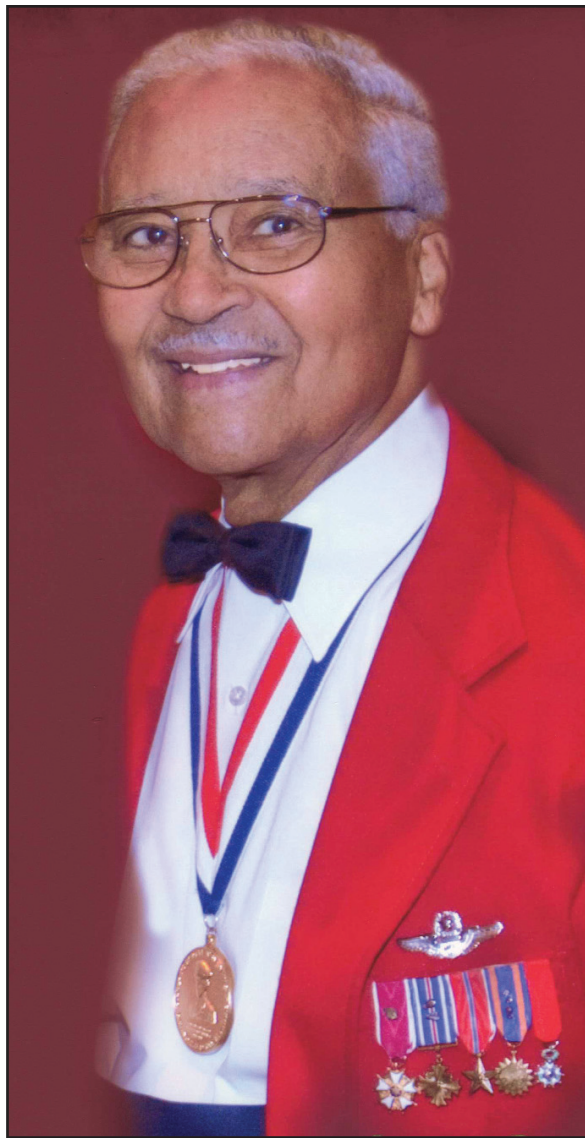
"The P-51 Mustangs help us to win the war," he said.

During his decorated 30-year Air Force career, McGee flew more than 400 missions in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. In January 1973, McGee retired at the age of 54 and he lays claims as a charter board member and two-time national president of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Known as the "Red Tails" because of the markings on their airplanes, McGee and the Tuskegee Airmen's 332nd Fighter Group became such respected pilots that all-white bomber squadrons requested them as escorts over Nazi Germany.

Having graduated from flight school in 1943, McGee began flying missions the following year out of bases in Italy and he shot down a German fighter plane.

The Tuskegee Airmen's success helped lay the groundwork for the civil rights movement and influenced President Harry Truman's decision to desegregate the armed forces in 1948.



Tuskegee Airman Charles McGee, 96, will be on hand when the newly restored P-51 Mustang is dedicated in ceremony at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans on Thursday, April 21, 2016. The P-51 was used by the Tuskegee Airmen, America's first black fighter pilots who earned their military stripes as the iconic Red Tails.

Courtesy Photo

"That was a good feeling, certainly, one that we still are proud of - that we were able to overcome the circumstances that were part of policy and help bring about a new day," he said.

In 2007, McGee and other Tuskegee Airman received the highest civilian award given by Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal, which was presented by President George W. Bush.

McGee says he continues to use his past to try to help young ones who are the nation's future.

"The legacy I feel we leave is that our young people, regardless of their circumstances—they can achieve, if they believe it," he said. "Today, it's hard to reach young ones because they have their heads down and their fingers pushing buttons on their phones and devices. But, I try to tell them that they are the future of this country. Right now, people are planning to go to Mars and I tell the young ones that the planners aren't the ones going, it's going to be the young ones because the plans won't be completed in time for those who are the planners but they will be completed for those who are growing up today."

It's his concern for the next generation that excites McGee about the upcoming dedication in New Orleans.

"The event is special because it's doing something that everybody needs to know about. A lot of things we don't need to repeat but we certainly need to know what was done and how we got to be here today," McGee said. "The value of those lessons still are good for young folks today simply because they are America's tomorrow."

McGee believes it's also vital that excellence becomes the goal of the young ones who should be determined not to let circumstances be an excuse for not achieving.

"Kids are bombarded with all the wrong stuff today but I try to pass on as much knowledge as I can," McGee said. "Fortunately, in my younger years I learned to treat people the way I wanted to be treated. You have to become a servant to all, look out for others, take care of each other and help others as well as help yourself."

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Guest Editorials/Letters

Beyond Transparency, We Need Accountability

By Lee H. Hamilton

Over more than three decades in Congress, I had the chance to question a lot of federal officials. Most of the time I wasn't after anything dramatic — I just wanted to understand who was responsible for certain decisions. Want to know how often I got a straight answer? Almost never.

It was easily one of the most frustrating aspects of trying to ensure robust oversight of the government. Our representatives' job, after all, is to help make government work better and you can't do that if you don't know whom to hold accountable for important decisions. This is a problem.

Accountability is essential to good governance. I'm not just talking about "transparency" — that is, citizens' ability to know what's being done in our name. That's important, but equally important is holding accountable those who made the decision to do it: ensuring that they are accountable to policy-makers, adhere to their obligations, follow the law, and that their actions are appropriate and responsive to the needs of the country.

This may be part and parcel of good governing, but it's elusive. Accountability requires that officials step up and take responsibility for their decisions, and not try to shift that responsibility to others or to some ill-defined group. It requires unambiguous performance standards, clear codes of ethics, timely reporting, and acceptance of responsibility, especially with regard to budget or spending decisions.

It's sustained by procedures that encourage responsible stewardship of public funds and a focus on correcting inefficiencies and poor performance. And above all, it rests on robust oversight and review of officials' performance, not only within the executive branch, but also by Congress and the media. So how do we get there?

The first step is to make information available to the public, especially when it comes to budgeting. Government performance rests on how it spends the public's money.

Yet making sure that people see and hear what government is doing only promotes transparency. It's taking the next step, and ensuring that there's a clear command and control structure, that promotes accountability. Without clarity on who's in charge of what and who's responsible for which decisions, it becomes too easy for officials to remain unanswerable for their actions.

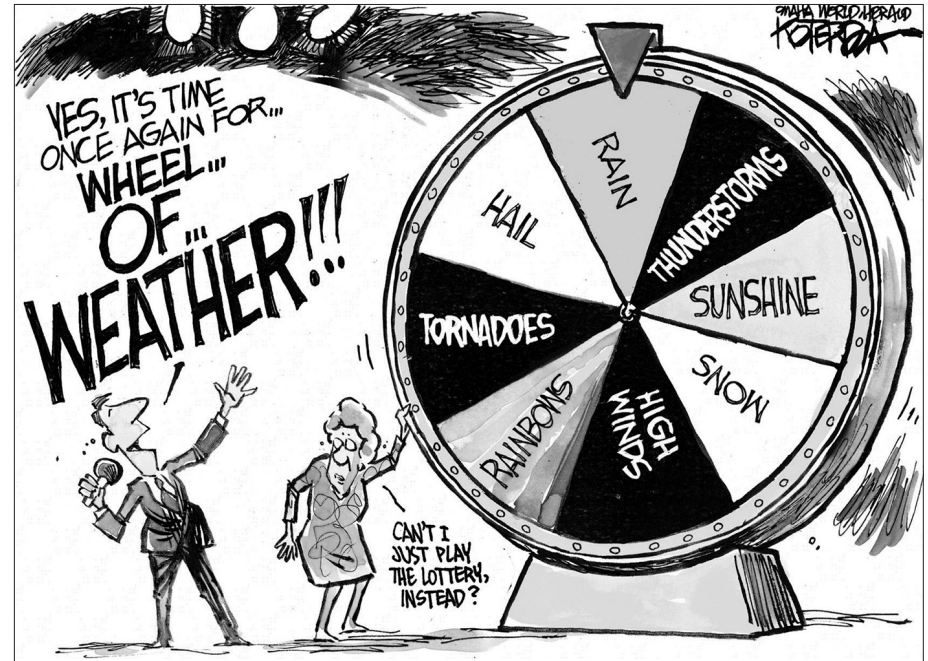
Clear lines of authority mean nothing unless the deciding officials are identified and measured against what actually takes place. No official, in other words, should be without accountability for his or her decisions, which means that executive agencies and Congress alike need to perform regular and robust oversight. Regular audits focused on inefficiencies, waste, and poor performance are critical. Officials need to give a full account of what they do and the decisions they make.

As a nation, we face a growing issue on this front when it comes to federal contractors — that is, the private workforce doing jobs for federal agencies. This is a problem because it creates an accountability vacuum. There are very few mechanisms for holding contractors responsible for their errors, abuses and missteps.

Which is why the media is as important as Congress and internal government overseers. We as citizens depend on the media to tell us what's going on in the entire system: within the bureaucracy, in the behavior of contractors, and among legislators who ought to be overseeing both but often don't. This is a key public responsibility, and the press needs to be staffed and have access to the resources to do a good job — which, these days, is increasingly rare.

Accountability, in other words, is key to good government. All I wanted to know in those congressional hearings was who made the decision about the public's business. Is that too much to ask?

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: Donald Trump and Racism

I don't know why the Republican Party is upset with Donald Trump. They say that he does not represent the views of the Republican Party. I beg to differ. Trump is preaching the same fear, hate and intolerance that previous Republican candidates have campaigned on.

It was Ronald Reagan's campaign that embraced the "Southern Strategy." A strategy, which promotes racism.

George Bush Sr. ran on a Willie Horton campaign that spread the fear of white women being raped by black men.

Trump is spreading the same fear and the only difference is instead of black men raping white women, it is now Mexican men raping white women.

The Republican Party has promoted fear, hate and bigotry and Donald Trump is only their latest messenger of intolerance and racism.

Elie Parker

San Leandro, CA

Editor:

Re: April is National Car Care Month: Time to Make Auto Care a Top Priority

Analytics are big these days in busi-

ness, sports and politics. When it comes to auto care, the numbers tell a very revealing story as 80 percent of vehicles inspected at community car care events last year required service, a new part and/or repair.

With so many vehicles in need of service, National Car Care Month in April serves as an important reminder to take action today so you can depend on your vehicle down the road. It's easy to postpone vehicle maintenance when things get busy, but don't put it off. Addressing minor service issues before they become major will help you avoid unexpected car trouble and unplanned costly repairs.

Many maintenance needs are quick and inexpensive to resolve, so it's easy to make auto care a priority during National Car Care Month. To help you, the non-profit Car Care Council has many free tools available at www.carcare.org, including the popular 80-page Car Care Guide and a customized service schedule that make it simple to follow a routine maintenance program.

Rich White

Executive Director
Car Care Council
Bethesda, MD

Chicago Home of “The First Lady of the Black Press” is Falling Apart

By Erick Johnson
The Chicago Crusader, NNPA Member

The roof is coming apart. The creaky wooden porch is aging with growing cracks. And the navy blue paint that once adorned the steps is peeling away. Nearly 100 years ago, this white, two-story house in Chicago’s West Englewood neighborhood on the city’s south side became the home of Ethel L. Payne.

As a black journalist, Payne broke racial barriers as a White House correspondent at a time when few black newspapers had a bureau in the nation’s capital. During her illustrious career with the Chicago Defender, Payne grilled five U.S. presidents and met Britain’s Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. By the time she died in 1991 at 79, Payne had traveled the world, won numerous awards and earned the title, “The First Lady of the Black Press.”

Not many people know that Payne was raised in Chicago’s West Englewood neighborhood, located on the city’s south side, an where many famous blacks who made their mark in Ameri-

can history grew up. The house Payne lived in is a forgotten relic of her past. For 123 years, it has stood in the 6200 block of Throop Street.

Time and neglect have beset Payne’s childhood home as crime and shootings continue to force residents to leave the neighborhood. It’s where blacks who were fortunate enough be able to afford a home in the area worked hard to live the American dream after fleeing racism in the South. However, what was once a symbol of pride—Payne’s childhood home—is now a piece of history that’s crumbling. It’s decaying frame represents the struggle to preserve the legacy of America’s black trailblazers.

Payne was born in Chicago in 1911. Her parents came from Memphis, Tennessee and were among a few blacks that lived in the city before the population in the “Black Belt” exploded during the great Migration years later. Payne’s father, William A. Payne worked in the union Stockyards before he secured a job as a Pullman Porter. Payne’s mother, Bessie, a Latin scholar from Indiana, was a housewife.

Ethel was the second youngest of six children. She had four sisters and one brother. By the time they settled into Englewood, the neighborhood had become integrated, but racism was still rampant in other areas of the city.

The Paynes lived in various homes in Englewood until they purchased a wooden house that was built in 1893. It still sits among a row of small, four-room houses on Throop Street. The Payne family was among several people who lived on a street that was known as “the row.”

Across the street, the family attended

Greater St. John AME Church, the oldest black church in Englewood. In her neighborhood, Payne and her siblings was fortunate to attend schools that were better equipped and had a large white student population. She walked to then Copernicus Elementary School—now Anna R. Langford Community Academy—just three blocks down the street.

When she didn’t have enough money for the streetcar, Payne walked to Lindblom Math and Science Academy (It was then called Robert Lindblom Technical High), a massive, neoclassical building at 6130 S. Wolcott Avenue.

All of these buildings remain beacons in the community, but Payne’s home is falling apart—forgotten.

Payne’s childhood home is 700 square feet. According to property records, it has two bedrooms and one bathroom. In comparing the house to an old photo of a very young Payne standing in front of it with her brother, one can see that the front porch was enclosed to enlarge the living room.

The median home value for homes in Englewood is \$75,600, according to zillow.com. Property records show that Payne’s childhood home property is not up for sale and the home appeared occupied during a recent visit by a reporter from the Chicago Crusader. The reporter knocked on the door several times, but no one responded.

On the outside, the house is in need of repairs. Years of rust cover the iron railings on the porch. Chunks of concrete have been chipped off the porch steps. The shingles on the roof appear loose and unsecured.

The house sits between two other old homes that are in better shape.

Their polished exteriors seem to have been renovated in recent years. Overall, the block where Payne played on the street has decaying homes and empty lots where garbage litters the overgrown grass.

Over the years, Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events have placed crimson-colored markers in front of homes where prominent blacks have stayed. There is one on Vincennes Avenue where Nat King Cole once lived. There are also ones marking the homes of gospel singer Mahalia Jackson; Aviator Bessie Coleman; Journalist Ida B. Wells; and Harold Washington, Chicago’s first black mayor. However, there is no marker in front of Payne’s childhood home.

Tourists or history buffs are unlikely to visit the area. Among Chicago’s neighborhoods, Englewood continues to have one of the highest rates of violent crimes. On March 31, 2016, a man was shot and stabbed in the area. On the same day, two men were shot in Englewood. On March 30, a 20-yearold man was shot in the stomach.

Chicago’s famous Bronzeville neighborhood traditionally has drawn the most attention from Chicago’s most prominent black historians. Because of scarce resources to preserve relics located outside the “Black Belt,” there is little hope to preserve Payne’s childhood home in Englewood as an important relic to her legacy. It’s a concern that historians agree needs to be addressed.

“It’s important for folks to know about the legacy of famous blacks from Chicago,” said Lorenzo Young, a black historian who conducts tours in Bronzeville.

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Urban Teachers Discuss Anniversary of Baltimore Unrest

By Stacy M. Brown

One year ago, when Freddie Gray was laid to rest, the city of Baltimore erupted in riots. Protests gripped the city as stores burned, cars were set afire, a Baltimore Oriole game was closed to fans and anger stirred.

Today, a year later, students in at least two local schools are trying to make sense of why police and the African-American community have such a hostile relationship. Through discussions driven by fourth, fifth and sixth graders at Mount Washington Elementary School and Calverton Elementary Middle School, young ones have been expressing their thoughts about the chaos.

"We've looked at race relations, the students' perception and where the race problems stem from," said Brandi Worley, who teaches fourth and fifth grade at Mount Washington.

"Police brutality has been a big topic and the students see a difference among blacks and whites and among those of different religions," said Worley, who began teaching through Urban Teachers, an organization committed to transforming urban schools by preparing highly skilled, deeply committed teachers who know how to improve outcomes for all learners.

The organization strives to improve outcomes for thousands of urban students each year.

Corey Gillis, who teaches sixth grade math at Calverton Elementary says his approach in tackling the riots in his classroom involves civic lessons that use



Brandi Worley (left) teaches fourth and fifth grade at Mount Washington Elementary School and Corey Willis (right) teaches sixth grade at Calverton Elementary School.
Courtesy Photos



mathematics.

"I want the students to think about how the riots have impacted the community financially and I want them to focus the conversation from the lens of what is important to them," said Gillis, also a product of Urban Teachers.

Gillis says the Baltimore riots and Gray's April 19, 2015 death will remain a topic and an important teaching tool.

"I try to be the facilitator and I make sure that they maintain a positive tone because bashing and being violent toward people won't get us anywhere," he said.

With the help of teachers like Worley and Gillis, young students are coping despite reminders of the unrest that gripped their neighborhoods a year ago.

The teachers have encouraged the stu-

dents' participation in creating strategies that will allow young ones to cope as well as understand the realities of a world still wrought with racism and mistrust.

"The students, at their young age, are disgusted with the way adults behave when it comes to race," Worley said. "But, they determine through conversation where the problems with race stem from. For instance, we talk about how black slaves were treated as property by their slave owners and, even though the slaves outnumbered the masters, they were still [helpless]."

Students in Worley's class are provided an outlet in which they dissect why individuals are treated differently because of race.

"They talk about Freddie Gray, Black Lives Matter and the students are gen-

uinely curious because they don't see race as adults do," Worley said.

Gillis, who grew up in the Bronx, New York, said he refrains from presenting his own ideas and information, instead he allows his class of sixth graders to develop discussions about the riots and the impact it has had on Baltimore and its residents.

"I just don't give them information, I give a problem and I want them to think about it, talk about the problem and come up with solutions because things are not just given to you in real life," Gillis said.

The goal is to help the students learn to be independent thinkers, which Gillis believes could help prevent riots and unrest. He said many of the students live in neighborhoods where police are often around because of drug and other criminal activity.

"I want them to realize that police officers are people too. My students may have siblings or other relatives who dislike the police, but they're people and our discussions help to defuse falsities," Gillis said.

Discussions between the pupil and the educator underscores another important factor in the success of the Urban Teachers program: in most cases, the teachers who emerge from the program usually can relate well to their students.

"I know what it's like to grow up poor and in a single-parent household," Gillis said. "My sister was my parent, my birth mother was a crack addict and my birth father distributed crack. I understand where we come from and I was able to overcome a lot of things and I know my students can overcome them, too."

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Baltimore— The Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar reopens for its 39th season Sunday, April 17, 2016 from 7 a.m. to noon.

On opening day, Chef Egg brings his culinary expertise to the market with cooking demonstrations from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Shoppers can also enjoy live music from Scott Paynter of Jah Works with his original reggae sound. Demos will be held near the Saratoga Street entrance, and market-goers are invited to pick up helpful cooking tips, recipes and delicious samples. Located on Saratoga Street between Holliday and Gay streets, underneath the Jones Falls Expressway (JFX), the Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar is presented by Mayor Stephanie

Rawlings-Blake and produced and managed by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts. The season continues through Sunday, December 18, 2016.

For the 2016 season, shoppers can expect new vendors and crafters including Chile Comapeño, Two Boots Farm, Argonne Apiary, Moody Blues Farm, Meatcrafter's Market, Baltimore artist Gloria Garrett, Matthew Williams of Mount Royal Soap Company and Molly Wilson of Harbor Goods.

Also for 2016, the market offers a more robust cooking demo program with local chefs, live music performances and more sustainable options for market goers including re-usable tote bags for sale. For opening day, the first 100 atten-



dees will receive a free tote bag, available at the Welcome Tent.

Every week, shoppers can browse and purchase the freshest local produce,

meats, seafood, dairy, baked goods, spices, preserves, plants and flowers at Maryland's largest producers-only market. Additionally, a variety of vendors offer delicious made-to-order food such as pit beef, omelets and breakfast burritos, crepes, wood fired pizzas and more. Market-goers can also visit the Bazaar for handcrafted art from local artisans, unique collectibles, jewelry, vintage clothing, soaps, lotions and much more. The Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar averages 5,000 attendees each Sunday and takes place rain or shine.

For a list of participating vendors for the 2016 Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar, visit: www.promotionandarts.org.

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Ravens GM Ozzie Newsome under pressure to deliver successful 2016 NFL Draft

By Turrion Davenport

The 2016 NFL Draft will be an integral part of the Baltimore Ravens future. The team holds the No.6 overall pick and is slated to pick high in each of the seven rounds. General Manager Ozzie Newsome is known for being a good talent evaluator. His reputation will be on the line and he needs to hit big in this draft.

"We feel the pressure, honestly, regardless if we're picking sixth or 32. We've picked both. I think the players are better, but we still feel the same pressure. We felt pressure last year when we picked 26th last year; we felt the same pressure," Newsome said. "Honestly, we're looking at a different level of ability in some respects. I'm actually probably feeling more pressure at pick 36 than I am at six. I feel like if you're picking sixth, you really only have to look at four or five players, and you're just going to have to iron those guys out and you rank those five players."

Newsome noted how there are many more players to consider when the team is picking at 36. The Ravens need to land an impactful player with their top two picks. Newsome said there are a number of defensive players the team is confident in taking with the 36th pick.

The most important factor will be how the draft board falls and whether or not those particular players are available to the Ravens. The team will have to be ready for any scenario that may arise.

"At 36, there's a lot more volatility. There [are] a lot more different players you're going to be looking at—a lot more combinations. So, I've been spend-



Baltimore Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome speaking at the team's annual pre-draft press conference at the Under Armour Performance Center in Owings Mills, Maryland.

Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

ing a lot more time thinking about 36 actually in the last couple of weeks, because there could be a lot of different players," Newsome said. "We have to look at these guys and study these guys and scrutinize these guys on the field, off the field, the intangible work ethic, durability, football intelligence, ability, all of these different things to make sure we nail that pick."

Typically, when a team is able to pick in the top 10, it's because they didn't finish the season with a good record. The Ravens first-round pick, Breshad Perri-man was unable to contribute last year. He missed the season with a knee injury. The team struggled to get any major contributions from anyone other than

fourth-round pick, Za'Darius Smith. Newsome admitted that the draft was not up to his usual standards.

"Now we're back in the Top 10 again. But I would say it was not up to my standards, was not up to Eric's standards and not the Ravens' standard when you compare to what we did very early on." Newsome said. "We're at a position at [pick No.] 6 where we think we're going to get a very, very good player."

The Ravens have worked to modify their evaluation process and make it more accurate over the past years. At the end of the day, there is no better tool than film when it comes to evaluating prospects. This has not been lost on Newsome.

"I think we've tried to make the process better over the years, but I think the one thing that the four of us will agree upon—and all of our scouts and our coaches—eventually you have to watch them play. The tape doesn't lie," Newsome said. "I know in the past three or four weeks, there's a lot of tape being watched in this building to see how they play, because eventually, they have to play on Sunday, and that's really the telltale."

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Over 100 Maryland high school seniors receive scholarships from Comcast

By Andrea Blackstone

High school graduation is right around the corner for students in Maryland. Over a hundred high school seniors who are preparing to attend accredited colleges received a helping hand from Comcast through their annual Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Program.

A special event was held on March 23, 2016 at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis to award a \$10,000 Comcast Founders Scholarship to Stephon Moody, a senior who attends Baltimore Renaissance Academy in Baltimore and 109 Maryland Leaders and Achievers® scholarships to other students who each received \$1,000. A total of \$119,000 was awarded to Maryland high school students striving to achieve their full potential, serve as catalysts for positive change in their communities, and are involved in their schools and extracurricular activities.

Comcast officials joined Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford; Maryland House Speaker, Michael E. Busch; and other local elected officials and school administrators in recognizing the outstanding Maryland students.

Brad Palazzo, director of External Affairs for Comcast's Beltway Region, explained that Comcast's core philosophy—from a corporate social responsibility and community investment standpoint—is desiring to connect to their local communities and invest where their employees live and work.



Mary McLaughlin, Senior Vice President, Comcast Beltway Region (left), and Baltimore Renaissance Academy student Stephon Moody who received the \$10,000 Comcast Founders Scholarship on March 23, 2016 at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis.
Courtesy Photo

Through the Leaders and Achievers® scholarship, young people are motivated to achieve their maximum potential to be leaders. This scholarship is one of many ways that Comcast gives back to communities through the Comcast Foundation, which was founded in 1999, to provide charitable support to qualified nonprofit organizations. Three community investment priorities include expanding digital literacy, promoting service and building tomorrow's leaders.

"Each year students are nominated by their school principals and guidance counselors and we actually do outreach

to all schools in Comcast's service area, not only in Maryland, but all across the country," Palazzo said, noting that only one high school student per school may

be nominated. "Nationally, we've given \$25 million to nearly 25,000 high school seniors that are leaders and achievers."

Comcast works with a program administrator specializing in managing scholarship programs. Assistance with the scholarship selection process is provided each year. Kristin Yvette Chaney and Samierra A. Jones are previous graduates of Baltimore Renaissance Academy who were awarded Maryland Leaders and Achievers® scholarships from Comcast in 2012 and 2013. Although Stephon is the first student from the school to receive the \$10,000 Comcast Founders Scholarship instituted in honor of Ralph J. Roberts, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Comcast Corporation, each 2016 Maryland Leaders and Achievers® scholarship recipient also met the required qualifications to win it.

"What we do each year is we take the pool of recipients, in this case—Maryland, and we randomly select the winner," Palazzo said. "In our eyes they are all equally successful and all equally deserving."

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Local Author Tells How To Live Your Best Life

By Ursula V. Battle

What's the best gift you could ever give yourself? According to motivational speaker and transformational life coach Kendell Lenice, the answer is: living your best life. Lenice, who has spent a considerable part of her life teaching others how to give themselves this special gift, has penned a motivating and inspirational book entitled, "The Best Gift Ever - A Guide to Loving You: Learning How to Live Your Best Life."

On Saturday, April 2, 2016, Lenice held a book signing event at Diversified Housing Development in Randallstown. During the event, Lenice discussed her book.

"I am happy, appreciative, and grateful to you," Lenice said to attendees. "I am a cheerleader who helps you to move to the next level of your career. Our life here is very short. I'm not a person of do it tomorrow - I'm a person of do it today. This book will help your life. God has been with me every step of the way."

"The Best Gift Ever - A Guide to Loving You: Learning How to Live Your Best Life" is a 188-page paperback book that was published by ChosenButterfly-Publishing LLC. The book's seventeen chapters include: Self Discovery, Invest in Yourself, Detoxify Your Life, Laugh, Go to the Doctor, Employment Envy, Would You Marry Yourself, Make Time For Yourself, and If You Don't Like it Remix it.

"I wrote 'The Best Gift Ever' to empower women, men and young adults to live their best lives," said Lenice. "I speak, listen and watch people all the time. Oftentimes, they say or show that they are unhappy with their lives. They allow life to live them, not the other way around."

She added, "A typical life for many is work, retirement and death. That was a problem for me. I wanted to give tools, advice and wisdom to individuals that would assist them with loving themselves enough to want to live their best lives."

Lenice said it took her a little less than a year to write the book, and that it is drawing great reviews.

"The response has been phenomenal,"



Kendell Lenice is the author of *The Best Gift Ever - A Guide to Loving You: Learning How to Live Your Best Life*. Photos: Ursula V. Battle

she said. "It has been changing lives, I'm told. I have gotten emails and calls regarding my book, expressing to me how the reader has cried as they've read some of the chapters and passages from 'The Best Gift Ever.' I am grateful and excited about the response."

The book also includes a section entitled Let's Stay Connected, which provides ways in which readers can share book reviews, and follow Kendell on social media.

"My main goal is to be helpful," she said. "I want to encourage, inspire, and uplift everyone I encounter. You have to be who you are. I preach that all the time. You have to be who you are to get the best out of you."

She added, "Living your best life is about what's best for you. We want to be here on this earth, and need to make the best choices and decisions regarding our

health and well-being so we can be around."

Lenice is the founder of Living True Living You - Life Coaching, which seeks to motivate women, men and children to live their best lives, through self-awareness and authenticity.

According to Lenice, she coaches individuals and groups.

"One of my key messages is to remind people that their toes are pointed forward for a reason. I encourage people to walk forward in life, remember the past, but not dwell in it. I speak on change and the betterment of thyself."

Lenice is a native of Buffalo, New York, and is the mother of two daughters. The author currently works as a one-on-one counselor and workshop facilitator. She also teaches life skills, money management and credit/financial literacy to potential and current Maryland homeowners. She wrote, produced and created her own radio talk show 'Konversations w/ Kendell Lenice' where she inspired, encouraged and coached viewers. She also has a YouTube Motivational series, The Y.U.P. Series (Your Underestimated Power).

"God is so awesome," she said. "Writing this book has been an amazing journey. I am so grateful."

"The Best Gift Ever - A Guide to Loving You: Learning How to Live Your Best Life," costs \$15.95 and is available on Amazon.com.

For more information about the book, visit www.livingtruelivingyou.com or send an email to livingtruelivingyou@gmail.com.

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Young Woman Inspired to Study Law to Effect Change

National Pre-Law Diversity Conference offers Strategies

By Ruth Young Tyler

It was the one college course, "Criminal Law: Theory and Practice," which most sparked the interest of 23-year old Ashley N. Richardson, but the National Diversity Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair fueled her aspirations even more.

Hosted by Howard University School of Law, the conference attracted nearly 200 participants to the nation's capital on April 1 and 2, 2016. The national outreach, networking and empowerment event was designed specifically for a diverse population of aspiring lawyers from across the country.

The National Diversity Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair offered attendees seminars in diversity leadership, coalition building and collaboration and cultural competency. The aspiring law students were granted access to a myriad of tools and strategies that would groom them to take on leadership roles in the area of diversity and inclusion. The attendees were also encouraged to utilize their law degrees in the continuance of service, advocacy and social justice.

"Everyone's voice needs to be heard. When you have a voice, you have power," said Richardson, who believes the pre-law conference is channel to build a network and gain resources. "This is an opportunity for all of us [conference attendees] to make a positive impact in the lives of others."

Richardson graduated from Rutgers

University with a double major in criminal justice and sociology and a minor in Africana Studies. She has been accepted to the Howard University School of Law and plans to attend in the Fall 2016.

Natalie Morales, a Northern Virginia native and a graduate of James Madison University also attended the conference says that the law is the foundation behind every concept, belief and movement.

"Our legal system is constantly evolving towards a doctrine that embodies that 'All men are created equal' but we still have economic and racial disparities on a global level. What inspires me to study law is that I will have the tools to efficiently combat the disparities that are not allowing our nation to move forward in an effective and thriving manner," Morales said.

Participants had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with representatives from a variety of law schools interested in recruiting them. All of the pre-law programs recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion at American law schools and the legal profession. The conference presented guest speeches by thought leaders, practicing lawyers and panel discussions led by professionals. The event connected students with law school admissions advisors. Participants also gained information about career success they otherwise might not received from websites and other forms of media.

The keynote address was delivered by the Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, a retired senior judge from the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and



Ashley N. Richardson attended the National Diversity Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The conference, which attracted hundreds of aspiring law students and law schools from across the country provided resources, tools and strategies to pursue a career in the legal profession. Richardson has been accepted to the Howard University School of Law and plans to attend in the fall this year. Courtesy Photo

currently, serves as the National Executive Director for the National American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. Judge Bennett shared career highlights and interactions with Thurgood Marshall and James Madison Nabrit.

"The law is intertwined into every fiber of our existence, from education to healthcare, the food we eat and the water we drink," Richardson said. "It is imperative that we are well-versed in the law, so that we can serve as ambassadors to effect change."

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Edwin T. Johnson appointed to Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan has appointed Edwin T. Johnson, Ph.D., to the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.

Dr. Johnson's appointment was one of Governor Hogan's 169 "Green Bag" appointments for over 65 different boards and commissions, which were submitted to the state Senate at the midpoint of the 2016 legislative session.

A senior coordinator for Student Disability Support Services at Morgan State University, Dr. Johnson has served Morgan in a variety of professional capacities, including as a faculty member, director of admissions, academic adviser, and assistant dean. Additionally, he teaches African American studies and history at the University of Maryland University College.

Dr. Johnson is a 1988 graduate of Crossland High School in Prince George's County, and a 1992 graduate of Morgan. After earning a Master's of Mass Communication from Towson University, he returned to Morgan to complete a second Master's in African American Studies, as well as a doctorate in history.

Dr. Johnson is a Life Member of the Morgan State University National Alumni Association, a member of the National Eagle Scout Association, and a founder of Theta Mu Mu Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Edwin T. Johnson, Ph.D.
Courtesy Photo

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture is committed to discovering, documenting, preserving, collecting, and promoting Maryland's African-American heritage. The commission also provides technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives, and seeks to educate Maryland residents and visitors about the significance and impact of the African-American experience in Maryland.

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives is Governor Larry Hogan's office to enhance and improve opportunities for Maryland residents. It oversees the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, Volunteer Maryland, community affairs and engagement within the executive branch of Maryland government, faith-based outreach, and the governor's eight ethnic and cultural commissions.



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Street artist Pose collaborates with MICA students on vivid outdoor mural

Globe Poster Remix Class Pays Tribute to Dolphin Building through Printmaking

Baltimore— Students from the Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) Globe Poster Remix course collaborated with acclaimed street artist POSE to create an outdoor mural on the college's notable Dolphin Building located at 100 Dolphin Street in Baltimore. The artistic creation is a call and response from POSE to the students to consider the building's history within the college's community and the greater Bolton Hill community.

Guided by Globe Poster Collection faculty members, the mixed-media piece encompasses a white strip that runs the length of the Dolphin Building, compounded by posters designed and printed by students that were wheat pasted to the white strip and collaged materials on coroplast board that were attached on the top. The featured "Globe style" posters layered within the mural represent a saying, slogan or proverb students selected that make reference to printmaking or the history of the Dolphin Building. POSE then completed the installation with his signature painting style.

The pop-style street artist was an artist in residence at MICA from Tuesday, April 5 to Saturday, April 9, 2016, working with undergraduate students to further challenge and expand their skill sets. The Chicago based-artist POSE has worked with the historic Globe Collection and Press at MICA in 2014 on Hello Kitty Con, when they were tapped to design and print three limited edition posters celebrating the iconic character's 40th anniversary.



The vivid outdoor mural on the Dolphin Building located at 100 Dolphin Street in Baltimore is the result of the collaboration between MICA students in the school's Globe Poster Remix course and street artist Pose. Courtesy Photo/MICA

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Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Population Shows Improvement



Annapolis— The Maryland Department of Natural Resources released the results of the 2016 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, which show another year of growth in the stock of the Chesapeake Bay crab population and bodes well for a better harvest this year. The survey indicates a bay-wide crab population of 553 million, a 35-percent increase over last year. This is the fourth highest level in two decades, and builds on last year's 38-percent boost in abundance.

"Due to a milder winter, favorable currents and tides, and wise bay-wide management measures, the Maryland crab population continues to rebound and strengthen," Fisheries Service Director Dave Blazer said. "With an increase in abundance and steady recruitment, we fully anticipate a robust crab season this year."

Improvements were seen in all age groups of male and female crabs. The spawning female stock nearly doubled from 101 to 194 million and the adult male stock more than doubled from 44 to 91 million— the second highest levels since 1995.

The number of spawning-age female crabs remains below the 215 million target but above the minimum threshold established in 2011. The juvenile crab abundance increased slightly from 269 million to 271 million, which is just above the 27-year average.

"The highly variable nature of the blue crab population means that we must maintain a degree of caution in considering management adjustments," Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee Chairman Glenn Davis said.

The 2015 bay-wide crab harvest increased by 42 percent over 2014 to 50 million pounds and remained at sustainable levels for the eighth consecutive year. This combined with increased abundance means that a slight liberalization of harvest limits for female crabs may be warranted this summer.

"Our experts will now discuss the survey results with our internal and external stakeholders," Blazer said. "Any modest adjustment to the current regulations, be it season length or bushel limit, will be considered only after the department receives input from all parties."

The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee plans to release a full analysis this summer. The annual Winter Dredge Survey, conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science since 1990, is the primary assessment of the Chesapeake Bay's blue crab population. In the survey, biologists use dredge equipment to capture, measure, record and release blue crabs at 1,500 sites throughout the bay from December through March. Crabs tend to bury in the mud over the cold winter months, which makes it possible for scientists to develop accurate estimates of the number of crabs.

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