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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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**Fun at the
Autocrat Club**

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September 29 - October 5, 2012 47th Year Volume 20 www.ladatanews.com

Data News Weekly Celebrates Giving Back to the Community

Data News Weekly
**46th Annual
Trailblazer
Anniversary Gala**

Featuring



Michael Ward



Ceasar Elloie



Sharon Martin



Kermit Ruffins



Ed Perkins

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Not Liable**

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Julia
Aaron-Humbles**



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Data News Weekly Celebrates Giving Back to the Community



Ceasar Elloie



Kermit Ruffins

By Eric Connerly

It is that time of year again. Data News Weekly's Annual Anniversary Celebration and Gala honoring its Trailblazers is set to again be a great

night of fun, food and festivities as we honor those who've made a difference in the community. The twelve honorees will be given special recognition

during the ceremony and also the "Trailblazer of the Year" will be announced. It will be taking place at The Regency (Downtown and Morrison) on September 27th from 7 P.M. until 11. P.M. there is a twenty-dollar donation at the door with a portion of the

proceeds going to the JMJ Educational Fund that provides scholarships to students attending local universities.

Those which will be honored come from many walks of life, but they have one thing in common and that is they all are working to better their com-

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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Michael Ward



Ed Perkins



Sharon Martin

munity. This year's honorees are, Latoya Cantrell, Eugene Green, Sula Evans, Gerod Stevens, Zakenya Perry, Jerrelda Drummer-Sanders, Calvin Johnson, Kimberly Rivers-Roberts, Eusi Phillips, Nakina Eugene, Eddie Compass and Chris Gordon.

Along with honoring the monthly Trailblazers there will be a night full of great entertainment that will feature the "Ambassador of New Orleans Music", Trumpeter Kermit Ruffins who will grace the stage; also on the bill is Vocalist and Songwriter Ed Perkins, who is internationally renowned and has worked with many of the greats of New Orleans music including the great Alvin Batiste and have shared the stage with many legends of soul such as Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway. Ed will perform again locally on October 7th at Snug Harbor. The show begins at 8:00 P.M.

The impressive lineup continues with one of New Orleans' favorite musicians, Jazz Violinist Michael Ward. For many years, Michael has been supportive of Data News Weekly's Anniversary Galas, and this year promises to be another great performance by this mega-star talented musician.

New Orleans' music influence spans the globe with another of the City's great performers Cesar Elloie is scheduled to hit the stage. A seasoned veteran at entertaining crowds he is guaranteed to put on an amazing performance. His voice has been heard on records and in commercials and now he will be part of what has become another "party with a purpose;" the Data News Weekly Annual Trailblazer Award Gala rounding out the entertainment is a woman who has become a staple during this event is the soulful, sultry sounds of Vocalist

Sharon Martin, whose brand of New Orleans Jazz/Soul always brings people up on their feet and onto the dance floor to enjoy the festivities.

Data News is a paper that has for 46 years stayed true to its motto as being "The People's Paper," and it could not do much of its great work in the community without the help of its advertisers and sponsors. This year's gala is being sponsored by Miller Coors, WBOK-AM 1230,

LeRoux Reception Hall and Supper Club and JMJ Educational Fund.

The New Orleans Data News Weekly is committed to being the voice of the voiceless, and it is an honor for the paper to award those who stand on the frontlines and give selflessly of themselves to build a better community. They are the true heroes and "sheroes" of our City and they show the best of New Orleans and the giving spirit of its people as the

City rebuilds.

Today marks a new day for the City and its residents and Data News Weekly is continuing its mission of giving the community a voice, giving it a clarion call and moving it into action to make the City a better place to live for all citizens. And as we celebrate our anniversary and our honorees, we hope that it can inspire others to begin to work to make New Orleans a better City.

Cruisin' New Orleans City Show

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Friday, September 28, 2012 from 3:00—8:00 PM
Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 11:00—8:00 PM
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www.NOLAdowntown.com

Army Corps of Engineers Found Not Liable in Katrina Flood

(Reuters) - A U.S. appeals court has reversed itself and found that the Army Corps of Engineers cannot be held liable in property owners' lawsuits over flood damage during Hurricane Katrina.

More than 400 property owners had filed lawsuits after the August 2005 hurricane, many targeting the Corps of Engineers. The plaintiffs had said the Corps of Engineers had delayed armoring the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet shipping channel against flood damage due to incorrect scientific decisions rather than public policy considerations.

In an unusual move, a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans on Monday withdrew its earlier ruling in March that had been in the plaintiffs' favor. Monday's ruling came after the federal govern-

ment sought review of the panel's earlier decision by the full appeals court.

Judge Jerry Smith, writing for the court, said the Corps of Engineers was immune from being held liable for property damage under the "discretionary function exception" to the Federal Tort Claims Act, which governs litigation against the U.S. government.

The exception bars lawsuits against the government for conduct arising from statutes and regulations that do not require an agency's action but involve its discretion.

The 5th Circuit decision reverses a 2009 ruling by U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval Jr. in New Orleans, who found that the federal government did not have immunity from lawsuits arising out of Katrina's



Thousands of houses in New Orleans, Louisiana with the downtown skyline in the background remain under water one week after Hurricane Katrina went through Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama September 5, 2005.

flood damage in 2005.

New Orleans is still struggling

to recover completely from the

devastation of Katrina, which

swept across the city on August 29, 2005, killing more than 1,800 people and causing billions of dollars of damage along the coast.

Joseph Bruno, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said in an email that his clients were "devastated."

"The fact that the judges reversed themselves deserves an explanation," he said. "The decision is a slap in the face of the people devastated by the Corps' gross negligence and an endorsement to the Corps to continue to put considerations of costs ahead of safety."

Major Jenny Willis, a spokeswoman for the Corps of Engineers, said it was "analyzing the decision in anticipation that litigation will continue."

The case is In re: Katrina Canal Breaches Litigation, 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 10-30249

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

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New York Stock Exchange, Yelp & Accion Brings Small Business Workshop to New Orleans

NYSE Euronext (NYSE: NYX) today announced, in partnership with national microlender Accion and online review site Yelp (NYSE: YELP), Small Business Connections: Marketing Meets Microfinancing, a nationwide small business marketing and financing workshop series in conjunction with The NYSE Big StartUpSM. The tour, which debuted in Tucson, AZ, on June 12, 2012, provides small business owners across the U.S. with access to local resources to help finance their entrepreneurial dreams and increase their on-line marketing power by learning best practices for engaging with online review sites.

This is the first small business events component of the NYSE Big StartUp, a nationwide job creation and business growth initiative that connects small businesses with established corporations, such as Yelp. The initiative also includes the Accion-NYSE Job Growth Fund started with a \$1.5 million commitment by NYSE Euronext, which will provide small businesses and startups with the capital and support they need to grow.

The "Small Business Connections: Marketing Meets Microfinancing" FREE workshop is a one-day event in New Orleans presented by the New York Stock Exchange in partnership with Accion, a national microlender, and the popular online review site Yelp. The workshop will provide small business owners with the resources to help finance their entrepreneurial dreams and increase their on-line marketing power by learning best practices for engaging with online review sites and other social media platforms. Yelp Business outreach staff and Accion loan consultants will be on hand to field questions and offer one-on-one consultations to participants.

The event will take place on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM (CDT) at Galvez Restaurant, 914 N Peters St., New Orleans, LA 70116. Participants should register online at <http://yelpnola-org.eventbrite.com/>


"We not only want to provide insight into online review sites, we also want to promote

opportunities for businesses to join the conversations that are happening about their company online," said Jeremy Stop-

pelman, Yelp co-founder and CEO. "During these events, we will share tips on creating and optimizing a company's online

presence, best practices on engaging with their social media audiences and handling feedback from online reviewers."

For more information on the Small Business Connections tour including registration, visit us.accion.org.



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Big Fun at the Autocrat Club

Photos by Raghan Dourousseau

The Autocrat Social and Pleasure Club Presented DJ Big Al, Saturday September 22, 2012. Guests enjoyed great music and delicious food and drinks and of course, Data was there. Chartered in 1914 the Autocrat has served New Orleans as a hub for civic and political matters, and civil rights meetings during the 1960's. The Autocrat is also a focal point for social entertainment and cultural growth.



AutoCrat/Continued on next page.



This Year's Honoree's

Sula Evans
Eusi Phillips
Nakina Eugene
Calvin Johnson
Eugene Green
Zakenya Perry
Gerod Stevens
Eddie Compass
Latoya Cantrell
Pastor Chris Gordon
Kimberly Rivers-Roberts
Jerrelda Drummer-Sanders

Donation \$20 at the Door

For more information call 504-309-9913

Data News Weekly
46th Anniversary Celebration and Gala
Honoring our 2011 Trailblazers
Thursday September 27, 2012

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

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Featuring:



Sharon Martin



Kermit Ruffins



Ed Perkins

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Do You Have the Guts?



Dr. Eric Griggs, MD
Data News Columnist

Gut check - noun

"A pause to assess the state, progress, or condition of something such as an enterprise or institution"

(www.websters-online.com)

It is a term often used in reference to sports scenarios or situations in life where one is forced to evaluate their character, make up or inner strength. Many an athlete has been called upon to analyze

their mettle in order to persevere through a foreseeable hardship. However, in the medical world, the term takes on a much deeper and literal meaning that can mean the difference between life and death.

Colorectal Cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the third leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States in men and women. The lifetime risk for developing Colorectal Cancer, here in the United States, is approximately 5 percent for both men and women. According to the American Cancer Society, it is estimated that in 2011, 141,210 people were diagnosed with Colorectal Cancer, with 49,380 people dying of the disease in the United States alone. In 2007, the National Cancer Institute estimated that 1.1 million people were living with a history

of Colorectal Cancer, some living cancer-free while others lived in various states of the disease process. African-American men and women have the highest incidence and mortality rates in the country. The incidence rates are 20 percent higher and mortality rates are 45 percent higher than Whites. Overall, the incidence and death rates of Colorectal Cancer increases with age. Ninety percent of new cases and ninety-four percent of colorectal associated deaths occur in people age 50 and older. In people age 50 and older the incidence rate is 15 times that of those in the age 20 - 49 group. (American Cancer Society - Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures 2011-2013. Atlanta: American Cancer Society, 2011)

So what does all of this mean? Facts, numbers and statistics are everywhere these days, from the

TV stations, to the radio and to the internet. The reality is that if these facts are not translated to meaningful lifestyle changes and heightened states of awareness, they mean nothing. Colorectal Cancer is a very real disease that affects our lives every day. The problem is that, for fear of hearing bad news, we often ignore the warning signs until it is too late. If you smoke, drink, have a family history, live a sedentary lifestyle, eat poorly with little to no fiber (fruits and vegetables), are male or female, African-American, and do not see a doctor for routine checkups, you are at an increased risk for developing Colorectal Cancer. Warning signs include: bleeding from the rectum, unintentional weight loss, dark or black colored stools, change in the shape of stool, blood in the toilet, new onset diarrhea or constipation lasting longer than just a few days, and cramping

in the lower stomach amongst others. If you should experience any of these symptoms, you should go to your doctor immediately to be screened. Screening includes everything from answering simple questions to hemoccult testing to blood work to colonoscopy. Don't be afraid.

Prescription for the Month: When was the last time you had your GUT CHECKED? Do you have the guts? It could save your life. Just do it. Please go to www.cancer.org for more info.

Dr. Eric Griggs is the owner of ResearchMDS Family Practice and Clinical Research Center and RMDs Aesthetics and Med Spa, both located here in New Orleans. He is the host of "The Doctor Griggs" show on 1230AM WBOK on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 - 2:30 PM. He can be reached at 504-486-7070 or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/docgriggs1. On Twitter, you can follow him @docgriggs1.

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trailblazer

Julia Aaron-Humbles

Taking a Ride Down Freedom's Road

by: Edwin Buggage

Julia Aaron-Humbles is a woman who epitomizes the word trailblazer. She is also a woman of courage and embodies the spirit of a selfless servant of humanity. In this issue as we are on the verge of a historic presidential election and celebrating our trailblazers for 2011-2012. Data News Weekly is honored to profile a woman who with her undeniable strength and fortitude paved the way for future generations during the Civil Rights Era. Looking back to what led her to take a step forward in the struggle for equality she says, "The conditions of the time were not good for African-Americans, things were unfair, we were not able to vote; we had to sit on the back of the bus and many other things that were problems during segregation; and we as young people felt it was time to take a stand and do something about it."

Last year marked the 50th Anniversary when courageous Americans got together to take part in the Freedom Rides, challenging the segregationist laws of the day and while there have been many gains for African-Americans since their triumph Humbles believes there is still a long way to go, "I feel great when I see how far we have come, but it is alarming to me that some of the things we were addressing 50 years ago such as voting rights have again become an issue."

Much of the energy of the Civil Rights Era of the 1950's and 60's came from young people who took up the mantle of leadership challenging the unfairness and inequality of the day. Looking at the world today Humbles says that there are a host of issues young people can mobilize around and that it is much easier because of advancements in technology, "Many of the things we were doing during that time was based around information: getting people registered to vote, knowing their rights etc. What took us a lot of time and energy can be done much faster today using things like Facebook and Twitter," continuing she says, "There are just so many platforms to get information to people that can empower them and help them organize around a cause."

Julia Aaron-Humbles is a woman who was one of the many soldiers of freedom that inspired a generation. In a story that is well-known and has been told many times, she even inspired Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., himself. When she was all of 18 years old participating in the Freedom Rides she urged Dr. King to ride on the first bus out of Montgomery, Alabama because he was the face of the movement, at which time he said he was on probation so he would not ride, and Humble answered, "I am on probation too." Eventually King did not ride but Humbles did, recall-



ing this encounter is another hero of the Civil Rights Era, Jerome Smith, he said he ran into Dr. King after his meeting with Humbles and according to him King said with a tear in his eye he was so inspired by her courage that he knew the movement would be successful.

Today Humbles is still on the frontlines fighting the righteous fight. Humbles, now splits time between her adopted city of Atlanta and making "pilgrimages" to the place she will always call home New Orleans where all her family still lives. "The spirit of the people of New Orleans is different than any place in America, and wherever I am I will always be a New Orleanian. She is on a mission to save lives and give hope working with her church where she is doing outreach helping the homeless. "I get great joy out of working with homeless people feeding them, in addition to working with homeless veterans helping them gain housing and employment," says Humbles." Continuing she says, "Doing this work I have learned a lot and the face of the

homeless is not just as some perceive as mostly men, but it is women and children as well that are suffering and we need to do something about this issue that sometimes go unnoticed or underreported."

Humbles has worked in education for a time and continues to be a child advocate and feels that we need to rethink how we rear our children today, "I think that some of our children have a sense of entitlement; I believe we give some of them way too much without asking them to do things to earn them; and I think that many of the problems we have stem from not requiring enough of our children and not arming them with the proper tools to be successful in life. I see children giving up on life before they've had a chance to live, and what troubles me is that I don't see a light in some of their eyes and we as a community must do a better job to help restore a sense of hope and responsibility in our children."

Julia Aaron-Humbles is a woman that has lived for seven decades. In her life she's seen a society go through many changes and transformations, and today she is proud to see a nation that more people can live with liberty and basic human dignity, but she believes the struggle continues, and it will take a united effort to continue down the road to expanding the road to freedom and justice. "The struggle today is about everyone doing their part, and really it is not about everyone addressing the same issue, it is about each individual finding something they feel passionate about that they want to change and work on that, but realize when it comes to making the world better we are all in this together." Julia Aaron-Humbles is a giant in the world that is our quest for Civil Rights and the journey she began over 50 years ago continues, as the City, nation and world continues down the road in the pursuit of freedom and justice.

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Dr. Norman C. Francis Honored During Essence & Southern Company's Fourth Annual Evening Of Excellence

ESSENCE & Southern Company, in partnership with Perennial Strategy Group, hosted the 4th Annual Evening of Excellence—a prestigious awards reception as part of the 2012 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's (CBCF) 42nd Annual Legislative Conference. This year, the reception honored some of today's most influential leaders and advocates of change in the areas of education and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) including: actress and education advocate Alfre



Partnerships Executive at Google-YouTube, Malik Ducard; Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Perennial Strategy Group, Lamel McMorris; Alabama A & M University President, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr.; ESSENCE Editor-in-Chief Constance White; The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl Writer and Creator, Issa Rae; Actress and Education Advocate, Alfre Woodard; Essence President Michelle Ebanks; Xavier University President, Dr. Norman C. Francis; Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Baranco Automotive Group, Juanita Baranco; President, External Affairs, Southern Company, Chris Womack.

Woodard; Xavier University president Dr. Norman C. Francis; Alabama A & M University president Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr.; and The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl writer and creator Issa Rae. Hosted by CNN anchor Fredricka Whitfield, this invitation-only event culminated with a performance from Grammy-nominated R&B singer-songwriter Tamia. Legendary rapper and radio personality MC Lyte also served as the DJ for the after-party, which was sponsored by Google®.

SUNO College of Business and Public Administration to host computing class for seniors

In order to help senior citizens become more adept with dealing with the ever changing digital age, the Southern University at New Orleans College of Business and Public Administration and its Department of Management Information Systems will be hosting a computer training seminar. The session is scheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2012 at the SUNO College of Business Build-

ing in Room 202, located at 6801 Press Drive. It will run from 9:00 – 10:30am.

"SUNO has always made it a part of its mission to be a partner with its community", said Dr. Yanjun Yu, an Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems who will be conducting the class. "General computer skills such as using the internet, utilizing email, and home budgeting

are really useful for seniors and can improve the daily quality of their lives by allowing them to keep in touch with loved ones, access more entertainment options and to better manage their finances. We're excited to offer this class and hope that there is sufficient demand so we can do this again."

The class is limited to the first 25 seniors who wish to participate. Attendees must be 60 years of age or older to enroll. Contact Shelina Gethers for more information at (504)286-5141 or via email at sgethers@suno.edu.

City Offers Isaac Clean-Up Update

Earlier this week, City of New Orleans updated residents on post-Isaac debris and garbage clean up. Deputy Mayor for Operations Michelle Thomas is leading a comprehensive, cross-sector coalition of City departments, private contractors and public and private sector partners to clear the city of debris left behind by Hurricane Isaac.

Hurricane Isaac generated a large amount of debris throughout the City of New Orleans. City workers and contractor crews have been working diligently since storm debris collection began and have collected nearly 150,000 cubic yards of debris citywide.

Regular Trash contractors and debris crews have been in-

structed that they are required to pick up black bags. Black bags that were not collected on previous collection passes will be addressed in supplemental passes. Residents are reminded to please leave garbage curbside. Do not place debris and trash on the neutral ground.

In order to help the collection contractors differentiate storm debris from garbage, we ask that residents separate garbage and storm debris piles to make collection easier. The main reason for the separation is that various types of solid waste can only be disposed in certain landfills. Multiple passes are made by different vehicles to collect the various types of debris.

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Rev. Jesse Jackson Secures Release of Prisoners in Gambia

Chicago's the Rev. Jesse Jackson added another notch Monday to his successes in international diplomacy — obtaining the release of two Americans who were expected to be imprisoned in Gambia for at least 20 years.

"This is a great day," Edward Alford, U.S. ambassador to The Gambia for only two months, said by phone, minutes after an agreement was reached.

"Rev. Jackson has come here as a concerned American citizen, a humanitarian, and has talked to his excellency, President [Yahya] Jammeh, and President Jammeh has agreed to release the two prisoners. This was a marvelous performance."

The two Gambian-born Americans — Tamsir Jasseh, a one-time U.S. soldier, and Amadou Scattered Jannet, a longtime professor at the University of Tennessee — were both accused and convicted of treason by the government of Jammeh, who recently carried out execution of nine prisoners.

Jasseh, accused of participating in a foiled coup attempt



Jesse Jackson with former Gambian dissidents Amadou Scattered Jannet (left), a graduate of Knoxville College and the University of Tennessee, and Tamsir Jasseh (right), a Navy veteran of Desert Storm (Photo by Roy Lewis for NNPA).

against the dictator who seized power in 1994, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in August 2007.

In January, Jannet was sentenced to life imprisonment — allegedly for helping distribute t-shirts for an NGO that had the slogan "End to Dictatorship Now."

Both were released Tuesday, and allowed to return with Jack-

son to the U.S.

"Rev. Jackson and his excellency share a friendly relationship," The Gambian minister for presidential affairs, Njogou Bah, said during a phone interview.

"They visited and discussed many issues, including the death penalty and recent executions, and Rev. Jackson pleaded for release of the Americans,"

Bah said. "They were involved in subversive activities, were caught, found guilty, sentenced accordingly. The only reason his excellency released them was in consideration of his special relationship with Rev. Jackson and his plea."

The Rainbow PUSH founder and longtime civil rights leader flew to The Gambia Sunday with a delegation. Jackson's past similar successes include the release in 1984 of captured Navy Lieutenant Robert Goodman from Syria and 48 Cuban and Cuban-American prisoners in Cuba; 1999's release of U.S. soldiers held hostage in Kosovo; and in 2000, the release of four British journalists from Liberia.

"After the human rights cry around the world, I knew I had to come. I've known President Jammeh for some time, and I asked if he would receive me," Jackson said Monday. "I came with no guarantees. I am gratified the lives of these two men have been spared, and they will be back with their families on Wednesday."

Congresswoman Maxine Waters Cleared of House Ethics Charges

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — After three years of steadfastly declaring her innocence, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) has been finally exonerated of allegations that she violated ethics codes in connection with her role in advocating for the inclusion of minority-owned banks in the federal government's Troubled Asset Relief Program.

Charges were filed against Waters with the House Ethics Committee when it was discovered that her husband, Sidney Williams, owned shares in OneUnited Bank, one of the Black-owned financial institutions that benefited from TARP funds. Williams also served on the bank's board from January 2004 to April 2008.

By September 2008, at the peak of Great Recession, OneUnited was on its last legs. The bank's failure would have gutted Williams' investment. In December 2008, a \$12 million dollar life raft, courtesy of TARP, rescued the bank and Williams' stock.

The House Ethics Committee conducted an investigation that spanned President Obama's first term in office, lasting more than 1,200 days. At issue was whether Waters was acting on behalf of OneUnited or seeking to protect her husband's investment.

Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) said there never should have been an investigation in the first place.

"Nobody wants to come to the defense of a member of Congress, even if that member



Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.)

of Congress has been falsely accused and everybody knows it," said Rep. Cleaver (D-Mo.).

As Waters continued to profess her innocence, a leaked memo revealed that the Ethics Committee had engaged in questionable behavior, forcing five Republican members to recuse themselves from the case. Veteran Washington lawyer Billy Martin, an African-American, was brought in to serve as independent counsel.

Last Friday, Martin reported that there was no evidence that Waters breached the ethics code, effectively exonerating the 11-term congresswoman, pending the full vote by the ethics committee.

"The exoneration of [Rep. Waters] is a demonstration in no small part to the unjaundiced [sic] work of the new ethics committee and it's also a statement of their courage," said Cleaver.

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