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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Ruby Bridges

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# Small Steps into History

*Ruby Bridges, a Civil Rights Icon, Exemplifies the Power of Children*



Honoring the Power of Children Statue was unveiled on Friday, November 15, 2014 at the William Frantz Elementary School in the playground area, a playground that Ruby Bridges never played on that first year.



Ruby Bridges and Barbara Henry revisit the second-floor classroom where they sit together at desks. As Ruby was her only student Mrs. Henry chose to sit beside her and teach.



Ruby Bridges receives standing ovation in school yard of William Frantz Elementary School at statue unveiling. To Ruby's right is Mario Chiodo the sculptor of the statue

By Calla Victoria

## The Deep South 54 Years Ago

The year was 1960. The place was New Orleans, Louisiana, and the location was William Frantz Elementary School. The players were Judge J. Skelly Wright, Mrs. Lucille Bridges, Ruby Nell Bridges, four U.S. Marshals, and Mrs. Barbara Henry, a Boston transplant. Something life-changing was about to happen.

The landmark legal decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* opened the door for integration on May 17, 1954 however southern states resisted. Therefore, Judge J. Skelly Wright, a native New Orleansian and a federal judge at that time, decreed that schools in New Orleans must be desegregated on

Monday, November 14, 1960. Against what seemed like insurmountable opposition Judge Wright forged forward. Now that the wheels were in motion, the question was how to execute the order, what schools would be selected and who would the brave souls be to break through? As the decree of desegregation encompassed all learning institutions including colleges and universities as well, this could happen at any level. But Judge Wright, in his infinite wisdom, chose to integrate elementary schools first. He was very much aware of the opposition that would meet any Black person attempting to walk into a White school; the hatred, the racial slurs, and the pure evil they would face. He also knew how those optics would look to the rest of the world with all of that venom being heaped upon a small helpless first grader.

In the Spring of 1960 kindergarten Black students were tested to see who would be chosen. The family of five-year-old Ruby Nell Bridges was informed that she was chosen to integrate the all-White William Frantz Elementary School located at 3811 N. Galvez Street in the Upper Ninth Ward.

Lucille Bridges, Ruby's mother, instilled her strong Christian faith in little Ruby Bridges. And on that faithful day some 54 years ago I can only imagine what was going through Mrs. Lucille Bridges' mind as she dressed little Ruby Nell, now six years old, on the morning of November 14th. Then there was the knock on the door...the U. S. Marshals were there to drive Mrs. Lucille Bridges and little Ruby Bridges the five blocks to her new school. Ruby remembers, "In the car one of the men explained that when we arrived at the school two marshals would walk in front of us

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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and two behind, so we'd be protected on both sides. That reminded me of what Mama had taught us about God that he is always there to protect us. "Ruby Nell," she said as we pulled up to my new school, "Don't be afraid. There might be some people upset outside, but I'll be with you."

The car pulled up in front of William Frantz Elementary and Ruby recounts, "Sure enough, people shouted and shook their fists when we got out of the car, but to me it wasn't any noisier than Mardi Gras." In the mist of all of that racial madness, U.S. Marshals, and state troopers with rifles drawn there was a little Black girl. Little Ruby Bridges looking like so many other little Black girls on their way to school that day, legs greased down and gleaming, starched dress with ruffled petticoat, a bodacious bow ribbon cocked ace-dude atop her head, and thick pigtails marching on. But unlike all of those other little Black girls, Ruby Bridges was taking small determined steps that changed our world.

The U.S. Marshals, one of whom was Charles Burks, escorted Ruby Bridges inside of the school building and placed her hand into the hand of Mrs. Barbara Henry, who was to be Ruby's First Grade teacher and constant companion for that entire year. Ruby remembers that moment vividly, "A young White woman met us inside the building. She smiled at me. 'Good morning, Ruby Nell,' she said, just like Mama except with what I later learned was a Boston accent. 'Welcome, I'm your new teacher, Mrs. Henry. She seemed nice, but I wasn't sure how to feel about her. I'd never been taught by a White teacher before. Mrs. Henry took my mother and me to her second-floor classroom. All the desks were empty and she asked me to choose a seat. I picked one up front, and Mrs. Henry started teaching me the letters of the alphabet." Ruby was the only student in the classroom for that entire year, and spent every moment with Mrs. Henry as it was too dangerous for her to go out on the school yard for recess.

Despite all odds and opposition integration was achieved in New

Orleans, but not without heavy cost. In the months after his order to integrate the public schools in New Orleans in 1960, Judge Wright was shunned by old friends. A cross was burned on the lawn of his home. Telephone threats against his life became so numerous that police guards were assigned to protect him. Ruby's father was fired from his job. The White owners of a grocery store told the Bridges family not to shop there anymore. Even her grandparents in Mississippi suffered. The owner of the land they'd sharecropped for 25 years said everyone knew it was their granddaughter causing trouble in New Orleans, and asked them to move. Mrs. Barbara Henry was fired at the end of that school year and returned to Boston.

#### Fast forward to Friday, November 14, 2014

Fifty-four years after little Ruby Bridges took those small steps into the history books; Mrs. Ruby Bridges, the Civil Rights Icon, was honored with a once-in-a-lifetime reunion of her teacher Mrs. Barbara

Henry, Mr. Charlie Burks now 92 years old, the only surviving U.S. Marshal of the four who escorted Ruby daily, and a statue unveiling to forever mark that faithful day in American History. On that frigid Friday at 5 pm press and invited guests gathered at what was William Frantz Elementary School in the playground area (a playground that Ruby Bridges never played on that first year) to hear speeches by Ruby Bridges, Mrs. Barbara Henry, the Sculptor Mario Chiodo, and to witness the unveiling of the statue.

There were media representatives from around the world in attendance and what most struck me about Mrs. Ruby Bridges was her humility. She continually reiterated that this was not about her but to inspire future generations of children. It was Ruby Bridges' story that saved this building from being torn down after Katrina. Because of what transpired way back in 1960, the William Frantz School is now a historic landmark and was therefore restored.

You could sense Mrs. Henry's gentle spirit as she spoke of the

love-at-first-sight initial meeting with little Ruby Nell way back then. The Sculptor, Mario Chiodo, said that the Ruby Bridges statue was the smallest of all of the statues he has ever done, but the most significant of all. After the unveiling of the statue entitled "Honoring the Power of Children," Ruby Bridges and her Teacher Mrs. Barbara Henry revisited the second-floor classroom where they shared so many memories. This was such a powerful and emotional moment for everyone in attendance.

I thank Judge J. Skelly Wright for his determination and wisdom. For selecting the right school, the right teacher, a northerner, and bringing in U. S. Marshals from northern states who were sympathetic to the cause. I thank Mrs. Barbara Henry for her compassion and love for embracing and encouraging that little Black girl. I thank Little Ruby Bridges for her courage and bravery. And I thank Mrs. Ruby Bridges, now 60, for her spirit and inspiration both here and now. Never underestimate the power of one little Black child!

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# Voting in the Run-Off is Important

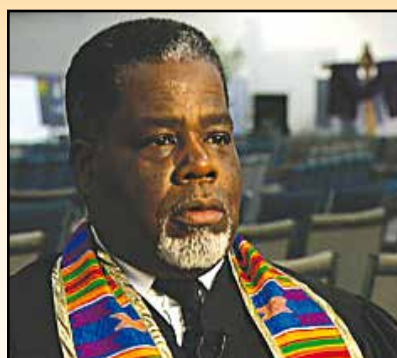
*African-Americans: Getting to the Polls by Any Means Necessary*



Oliver Thomas



Wesley Bishop



Rev. Dwight Webster



Anthony Patton

By Edwin Buggage

## Getting People to the Polls

As we count down the days until the election early voting will take place from Nov. 22-29. There are several races on the ballot, but the race that is getting the most attention is the race for the U.S. Senate that has Incumbent Mary Landrieu running against Republican Challenger Bill Cassidy. It has been a race where Cassidy has worked hard to unfairly distort the record of Mary Landrieu and play to the worse fears of some people by brewing up racial resentment when speaking of President Barack Obama. Some believe that there are racial undertones to these attacks that seem to resonate with some of the voters across the state. But whether or not there is any truth to these assertions it does not negate the fact that African-American turnout is crucial if Mary Landrieu is to win on December 6th.

Organizations and people from around the City are working hard to get people to the polls. Historically, the Black church has been an important place where people organized politically. It has been a place where many social movements have been born. Dr. Dwight Webster of Christian Unity Baptist Church says his church and others are trying to get people to the polls. "I am doing several things, I emphasize the importance of voting. I think Dr. Torian Sanders and other churches are working to get people to the polls to early vote. Also what I am doing is pushing the issue constantly every Sunday." Continuing he says, "In our church we do not just encourage people to vote; we have educational materials so they can understand the issues. Also we do offer anyone who needs a ride to a polling place, and we will coordinate that through the church."

## Why People Don't Vote?

While people not getting to the polls is a problem across the country, as noted by the 2014 mid-term that saw the lowest amount of voter participation in 70 years. In the African-American com-

munity this problem is worse across the country. Given the history of African-Americans as it relates to voting their numbers should be higher. But as they see their neighborhoods crumbling and lack of resources some say why vote?

Anthony Patton is the Publisher of The Minority Report, a newsletter/magazine geared towards equity in the New Orleans community. He feels that the frustration lies in people voting and not seeing any changes in their quality of life. "It is clear there is a disconnect between voting and what is needed in the community. I think people sometimes don't see the connection between elected officials and community issues."

## Mary Landrieu vs. Bill Cassidy an Easy Choice

He also feels that the gridlock and partisan bickering is keeping many things from getting done in government. Patton feels that in spite of all this Landrieu is one of the few on Capitol Hill who is actually getting things done for her constituents. "Mary Landrieu is a phenomenal candidate, she has actually delivered and it is interesting that she is in a tight spot. She is probably one of the few senators across the country that's delivered. She's delivered the BP Oil spill money and so many other things to her constituents and bringing money to the state."

State Representative from District 99 Wesley Bishop, whose district covers parts of New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward, that was Ground Zero for Hurricane Katrina is still struggling nearly a decade later after the storm. Some of it resembles a ghost town where vacant lots and tall weeds lie where houses once stood. He is supporting Mary Landrieu and feels that she is best suited to represent the people of the state. "She has a proven record track record of not just helping the people of the State of Louisiana, but the City of New Orleans. She has done great work with HBCU's, she did a lot to help rebuild not just SUNO but Xavier, Dillard and other schools around

the state. I think it would be a grave mistake to trade in someone who has been as productive as Mary Landrieu for the rhetoric of Bill Cassidy."

## What are People Talking about During the Election?

Oliver Thomas is a former City Councilman who put together coalitions and won elections with over 80% of the vote in his over a decade in office. No longer is he an elected official after a scandal took him down, since that time he has recovered and today he is the host of a popular radio show on WBOK. He says that people are calling in and are really engaged in this election. He feels that Cassidy is going down the wrong road to get into elected office. "Bill Cassidy has criticized everything President Obama's done, he is against immigration, against women; he represents an old way of thinking. If people want to go backwards then they should vote for Bill Cassidy and people who do not participate need to know that when they don't get to polls to cast a ballot it is like a vote for Cassidy."

One never to shy away from speaking his mind, he says that while racism is real, African-Americans must not use some of the obstructive tactics by the Republicans as an excuse not to be civically engaged. "I am tired of Black politicians and leaders blaming Whites for why they don't vote, we can find time and make other things a priority and voting is something that needs to become a high priority in our community not just when President Obama is running, but every election is important because the things that impact citizens the most are decided at the local level."

## Republicans, Democrats and Blacks

Harold Clark is the Host of Sunday Journal, a popular public affairs radio program that airs on WYLD-FM 98. He feels the Democratic Party missed a great opportunity to keep people engaged after 2012 when the number of African-Americans voted at a higher

percentage than Whites. "For the Democrats what have they done since 2012? I feel they should have done more, followed up to help keep people engaged for the mid-term elections." Speaking of Bill Cassidy he says, "We have not heard much of what he would do and I'd like to say to his voters I think it is not a good thing to give him a pass and he just stays on his messaging points about Mary Landrieu ties to Barack Obama and not what he would do for Louisiana."

Anthony Patton who does not toe the line for any political party feels the Republicans in this election are not focused on any of the issues that matter to voters. "My problem with the Republicans in this election is they are spending a lot of time on tarnishing the legacy of President Obama, and I don't see them with any new ideas, so in this case I would rather keep somebody in office with good relationships and can get things done then those who have an agenda to erase the legacy of a President I care for."

## Getting People to the Polls and Civically Engaged

Rev. Dwight Webster feels that voting is important but believes the community must stay engaged. That is why he stresses not simply voter registration but voter education that leads to civic participation. "Accountability is as important as voting; it is about seeing what is being done, or more importantly what is not being done." Continuing he says that people should get past voting for candidates based on the cult of personality. "It is about voting based on where candidates stand on the issues not the individual."

Getting people elected is one thing, but Anthony Patton feels that community groups need to be more active in working with elected officials in getting their needs met. "We don't have good watchdog groups in our community. I think we have done a good job at getting people elected, but I don't think we do a good job walking them through the

Newsmaker,  
Continued on page 7.



# The Bayou Classic Celebrates 41 Years

*Who Will Break the Tie?*



## Tigers Jags Historic Rivalry

2014 marks the 41st annual meeting of HBCU rivals Grambling State University and Southern University: The Bayou Classic is a football game and so much more! The Bayou Classic commemorates historically black colleges and universities, academic achievement, tradition, sportsmanship, marching bands, and friendly competition. The "Classic" is an exhibition of the high standards of academic achievement deeply embedded in the traditions of the two institutions. This year's game has an added excitement factor, the two teams are tied in this rivalry, each with 20 winner of this match up gets bragging rights for the next year.

Grambling State University and Southern University are public, four-year institutions of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Both are recognized for their academics and athletics, and their rivalry is on display each year during the Bayou Classic. Grambling State University is located in Grambling, Louisiana, and Southern University is located in Baton Rouge.

## The Black Super Bowl

"This is a great rivalry between these two schools that

I like to call The Black Super Bowl, for it is watched by so many people and is more than just a game, but is something that gives the audience that might not be exposed to HBCU's a look at the great traditions and realize how viable and valuable these institutions are not just to the African-American community, but to the world," says Alger Taylor, a 1999 graduate of Southern University in Electrical Engineering. He is a native New Orleanian, presently living in Georgia and sometimes comes home to enjoy the festivities. "It is a great time for the City where people can come to party and the schools compete for who's going to have the bragging rights and there is a great spirit of togetherness of African-Americans in an atmosphere that is positive."

Bayou Classic 2014 Battle of the Bands & Greek Show is better than ever! In addition to the competition between the Grambling State University World Famed Tiger Marching Band and Southern University Marching Band Human Jukebox, the show will include a special performance by Dee-1!

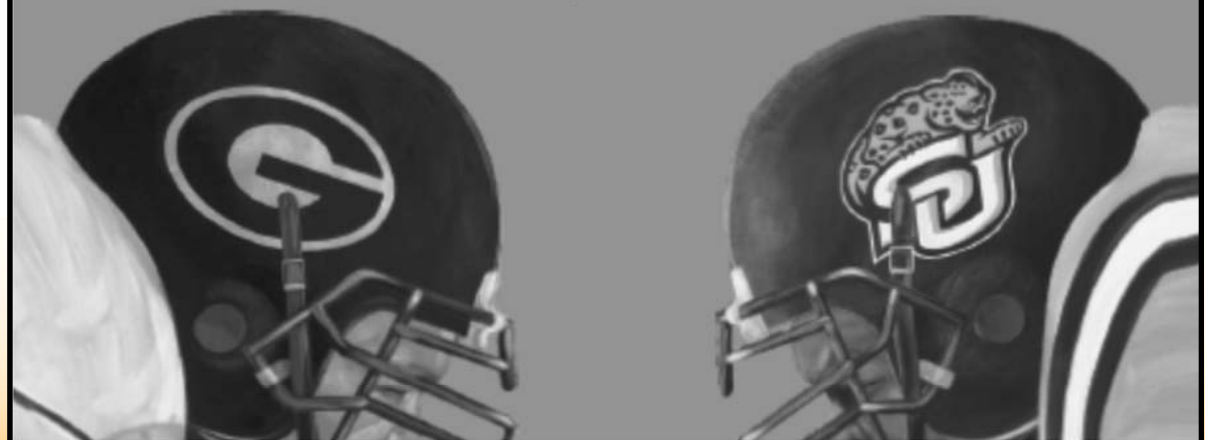
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WHO WILL BREAK THE TIE?  
WHO WILL GO TO THE  
SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP?



November 29, 2014

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# Sweet Home Alabama



George C. Curry  
NNPA

It's been almost 50 years since I lived in Tuscaloosa, Ala. I go back from time to time, but not much after Mama moved to Cleveland about 35 years ago and later to Augusta, Ga. Except for a couple of cousins, all of my relatives have either died or moved away. My youngest sister, Susan Gandy, lives in Tuskegee, Ala. My other sisters, Charlotte Purvis and Chris Polk, live in Durham, N.C. and Oakland, Calif. area, respectively.

Many close family friends such as Mrs. Dorothy Smith and Mrs. Emma Henderson, two longtime neighbors from my McKenzie Court housing project days, are deceased. A growing number of my Druid High classmates – James Calvin Brown, Reginald Hender-

son, Peter Boyd and most recently, Ronald Thompson and Estella Robertson Carter – are no longer with us.

I returned home to give three speeches last Friday – at Central High School, the University of Alabama and Christian Community Church. Though exhausting, my whirlwind tour of my hometown provided me with fresh insight on how much Tuscaloosa has – and hasn't – changed since I graduated from Druid High School in 1965.

The first notable sign of change was that the Tuscaloosa News published a story on my upcoming speech at the church. Growing up, the only way to get coverage in the Tuscaloosa News was to play sports, be an entertainer or, heaven forbid, commit a crime. When I began my career as a journalist, I could get a job as a reporter for Sports Illustrated, but not with my hometown paper because it did not hire African-Americans. But that has changed for the better.

Another change for the better was supposedly the desegregation of Tuscaloosa public schools. But it was not always for the better. My education at all-Black Druid High

school was on par with, if not better, than that provided by Tuscaloosa High, our all-White crosstown counterpart. That notwithstanding, both high schools were demolished in the name of desegregation. Druid was replaced with a new building that became a middle school and Tuscaloosa High was replaced by Central High, another new structure. The plan was that Whites and Blacks would attend middle school and high school together. The reality is that didn't last for long.

That became clear when I entered Central High on Friday, the first time I set foot in the building. If you had placed a blindfold on me and lifted it once I was inside, I would have thought I was back at Druid. The "integrated" school was virtually all-Black. Whites have done what most Whites who can afford it do: they pulled their students out of desegregated public schools and enrolled them in majority White private or parochial schools.

But Tuscaloosa is no different than the rest of the South. As the Civil Rights Project at UCLA reported, "The reality is that segregation has been increasing since 1990, for almost a quarter century,

and that today Black students are substantially more segregated than they were in 1970. The direction of change, however, suggests that things will continue to worsen."

Like Ole Miss and the University of Georgia, the University of Alabama was desegregated under pressure from the federal government. I had just completed the 10th grade at Druid when Gov. George C. Wallace made his famous "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" on June 11, 1963 to prevent the enrollment of two Black students, Vivian Malone and James Hood. That day will be forever etched in my memory.

After objecting to what he called "the unwelcomed, unwanted, unwarranted and force-induced intrusion upon the campus of the University of Alabama," Wallace was forced to step aside and allow the students to enroll.

When I spoke to a class on race and gender at the university, Black and White students interacted openly and comfortably. One White student spoke fondly of her close friendship with her Black roommate and others described how the university had made it easier for them to meet new friends who

did not look like them. I smiled contently as they relayed their stories, happy that real progress had been made in my hometown.

Over lunch, however, I was brought back to reality. A university professor relayed that Black students told him of being called the N-word every day on campus. Every day. On one hand, 'Bama represented what seemed like unimaginable racial progress. On closer inspection, nothing has fundamentally changed – except the cosmetics – from the bad old days.

At my evening speech at the Community Christian Church, except for two Whites, the audience was all Black. That was two Whites more than I expected. Tuscaloosa, like the rest of America, remains mostly segregated.

Whether it was interacting with high school pupils, talking with students at the University of Alabama or the community, not that much has really changed in Sweet Home Alabama once you look beyond the surface.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is Editor-in-Chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA.)

## School Choice Emerging as a Go-To Issue for African-American Voters

By Kevin P. Chavous

With each election, political experts can look at various voting patterns by certain groups to determine which issues are important to those groups. For instance, among African-American voters, it is clear that issues such as jobs, quality housing, affordable health care and education consistently are the most significant. As it relates to education, more and more African-American voters are embracing educational choice and are voting for candidates who identify themselves as school choice supporters.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the recent Governor's race in Florida. Republican Gov. Rick Scott was elected in 2010 with just

6 percent of the African-American vote. During his first term, he did not do much to improve his standing among Florida's African-American electorate – other than steadfastly support the highly popular Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program. Under this program, which serves mostly low income African-American and Hispanic students, 70,000 kids are able to attend a quality private school which is often far better than the traditional public school in their neighborhood.

While Gov. Scott was in the midst of campaigning for re-election against former Gov. Charlie Crist, labor unions filed a lawsuit to dismantle the program. Democrat Crist, who once supported the program, supported the

unions attempt to shut down the program. In October, Reverend H. K. Matthews, who marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, publicly pleaded with Crist to denounce the effort. And Rev. Matthews made his arguments in terms that harkened the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, when Blacks first moved from the Republican Party to the Democrats.

"The truth is that wealthy children have always had choices, whether to neighborhoods with favored public schools or private schools that only money can buy," Matthews wrote in an op-ed. "The union cries foul when that privilege is extended to those of meager financial means."

Matthews was joined by a coal-

ition of Black ministers in the state. The scholarship program became a huge issue in the Florida Governor's race. When the votes were counted, not only did Gov. Scott get re-elected, he also doubled his level of African-American support from 6 percent in 2010 to 12 percent in 2014. That increase gave him the margin he needed to beat former Gov. Crist.

Over the years, poll after poll has shown that African-American and Hispanic citizens support all forms of educational choice. Indeed, with the school dropout rates in those communities hovering around 50 percent and with the achievement gap between kids of color and their White counterparts remaining virtually unchanged, parents are clamoring

for as many quality options as they can get – including publicly funded scholarships to allow their kids to go to good private schools. In the past, we have seen those parents support Democrats like New Jersey's Cory Booker, California's Diane Feinstein and a host of state and local Democrats around the nation who have bucked the teachers unions by putting their kids first and supporting educational choice. Florida's recent governor's race shows us, however, that those same parents are willing to vote for candidates who embrace those quality choice options, be they Democrat or Republican. As we move closer to the 2016 presidential race, Democrats would be wise to learn from Florida – and join the parents that they serve.



# African-American Turnout is Key for Mary Landrieu to Win Run-Off Election



**Terry B. Jones**  
Publisher,  
Data News Weekly

One cannot overstate the importance of this election. While it is historically known that there is a drop-off in voting in run-off elections, we must buck this trend because this time we cannot afford to not make it to the polls. When I think of this election it takes me back to 1990 when the incumbent U.S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston whose seat Mary Landrieu now

holds was in a run-off election against former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. During this election people were motivated and saw that if Duke were to win how it would damage the state to have him elected to represent the people of Louisiana.

During this time some local, state and national Republicans crossed party lines to endorse Johnston. Similarly, some in the business community who are Republicans in this election have gotten behind Mary Landrieu because they realize she is the best person for the people of our state. They understand that we cannot have someone who divides people in a state as diverse as ours. We are a state with almost a third of its population that is African-American. Considering this fact

alone if most of us who are registered voters get out and vote in high numbers all Mary Landrieu would have to do is only get some of the White vote and pick up votes among other ethnic groups to win this election.

We must come out and support Mary Landrieu. She's worked to help our Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She's worked to give more young people an opportunity to attend college by fighting to get more money through Pell Grants. And one of the most important things she's done is continue to fight to protect the Voting Rights Act of 1965, that's come under attack from Republicans who continue to fight to keep us away from the polls. Because the Republicans realize the more people vote, the more likely they will not win.

I have lived long enough to see the changes our society have gone through as it relates to African-American progress. I feel it is unfortunate that the Republican Party has become so extreme that they want an America that looks like 1914 not 2014, a time where African-American were denied the ballot and in many states women were denied or had limited access to the ballot as well. So we must do everything we can to get out and vote. We must let our voices be heard and get out and vote in early voting and in the general election on Dec. 6th, because our future is at stake. We must continue to move in a positive direction and with Bill Cassidy as our U.S. Senator this is highly unlikely. So please get out to and vote because a win for Mary is a win for our community.

## Health News

# Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

## Medicare's "Extra Help" program helps people with limited income pay for their prescription medications

Making ends meet should not mean going without your medications. If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for Extra Help to pay for some health care and prescription drug costs. Drug costs in 2015 for most people who qualify for Extra Help will be no more than \$2.65 for each generic drug and \$6.60 for each brand-name drug. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services estimates that more than 2 million people with Medicare may be

eligible for Extra Help, but aren't currently enrolled to take advantage of these savings. A recent law changed how your income and assets are counted:

- Life insurance policies don't count as resources
- Any help you get from relatives, friends, and others to pay for household expenses—like food, mortgage, rent, heating fuel or gas, electricity, water, and property taxes—doesn't count as income

## Many People Qualify and Don't Know It

Even if you were previously turned down for Extra Help due to income or resource levels, you should reapply. If you qualify, you'll

get help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage premiums, copayments, and deductibles. To qualify, you must make less than \$17,505 a year (or \$23,595 for married couples). Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some extra help. Your resources must also be limited to \$13,440 (or \$26,860 for married couples). Resources include bank accounts, stocks, and bonds, but not your house or car.

## There's No Cost or Obligation to Apply

It's easy and free to apply for "Extra Help." You or a family member, trusted counselor, or caregiver can apply online at [socialsecurity.gov/i1020](http://socialsecurity.gov/i1020) or call Social Security at

1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778. All the information you give is confidential. You can also get help in your community from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), and many tribal organizations. For information about how to contact these organizations, visit [Eldercare.gov](http://Eldercare.gov).

To learn more about Medicare prescription drug coverage, visit [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

This information prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Newsmaker, Continued from page 4.

issues and making sure the outcomes we seek happens."

As we see challenges to voting it is essential that the next generation realizes the importance of voting. They have to be made aware that they are standing on the shoulders

of people who made great sacrifices for them to have the right to vote. And as adults or elders' in the community it is about passing on the tradition of the struggle for the ballot. Harold Clark recalls a recent encounter with his daughter who just registered to vote. "My oldest daughter just turned 18 and told

me she registered to vote. What she did was based on the passion my wife and I have for voting." He says that this is something families must do to get young people civically engaged. "We have to have these conversations at the dinner table; we have to challenge them to understand the political process. Or

just doing simple things like bringing our children to the polls with us when we vote and it became something they are familiar with and understand that it is their duty as a citizen to make it to the polls and let their voices be heard. Because generations of those who came before them could not."

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