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The Struggle Continues

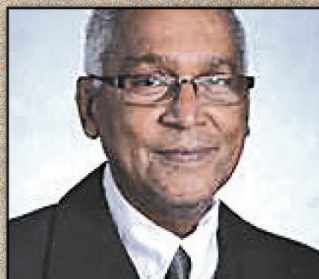
Movie "Selma" Shines Light on MLK and the Civil Rights Struggle



Jerome Smith



Oprah Winfrey



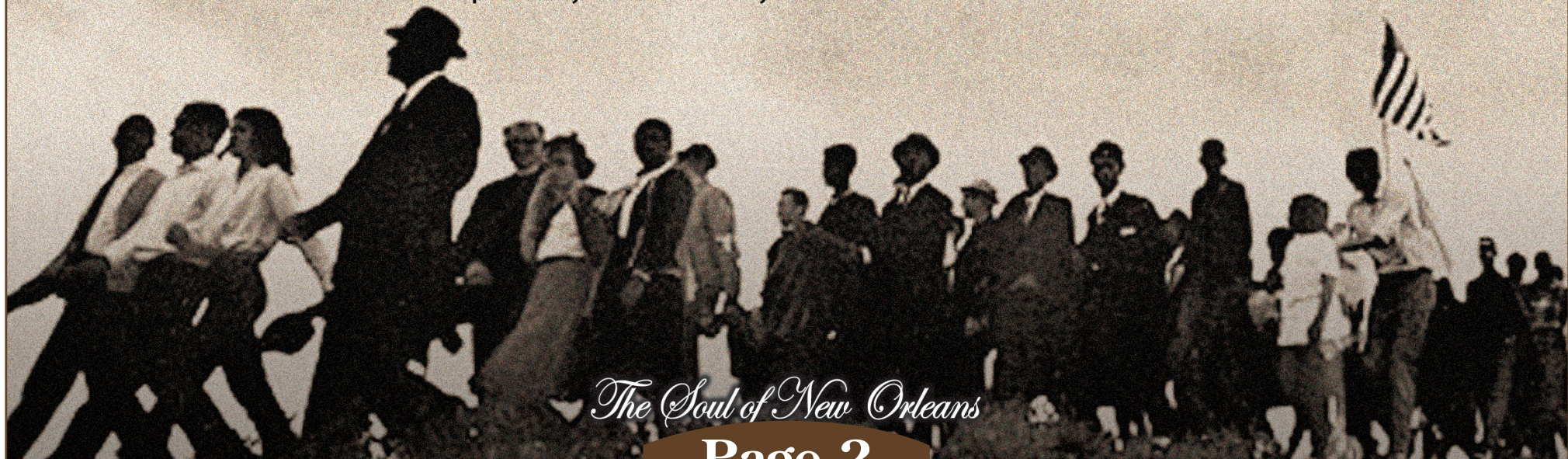
Rudy Lombard



Wendell Pierce



Julia Aaron Humbles



The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2



Health News

Foods that Burn Calories

Page 9

National News

Black Republicans in Congress



Page 11

The Struggle Continues

MLK Day and the Movie "Selma" Shines Light on the Civil Rights Movement



By Edwin Buggage

MLK Holiday: A Day of Reflection

As we approach the MLK Holiday, a day where people reflect on a time in our history where ordinary people stood together to make extraordinary strides

for a people towards greater freedom for all in a nation founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all. Today we still ask this question over a half century later is the dream he spoke of at the historic March On Washington closer to becoming a reality?

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Historic March from Selma to Montgomery Ala-

bama in 1965. Earlier this month the critically acclaimed film "Selma" was released by Paramount Pictures and was produced by Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Films. The film chronicles this time in American history that led a nation to widen the lanes of democracy for more of its citizens with the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Cover Story, Continued
on next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Home Style.	7
Newsmaker	4	Commentary.	8
State & Local News . . .	5	Dollars & Sense	9
Data Zone	6	National News	11

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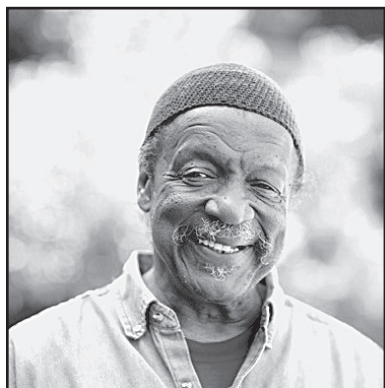
Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



New Orleans native Wendell Pierce (on the left) plays Hosea Williams in the film *Selma*. "Our community is in crisis, what our contribution is that we must create our own economic engine," says Pierce.

50 Years Later the Movie "Selma" Bringing the Movement to the Big Screen

Actor and New Orleans native Wendell Pierce plays Hosea Williams, one of the chief lieutenants to Dr. King in the film. "I already knew a great deal of the story of *Selma* and the movement, but as I got into the role I gained further admiration for the courage of all the people of the Civil Rights era. It was important to be part of a film that is so historically valuable," says Pierce of the movie *Selma*. He says



Lifetime Freedom Fighter Jerome Smith believes that the MLK Holiday should not just be a day where people take off of work, but should be dedicated to service projects including voter registration drives.

of the Civil Rights Movement that it was not just important in the U.S. but it inspired and raised the social consciousness of people worldwide, "What happened in *Selma* did not just impacted protest movements in this country, but across the globe, nothing was ever the same after it."

Speaking of the film and its impact he says, "The film created a piece of the past, but many of the issues raised in the film are still relevant today. As we see the things that are going on, that this work is still being done and people's rights are

being denied out there all over the world from Ferguson, to New York to Wendell Allen here in New Orleans." Continuing speaking about the role of art giving voice to the voiceless he says, "All those souls have been lost and they are saying tell our story. And I feel the role of art is not simply to entertain but to make people aware of issues and inspire them into action; that's what we tried to do with this film."

The *Selma* March's primary goal was to get people registered to vote. Because at that time in *Selma* there were nearly 33,000 African-Americans and only 335 were registered. During these tumultuous times when one of man's greatest crimes against man was taking place, African-Americans knew that voting was an important step towards full citizenship. Recalling that time in history Civil Rights veteran and businessman Don Hubbard says, "The March in *Selma* was for the right to the ballot box, because we understood that it was one of the things that controlled out destiny. It was an opportunity to put people in office who cared about us mainly ourselves."

Profiles in Courage: Voices from the Movement Speak on the Civil Rights Struggles of Yesterday and Today

Hubbard has his own place etched in history, for him as a young man and a member of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) drove the car from New York to Mississippi that would be the same vehicle that James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman were driving when they were murdered during Freedom Summer in June of 1964. Speaking of the drive he says, "We were at a convention and the late Dr. Rudy Lombard was one of the



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Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce Announces 2015 Officers and New Directors

The New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (NORBCC) announces new officers and directors effective January 1, 2015. Chairperson Elect is Mrs. Michelle G. Gobert, President of Signs Now. Mrs. Gobert has served on the

Board of Directors since 2011 and the Executive Committee as Secretary/Treasurer in 2014. Vice Chairman Elect is Mr. David St. Etienne, President of Ultimate Technical Solutions; Secretary Elect is Mr. Troy C. Carter, Principal of Policy & Planning

Partners and Treasurer Elect is Mrs. Patricia Hightower, President of Bayou Equity Mortgage Company.

New directors joining the board include: Attorney Terrel Broussard of HGI, Inc., Mrs. Ann Duplessis of Liberty Bank & Trust Com-

pany, Ms. Kelisha Garrett of Harrah's New Orleans, Mr. Roy Glapion of The Beta Group, Dr. Margaret Montgomery-Richard of DMM & Associates and Mr. Roderic Teamer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana.

The mission of the New

Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce is to empower & sustain the African-American business community through entrepreneurship and economic activity within the Greater New Orleans region & global economy as a whole.

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.



executives in CORE and when the car became available he said 'Don are you going back to New Orleans and I said yeah and he said Don will take the car down to Mississippi.' 'I drove the car from Utica, NY and I

Thinking about the importance of voting as a recent example you see how it can have an impact when you look at the things that happened in Missouri or New York with the Grand Jury, that it is attached to voting, because to serve on a jury you must be a registered voter."

Jerome Smith who during the 1960's was a member of CORE is someone who has become synonymous with the fight for freedom and justice. Throughout his life he has been on the frontlines in the struggle for equal rights. He says the release of the film "Selma" is important because it can serve as education and may be the spark that can get people civically engaged. "The movie is important in several ways, it is important to spotlight that time in history with voting rights and the fight against injustice and discrimination. Also you can see history as it is seen through our eyes which I feel is good thing.



Paramount Pictures and Oprah Winfrey Harpo Films Presents "Selma" that takes a look at the historic 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama.

stopped in New York City where we loaded up the car with all the CORE paraphernalia about voting, with our slogans - freedom now- don't let nobody turn you around. And I drove it to Canton MS, and it was the longest drive of my life. "

He says that the struggles fought yesterday should not be forgotten and should be the fuel to continue the fights of today. He says with a note of frustration in his voice about voter apathy, "It is embarrassing, we've missed the mark, some of it I feel comes from miseducation to their past. Because it was understood in our community during those times that you would be a registered voter; this was what was talked about in the home, in the school and in the church.

There was no question about that was going to happen and I raised my children to believe that.

My daughters are all register votes and today they have kids and have educated them about voting.



Julia Aaron Humbles, who took part in Freedom Summer in 1964 recalls her meeting with Dr. King saying, "I had the highest regard for him as a leader. I was 18 at the time."

That today there are opportunities for African- Americans to tell our own story and help write our own history from our perspective with an African-American Director Ava DuVernay and Oprah Winfrey producing the film."

Smith feels that like the move-

Cover Story, Continued on page 5.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 4.

ment of the 50's and 60's the struggle of today needs to be tied to a tangible objectives, "The MLK holiday in my view is empty in many ways because what it's become for some is just time to just take the day off, but it should be a day of service, or centered on registering someone to vote. This is a project we are going to advance." Continuing he says, "On MLK Day for that week, we involve ourselves in some service project as a way of saying thanks and by educating and registering someone to vote it would help to undercut apathy."

Julia Aaron Humbles is a woman steeped in the history of the freedom movement. As a young woman she was a freedom rider taking part in Freedom Summer and throughout her life taken up various causes. Today she sees the movement's objectives still unfinished, "It is amazing how this has come full-circle. The things we were fighting for 50 years ago we are still fighting for today. I don't think it speaks much for progress in America. But admittedly, we have made great strides and there are people who are on jobs we didn't



These people who worked with the Congress of Racial Equality in the 1960s photographed in December 2008. In the top row are Claude Reese, Robert F. Collins and Don Hubbard, and in the lower row are Alice Thompson, Jean Denton-Thompson, Sandra Nixon Thomas and Doratha "Dodie" Smith-Simmons (Times Picayune)

have before, and we have made strides in education, but segregation and discrimination is still something that is very real today."

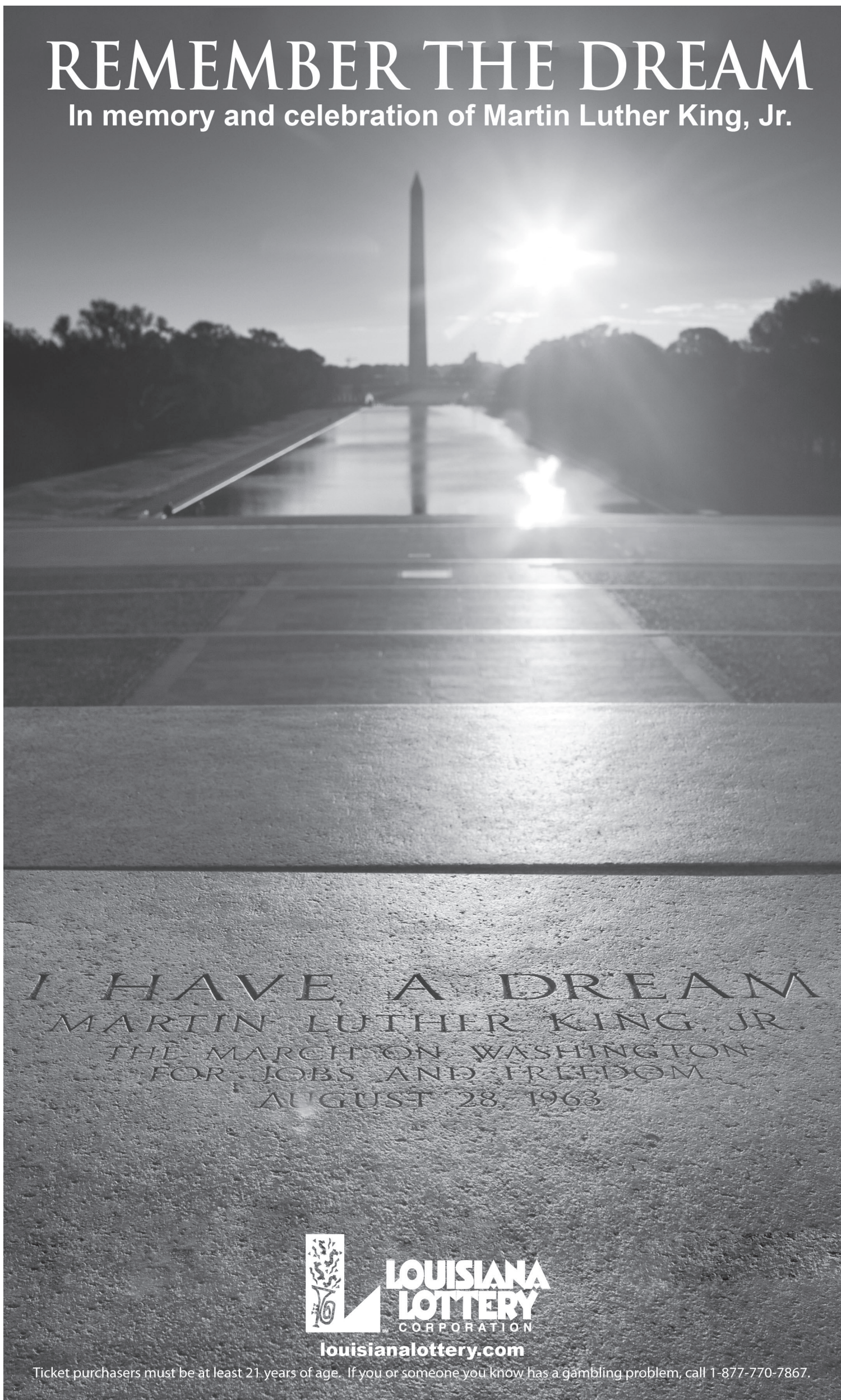
During her time as a Freedom Rider she had the opportunity to meet Dr. King, recalling this time she says, "I had the highest regard for him as a leader. I was 18 at the time and we wanted him to take part in the Freedom Rides. But he couldn't take part in the rides, and I remember him hugging me and telling me never to give up on what I thought was right. It is something I will always remember and I know if he were alive today he would be somewhere leading us to some kind of solutions to the problems we face not just in this country but around the world."

Rev. Samson "Skip" Alexander is a Civil Rights Veteran who today is a radio and television host and is well versed on the history of the Civil Rights Movement in New Orleans. He thinks the need for continued pressure and protests are necessary, "Marching is what brought the issues to the forefront of people's minds and helped change the way we were treated in this country. Today marching is just as impor-

Cover Story, Continued on page 10.

REMEMBER THE DREAM

In memory and celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Julius Celebrates #74

Photos by Jerry Lavigne

Julius Kimbrough Owner of The Prime Example Jazz & Blues Club celebrated his 74th Birthday at the club on Saturday, January 10th 2015. It was a good crowd including family, good friends and regulars attendees of the club with good food and of course the drinks were flowing. We had a great time. Congratulations Julius. Still looking good!!!



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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Planning your 2015 Garden



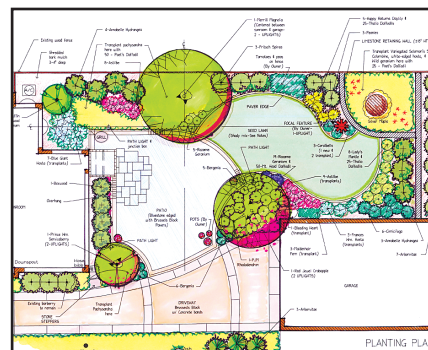
By Calla Victoria

Along with all of your other New Year's resolutions, you should resolve to have an amazing garden in 2015. Winter is the best time to survey the bones of your garden, with many of the leaves gone you can really see all of your garden.

If you have been gardening for a couple of years now you should know which parts of your garden have the driest soil, which plants are thirsty, which ones are drought tolerant, etc. Use that knowledge and plan your garden accordingly. In areas of your garden where the ground stays very dry plant your cacti, roses, Wandering Jews, and other plant material that do not require much water. As opposed to irrigating those dry places, let the dry spaces stay dry, save on your water bill, and put drought tolerant plants in dry places. If you have a pond or low-lying areas in your garden where water collects place your bog plants (love water /like wet feet) there. Supertunias, sunflowers, most varieties of elephant ears, and king Tut papyrus are heavy feeders and need lots of water, so plant them in the moist areas of your garden. If you do not have a moist area in your landscape but love those thirsty plants sprinkle some of the Miracle Gro potting soil around them. This potting soil holds a lot of moisture and will help to keep those thirsty plants hydrated

without you having to water them every day. A few points to consider:

- Have a plan for your garden design drawn out on paper-Layout your gardening plans on paper including pathways, and plant selections and locations.
- Prepare the soil and beds-Turn the soil, aerate the soil, and amend the soil with organic matter and compost.
- Plant selection-Do some online research on plants you wish to add to your landscape. Make sure the desired location where you want to place the plant offers exactly what that plant needs. If the plant requires full sun then make sure you are placing that plant in a full sun area of your garden. Also pay attention to the plant height and spread so that you are spacing properly and you are not placing the plant in an area where you will constantly have to trim it because it is too tall or wide for the space.
- Curb appeal-Along with your backyard, do not forget about the front of your home. The curb appeal is what people see as they approach your home from the street. It should look inviting and be complimentary to the front of your home.
- Year round beautiful garden-Include some evergreen shrubs to anchor your garden and will keep your garden looking great when the perennials have all died back/



treat your garden with organic pesticides on a weekly basis.

- Vertical accents-Add interest and additional growing space by including vertical elements in your garden in the way of trellises, vertical planters, and climbing vines.
- Privacy-Create your own little garden paradise by screening out your neighbors. Jamie Durie, garden designer extraordinaire, says that you should be able to walk naked in your garden.
- Titillate the senses-Fragrance, sound, texture, and color are a must. Plant fragrant plant material throughout your garden but especially at entrances to welcome everyone to the garden and near windows to perfume your home when the windows are open. Create sound in your garden with water features and rustling swaying foliage like sugarcane, and other tall grasses. Add texture with different kinds of foliage and statuary. Add pops of color with annuals.
- Lighting-Illuminate your horticultural treasures so that even when the sun goes down your garden looks fabulous! Solar outdoor lighting is the most economical way to go.

Check out my "Gardening Tip of the Week" at

www.thegardeningdiva.com.

Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!

The Education of Dr. King



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

As he labored for social, civil and economic justice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was extremely concerned both about the educational inequities that were a function of segregation, and about the purpose and quality of education. As early as 1947, as a Morehouse College student, he wrote an article, *The Purpose of Education*, for the *Maroon Tiger*, the college newspaper. His article is as relevant today as it was then.

Today, much of the focus of education is on passing standardized tests; and while educational measurement is important, Dr. King suggests that these measures are insufficient. In his article, he pondered the meaning and purpose

of education. He wrote that "Education must enable a (person) to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life."

King was critical of the results of specific aspects of education when he wrote, "education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking. To think, incisively and to think for one's self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda. A great majority of the so-called educated people does not think logically and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths."

True in 1947, but even more so today with 3-minute commentary passing for news, and some classrooms the site of propaganda delivery. Some Southerners still believe that the South won the Civil War, and they fly the confederate flags to honor it, and teach this falsity in their classrooms. A friend who lives in Georgia said nearly half of her

junior high school-age daughter's U.S. history curriculum covered aspects of the Civil War.

From that perspective, young King was quite critical of segregationist, their intelligence, and their prejudice. "The late Eugene Talmadge, in my opinion, possessed one of the better minds in Georgia, or even America. Moreover, he wore the Phi Beta Kappa key. By all measuring rods, Mr. Talmadge could think critically and intensively yet he contends that I am an inferior being. Are these the types of men we call educated?"

King said that intelligence is not enough. He said, "Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education."

We must develop and support young people who are educated in the King tradition – young people with character and discernment. We cannot do this work without a consciousness of people who are committed to breaking down educational barriers, closing the achievement gap, improving the quality of schools and access to education. But while other countries are increasing their com-

mitment to education, the United States is cutting back.

Said King, "The most dangerous criminal may be the man (person) gifted with reason, but no morals." How moral is it to consign millions to low wages, refusing, even, to increase the minimum wage. How moral is it to cut food stamps and jobs programs in the name of economic growth, although many are still suffering? The art and science of politics is about compromise, but how do we compromise with people's lives and well-being?

There ought to be a floor under which no citizen is allowed to fall. Wages, health care, education, and access to housing should not be bargained over, but automatically given. Too many of our legislators are educated, but lack morals. It is shameful to watch them celebrate the shredding of the safety net.

Budget cuts have made education less obtainable than ever. While many parents hire coaches to help their children write essays and complete their college applications, working class parents don't have the money to do this kind of hiring.

The American School Counsel-

ors says that many states mandate a ratio of between 500 and 750 students per counselor. Even at the lower number, a counselor can spend just an hour per student per semester, hardly enough to get advice about college attendance, the filling out of applications, and other matters. Some states have no mandate at all. They include (but are not limited to) Florida, Illinois, Kansas, and Kentucky. Unless parents or civic organizations are willing to step up, some students face major barriers to college attendance and career preparation.

President Obama says he wants the US to be a leader in world education. Others could care less about the education of too many students. Those who fail to care about the next generation are, in Dr. King's words, "dangerous criminals."

Let's celebrate the King holiday with a commitment to close the achievement gap and to improve the quality of education in our nation.

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

CBC Elects a Talented New Chairman



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Since 1971, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has had many strong leaders. As the new 114th Congress of the United States begins, the CBC elected my fellow North Carolina native, Congressman G.K. Butterfield, as its new chairman. I have known the long time freedom fighter and a skillful leader for more than 45 years.

Given the numerous issues and challenges facing Black America, I predict that the CBC under Butterfield's leadership, the CB will become reinvig-

rated. It was surprising to hear G.K. say upon being sworn in: "My leadership of this Caucus will be influenced by my experiences growing up in a segregated South. Jim Clyburn often says that, 'We are the sum total of our experiences' and that is so true. My life's experiences are similar to many of my colleagues. We saw racism at its worst."

Butterfield is from Wilson, N.C., about 65 miles southwest of my hometown of Oxford. In the 1960s, I frequently traveled to Wilson to meet with Milton Fitch, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) state field coordinator. Fitch and SCLC state field director Golden Frinks were two of my mentors during that period.

So when G.K. Butterfield says that he is going the lead the CBC in a manner that will be influenced by his experiences growing up in the segregated South, that is assurance that the CBC will be at the vanguard

of the fight for freedom, justice and equality under Butterfield's watch.

It will be an interesting tenure. The CBC has 46 members from 22 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, the largest CBC delegation in its 44-year history. Will the increased size translate into increased legislative clout? While we can't definitively answer that question yet, there certainly will be higher expectations of the CBC, even in a Republican-controlled House and Senate.

Butterfield correctly declared that Black America is in a state of emergency.

"For many Black Americans, they are not even close to realizing the American dream," he explained. "Depending on where they live, an economic depression hangs over their head, and it is burdening their potential and the potential of their children. Black America is in a state of emergency today as

it was at the turn of the century!"

As he made clear, Black lives do matter. All lives matter. Although there has been progress in the United States during the past 50 years towards racial justice, racial injustice and inequality still persist. As Congressman Butterfield noted when he was sworn in:

- Twenty-five percent of Black households live below the poverty line, compared to 8 percent for White households;
- One out of three Black children lives in poverty;
- African Americans are twice as likely as Whites to be unemployed;
- African Americans earn \$13,000 less per year than their White counterparts;
- The unemployment rate of African Americans has consistently been twice as high as for Whites for past 50 years and
- For every \$100 in wealth of a White household, the Black household has only \$6.

Congressman Butterfield and his colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus cannot change America by themselves. They need and deserve our support. They need our voices and votes to join theirs. We need one another.

America is at another crossroad. Will we revive the U.S. economy and create a more inclusive democracy where race will not be the determining factor that determines the quality of life? We all have an obligation to help determine the answer to that question. May our leadership be blessed with the courage and determination to make a real and lasting difference. And let's make sure we join them in striving for that goal.

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

Food Can Burn Calories



by Valecia Weeks

NNPA Newswire - What is that hideous word "DIET"? Well, it's simply food and drink regularly consumed or as the kind and amount of food prescribed for a person or animal for a special reason; whereas, we divas define the word "DIET" as torturing ourselves and starvation. We've been taught that if we just eat our little celery sticks and dry toast, those pounds will just melt away. Well that is as untrue as water draining uphill! The fact is that your body will just think it is starving and hang onto those extra pounds, thus keeping us running to the scale every 5 minutes. So, ladies, I'm here to give you great news: GET OFF THE DIETS....EAT your Christmas Dinner; just do it in moderation and fill your plate with more grown than processed foods.

The problem is that we want to eat all the foods that our bodies crave, such as sugars and unhealthy fats. Oh, and did I mention sugars and unhealthy fats? It's not necessarily HOW MUCH you eat...it's WHAT you eat. Now, don't get me wrong, you can't eat a truck load of pinto beans with fried bacon grease and hog parts and expect to stay fine. We have to pick and choose our battle when it comes to the selections of foods that we choose to consume.

There are certain foods, when consumed on a regular basis, that will actually help you lose weight. For example, for breakfast, a good combination may be almonds in yogurt. Studies have shown that almonds may shrink abdominal fat, and yogurt hinders the absorp-

tion of fat in the small intestines... not to mention that it's packed with calcium (divas we have to keep in mind that osteoporosis will possibly try to attack us as we age), and "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure". Throw some eggs in there — Eggs can actually help you feel full longer and help you control those snack attacks. I don't know about you, but I grew up knowing "grapefruit" as the food of preference when it came to losing weight. The only thing is that I loaded mine with sugar, stirred it into the grapefruit, and ate a little grapefruit with my sugar. Well, ladies, cut the sugar and eat half a grapefruit before each meal; and shed more pounds than those who skip the tart appetizer. If you want to try an easy and tasty calorie-cutting trick, then replace the meat in your favorite recipes with mushrooms. You'll automatically cut about 420 calories out of a meal, partly because you'll skip all the belly-padding saturated fat contained in meat.

4 Rules for choosing fat-cutting foods

- Fill up on fiber
- Stay satisfied with protein
- Skip the artificial sweeteners
- Dump at least 1 high-calorie item from your diet. Soda or refined white sugar would be a great start.

Lots of diets work for lots of people—the key is to find what works best for you. But if you're not sure where to begin, these science-proven tips (that are easy to fit into any lifestyle) will get you started. So, ladies, don't worry, you can still enjoy your holiday meals, just enjoy it in a non-traditional way.

Ebola Hot Spots Ebb and Flow as Fight Continues

Deaths Climb Above 7,300

by Barrington M. Salmon

Ebola may have fallen off America's radar, but the virus continues to devastate communities in three affected West African countries.

Since March, according to World Health Organization officials, key numbers are going down in some areas, but the epidemic continues to rage in western sections of Sierra Leone. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon led a delegation to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Mali, all countries affected by the hemorrhagic fever. Others on the mission include WHO Secretary-General Dr. Margaret Chan; Dr. David Nabarro, the UN's Ebola coordinator; and Anthony Banbury, who runs the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, UNMEER.

The Ebola epidemic, which erupted in Guinea in December 2013, has killed more than 7,300 and affected more than 18,000 people in total, WHO officials said.

"The key numbers are going down in some areas. We're making progress by dealing with the epidemic district-by-district and section-by-section," said WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein. "Areas have been divided and segmented, and we have dozens of outbreaks being handled by separate teams. We're also making sure we have adequate burial teams.

"In a sense, things have improved. The epidemic's numbers have gone down in Liberia. But cases are increasing slightly in Guinea and markedly in Sierra Leone. We found a new surge in western Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone has surpassed Liberia in terms of numbers. Part of it is that they're lacking what they need, but people in remote western areas didn't recognize it had cases. People were hiding cases, rejecting the idea that people had Ebola. We're working to clean this hot spot."

The transitory nature of the epidemic has made it hard to contain, with hot spots flaring up and moving rapidly to different regions of the affected countries. The number of Ebola cases has been stabilizing in Liberia and Guinea but is overwhelming parts of Sierra Leone. Last week, President Ernest Bai Koroma launched what U.N. officials described as "an intensified surge operation" in Freetown, the capital, and areas in the west of the country.



People are still dying horrible deaths in an outbreak that has already killed thousands," said Dr. Joanne Liu, president of Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières, the international organization calling for a robust international response to the Ebola crisis. (Courtesy photo)

The international organization Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières first sounded the alarm and was one of the loudest voices calling for a robust international response to the fast-moving virus. Then, as now, officials argued that the response to the Ebola crisis had been slow and uneven, leaving local people, national governments and non-governmental organizations to do most of the practical, hands-on work. MSF officials continue to warn that the international community risks failing to adapt to the outbreak after initially failing to respond quickly enough.

"People are still dying horrible deaths in an outbreak that has already killed thousands," said MSF International President Dr. Joanne Liu. "We can't let our guard down and allow this to become double failure, a response that was slow to begin with and is ill-adapted in the end."

She said training NGOs and local health care workers to safely operate case management facilities can take weeks. While MSF and other organizations have been offering training, she explained, the bottleneck has created significant delays.

Community Development Institute Head Start

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

CDI HS Serving Orleans Parish, Louisiana is currently seeking applicants for the following positions.

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Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week

IRS Imposters Targeting Taxpayers

Tax season may just be getting started, but tax scammers have been hard at work. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has gotten thousands of complaints about one kind of scammer in particular — IRS imposters.

Here's how they work: scammers posing as IRS officials call and say you owe taxes. They threaten to arrest or deport you, revoke your license, or even shut down your business if you don't pay right away. They may know your Social Security number — or at least the last four digits of it — making you think it really is the IRS calling. They also can rig caller ID to make it look like

the call is coming from Washington, DC.

Before you can check out the callers, you're told to put the money on a prepaid debit card and tell them the number — something no government agency would ask you to do. Once you do it, you find out it was a scam, and the money is gone.

If you owe — or think you owe — federal taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040 or go to irs.gov. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions. The IRS doesn't ask people to pay with prepaid debit cards or wire transfers, and doesn't ask for credit card numbers over the phone. When the IRS contacts people about unpaid taxes, they usually do it by mail, not by phone.



Report IRS imposter scams to

the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) online or at 800-366-4484, and to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

Speaking of tax scams, this is Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week. Tax identity theft happens when someone

files a phony tax return using your personal information — like your Social Security number — to get a

tax refund from the IRS. It also can happen when someone uses your Social Security number to get a job or claims your child as a dependent on a tax return. Tax identity theft is the most common form of identity theft reported to the FTC.

Tax identity theft victims typically find out about the crime when they get a letter from the IRS saying that more than one tax return was filed in their name, or IRS records show they received wages from an employer they don't know. If you get a letter like this, don't panic. Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490. Learn more at ftc.gov/taxidtheft.

Cover Story, Continued from page 5.

tant because some of our rights are still being infringed upon."

While he encourages young people

to become civically engaged and fight for their rights he is against some of the violence that's erupted

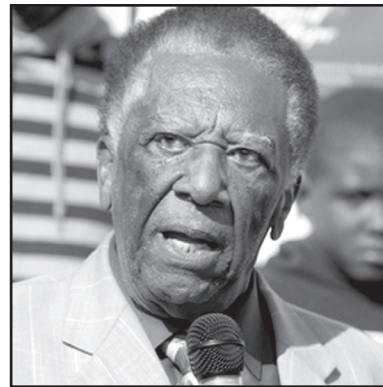
at some of the protests, "I applaud the courage of the young people getting out and marching in places like Ferguson to fight against injustice, but they must do it without violence. When we were marching we did not condone violence."

The Struggle Continues

Many who have come through the movement have continued to serve others. They have continued to pass on the knowledge and wisdom they've gained as part of the freedom movement. Some have continued grassroots organizing, while others have worked in education, the arts, business, politics and many others things that forward the movement and its goals of full equality and the pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Jerome Smith speaking on the Freedom Rides and his days at CORE were the infancy of a life dedicated to correcting the wrongs of society. Today there are several generations of people who have come to know about and participate in the struggle working under Jerome Smith. "Freedom rides and sit-ins and protest the spirit of bettering humanity and that is a daily operation. That was the things that were brought to us by those in the struggle." Continuing he says, "I did not simply see myself as a freedom rider; I have dedicated my life to being a freedom fighter with a consistency of participation that says never surrender."

Today Don Hubbard is a successful businessman who feels the key to brighter day's tomorrow rest on the shoulders of young people. First young people must find out



Civil Rights Veteran Rev. "Skip" Alexander says "Marching is what brought the issues to the forefront of people's minds and helped change the way we were treated in this country."

what they are angry about and use that in a positive way. I feel if they are not angry about anything then anything won't change." He also believes that there must be a shift in the priorities and aspirations of young people. "I didn't come up in a generation where people aspired to be athletes or entertainers because there were others in our community that served as role models. There were teachers, preachers, bookkeepers, and businessmen. In New Orleans we had Booker T. Washington High School where kids could learn a trade if they did not want to go to college so they could take care of themselves and their family."

Rev. Samson "Skip" Alexander respects and admires the legacy of Dr. King, but feels that today people must realize that the goals of the movement were then and still today bigger than any one person. "Some thought that if you kill King you would kill the movement, but the movement was bigger than

him, it was part of something that had been a part of our history since we've been here that people were fighting for the right to live as free people in this country with all the rights of citizenship."

After Hurricane Katrina Wendell Pierce has been at the forefront of many initiatives to help rebuild his hometown of New Orleans and while some may not think of the rebuilding as a Civil Rights/Human Rights issue it is. It is a fight to determine who holds the reins of power and how wealth and opportunities distributed among the citizens is. "Our community is in crisis, about what our contribution is; I feel that we must create our own economic engine. I look around and I see the best way to help stop the crisis in our community is to create an economy that works for the people of the community. A job stops a bullet better than anything I know; we need businesses in our community. So we can be independent of the one trick pony that is City government and getting contracts." Continuing he says of the need for Blacks turning the collective resources into power he says, "When we lost our political advantage, we had nothing in our community to show for it. No new companies, no new businesses that would thrive independently of City Hall. We have too many collective resources in our own community not to do it and it is something that is possible if we supported one another and controlled the things we create to

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

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Clerk, Civil District Court

"And so we shall have to do more than register and more than vote; we shall have to create leaders who embody virtues we can respect, who have moral and ethical principles we can applaud with enthusiasm." ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Elected Black Republicans Not Expected to be a Plus for the Community

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Black Republicans made history during the midterm elections in November by winning in Texas, South Carolina and Texas, but political analysts wonder if the victories will have any long-term impact on the future of the GOP in the Black community.

Traditionally, Black candidates running for elected offices not only need a large Black turnout, but also a majority of the Black vote to win statewide and national races.

Senator Tim Scott made history by becoming the first Black Republican elected to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. He won with just 10 percent of the Black vote and 82 percent of the White vote, according to exit polls.

Representative-elect Will Hurd beat his Democratic challenger Pete Gallego in Texas by a narrow 2.1 percent margin in a predominantly Hispanic congressional district (House District 23) to become the first Black Republican from Texas elected to the United States Congress since Reconstruction.

When the next congressional term begins, Mia Love, a Black Mormon and daughter of Haitian immigrants, will represent Utah's 4th House district in a state where Blacks account for just 1.3 percent of the total population.

Lorenzo Morris, a political science professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., said that the Black community shouldn't expect much from the Black Republicans during the next legislative session, because they won largely without Black voters. In addition, he said, their rank as freshmen lawmakers will limit their influence within the party.

"Their collective impact, if they are really outspoken, will just be on the plus side of zero, barely zero," said Morris. "The obvious impact for Republicans is positive only to the extent that it shows visually, if not substantively, an outreach to minorities."



Newly inaugurated U.S. Representative from Utah Mia Love (R-UT) (pictured above) is the first Black woman to be elected by the Republican Party to serve in the U.S. Congress. Rep. Love is an outspoken right-wing Conservative. Photo by George Skidmore

Scott earned an "F" on the NAACP's legislative report card during the first session of the 113th Congress from January 2013 – December 26, 2013.

ThinkProgress.org reported that Scott proposed a bill in 2011 to block families from receiving food stamp benefits if one of the adults in the home joined a strike, and as a state legislature Scott supported cuts to South Carolina's HIV/AIDS budget.

In a 2012 speech, Love accused President Barack Obama of "pitting us against each other based on our income level, gender, and social status" and said that, "His policies have failed." Love has also pledged to take the Congressional Black Caucus "apart from the inside out."

If they continue to express views counter to those held by the Black electorate that overwhelmingly supported President Obama with more than 90 percent of their votes in back-to-back elections, Morris said, that their presence could actually hurt that visual image of minority outreach, because it will further distance the GOP from the politics that are overwhelmingly characteristic of

Black voters.

Raynard Jackson, a Republican strategist and the president and CEO of Raynard Jackson & Associates, called Love, "the embodiment of the American Dream" and said that her journey as a first generation Haitian immigrant to become the first Black Republican female ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives is amazing.

"It doesn't matter what her politics are or what her party affiliation is, if Love's story doesn't inspire you, then there is something wrong with you as an American citizen," said Jackson.

Former congressman Allen West (R-Fla.) said that the Republican Party has to remind Black voters that the conservative principles and values of the GOP are quite consistent with the history of the Black community.

"When you go back and read Booker T. Washington's writings at the turn of the century, his remedy for the Black community under the stress and strain of segregation and Jim Crow laws were three points: education, entrepreneurship and self-reliance," said West. "When you look at each one of those indi-

viduals Senator Tim Scott, Representatives-elect Mia Love and Will Hurd, that's what they represent, and those are the three things we must have conversations about in the Black community."

West compared the overwhelming loyalty that Black voters have for the Democratic Party to an investor that puts all of his eggs in one basket. Just like an investor shouldn't put all of his money in one fund or one venture, West said, Black voters should also diversify their political capital.

"The people in these majority-minority districts are going to have to look up and say, 'Why are we still in this situation? Why do we continue to elect the same person and nothing is getting any better?'" said West.

Morris said that if a Black Republican wanted to sway Black voters in any significant way, the candidate would have to talk about social policies and programs in ways that are open and address issues such as income inequality similar to the way a moderate Democrat would. In short: the candidate would have to be a liberal Republican.

"It would take a miracle for a Black Republican to win a majority Black district," said Morris.

Still Raynard Jackson said that the additions of Scott, Hurd and Love will help the party, if they are properly utilized.

Jackson used a basketball analogy to describe how the Republican Party can continue to win with candidates like Tim Scott, Mia Love and Will Hurd.

"You have to understand the strengths and the weaknesses of each player and you have to know when to put them in the game and when to sit them down," said Jackson. "You have to understand when to bring a Tim Scott, a Mia Love, a Will Hurd in to speak. You can't send them everywhere. You have to understand what their message is to best utilize them. That's what has to be done."

Jackson added: "Just because they're Black, doesn't mean you throw them out there to a Black audience."

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

grow our economy.

Julia Aaron Humbles has a vision that frames Civil Rights as not just an

African-American issue, but a people issue that affects all of us. Harkening back to the time of the Civil Rights

Movement of the 1950's and 60's that brought people from all walks of life because it was a movement

centered on morality, and of man's injustice against his fellow man and woman. "Today we still need to pro-

test, but it should not just be limited to Blacks, but all people who believe in fairness and justice."



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