

January 8, 2024
Public Viewing
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Hall of State in Fair Park, Dallas
Prayer Service
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Concord Church in Dallas,
6808 Pastor Bailey Drive

January 9, 2024
Funeral 10:00 a.m.
Concord Church in Dallas, 6808 Pastor
Bailey Drive
January 10, 2024
Graveside Service 2:00 p.m.
Texas State Cemetery
909 Navasota Street, Austin



A True Legacy!

It's hard to speak about her in past tense. She is ever present.

Retired Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson was meticulous in her thoughts, words, and actions.

In 2021, as she approached 30 years of serving in the U.S. House of Representatives and pondered retirement, I listened to her - very intently.



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

Over the many years I covered her as a journalist, I learned she spoke only when she wanted - or felt a need to.

Previously I heard that she was calling it quits. I didn't bat an eye, though. Community people always talked. Some chomped at the bits, just waiting to take her seat in the nation's Capital, even if they were clueless about what the job entailed.

In recent months, it seemed, "the Congresswoman," as I continued calling her, was constantly in a state of reflection: She was experiencing losses in her family. Friends were transitioning.

See MY TRUTH, page 6

Eddie Bernice Johnson

who broke barriers, represented Dallas in long House career, dies

By Tom Benning, Gromer Jeffers Jr. and Maggie Prosser

Dallas Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, a trailblazing Black woman who spent decades as North Texas' most powerful Democrat, allowing her to leave a generational impact on the region's development, died Sunday. She was 89.

Dallas Mayor Eric L. Johnson posted about her death on social media, and a source close to the family confirmed it with The Dallas Morning News.

Eddie Bernice Johnson's son, Dawrence Kirk Johnson Sr., called his mother a champion for the people of Texas.

"She gave her life to this community," he said. "She gave Dallas all she had to give."

U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, who Johnson endorsed as her successor after she announced her retirement, called Johnson a "quiet storm," who "prided herself in getting things done to better the lives of the people that she served."

"The Chairwoman didn't take passing the torch on lightly, and likewise, I've not taken it lightly that she entrusted me to honor her work and legacy," Crockett said in a statement. "Every day that passes is a day that I dedicate to continuing her work and attempting to fill her shoes. The work has never been easy, but it has and always will be noble. As I conclude this statement, fighting back tears, I say rest easy to the Gentle Lady from Texas and just know that I will always fight to preserve the foundation that you laid over your 50 years of service to Texas and the United States."

News of Johnson's death sparked an outpouring of tributes from friends and public servants she mentored.

"She was a leader who took care of Dallas and Texas above everything else," said former U.S. trade representative and former

Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk. "She's been a friend and mentor. Dallas and the country has lost a great leader."

State Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, replaced Johnson in the Texas Senate. He called her a mentor.

"We're all forever indebted to her and her work and her legacy will live on forever," West said. "Throughout the 30 years that she served, we confided in one another and strategized together on issues. That counsel will be missed, but the lessons taught will remain and be passed on for future generations."

Former state Rep. Helen Giddings, a DeSoto Democrat who was one of the first Black women elected to the Texas Legislature, said, "There is no question that I and other women and people of color serving today stand on her shoulders."

"She and I shared a passion for working to empower women," Giddings said. "Her guidance made a difference in this and other areas in my legislative career. Our state and our country and, for that matter, the world are better because of Eddie Bernice Johnson."

Former Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, described Johnson as a remarkable leader, devoted to infrastructure and with an "unwavering commitment to Texas."

"Her visionary leadership and passionate support for infrastructure projects have propelled our state's development, ensuring that communities across Texas thrived through vital improvements in transportation, utilities, and public works," he wrote on X. "May her enduring legacy serve as an inspiration as we uphold her vision for a stronger, more resilient Texas."

Her colleagues in Washington remembered her as a trailblazer and inimitable public servant.

In a tweet, Republican Sen. John Cornyn wrote, "Few in Con-



Official Portrait of the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Photo: family

gress marked as many historic firsts," adding "she gained the respect of members on both sides of the aisle."

"Unrivaled in her ability to deliver for Dallas and for Texas,

This story, originally published in **The Dallas Morning News**, is reprinted as part of a collaborative partnership between **The Dallas Morning News** and **Texas Metro News**. The partnership seeks to boost coverage of Dallas' communities of color, particularly in southern Dallas.

See EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, page 4

Tributes to the Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Vice President Kamala Harris

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson was a visionary, a pioneer, and a fighter.

At a young age, she witnessed and experienced the profound effects of segregation and decided she would not stay on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She would go on to have a trailblazing career — from becoming the first Black chief psychiatric nurse at the Dallas Veterans Affairs Hospital and the first Black woman elected to public office in Dallas, to serving in the state legislature, becoming the first Black person to represent Dallas in Congress, and making history as the first registered nurse elected to the House of Representatives.

Throughout her long career in public service, she was always clear-eyed about what she was fighting for: the right of every person in Dallas and across the country to live free from discrimination and to have the opportunity to live up to their full potential.

As the first person of color and woman to chair the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee,



Vice President Kamala Harris

she played an instrumental role in the passage of the CHIPS and Science Act, which is making historic investments in our economy, innovation, and HBCUs.

I had the privilege to serve alongside her in the Congressional Black Caucus and know that so many have benefited from her tireless work, myself included. Her legacy and leadership will be felt for generations to come.

Today, Doug and I are thinking of Congresswoman Johnson, her family, her community, members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and all of those whose lives she impacted.

President Joe Biden

Eddie Bernice Johnson was a dedicated nurse, state legislator, and longtime U.S. congresswoman with immense courage and a commitment to the promise of America. She had unwavering dedication to the people of North Texas.

She and I worked together throughout her 30 years in Congress, and I've always been grateful for her friendship and partnership.

Eddie Bernice turned a childhood dream to work in medicine into a lifetime of service, fighting to get millions of Americans access to healthcare, education, and opportunity.

Early on, as the chief psychiatric nurse at the Veterans Administration in Dallas, she helped our nation to fulfill its most sacred obligation, to care for the troops we sent into harm's way when they're home. And in the Texas statehouse and then over 30 years as the first Black American elected to Congress from Dallas, she fought to expand civil rights, to create jobs, to combat the climate crisis, and much more. Recently, her leadership was crucial in passing our Bipartisan



President Joe Biden

Infrastructure Law and CHIPS and Science Act in 2022, creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs and making sure America leads the industries of the future.

Throughout her life, and as the former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, she was an icon and mentor to generations of public servants, through whom her legacy of resilience and purpose will endure.

Jill and I send our love to her family, including her son Kirk and her grandchildren Kirk Jr, David, and James; to her many friends; and to the people of Texas' 30th Congressional District, who were so fortunate to have her as their champion for so long.

DART Statement

Congresswoman Johnson was a beloved icon who served the 30th Congressional District for 30 years and played an instrumental role in making the DART system what it is today. She was awarded the first annual DART Legacy Award in August 2023 for her leadership and support of DART and public transportation initiatives throughout the country.

"I send my condolences to her family," said DART Board of Directors Chair Gary A. Slagel. "Congresswoman Johnson was an invaluable advocate for and partner to DART since her time as a Texas State Representative in 1972. We will be forever grateful for her service to our community and DART."

The Congresswoman secured hundreds of millions of dollars for DART during her tenure, including a landmark \$700 million full funding grant agreement from the Federal Transit Administration — the largest ever awarded to DART at the time. She was able to influence decisions on the Transportation Committee that benefited DART the entire time she served in Congress.

"We are truly devastated to learn of Congresswoman Johnson passing last night," said DART president & CEO Nadine S. Lee. "She epitomized the best of our elected and appointed leaders at all levels of government. DART was extremely fortunate to have her as our champion in the U.S. House of Representatives during most of the agency's history. The DART family of employees sends it heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the family of Rep. Johnson."



Gary A. Slagel

Congresswoman Johnson was instrumental in helping DART secure funding for its bus operations, which helped DART improve coverage and frequency in its most vulnerable communities. She assisted in helping DART win several Full Funding Grant Agreements for the Red Line, Blue Line, and Green Line as they created and expanded the light rail system. Together, these grants represent nearly \$1 billion in federal funding for the agency.

She was also responsible for securing the federal funding that helped create Rosa Parks Plaza in downtown Dallas. This urban oasis in the West End district pays a fitting tribute to a civil rights pioneer who helped lead the battle to integrate public transportation across the nation.

Finally, and certainly not least, Congresswoman Johnson helped DART win a \$60 million Core Capacity grant that paid for nearly half of the Platform Extensions Project, which allowed DART to increase passenger loads on their busiest and oldest light rail lines. Her influence and support for DART is invaluable and she has left a lasting legacy.

Hon. Carolyn King Arnold

I was truly saddened today to wake up to the news that Congresswoman Johnson had passed. I have many great memories working alongside her in southern Dallas, where she made it clear she was there to get things done. She waited for no one to do what she could get done herself — and better! What a fierce woman she was for Dallas!

As the only African American woman on the City Council, I valued her advice on the importance of working with the federal government as a partner to address many of the issues the city faced such as transportation, Veterans care, small business funding and other critical



Hon. Carolyn King Arnold

areas. Most importantly, she stressed the need to be inclusive of a diverse group to accomplish the goal.

I am sending prayers and blessings for her family as they prepare her homegoing.

Hon. Helen Giddings



Hon. Helen Giddings

Member, Texas House of Representative, 1993 -2019

Eddie Bernice Johnson lived a life of purpose, determination and service.

Eddie Bernice Johnson, by any measure, leaves an extraordinary body of work. As a member of the Texas House, Texas Senate and United States House of Representatives her accomplishments and her service absolutely paint the landscape of Texas and the United States. Transportation, education, labor, NASA, civil rights, women's rights are a few of the areas where her impact was felt and will continue to be felt for many years.

It is significant that she was able to get so much done beginning at a time when women and people of color were few and not necessarily welcome in the Texas Legislature or the United States Congress. As she left the Texas Legislature, where she was the first Black woman from Dallas County to serve, I was beginning my first term as the third Black woman elected from Dallas. There is no question that I and other women and people of color serving today stand on her shoulders. She and I shared a passion for working to empower women. Her guidance made a difference in this and other areas in my legislative career.

Our state and our country and for that matter the world are better because of Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Leader Hakeem Jeffries

BROOKLYN, NY — I join the people of Texas and the entire House Democratic Caucus family in mourning the loss of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. Affectionately known to many as EBJ, Congresswoman Johnson was a trailblazing icon, transformational public servant and legendary member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As the first woman and person of color to serve as Chair of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology in the U.S. House of Representatives, Eddie Bernice Johnson's life was defined by breaking boundaries. Born and raised in Jim Crow Texas, she left her hometown of Waco and went North to Indiana, motivated by her drive to enter the medical field and in search of an opportunity to learn free of racial segregation. In 1992, she became the first registered nurse in the history of the country ever to be elected to the United States House of Representatives and the first African-American to serve in Congress from North Texas.

Before her retirement from Congress last year, Chairwoman Johnson helped shepherd the historic CHIPS and Science Act through the House — a massive investment in American manufacturing jobs and future competitiveness. As part of that legislation, EBJ led the charge to make sure we are investing in providing communities of color and other his-



Leader Hakeem Jeffries

torically under-resourced areas with the science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century economy. Among many defining parts of her legacy is the fact that while she may have been the first registered nurse elected to Congress, her groundbreaking career ensured that she was not the last.

From the moment I arrived in the House, the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson personally mentored me with love, wisdom and her powerful intellect, as she did for so many others who had the privilege of serving with her. I stand with great humility on her broad shoulders.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's family, friends, constituents and all who loved her. May her powerful life and legacy as one of America's greatest public servants continue to be a blessing to all.

City Manager T.C. Broadnax

It is with a heavy heart to hear about the passing of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. She was definitely a trailblazer and leaves behind an unmatched legacy in our Dallas and Texas communities. I want to offer my deepest sympathies and support for her family during this difficult time.



City Manager T.C. Broadnax

Council Member Paula Blackmon

Dallas lost a trailblazer today with the passing of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. She was a true champion for Dallas and, in particular, White Rock Lake. Her advocacy is a testament to her commitment to the environment and the recreational spaces that everyone in the Dallas community could enjoy. When she said, "I got this," you knew it was good as done. I'm grateful to have been able to call Eddie Bernice Johnson my friend; my



Council Member Paula Blackmon

prayers are with her family and friends.

Council Member Adam Bazaldua

I was heartbroken today to learn of the passing of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. The mark she has left on Dallas, and specifically Council District 7, cannot be matched. She loved her City and no one has fought harder for us. My family and I extend our deepest love and condolences to her family. Her memory is most certainly a blessing.



Council Member Adam Bazaldua

Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (TX-30)

"Today, the world has lost a trailblazer, and Texas has lost one of its most dedicated public servants and iconic leaders. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson was a woman of many firsts; the first Black head nurse at the Dallas VA Hospital, one of two first Black women elected to the Texas House, the first nurse to be elected to Congress, and the first woman and African American to chair the Science, Space, & Technology Committee in the U.S. House. But while these accomplishments will be etched into our minds, hearts, and history books, they weren't the things that Chairwoman Johnson prided herself in. "Chairwoman Johnson was, as I liked to refer to her, a quiet storm. She prided herself in getting things done to better the lives of the people that she served. If you ever had the occasion to chat with her, she'd talk about investments that she brought to the district or historic

infrastructure projects that she'd worked on. During her last session in Congress, Chairwoman Johnson ushered the CHIPS & Science Act into law. While most people will only know about the historic number of jobs that are being created throughout the country as a result of this law, many won't know that Chairwoman Johnson required this bill to also have investments for STEM and research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. For decades to come, her work will live on.

"While I was honored, I was also bewildered when



Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett

Chairwoman Johnson called me and asked me to run to represent Texas 30. I was only a freshman in the Texas House, and never in my wildest dreams would I think that she was aware of anything that I was doing in the House. But that is the thing about her: she never slept. She was always working. She kept her finger on the pulse of what was going on in the Texas House, and while I didn't fully understand what I was getting myself into, I trusted her, her judgment, and her mentorship. "The Chairwoman didn't take passing the torch on lightly, and likewise, I've not taken it lightly that she entrusted me to honor her work and legacy. Everyday that passes is a day that I dedicate to continuing her work and attempting to fill her shoes. The work has never been easy, but it has and always will be noble. As I conclude this statement, fighting back tears, I say rest easy to the Gentle Lady from Texas and just know that I will always fight to preserve the foundation that you laid over your 50 years of service to Texas and the United States."

Gary L. Bledsoe

The Texas NAACP mourns the loss of the venerable Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, truly a giant in her leadership in Dallas, Texas and the nation. Congresswoman Johnson did so much to advance the rights of African Americans and improve the quality of life for all Texans. She started as an outspoken activist legislator but learned how to get things done in Congress and wield power behind the scenes, rising to a powerful Committee Chair and Ranking Member. She is irreplaceable and we will miss her.



Gary Bledsoe, NAACP

Read more at www.texasmetronews.com

Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa, Vice Chair Shay Wyrick-Cathey and Dallas County Democratic Chair Kardal Coleman



Chair Gilberto Hinojosa



Vice Chair Shay Wyrick-Cathey



Chair Kardal Coleman

"It is with great sadness that Texas Democrats mourn the loss of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. A dedicated public servant, Congresswoman Johnson leaves behind a legacy of tireless advocacy and unwavering commitment to her constituents and the American people. Johnson's career began as the first black woman and registered nurse elected to office in Dallas, first serving in the Texas House of Representatives before being elected to the Texas Senate. Her legacy of service as the Representative of Texas' 30th Congressional District for over three decades, and as the first woman to serve as Chair of the U.S.

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is among the most prolific in our state's history. "Throughout her distinguished career, Congresswoman Johnson served with integrity and passion, earning the respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Her leadership and dedication to advancing critical issues, from healthcare, STEAM, transportation to education, have left an indelible mark on the nation. As a former registered nurse, she was an authoritative figure in the fight for affordable health care, services and resources for veterans, women, and children. She also fought for resources for

mental health and to combat the maternal mortality crisis. As we mourn the loss of a trailblazer, we also celebrate the life of a remarkable woman who shattered glass ceilings and paved the way for future generations. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's impact on our democracy will be remembered for years to come. "Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of working alongside her. In this time of grief, let us remember and honor the legacy of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, a champion for justice, equality, and the American people."

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2356	Super Ticket™ 777 Overall Odds are 1 in 3.80	\$10	1/20/24	7/18/24
2272	Mad Money Overall Odds are 1 in 4.98	\$1	2/21/24	8/19/24
2483	TOPAZ 7s Overall Odds are 1 in 4.75	\$1	2/21/24	8/19/24
2478	\$100,000 Jackpot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.35	\$5	2/21/24	8/19/24
2488	HIT \$100,000 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	2/21/24	8/19/24
2491	Ruby Mine 9X Overall Odds are 1 in 3.70	\$5	2/21/24	8/19/24
2460	\$100,000,000 Riches! Overall Odds are 1 in 3.66	\$20	2/21/24	8/19/24

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2024 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



Pot uh Greens



Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright mused in a sermon once that when harvesting a field, one of the enslaved workers asked Massa what to do about 'dem thick green plants over in the corner. The Massa replied, "Leave them for the coloreds!" And that's where Collard Greens got their name.

I doubt very little of anything that Daddy J ever said, and his assertion on how collards got their name is believable to me. The truth is that The Coloreds love Collards, Turnips, Mustards, and getting comfortable with Kale.

Like everything else Massa threw away on the plantation, we as a people have learned to use it to create delightful delicacies. Field greens are just one such example.

My grandmother always told me that the pot liquor from her greens would get you healed. My grandfather just said that it "put lead in your pencil." (You'll figure it out.)

Both were right; sadly, there seems to be a shortage of greens and neither McDonald's or Chick-fil-A are trying to fill that void.

Whenever I go to a city and don't know my way around, I ask the concierge, a cab driver, or a culinary expert where I can get some greens.

Now, there is a two-fold reason for this. First, I know that my search should end in a Black neighborhood, and I am eager to visit their version of Martin Luther King Blvd.

But secondly, I need the tonic from 'dem turnips to protect me on that plane ride back. You never know what kind of germs and viruses are loose in the cabin, and a good serving of greens boosts the immune system like no other antioxidant can.

I don't know if it will kill COVID or RSV, but I try to keep some pot liquor on my gastral tract.

Papa said greens would "keep you regular," if nothing else.

The problem is that there are fewer and fewer Soul Food restaurants locally and nationally that cater to those of us who want the cafeteria experience. Most of us lived in Mama's house, where we couldn't eat anything but what she fixed.



Vincent Hall's dad Laverne and Grandmother Mable

So, when we grow up, we want a wide variety of choices.

And as much as I hate that we have fewer of these restaurants in our community, there is one truth that ails me more. Here it is; you can hardly find a young Black woman who can cook you a pot of greens anymore. That's sexist, but tune in to the end and let me correct myself.

Long before Glory made greens, "sistas" used to battle it out for the title of best cook in the family or the neighborhood. Even after a long day's work, these culinary geniuses would

rush home and spend a couple of hours in the kitchen just throwing down.

Daddy, stepdaddy, or baby-daddy might talk a lot of trash, but Mama knew how to shut him up and put his ass to sleep. And our kids were much slimmer, less prone to diabetes, and enjoyed better overall health factors.

Now I realize that we live in a post-modern, sophisticated, Neo-Negro age where don't nobody cook. I understand that the demands of our jobs stifle the penchant for "slaving" in the

kitchen daily.

But our history of cooking is an institution, and once again, we are giving away the culture.

If you binge on shows, try Soul Train episodes one week-end. It should lead you to speculate as to how we have gotten so fat and unfit. The joke was, "All my girlfriend can make for dinner is reservations." But as we get bigger and bigger and watch fast food kill our children, the joke has lost its luster and appeal.

We must get back to teaching young women and men how to cook. My daddy could mix some turnip and mustard greens that would make you just slap yo' Mama and suffer the consequences.

My grandmother loved Daddy's cooking. It wasn't as good as hers, but she was proud of her student.

Home Economics classes must be revived and become staples for boys and girls.

We all must know how to cook, sew buttons, and make a comfortable home.

Fix a Pot Uh Greens in 2024. It'll change your life!

Vincent L. Hall is an author, activist, award-winning columnist and a lifelong Drapetomaniac!

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CREDO OF THE BLACK PRESS

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

Eddie Bernice Johnson broke barriers cont. from page 1

she always put Texans first and fought every day for her constituents," said Rep. Colin Allred, a Dallas Democrat, who is leaving his House seat to run for the Senate. "Everywhere you look, Texans can see the mark she made on our state. ... Texas lost a giant."

U.S. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said Johnson personally mentored him "with love, wisdom and her powerful intellect." He praised Johnson's investment in manufacturing jobs and providing communities of color and under-resourced areas with science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills.

"I stand with great humility on her broad shoulders," Jeffries said.

Born in Waco in the segregat-



ed South, Johnson shattered barriers at nearly every stage of her political and professional career, paving the way for more women and African Americans to obtain leadership roles in politics, nursing and other fields in Texas and beyond.

She was the first African American to serve as chief psychiatric

nurse at Dallas' VA hospital; the first African American from Dallas to serve in the Texas Senate since Reconstruction; the first registered nurse elected to Congress; and the first Black woman to chair the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

Johnson's district, anchored in

southern Dallas County, ebbed and flowed many times during her 30-year tenure as the Legislature and federal courts adjusted the lines in response to census counts and lawsuits. Designed to favor non-white voters, it initially snaked into Collin County and spilled into Tarrant County, cobbling together minority neighborhoods to yield a population that was half Black and 17% Hispanic.

She represented downtown Dallas for much of her tenure but routinely used her clout to tend to regional needs, aiding with Dallas Love Field expansions and major highway projects.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Johnson a "vision-

See EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, page 13

Pulpits on Pedestals



As a young woman, I attended a church because of a friend's invitation. I started attending and was amazed by the pastor's charisma and teaching. The congregation adored him and placed him on a pedestal. At the time, I was trying to find a church home. I grew up in the church and it was important to me to find a place in my new area.

I wanted Godly wisdom and decided to set an appointment to visit with the pastor. That day, no one was at the church but the pastor and his secretary. He closed the door and we began to talk about my walk with God. I was stunned by what happened next. This man was trying to attack me in his office. I ran around the desk to avoid

his advances. I escaped to my car trembling and terrified. I began questioning myself and the church—what did I do to deserve this?

I was grateful for the support of friends who encouraged me to seek counseling. I felt like because he did not physically attack me, I wasn't harmed. The reality is that I was spiritually and emotionally harmed. This so-called man of God abused his authority and power. I remember speaking with a man in authority of the denomination to share what happened. His response was not one of surprise but he commented that it was a repeat violation and that he would request that this pastor seek counseling again.

This devastated me. I realized over time that I was not the only one that this happened to. No one wanted to confront him and he continued to use his platform to abuse young women. For years, I stopped going to church because I couldn't understand how this man was allowed to

I am now part of an amazing church. I did not give up on God and I will NOT give up on the church!

damage people. People defended the behavior because it didn't happen to them or that person didn't appear to have a proclivity to sexual, mental, emotional, or spiritual indiscretions.

A friend of mine who wasn't a Christian would always remind me that he left the church because he was infuriated with buffet Christianity. As Believers, we pick and choose the sins that we want to accept or condemn. If it's our issue, we seek forgiveness. If it's not our challenge, we go all in for punishment.

Sadly, this behavior isn't unusual. In many congregations, people are protected because of their ability to make others feel good and excited. Victims are blamed, not heard as we continue to witness the wounding of many. It boils down to idolizing those in leadership instead of seeking the will of God.

American Christianity has been guilty of our passion for the pulpit instead of being on fire for God and God's word. As we focus more on prosperity and purpose, we are avoiding the difficult conversations that we need to save lives and heal hearts. Too many of us want to be motivated and entertained: "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-6)

The book of Revelation (something not taught frequently) reminds us of what God is seeking. "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So,

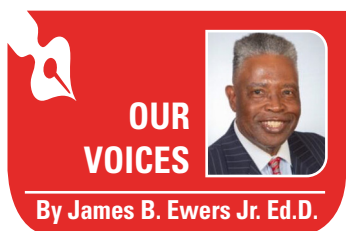
because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked..." (Revelation 3:15-18)

Many of our congregations are neither hot nor cold. Our beliefs do not match our behaviors. Sometimes, before service is complete, offense takes over, and watch out because someone might get cussed out before they reach the parking lot.

It's time out for the theatrics. If we decided to face the truth, our condemnation of the harmful and sin-filled behavior of others might actually involve condemning ourselves.

Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew is the President of Soulstice Consultancy, LLC and the Founder of the Reconciliation and Restoration (r2fdn.org) Foundation. The author of 4 books including Empowering Charity: A New Narrative of Philanthropy, Dr. Booker-Drew is also the host of the Tapestry Podcast.

SCOTUS Will Ultimately Decide The Fate Of Donald Trump. What Will The Decision Be?



We make choices every day of our lives. Obviously, the choices we make have consequences. Some are good while others are not so good.

When our elected officials make decisions, they make them on behalf of we the people. If we don't like their decisions, we eventually vote them out of office.

Donald Trump was president of the United States of America however he lost his bid to be re-elected in 2020. Joe Biden is now the president of our America. Former presidents like George Bush and Barack Obama have taken a backseat in the political arena. That has been a well-established tradition.

They have not interfered with

the present administration. This is the opposite to what former president Donald Trump is doing. He still says that he won the 2020 election. That assertion made by him has been wrong since election night. America made a choice, and it wasn't him, yet he continues to whine about it.

Former President Trump has four indictments looming over him. He has been in and out of court for the past several months and there is no end in sight.

However, he continues to lead in the Republican polls for president. It is my opinion that he will receive the nod to be their candidate and run to be president again. We the people can only imagine what that will look like. Trump is guilty of crimes and running to be president of the country. Unbelievable!

His name at this time will not be on the Colorado ballot as the Supreme Court there ruled Trump is not eligible to serve

under the 14th Amendment's insurrection ban because of his actions associated with January 6th.

Will other states rule against him as well? Last week, Michigan Secretary of State, Jocelyn Benson, in an interview with CNN anchor, Laura Coates discussed the possibility. We will see where that goes.

The Detroit News has reported Trump can be heard on tape pressuring two GOP canvassers in Michigan not to certify the 2020 election results. Will hearing Trump on tape strengthen the case against him?

Mountains of evidence and rockslides of proof have shown Trump to be unfit to hold the highest office in the land. If this was any other citizen, they would have already been in prison. What level of guilt must Mr. Trump have for this assault on American democracy to stop?

Ten days ago, Special Counsel Jack Smith wanted to fast

track the theory that Trump had presidential immunity. The U.S. Supreme Court did not hear the case. Some are calling that a win for Trump. However, J. Michael Luttig, Retired U.S. Appeals Court Judge believes that it was not a defeat or a victory.

The primaries in Iowa and New Hampshire will be coming up soon. Trump is leading by double digits, so it is my thinking that he probably won't be around to debate.

The bigger issue for him is his legal woes. Some polling suggests that he is not worried and that he is cool, calm and collected. It begs the question why does he feel that way?

I believe strongly that his arrogance is rooted in the belief that the U. S. Supreme Court will ultimately rule in his favor. He thinks their decision will vindicate him and thus make him president. He appointed 3 justices during his first term in office and he probably thinks they will side with him. The sad

and unnerving thought about that notion is that he just may be right.

For those of us who still believe in right and wrong that will become a living nightmare. Four more years of him will destroy the America that we know, and we will have no standing in the world. It will mean that rules and regulations have no consequences.

Let us hope that does not happen. SCOTUS, America is watching you. Laws still matter.

Dr. James B. Ewers, Jr. is a long-time educator who hails from Winston Salem, N.C. One of the top tennis players in the state, he was inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame in January 2021. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, he received his M. A. degree in Education from Catholic University in Washington, DC, and Ed. D. degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. He has also done post-doctoral studies at Harvard University and Ewers is a life member of the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

My Truth: A True Legacy! cont. from page 1

Her good friend and fellow Congress member John Lewis, was one who left us in 2020, when he was 80. At age 88, she was the eldest member of the House at 88, when she stepped down after the 117th Congress ended in January 2023.

Part of life after Congress came with her becoming more vocal about what she wanted to see next. She wanted youthful leaders to step up. She also wanted more Blacks in leadership in the House and Senate.

She especially wanted the latter after so many, including the local clergy, had implored her to stay another term. After all, this was a woman whom presidents implored to continue serving.

Presidents Clinton and Obama both treasured her leadership. Each appreciated her analytical prowess. They valued her ability to forge relationships and strategize to achieve common goals.

When asked to share my thoughts on the retired congresswoman, I didn't hesitate even though frequently Black journalists are often held to different standards.

Other writers frequently are relied on – even valued – for offering context on elected figures from their communities: The media industry widely considers their commentary as “objective” and “accurate.”

By contrast, Black journalists historically have been pulled off such assignments. Editors by and large have questioned whether they would – or could – be fair.

This industry practice has infuriated me. I've been around long enough to remember a time when journalists were pressured to be “objective” – even their voting, attendance at worship services or having an opinion on anything or anybody was frowned upon – unless it fell in line with “mainstream” industry's agenda.

I've lived in Dallas for more than 40 years. I've written hundreds of stories and columns about people in my communities.

Why should I be prevented from giving a perspective about someone I knew, someone I covered?

Was I a fan of the Congresswoman? Nothing is fanatical about my thoughts of her.

Did I agree with everything she did or said? Heck, looking back, I don't agree with everything I, myself, have done or said!

Did I cover her accurately and fairly? Yes, that's what I was taught at Florida A&M University.

She seemed to respect my work, and I respected hers.

I have come to better understand the plight of women, especially Black women in this world, because she helped me on this journey.

Sure, I've heard she was a tough administrator. Some joked about her office staff's turnover rate.

Okay. So what? Had she been a man, no one would have uttered a word. In fact, I believe, some of the men and women who worked for her never would have committed some of the infractions that resulted in their firings, had the Congress “woman” been a Congress “man.”

She has explained why she was tough on her staff. Today, I can say two words: I understand.

Now I understand why, at a microphone, she talked about her work. Doing so was not necessarily because she wanted to tout her accomplishments. Often, when she was interviewed, it was not because of her own groundbreaking work in the areas of veterans or women's rights, science, technology, LGBTQ initiatives, or modernizing transportation.

Instead, the media called on her for comments on what other elected officials, mostly Black, were doing – or not doing.

I also understand why she didn't share many of her deeds or good will to others. She was a lady with class and old-school manners. She would never spill the personal business: about whom she got out of jail, shielded from embarrassing situations, kept from losing their homes or jobs, or guided into rehab.

She wouldn't dare.

As the first Black woman elected to public office from Dallas, the Congresswoman knew the challenges women before her had endured.

She was honest, sincere, quick witted, humorous and always alert. She was discerning: She didn't tolerate foolishness, fools, or trifling behavior. Nor did she forget.

She sacrificed by being with other folks' families instead of her own; all the while dealing with issues and serving with grace.

I spent the day in her Washington, D.C. office attending meetings and receptions before going to hear former President Donald Trump's State of the Union address. By the end of the day, I welcomed the ride home. This woman, several decades older than I, had a pace that was challenging to maintain, even among her admirers, of which she had many.

I witnessed the admiration up close at the unveiling of her portrait that hangs in the Science Committee Room, alongside the previous chairMEN of the U.S. Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

During a private moment in the congresswoman's office, after the portrait unveiling, Luci Baines Johnson, the “first daughter” of former President Lyndon B. Johnson, passed gifts to the congresswoman. “You have always done the right thing by all of us,” she said.

The compliment sums up Eddie Bernice Johnson's life.

As a retiree, I saw her resilience. She remained steadfast and focused on causes and worked almost as hard as when she was in Congress.

Regrettably, she didn't live to release her book, expected in 2024.

It would have been great to have attended book signings and heard her candid and informative anecdotes. With a memory like an elephant, the quick-witted Gentle Lady from Texas would have provided one heck of an experience.

History will be kinder to the retired congresswoman because she had many receipts —evidence of a legacy of work, lifting others as a little girl from Waco who climbed and traveled the world, forged relationships and made a difference all the while breaking down barriers and building bridges.



Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson and Cheryl Smith in DC for State of the Union Address.
Courtesy: Johnson family.

GRAND CELEBRATION

BENITA

11/03/1958 - 01/01/2024

Saturday January 6th 2024

2:00 pm

The Black Academy Of Arts & Letters
 650 South Griffin St. Dallas Tx 75202

HAPPY 2024

Superb Women

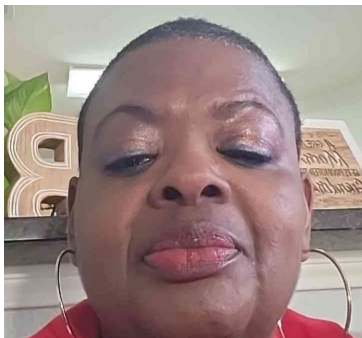
December 2023

Our Superb Women!

By Cheryl Smith
Texas Metro News

2021 was the "Year of the Woman," especially the Black Woman! For 10 months, we dedicated this space to uplifting Black women and spreading a message that we need to show love and empower people with love instead of destroying them with hate and disrespect. We celebrate Black Women and call them SUPERB! AND WE ARE KEEPING THE CELEBRATION GOING FOREVER! We love you Black Queens!

YOLANDA BELL



Yolanda Bell is a graduate of Denton High School and went on to study at North Central Texas College and Texas Woman's University. Yolanda is a Direct Support Professional at Kenmar Residential Services, Environmental Health Specialist at City of Frisco TX - City Hall and child nutrition specialist at Denton Independent School District. Yolanda cares about children and she has also worked as a substitute teacher.

DEBRA MARS



Happy Birthday Diva Debra Mars! You are every woman and a real sisterfriend. Debra is an author (Death of a Fairy Tale), life coach, and entrepreneur, and founder of Black Santa Cause Collective. A graduate of Los Angeles Senior High, she received her BS and MBA Degrees at the University of Southern California, and she also studied at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Debra enjoyed stints as a Marketing Executive for General Mills, Coca Cola and Frito Lay. Debra is highly respected and loved because she is

smart, honest, sincere and compassionate. Organized and strategic, she is a born leader and consummate professional who works well with others. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Links Inc., Debra is a Small Business Advocate and Gifting Maven. Check out her catalog of wonderfully extraordinary gifts and you can order at: Etsy.com/shop/restorethehope.

RAQUEL MCFADDEN



Raquel McFadden serves as Coordinator V. She is a graduate of Tarleton State University with a degree in Social Work and has an extensive background working with children and families in various communities and schools. Raquel has 31 years of experience working with children and families who have experienced trauma and life challenges due to neglect; including working within the Tarrant County community and family court system advocating for children's rights and safety. A licensed Social Worker and a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Practitioner through Texas Christian University; she has several certifications and works in collaboration with FWISD stakeholders. She is a Board Trustee for Forest Hill Library, Forest Hill Campaign Committee, Neighborhood Committee, Mental Health Connection Committee, and a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

LISA JOHNSON-LETT



Lisa Johnson-Lett is an entrusted Living Well peer supporter, mentor, educator, navigator, linkage-to-care Network Treatment Adherence and Prevention Specialist at the Living Well Outpatient Center (LWOC)- under AIDS Alabama in Birmingham. She currently serves in several capacities for: Positive Leadership Council (PLC), AIDS Alabama; Patient Advisory Board

(PAB), UAB 1917 Clinic; Clinic Host- UAB 1917 Clinic; and Positive Women Network (PWN)-USA. Hailing from Queens, NY, she served 10 Years in the United States Armed Forces and holds a Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS)- Human Services from the Audrey Cohen School of Human Services and Education and has Associate Degrees in human services and speech communication from Gadsden State Community College.

DR. RATONIA RUNNELS



Dr. Ratonia Runnels is an Associate Professor, Field Instruction Program Coordinator, and Phi Alpha Co-Adviser at Texas Woman's University. She is also the current Grace Project Coordinator for Legacy Counseling Center, a mental health service provider in Dallas. She received her PHD in Social Work, MS in Social Work, and a BA in Sociology; all from UT Austin. Dr. Runnels is a long-time outreach worker, counselor, case manager, educator/trainer, and advocate in the fields of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention. She has enjoyed stints as faculty at Baylor University; in several positions for Texas Department of State Health Services; as a SISTA National Training Partner for the CDC; and as a Consultant for the Black Church Outreach Project.

SHERI CROSBY WHEELER



Sheri Crosby Wheeler is executive co-chair and membership management and engagement chair of The Village Giving Circle at TXWF. A founding member of the Village Giving Circle, she received her BA Degree in Sociology from Emory University where she became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She then received her JD Degree in Law from the University at Buffalo School of Law. Sheri received an executive from Georgetown University in Strategic Diversity

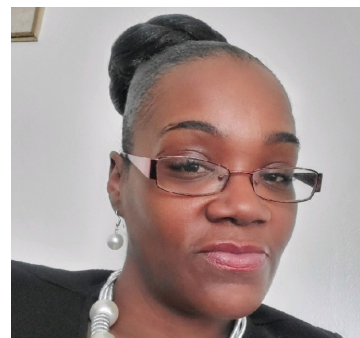
and Inclusion Management and another in Sustainable Capitalism and ESG from Berkeley Law. She has enjoyed stints at Girls Inc, of Metropolitan Dallas, Junior League of Dallas, Family Gateway, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She has served as a mentor with the Diverse Attorney Pipeline Program; co-chair of the Dallas Black Women Attorneys Committee; and VP Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

VENITA RAY



Venita Ray is a social justice movement strategist. The Founder of Venita Ray Consulting, she served as a commissioner of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and a Member of the Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council. She has more than four decades of working with the nonprofit and private sectors in underserved and marginalized communities. Venita served as the co-executive director of the Positive Women's Network-USA (PWN-USA), a national membership organization for women living with HIV, from 2019-2022. She attended American University, Washington College of Law and also served as the public policy manager for Legacy, a federally qualified health center in Houston, TX

CHUNNIKA HODGES



Chunnika Hodges received Bachelor and Masters degrees from the University of Phoenix and she studied social work at Henry Ford College. became involved in HIV advocacy in 2006. She started as a member of the Ryan White Part D Community Advisory Board for Southeastern Michigan. She co-founded For the Love of H.E.R., a bi-monthly podcast exploring the lives of Black women and girls through an intersectional lens and featuring interviews with phenomenal

women impacting the community. Her mission is to break the cycle of stigma by promoting education and awareness of HIV, dispelling HIV myths and misinformation, sharing her story of life after diagnosis, and encouraging people to believe that there is life after diagnosis!

DR. ROSALIND OSGOOD



Dr. Rosalind Osgood is a member of the Florida Senate, representing District 32. A former Broward County School Board member, she attended Florida A&M University where she was a member of the Rattler Basketball Team. She received her Bachelors, Masters, and DPA degrees from Nova Southeastern University and a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Osgood was the 1st Female Chaplain for the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department, and she is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Zeta Rho Omega Chapter and the Fort Lauderdale (FL) Chapter of Links, Incorporated.

LATRISCHA MILES



LaTrischa Miles, BBA, CHW, is the manager of the Peer Treatment Adherence Program at the Kansas City CARE Health Center. She has almost 20 years' of experience in HIV services, and she is nationally recognized with expertise in training, supervision, advocacy, treatment adherence, and community education. She served as Chair of the Kansas City Ryan White Planning Council, she also has served on local, regional, and national quality management committees to improve HIV care and treatment services. She is one of 28 co-founders of the U.S. Positive Women's Network (PWN) and is a current Board Co-Chair. Ms. Miles is the founder and President

Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson broke barriers



Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson broke barriers cont. from page 8



See EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, page 34





With Gratitude

Our Family will be forever grateful and thankful for you, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Your influence through your STEM program helped produce a doctor, an engineer, and a future attorney in our family.

Your legacy has been cemented and secured for generations.



The Hasty Family

SUPERB WOMEN

November 2023 cont.
 from page 7

of GRACE of Greater Kansas City, a Women's monthly support group for women of faith with HIV.

LESHIA SCOTT



Leshia Scott is a public and motivational speaker, health educator, mentor, peer, and support group facilitator based in Broward County, FL. Leshia became interested in HIV advocacy to help people living with HIV overcome barriers, access services, and find support for others living with HIV after being outed in 2014 on Twitter. Through support and opportunities made possible from that moment, Leshia found a passion for her lifelong secret. She creates and facilitates training and content for youth, young adults, and HIV service organizations. Leshia has partnered with various organizations and public agencies to bring awareness to HIV/AIDS, uplift, and advocate for women living with HIV seeking sisterhood and support. Leshia received her BS in Health Services Administration and a Masters in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management from Nova Southeastern University in August 2022.

MARY ANNJURENE KEYES



Mary Annjuren Keyes is known to most in the HIV advocacy community as Anjie, of Kansas City, MO. Anjie acquired HIV 24 years ago as a result of rape; but she found purpose in her diagnosis, which laid the groundwork for her advocacy as a motivational speaker and facilitator. She is the founder of Positively Rare Enterprise to work with women living with and affected by HIV who are battling the effects of stigma. She wants to change the public's perception of HIV to remind people that it is a human disease. It does not target specific demographics because of sexual preference."

CRYSTAL TOWNSEND



Crystal Townsend is a native of Beaumont, TX who fights for justice and equity, especially related to health and human rights. She has a background in public health and brings experience in community, issue-based, digital, and electoral organizing. A graduate of Alabama A&M University where she played on the championship volleyball team and was an honor student, Crystal is an organizer, a mobilizer, and an all-around team player who is highly respected and loved. Crystal is a proud board member of The Mahogany Project, Inc., a Black, trans-led organization based out of Houston, TX working to reduce social isolation, stigma, and acts of injustice in TGLB+ communities of color. Crystal wants her work to uplift the experiences of BIPOC and TGLBQ+ communities to amplify the intersectional nature of our lives through intentional joy, thoughtful organizing, and supporting the shift of narrative power.

ELENA FERGUSON



Elena Ferguson is a Nashville native and earned her J.D. from Belmont University College of Law in 2020. Throughout her law school career, she served as a legal intern with the Nashville Public Defender's Office, Juvenile Court of Nashville, and Law for Black Lives. After law school, she served as the If/When/How RJ Fellow at Healthy & Free Tennessee, serving as the lead on their proactive policy agenda. Elena earned her B.A. in Sociology with an Africana Studies Concentration from the College of the Holy Cross and she also received a Bachelor's Degree in sociology from University College Cork. She is a policy specialist with the Positive Women's Network USA.

SALLIE J. THOMAS



Sallie J. Thomas is a graduate of the Howard University School of Law and is a dedicated reproductive justice advocate who focused her academic scholarship, intern, and extern opportunities on addressing issues of the movement. Sallie interned with the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) in their General Counsel office, the National Partnership for Women and Families, and the National Institute for Reproductive Health. Sallie graduated from the State University of New York - College at Old Westbury with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She then went on to graduate from Stony Brook University with her Master's in Social Work. Sallie worked as a medical social worker and is committed to seeking change for people living with HIV by working with the Positive Women's Network USA team!

ANTOINETTE JONES



Antoinette Jones was born and raised in Bronx, NY by way of Northern Virginia before settling in Atlanta, GA. She began her work with HIV advocacy in her early 20s, as a Peer Navigator, facilitating access to preventative care and treatment for people living with and at risk for HIV. She identifies as a Vertical Woman Living with HIV, meaning she has been living with HIV since Birth. Antoinette was called to peer advocacy to combat the isolation many people born with HIV go through due to the lack of awareness. Antoinette is the Co-Executive Director of Dandelions, Inc., a non-profit that centers the development of Verticals (people born with HIV) through mentorship, trauma, healing, and peer-to-peer interventions.

GRACE RUTHA



Grace Rutha is an educator, activist, advocate, motivational speaker and community mobilizer. She has worked in the HIV field since her diagnosis in 1985 when she founded the "AIDS Digest Health Magazine," "Maisha Save a Breast Annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser" for breast cancer survivors living with HIV, and the "50+ Prime Time TEACH Alumni" for people aging and thriving with HIV. Grace has 25 years of experience as a journalist and has served as a member of the Philadelphia FIGHT Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Board of Directors (BOD). Grace has a passion for women's advocacy, ending HIV criminalization laws, human rights, writing, networking, and healthcare research and clinical trials. A published author, she has a post-graduate diploma in mass communications and journalism and a Bachelor of Arts in English Language, English Literature, and Philosophy from the University of Nairobi.

REVEREND CRYSTAL BATES



President, DFW Metro NAACP
 Rev. Crystal Bates is a minister and activist for justice! She is the president of the DFW METRO NAACP Branch. Chaplain Bates is a first-generation college graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics, with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Texas in Arlington. In 2005, she was recognized by the university as the "9th African American female" to obtain this degree. She obtained her Associate of Science in Computer Science from Kilgore College in 2000. A team player and born leader, she has spent almost 25 years as a part of the ministerial team at Friendship-West Baptist Church.

SHARON LEVY



Sharon Levy, LMSW, serves as a Social Worker II at the FWISD Family Action Center. She has more than 15 years of hands-on, comprehensive experience in social services, which includes working with and advocating for abused women and children, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the homeless population, and children in the foster care system. Before joining the FAC team, Sharon worked as a long-term substitute teacher, a case manager, and an Adolescent Pregnancy Services social worker. Sharon is a graduate of FWISD, and received an associate's degree from Tarrant County College, her Bachelors and Masters in social work from the University of Texas at Arlington, and a Master of Divinity from Liberty University.

DAWN D. FOBBS



Dawn D. Fobbs is an author, Multi-Preneur, Television Talk- Show Host, Podcast Enthusiast and Host. Hailing from Katy, TX she's a seasoned entrepreneur and business development consultant with over 28 years of experience, her passion for entrepreneurship and her innate ability to identify and capitalize on business opportunities have made her a trusted advisor and sought-after expert. After completing her life-long hands-on education, Dawn embarked on her entrepreneurial journey, establishing her first business venture at 14. Over the years, she successfully launched and managed several businesses in diverse industries, including consulting, coaching, non-profit development, management, and business development.

SUPERB WOMEN

November 2023 cont.
from page 10

DR. AGNES OBERKOR



Dr. Agnes Oberkor is a Public Health Doctor and Personal Development Expert and currently works in Health Advocacy and Leadership Consulting for Peoples Health Solutions. She received MPH, MSN, NP from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Her Doctor of Public Health, Health Advocacy, and Leadership from Capella University. Dr. Oberkor, a respected public health doctor and expert in personal development, is dedicated to empowering individuals to achieve their highest potential. With a career spanning over three decades, she has dedicated herself to improving both the physical and mental well-being of individuals and communities. Her ability to inspire and motivate others has earned her a reputation as an influential personal development expert.

MIA DORSEY MOTHERSHED



Mia Dorsey Mothershed marketing and public relations in Montgomery for more than 20 years and has a dual degree in communications and business from Alabama A&M University. The current CMO -Group Marketing Director for Tenet Healthcare, Mia has enjoyed stints as Director of Marketing Communications at Jackson Hospital, Executive Director of Health Service Foundation Senior Public Relations Director at Education Affiliates, Chief Executive Officer of Carter Symone and Glorious Affairs, Communications Specialist with Regions Mortgage, Inc., and as a News Producer for WVTM -TV. Mia's been active with several area organizations, including the Junior League, Leadership Montgomery, the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, where she was named one of the Montgomery Chamber's Outstanding Ambassadors; and the Montgomery Alumnae Chapter of Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority. She also celebrated her 20th wedding anniversary this year.

KRISTYN SENTER



KRISTYN SENTER is the Associate Vice President — Communications for the Texas Women's Foundation. In this position, she oversees all communications, marketing. Kristyn worked with Junior Achievement of Dallas for 11 years, first as Marketing Manager where she managed all marketing and communications for the organization. She was then promoted to Senior Special Events Manager, a position she held for nine years. Kristyn interned with Howland Public Relations, Inc., and Bates Churchill Public Relations. She interned in the Office of Publications at the University of Houston, where she earned a BA in Communications. She is a Legislative Voices Fellow for Leadership ISD — Dallas, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Jack and Jill of America, Inc. — Northeast Dallas Chapter, where she served as Chapter President and previously as Program Director.

CHRISTINE DECOUDREUX-NGONGA



Christine DeCoudreaux-Ngonga is the interim director of public engagement at K Strategies Group. Christine has also worked as a freelance writer and graphic designer. She has worked as an E-commerce Marketing assistant at Directmaterial.com and DirectMaterial.com, a communications coordinator at John Deere, and a journalist at The Iowa State Daily. She is a graduate of Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, where she started her own business. Christine graduated from Iowa State University. A wife and mother, Christine wears a smile that she shares with the world. She is engaging, smart, and resourceful — a team player and a born leader.

LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE



Lauren Victoria Burke is a business owner, investigative journalist and a bad blues guitarist. She was born in the Bronx, New York. She writes, consults, plays the guitar and appears regularly on Roland Martin Unfiltered on the Black Star Network. She currently writes for Black Press USA and is the Publisher of Black Virginia News. Her extensive career portfolio includes The Guardian, theGrio, NBCBLK, The Root, CNN, and Politic 365. Lauren was the Director of Communications for Justin Fairfax for Lt. Governor and Hon. Andre Carson (D-IN); to name a few. Lauren holds a B.A. degree in History from The American University in Washington, D.C.

NIA MAAT KHEPERA



Nia Maat Khepera is an educator extraordinaire and digital creator. A graduate of David W. Carter, she received her Bachelor's degree from University of North Texas. Nia attended Dallas Baptist University for her Masters Degree in Education. She works at Institute for Leadership and Educational Excellence. She is the Founder of The Nia Maat Khepera Born to Lead Academic Scholarship Foundation and she is the author of "Nia's Vegetarian Cuisine Cookbooks. Nia is the author of "Poetic Discoveries," "Just Think About It," "My Journey To The Million Woman March" and "You Can QUOTE Me On It!"

CAROL J. KELLY

Carol J. Kelly is a writer, editor and communications professional. A member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Carol has written for several publications, and worked as an adjunct lecturer at CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. She was an assistant news editor at the Wall Street Journal. Carol studied at New York University, Hunter College, Baruch and CUNY, after



graduating from Wolmer's High School in Kingston, Jamaica.

VALERIE ROBERTS EVANS



Valerie Roberts Evans hails from North Chicago, where she attended Northern Illinois University. A former executive producer at WFAA-TV, she has enjoyed stints at KSDK, News, FOX 31 KDVR, KDKA-TV, WXYZ-TV, WDTN-TV, 13 On Your Side and WEYI-TV before teaching at the University of North Texas and today she is a professor at Southern Methodist University. A member of the National Association of Black Journalists and a mentor to many, Valerie is highly regarded because she is the ultimate professional with impeccable work ethic and superior skills. She is also an Independent Distributor for Premier Designs Jewelry.

KIMBERLY JENKINS-SNODGRASS



Kimberly Jenkins-Snodgrass is Public Communications Manager at NASA. The Co-Founder & President at JAB Production, LLC, she is the former Vice Chair at Interfaith Action for Human Rights, former Chair at Interfaith Action for Human Rights and former Vice Chair at Interfaith Action for Human Rights. Hailing from Chicago, Kimberly is a tireless advocate for justice, civil and human rights. She has also educated communities about Mothers (Fathers) for the Advancement of Social Systems Inc. (MASS),

a successful and proven reintegration into society program. Kimberly is the co-author of Delayed But Not Denied 2 - real stories about real people. She gives voice to those whose voices have been muted.

NATASHA WHITE



Natasha White is the Director of Community Engagement for the Interfaith Action for Human Rights, coordinator/manager of the Virginia Coalition on Solitary Confinement, and Community organizer for the Halt solitary confinement campaign. She also served as campaign leader for Just LeadershipUSA. Natasha is experienced working with individuals with a mission to build stability and decrease recidivism. The CEO of Sinfully Sexy LLC, she has served as Community Organizer at National Religious Campaign Against Torture; to name a few. A native of Queens, NY, the former job developer at the Fortune Society, she studied at Mercy University.

STEPHANIE FERGUSON HAWTHORNE



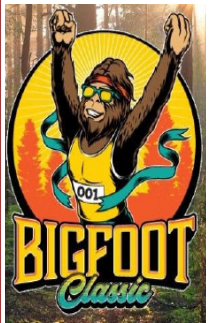
Stephanie Ferguson Hawthorne is an Educational Administrator/Principal. She's the principal at Christine Barnett Junior High School. Previously she was the Elementary School Principal at Atherton Elementary School/Arlington ISD. A Bishop Dunne Catholic School graduate, she studied Mass Communications/Broadcasting at Xavier University of Louisiana. She has an MS in Education Administration, Educational Leadership and Administration from Texas A&M University - Commerce. She also has her Superintendent Certification in Superintendency and Educational System Administration. Stephanie is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. A consummate professional Stephanie is a committed, servant leader. She's beautiful, talented, smart and well-respected.

Metro Community Calendar powered by



JANUARY HAPPY 2024!

7



Registration is open for Big-foot Classic! This year's event will take place at 3100 NW College Dr Fort Worth, TX 76179. Sign up-<https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/FortWorth/BigfootClassicFortWorth?rsus=200-500-1fa69b8e-1d3a-4ce6-b696-a110662f8fde>

BigfootClassicFortWorth?rsus=200-500-1fa69b8e-1d3a-4ce6-b696-a110662f8fde

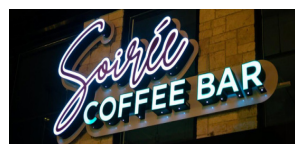
9



CHICKS CREATIVE GROUP
#UCN NETWORKING MEETING, 6-9pm,
Bar Louie Restaurant,

The Shops at Park Lane, OFF I-75 and Park Lane in North Dallas.

10



Power Breakfast at Soiree Coffee Bar
320 Singleton Boulevard, Ste 190,
Dallas at 7am

12



Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hosted by the Alpha Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. MC - Steven Dial of FOX4, Keynote Speaker - Rev. Ronnie Wayne Goins of Koinonia Christian Church

MLK Jr. Recreation Center
2901 Pennsylvania Ave
Dallas 75215
7pm

13



Dream the Impossible Dream, Arise and Pursue the Legacy -- Scholarship and Awards Gala, 6:30pm
Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 North Stemmons Freeway. Speaker- Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III and Honoree- Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Memorial Brunch at the Grand Hall at NRH Centre in North Richland Hills at 11am

15



**Realizing the Dream
Healthy Living Expo
at the African American
Museum
10am-5pm**

Performances by Reuben Leal and Matoya

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24



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27

DALLAS MAVERICKS
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE NIGHT

HBCU GREEK NIGHT



SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH @ 8:00PM

AFTER PARTY FEATURING DJ STEVE NICE @ HERO
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w/ Cheryl Smith

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FEBRUARY

10

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority celebrating 116 years of A Legacy of Love, Sisterhood, and Service

2024 DFW Metroplex Founders Day Luncheon,

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Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson broke barriers cont. from page 4

ary pioneer" when her portrait was unveiled in November 2022 to hang alongside those of other previous science committee chairs.

At 87, Johnson was the oldest member of the House when she left office in January 2023.

At the portrait ceremony, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. — chair of the Senate commerce and science panel — called Johnson a "champion" and a "person we need to put on a pedestal."

Johnson used her gavel to push back on Republican attempts to block action on climate change and advance support for scientific research and STEM education. She shepherded major funding for science and technology, including NASA, and played a key role in securing tens of billions of dollars to revive the U.S. semiconductor chip industry.



Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., spoke of the near "miraculous" achievements Johnson oversaw despite leading the science panel in an era of bitter partisanship — none of which, he said, would have been feasible "without EBJ's style, skill, subtlety, understanding, patience and persistence."

When she announced her retirement in 2021, Johnson said: "I've worked hard. It's not just a title — it's a job. It's been some rugged times, but I have not acknowledged it. I was determined that I wouldn't just be a title. I wanted to deliver. I thought about the district and all the needs that it had."

A lasting testament to that history is Dallas' Union Station, a once racially segregated facility that in 2019 was renamed after Johnson.

"You've heard that this station was segregated, but now, it fits me," she said at the time, tearing up at the ceremony unveiling the new name. "It's open to all, regardless of religion, regardless of the origin of birth, regardless of party, regardless of gender. That's what I love."

The intermodal station on the southwestern edge of downtown connects passengers to DART light rail, TRE commuter trains, local buses and Amtrak. Then-Mayor Mike Rawlings lauded her ability to make connections.

"She has worked across the aisle for the betterment of her constituents on aviation, flood

control, homelessness, homeland security, law enforcement, science, and, of course, transportation," Rawlings said. "I couldn't think of a more fitting person to rename our Union Station after."

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WOMEN BEFORE ROSA PARKS ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everybody!

My time machine "Sankofa 82" and I took a trip back to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. You might know Rosa Parks who was called the "mother of the civil rights movement" for refusing to give her seat to a white passenger on the bus. But did you know she was not the first to refuse to give up her seat? Let me introduce you to Claudette Colvin and Mary Louise Smith-Ware who also refused to give up their seats on a bus.

THE WOMEN BEFORE ROSA PARKS:

Claudette Colvin is a civil rights activist who, before Rosa Parks, refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. She was arrested and later became one of four plaintiffs in the Supreme Court *Browder v. Gayle* segregation case. The other three plaintiffs were Aurelia S. Browder, Susie McDonald and Mary Louise Smith-Ware. The court ruled that Montgomery's segregated bus system was unconstitutional. Colvin once stated, "I felt like Sojourner Truth was pushing down on one shoulder and Harriet Tubman was pushing down on the other-saying, 'Sit down girl!' I was glued to my seat."

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute or less unscramble all the words associated with The Montgomery Bus Boycott. The bold letter is the first letter of the word.

eeUualdC volCni
 yraM iusLoe mhtIS raWe
 Myeotormgn uBs itoyoBc
 soRa kPras

WHO IS WHO?

Write the names on the lines of the women who refused to give up their seats. (* hint there is an extra name.)

Claudette Colvin Mary Louise Smith-Ware
 Jo Ann Robinson Rosa Parks

WHO SAID THAT?

Write the correct name on the line next to the quote made by the civil rights activist. (*hint there is an extra name)

Claudette Colvin Mary Louise Smith-Ware Rosa Parks

"It's my constitutional right to sit here as much as that lady. I paid my fare, it's my constitutional right."

"I am not going to move out of my seat. I am not going to move anywhere. I got the privilege to sit here like anybody else."

"I felt like Sojourner Truth was pushing down on one shoulder and Harriet Tubman was pushing down on the other-saying, 'Sit down girl!' I was glued to my seat."

YOU DECIDE!

Write **T** for each true statement.
 Write **F** for each false statement.

____ Rosa Parks was the first woman to be arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger in 1955.

____ The Browder v. Gayle's supreme court case ruled that Montgomery segregated bus laws were unconstitutional.

____ Claudette Colvin was the oldest plaintiff in the Browder v. Gayle segregation case.

____ Mary Louise Smith-Ware and Claudette Colvin were arrested for not giving up their bus seats to white passengers.

____ Mary Louise Smith-Ware was arrested and held in jail for 20 minutes.

____ Claudette Colvin was arrested for violating the bus segregation laws.

THINK ABOUT IT / WRITE ABOUT IT!

What would you do if you were told to give up your seat to another passenger because your skin color was different?

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WOMEN BEFORE ROSA PARKS, 1/8/24, #132 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2024 BY JOE YOUNG

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JANUARY Happy 2024!

4


Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Founders Day at Sandaga 815 Exposition and Whiskeys at 855 Exposition Ave.

5

9

12

Dallas' Equity Indicators Symposium, Guest Speaker - Hon. Demetria McCain, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. at 9:00 AM, 3837 Simpson Stuart, Dallas, TX 75241 Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/5th-annual-equity-indicators-symposium-tickets-767770360817?aff=ebdss-hother&utm_experiment=test

13


J13 Voter Registration and Community Fair, 10am - 2pm The Shops at Red Bird, 3662 W. Camp Wisdom Rd, Dallas, TX 75237



Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presents J13 Day Party from 2pm - 6pm Curtis Culwell Center, 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd, Garland, TX

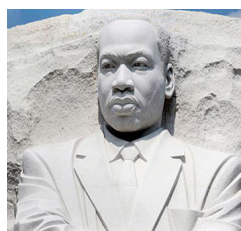
The sixth annual Cornbread & Country music and BBQ festival will be held at Longhorn Ballroom. The event tickets starting at \$35

14


Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Political Candidate Forum 2- 5pm South Oak Cliff High School, 3601 S Marsalis Ave, Dallas, TX 75216

15


Black Lawyers Magazine presents 7th annual MLK Day of Service at 3125 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd



Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade at 8am Fair Park Parking Lot

Feeding Families

10am-until all food is gone at the Parry Street Entrance to Fair Park

Realizing the Dream Healthy Living Expo



At this annual event, the focus will be on building healthy communities physically, socially, mentally, financially, and spiritually. Join Celebrating Life, Don't Believe the Hype, Chris Howell, and WAAITT Foundations, as information is shared. There is a cooking contest, KARAOKE, Face painting, bounce houses, door prizes, entertainment provided by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and featuring Reuben Lael and Matoya

is supported in part by the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture



WE WANT YOUR BLOOD

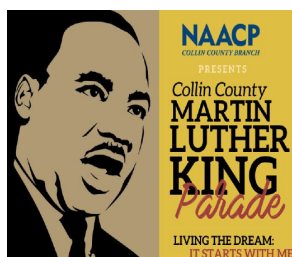


American Red Cross

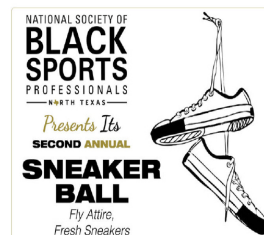


Sickle Cell Blood Drive
Don't Believe the Hype/
Celebrating Life Foundations
Realizing the Dream
Healthy Living Expo

African American Museum
3536 Grand Ave.
Dallas, TX 75210



Douglass Community Parade at 10am. Plano Police Chief Ed Drain is the Grand Marshal

19


BLACKLIT

4050 McEwen Road, Suite 9105, Dallas, TX 75244

20


Vision Board Party, Kingdom Building Ministry, 200 E. Carr Lane Duncanville, with Dr. Dareia Jacobs and Dr. Faith Robertson at 11am

24

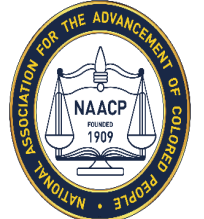
Denton Black Film Festival is here!

28


DFW Joint Founders Day Luncheon for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at 12pm, Irving Convention Center, 500 Las Colinas Blvd, Irving, TX 75039
Speaker: Joy-Ann Reid of MSNBC

February 11

Go Oak Cliff Go Oak Cliff
Duration: 2 hr
2024 Oak Cliff Mardi Gras parade on Sunday, February 11th! The parade will kick off at 1:00 p.m. CST and will run along Davis Street from Nova

16


Join the national award-winning Garland NAACP as they present POLITICAL CANDIDATES on the March 5th Texas State Primary Ballot who are vying to represent citizens of Dallas and Collin Counties in local, district, state and national races.

DATE: February 16, 2024 Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Hyatt Place Garland

SEND CALENDAR

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HE IS A SERIAL RAPIST

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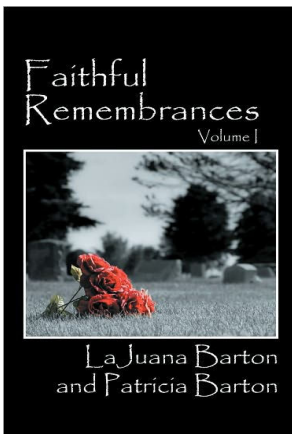
Crimestoppers 877-373-8477



DAILY REMEMBRANCE

The Strong One

By La Juana Barton
Check on the strong one.
The one that is always standing.
Always smiling.
Always checking on others.
They're strength expended holding everyone else up.
Crying with others and wiping away massive amounts of tears that there are none left for them.
Answering every call.
No matter the time.
Because they really care.
Giving encouragement and all that they have.
Left empty by those not realizing they're empty.



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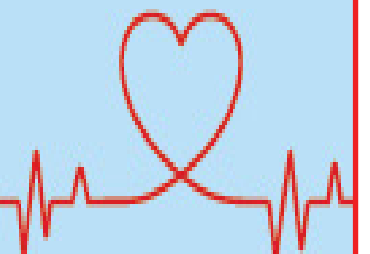


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Baking Contest

Monday, January 15, 2024
at the African American Museum - in Fair Park

Register your entry by January 12, 2024

(email to healthylivingex1@gmail.com or call 214-941-0110)

All entries must be submitted no later than 9am

Judging will take place at noon

Name: _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

Entry (description) _____

Do you use lard or any pork products? ____

Is your cake from scratch? ____

Note: Please bring entry in disposable container



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Feeding 400 families

Monday, January 15, 2024
10a.m.

African American Museum
in Fair Park

Parry Street gate entrance



American Red Cross

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Enjoy the Realizing the Dream Healthy Living Expo,
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See performances by **Reuben Lael and Matoya** brought to you by the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture



REALIZING THE DREAM HEALTHY LIVING EXPO

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
3536 Grand Ave. Dallas, TX



January
15, 2024

10a-5p

Vending booths in and outside! Chris Howell Foundation / Grace and Glory House of Refuge
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Sickle Cell - Karaoke - Line Dancing - Baking Contest - Entertainment from Reuben Lael and
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