

Berkeley County African American Community Leaders Accept School District Superintendent's Apology!



(L to R) The Rev. Dr. Ethel Jefferson, Carrie Gilliard, David Cakley, The Rev. Julius Barnes, The Rev. Richard Harkness, Superintendent Rodney Thompson, Minister Kenny Johnson, and John Matthews

School District, and Mrs. Brenda Bines Watson, Former Goose Creek NAACP Branch President and Co-Chair Branch Education Committee

The Rev. Richard Harkness, Vice President of the Berkeley County and Moncks Corners Ministerial Alliance was designated the lead spokes person for the group meeting with Superintendent Rodney Thompson. The meeting with Superintendent Rodney Thompson went well. Mr. Thompson welcomed us to his conference room and offered regrets that we were meeting under these circumstances. He told us he believes his statements were taken out of context. He said the speech he gave at the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on March 25 was intended to be a

Background Leading Up to Apology:

Representatives from the Berkeley County NAACP Branches (Cross, Goose Creek, Moncks Corner, and Upper Berkeley County) along with representatives from the Berkeley Moncks Corner Ministerial Alliance and Goose Creek Concerned citizens met with Superintendent Rodney Thompson on Friday April 8th.

This meeting was prompted by the African American community and others who were dissatisfied, surprised and appalled by Superintendent Thompson's statement, "*I can tell our governor how many prisons we will need based on our third-grade African-American reading level.*" Mr. Thompson made this remark in the speech he gave at the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on March 25th at the Redbank Club in Goose Creek.

In his correspondence to Mr. Matthews, Mr. Thompson said, "I want to clarify for you how I believe my statements were taken out of con-

text and assure you that I believe you and I have the same goal, which is to ensure that all students receive a quality education." Mr. Thompson said, "I would be happy to meet with you and other members of your organization to discuss this further..."

In attendance were: The Rev. Julius Barnes, President Upper Berkeley NAACP Branch, Ms. Carrie Richburg Gilliard, Chairperson Political Action Committee Cross NAACP Branch, The Rev. Richard Harkness, Vice President Berkeley County and Moncks Corner Ministerial Alliance, The Rev. Dr. Ethel Jefferson, President Moncks Corner NAACP Branch, Booker Manigault, Past President Moncks Corner NAACP Branch, Mr. John Matthews, member Goose Creek NAACP Branch; and Goose Creek Concerned Citizens, Mr. Willis Sanders Chief Human Resources Officer Berkeley County School District, Mr. Rodney Thompson, Superintendent Berkeley County

Continued on Page 4

Inside This Issue

School Superintendent Apologizes.....	1
Mentoring Program Launched.....	2
Family Bereavement Notice.....	2
NNPA Rebukes NAACP.....	3
NNPA and NAACP to Work Closer Together.....	3
Discrimination in the Workplace.....	4
Dr. Randolph on SCETV.....	5
News & Community Information.....	6
Health Awareness: <u>Hypertension</u>	7
Civil War Stamp Unveiled.....	8
Highlight from March 28th Meeting	9
NAACP Call for Compassion.....	10
Civil War Anniversary begins in SC..	10
8th Grader Gives Awesome Speech..	12
Comments on Civil War Anniversary.	12





Goose Creek Branch NAACP
 PO Box 1356
 Goose Creek, SC 29445-1356
 Telephone: 843-276-6294
www.naacpgoosecreek.org
 Email: info@naacpgoosecreek.org

Officers

PresidentDavid Cakley
 1st VPJames Dukes
 2nd VP.....The Rev. Ted Adams
 Secretary.....Herbert Bodison, Jr
 Treasurer.....William Watson

Executive Committee Members

Eddie Anderson Ranese Harrell
 Brenda Bines Watson Orville Hayes
 Kenneth Brown Thomas Lanier

BRANCH MEETINGS Day and Location Changed

Goose Creek NAACP meets the fourth Monday of the month at Berkeley Electric Building
 2 Springhall Drive; Goose Creek, SC.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday April 25, 2011 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting
Monday May 23, 2011 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting

GOOSE CREEK NAACP FAMILY BEREAVEMENT NOTICE



We are saddened to announce the homegoing of Mrs. Louretta Haynes Dukes the mother of James Dukes, 1st VP of Goose Creek NAACP Branch. On Tuesday evening, April 12, 2011, God requested the presence of one of His faithful servants - Mrs. Lourelia "Yeddie" Haynes Dukes. Lourelia's journey of life began on November 18, 1927 in St Matthews, South Carolina. Yeddie", as she was affectionately, called by her children, siblings, relatives and friends was married to Harry Dukes for 65 years and had four children. Her funeral was Saturday April 16, 2011 at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston. **Please keep James and the Dukes family in your prayers.**

"You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea"



Myrlie Evers Williams

KEEP THE IDEA OF FREEDOM ALIVE

JOIN NAACP



Make Bold Moves.
Get a Life.

NAACP Life Membership



Goose Creek NAACP Launches Mentoring Program

The Goose Creek NAACP is sponsoring a mentoring program in partnership with the Berkeley County School District.

The program will be guided by the time-tested ideas of "each one teach one" and "iron sharpens iron."

The program kicked off on April 16.

To take part, visit www.naacpgoosecreek.org, click on "resources," and then "mentor application"; complete the form and, after signing, mail it to the address listed at the bottom of the page.

For more information call Mr. Cakley (843) 276-6294





Black Press Rebukes NAACP in Image Awards Advertising Debacle

Ben Jealous Admits 'Grave Mistake'

by Hazel Trice Edney

WASHINGTON (TriceEdneyWire.com) – On the 184th birthday of the Black Press last week, March 16, an odd debacle was underway. The NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, had come under fire from Black newspapers around the country over an issue of economic injustice.

NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous admits that "a grave mistake was made" right under his nose when advertising inserts were placed only in White newspapers on the eve of the organization's annual image awards, which aired March 4. Danny Bakewell, chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a federation of more than 200 Black-owned newspapers, is demanding justice.

"If the NAACP desires to advertise with the white press, they need to understand and experience the repercussions of going outside of their "house" (The Black Press). The NAACP needs to know that by ignoring the Black Press they are 'cutting off their nose to spite their face,'" Bakewell said in a March 7 letter to NNPA publishers, obtained by the Trice Edney News Wire. "We have marched side by side with them and been their voice in the African American community. It is truly disheartening to be on the battlefield with someone and not be able to share in the spoils."



In his first public response to the issue, Jealous released a statement on March 13 after he was contacted by the Trice Edney News Wire.

"This year's NAACP annual Image Awards television show was a great success," he wrote in the statement. "However, on the eve of the show, a grave mistake was made: circulars that were supposed to appear in both the mainstream press and Black community newspapers only appeared in the mainstream press."

The advertising debacle has sparked a firestorm of criticism from the Black Press family of which Jealous has long been a member. Jealous is a former NNPA executive director and a former editor of the Jackson Advocate, an NNPA Newspaper. NAACP insiders said he was set to meet with NNPA leaders and members last week during the organization's annual trek to Washington for Black Press Week activities.

"I am very sensitive to the need to support Black community newspapers. They are the only way to assure Black readers in a given community that you actually want your ads to reach them directly. In the past, I personally have both sold and purchased ads in Black community newspapers across the country. Moreover, I dedicated years of

Continued on Page 5 - Black Press Rebukes NAACP . . .

NNPA and NAACP Vow to Work Closer together

by

Christopher Fleming of the NAACP and Walter Smith of the NNPA



Danny Bakewell, NNPA Chairman and Benjamin Todd Jealous, NAACP National President/CEO

8 April 2011 Recently there was an issue between the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and the NAACP. NNPA member publishers had become upset when they discovered that the NAACP had inserted multi-page Viewer's Guide advertising for its 42nd Image Awards in several markets throughout the US, to the exclusion of African American newspapers. Upon being informed

of this "mis-step," Chairman, Danny Bakewell called NAACP President Benjamin Todd Jealous and suggested a meeting to discuss the issue.

NNPA publishers said they felt righteous indignation with the NAACP, as they viewed their actions as being contrary to their joint historical struggles. Since the inception of the Black Press and some 82 years later when the NAACP was born, the two had partnered unconditionally in the fight for freedom and equality.

Consequently, Bakewell invited NAACP President Benjamin Todd Jealous to attend an NNPA Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC, to explain his actions. The meeting proved fruitful and initiated renewed commitments by each association to work closer together.

During the meeting NAACP President Ben Jealous said: "I am recommitting the NAACP to advocate for increased ad dollars and support for the Black Press. There is a long and storied history between the Black Press and the NAACP. I, like many of my predecessors, including WEB Dubois and Roy Wilkins, emerged from the Black Press. As an investigative reporter and editor for the Jackson Advocate—the most frequently firebombed Black community newspaper in the country—and former Executive Director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the mission and voice of the Black Press is something I personally hold in the highest regard. The NAACP and NNPA share the same mission: the liberation of our people. The Black Press is our voice and the NAACP is a voice for the Black Press. Together we can be a mighty force to speak truth to power."

NNPA Chairman Danny Bakewell said that he appreciates the frank dialogue between the two groups, as it presents a better understanding of their respective operating procedures, one that will prevent any such "mis-step" in the future. Bakewell continued, "The 200-member NNPA has always supported and will continue to give voice to NAACP efforts—with or without advertising support. We give credit to the NAACP for their activities that create interesting copy and graphics. Publication of these events has kept the Black communities aware of the NAACP's actions and leadership team. The circumstance that initially brought us together ultimately proved to be a reminder of the interconnection of our missions, and our groups are closer today as a result. We will forge ahead with a new and profound commitment to work together." Bakewell added, "I commend President Jealous for his honesty and his apology to the NNPA publishers. We are brothers in the struggle against racial injustices, and as the NAACP fights the battles in the courts, it is our mission as the Black Press to illuminate the issues and keep our people informed." ■



call to action for the community and district to work together.

The Superintendent told us during his speech he said, “. . . that according to the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, currently 40% of all South Carolinians are below grade level at the 3rd grade in regards to reading proficiency. Next I stated that students that cannot read after the 3rd grade become frustrated and often become discipline problems which later lead to criminal behavior. I then stated that it is unfortunate that a disproportionate number of minority males are incarcerated, which I believe can be traced back to an educational system failing to provide them with a quality education.”

Mr. Thompson indicated it was during his discussion of the statistics that he made the infamous statement, “I can tell our governor how many prisons we will need based on our third-grade African-American reading level.” He told the group he regrets making that comment and wishes he had never said it.

The Rev. Harkness applauded Mr. Thompson for not denying he made the statement and told the Superintendent that goes a long way in aiding us to forgive him. The group was satisfied with his explanation but insisted since the statement was public we must have a public apology. After discussion it was decided the School Board meeting on April 12th would be an appropriate time and place for the apology and the group would stand with the Superintendent for a show of solidarity. Mr. Thompson agreed to make a public apology at the School Board meeting and we asked that he emphasize his statement was not representative of the school district’s policies toward African American students. He was also asked to inform staff and parents that his errant statement is not district policy. Mr. Thompson agreed to our requests.

It was agreed that after the public apology this matter would be considered closed and we will begin a proactive relationship with Mr. Thompson and the school district working together to improve education in Berkeley County for all students. When asked, all present indicated they were satisfied with the meeting and its outcome. At the suggestion of Mr. Sanders, the meeting was closed with a prayer by the Rev. Julius Barnes.

an article in *The Gazette/Berkeley Independent* and taken out of context. I very much appreciate the willingness of several African-American leaders in our community to meet with me on April 8 so I could apologize for any misunderstandings that have been created by the comments and clarify the important points I was seeking to convey during my remarks.

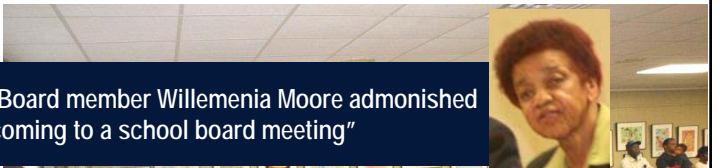
My intent in my remarks was to create a call to action to ensure that all students have the same advantages in the early grades so that



all students can obtain the District's vision. I am deeply disappointed in the way my remarks were portrayed in the article, and would like to take this opportunity to apologize for my comments that were printed in the newspaper.

I regret how my comments were portrayed and how they were perceived by citizens of our county. I want to emphasize these comments are not the belief or policy maintained by me, as Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools, or by the District. As you will learn later this evening, the District's priority is community engagement. I look forward to working with all stakeholders for the betterment of all of our students. Again, I deeply regret any misunderstandings the situation has created.”

The Rev. Richard Harkness spoke for the group and he said, “It was deeply offensive to us. To the superintendent’s credit, he never denied that he made the comments, though regrettable that they were. “So we are believing God and we are believing the citizens of this county, we are believing the school district, faculty and staff members to see that



People of color over flowed at the meeting and School Board member Willemenia Moore admonished the group to “not let this be your last time coming to a school board meeting”



PUBLIC APOLOGY:

At the April 12th Berkeley County School Board meeting Mr Thompson made the following statement of apology:

“I would like to take this opportunity to clarify publicly remarks I made in a speech I gave at a recent Berkeley Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting. Regrettably, my remarks were included in

out of this a lot of good will come. We’re standing here today to say that we are looking forward to working with Superintendent Thompson and the school board to advance the positive agenda of Berkeley County Schools and to make sure that all of our children are receiving the best education that they can.”

We are looking forward to working with the School District now that this matter has been satisfactorily resolved and put aside.■



Black Press Rebukes NAACP Continued from Page 3

my life to working for them directly," Jealous said in the statement. Notwithstanding, Black newspapers across the nation have long fought advertising discrimination from mainly White corporate communities which ignore the economic worth of their readers - Black consumers, who spend billions on goods and services. Therefore, Black publishers have expressed shock at finding this kind of omission associated with the 100-year-old NAACP, which has a rich history of fighting alongside the Black Press for racial and economic equality.

As a unified response to the omission, Bakewell asked NNPA members to refrain from writing anything about the Image Awards in the weeks following its airing on FOX.

Scathing articles and editorials joined Bakewell's letter.

Robert W. Bogle, publisher of the Philadelphia Tribune, said in a March 3 Tribune story reprinted by Target Market News: "In (Thursday's) Philadelphia Daily News, the 42nd NAACP Awards Magazine was inserted and not one copy was inserted in the Philadelphia Tribune, America's oldest and America's largest daily newspaper serving the African-American community."

He continued, "This action is an insult to the men and women who work at the Philadelphia Tribune and should be an insult to Black Americans in this country. The very right of full inclusion and participation of African Americans has been denied by the organization that purports that African Americans should be fairly included in all aspects of American life."

New York Beacon Publisher Walter Smith, president of the 17-member Northeast Publishers Association, wrote in an editorial, "We credit our leaders of the NAACP with good sound judgment and common sense at least. What were they thinking when this decision was made? Who were they trying to attract, and or who were they trying to impress?"

Due to legalities, according to the NAACP, Jealous withheld the name of the advertising agency, which has distributed the guide for five years. But, his statement sought to explain how the omission occurred:

"The advertising company originally conceived the guide and presented it as a fundraiser to the NAACP. It is solely responsible for selling the ads and handling the distribution. It pays the NAACP a licensing royalty which is used to support our ongoing diversity efforts in Hollywood," Jealous states. "Accordingly, I requested and received assurance from the advertising company that their distribution plan included Black community newspapers. However, the advertising company has failed to follow through. This year, when the guides came out, they did not show up in any Black community newspapers."

He concludes, "The NAACP does not condone the agency's decision to exclude Black community newspapers. It is contrary to our explicit instruction, and we were not aware of the agency's decision until after the guides hit the papers," he said. "Nonetheless, it was made for a publication that bears our name, and as CEO I take ultimate responsibility for it. For that reason, I have apologized to the NNPA and promised their leadership this will not happen again."

Jealous added that the distribution will be put out for bids next year with assurance that Black newspapers will be included.

"We have also let the agency know that we will not tolerate their abuse of the trust the NAACP has placed in them, nor that which Black community newspapers place in the NAACP," Jealous wrote. "If this company wants to do business with the NAACP again, they will need to make things right with Black community newspapers in the markets where the guide was distributed, and convince us they are capable of keeping their word."

Whether his explanation will end the controversy remains to be seen. Smith, who is also NNPA's budget director, concludes his editorial, "Stay tuned, there's much more to come." ■

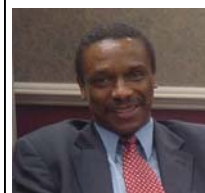
Editor's notes: We are especially thankful and appreciate being given permission to print this article in our newsletter.



The writer of this article, Hazel Trice Edney (L) is the Editor-in-Chief of www.TriceEdneyWire.com where this article was originally posted and she is President and CEO of Trice Edney Communications, LLC in Washington, D.C.

In addition, Ms. Edney is a former editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and former interim executive director of the NNPA Foundation. She was hired at NNPA by Ben Jealous.

Dr. Lonnie Randolph In Civil War Sesquicentennial Panel Discussion on SCETV



In a very special one hour report, "The Big Picture" gathers individuals from different groups across South Carolina to talk about how we commemorate this time in

history and how rare it is for these individuals, from very differing backgrounds, to come together to discuss how we move on and how we commemorate the 150th anniversary of The Civil War. [Please check out the web link below to view the show.](#)

http://www.scetv.org/index.php/the_big_picture/

Appearing on the show with [Dr. Lonnie Randolph, SC Conference of NAACP Branches President](#) were: Mark Simpson, SC Commander, Sons of Confederate Veterans; Jannie Harriot, SC African American Heritage Commission; Eloise Verdin, President, SC Daughters of the Confederacy; Blake Hallman, Ft. Sumter Ft. Moultrie Trust; Michael Allen, National Park Service; and Dr. Eric Emerson, SC Archives and History ■



The Charleston Chapter of Chums, Inc

Presents

A Spring Luncheon

Theme: "Girls to Women: It Takes A Village"

11:30 to 2:30 - April 30, 2011

Mt Moriah Family Life Center

7396 Rivers Avenue

North Charleston, SC 29419

Honorees are: The Honorable Veronica Small, Dr Sherron Jackson, Ms Cecelia Rogers, Ms Paige Weldon, Ms Shelby Jones and Ms Christina Lin Brown, musical entertainment, a silent auction, presentations and door prizes

Please join us

Tickets - \$35/Adults - \$25/Youth up to 18yrs

Contact: Marge Williams(843) 863-0240



Join the YWCA in taking a
Stand Against Racism

► Friday, April 29, 2011

THE YWCA TAKES A STAND AGAINST RACISM
Over 250,000 individuals expected to take a Stand Against Racism

The YWCA would like your support - for the "Stand Against Racism" that will take place on Friday, April 29th from 10:00 to 2:00 pm at the YWCA. The "Stand Against Racism" is the program of the YWCA aimed at raising awareness that racism still exists in our communities and that it can no longer be ignored or tolerated.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) the number of hate groups operating in the United States has grown by 56% in the last eight years (there are almost 1,000 active hate groups in the United States today).

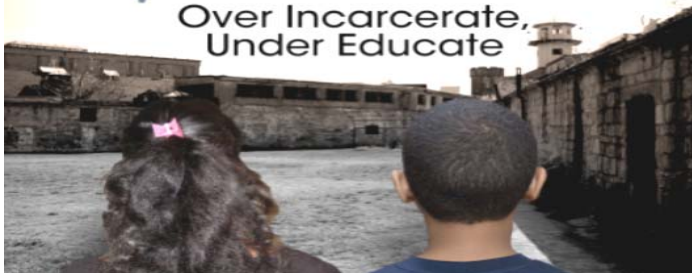
In response, the YWCA created the Stand Against Racism in order to combat the spread of hate and intolerance, and to honor and celebrate the richness of diversity.

Organizations are urged to visit www.StandAgainstRacism.org to join this important movement.

For more information contact:
Kathleen Rodgers, YWCA Executive Director at
843-722-1644 or via email at
rodgerskywca@bellsouth.net

MISPLACED PRIORITIES: A NEW REPORT FROM NAACP

Misplaced Priorities:
Over Incarcerate,
Under Educate



On April 7th, the NAACP released a new report, Misplaced Priorities, that examines America's escalating levels of prison spending and its impact on state budgets and our nation's children.

The report is part of the NAACP's "Smart and Safe Campaign," and offers a set of recommendations that will help policymakers in all 50 states downsize prison populations and shift the savings to education budgets.

You can download the full report from our website:

www.naacpgoosecreek.org

NAACP, Wells Fargo Team Up to Open Financial Education center in D.C.



April 4, 2011 - The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in collaboration with Wells Fargo opened its new financial education center to prevent unfair mortgage lending and promote sustainable homeownership in historically disadvantaged communities.

The NAACP Financial Freedom Center will provide workshops on topics such as money management and home preservation through partnerships with community groups in the Washington, D.C., area. The center will also serve as a base for NAACP units across the country to learn and organize around financial and economic empowerment.



"We applaud Wells Fargo for agreeing to increase financial education and wealth-building opportunities tailored to communities of color," NAACP Chairman Roslyn Brock said. "This partnership will increase awareness and assist minority consumers in making informed decisions regarding financial products and services."

For more information go to www.naacp.org



Eliminating Health Disparities: An NAACP Strategic Priority

May Is National High Blood Pressure Education Month

High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, affects African-Americans in unique ways:

- African-Americans develop high blood pressure at younger ages than other groups in the U.S.
- African-Americans are more likely to develop complications associated with high blood pressure. These problems include stroke, kidney disease, blindness, dementia, and heart disease.

We urge you to take control of your High Blood Pressure. **"If Your Blood Pressure Is not lower than 140/90, Ask your doctor why?"**

National Institute of Health Report by Harrison Wein, Ph.D.

Barbers Help Black Men Beat High Blood Pressure



A new study found that barbers successfully helped fight high blood pressure in African-American men. The results support an increasingly popular practice, in which trusted members of the community deliver important health messages to those who need them.

About 72 million people nationwide have high blood pressure, or hypertension. That's about 1 in 3 adults. The condition itself causes no symptoms, but left untreated it can damage the heart, blood vessels, kidneys and other parts of the body. African Americans are at particularly high risk of developing high blood pressure. Genes seem to play some role, but so do diet and other lifestyle factors.

One known problem among African-American men is the low rate of preventive care. As a result, their hypertension is poorly controlled, which leads to premature deaths and disability due to strokes, heart attacks, heart failure and kidney failure. Because of this, developing effective medical outreach programs with community partners is a major public health priority. African-American churches often serve as partners, but regular church attendance is less common among African-American men than women. Outreach programs through African-American-owned barbershops are becoming increasingly common, but whether they're truly an effective approach hasn't been shown.

A research team led by Dr. Ronald G. Victor, now at the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute in Los Angeles, and Dr. Robert Haley of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center set out to evaluate the effects of barbershop-based outreach on blood pressure control. They screened African-American male patrons for high blood pressure at 17 African-American-owned barbershops in Dallas County, Texas, and enlisted about 1,300 men with hypertension to participate. The study was funded by NIH's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and others.

In 9 of the shops, barbers continually offered blood pressure checks with haircuts and encouraged their patrons to follow up with physicians. Participants in the remaining 8 comparison shops received standard blood pressure pamphlets. After 10 months, the researchers

collected follow-up data. Their primary measurement was hypertension control rate—the percent of patrons whose blood pressure was controlled to recommended levels.

As reported in the February 28, 2011, edition of *Archives of Internal Medicine*, hypertension control in both groups improved significantly, but more so in the intervention group. In the comparison group, the control rate rose by 11% (from 40% to 51%). In the intervention group, the control rate improved by 20% (from 34% to 54%).

Because the comparison group wasn't truly an inactive control group, the greater improvement in the intervention group is particularly noteworthy. The true magnitude of the intervention's effect, however, will require further study. Nevertheless, this study shows that a trusted person in the community can play an important role in health promotion.

"The barbers were the heroes of this story. They really stepped forward and made it part of their barber practice," Haley says. "They helped us show that social settings can be an integral part of health care in the black male population."■

May is also National Arthritis Awareness and Healthy Vision Month

Arthritis and related conditions can affect anyone, no matter what their race. Osteoarthritis, the common form of arthritis in African Americans, affects all races in similar frequency. However, gout and lupus affect more African Americans than people of other races.

Today, one in five Americans is living with the pain of arthritis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) projects that by the year 2030, an estimated 67 million people in the U.S. will be affected by arthritis, up from current estimates of 46 million. Even more alarming is the fact that the prevalence of osteoarthritis, *the most common form of arthritis, continues to rise even though it can often be prevented by staying active through enjoyable physical activities such as walking.*■

Healthy Vision Month is designed to elevate vision as a health priority for the Nation. Millions of people living in the United States have undetected vision problems, eye diseases, and conditions. Its important you get a comprehensive dilated eye exams to maintain eye health and preserving sight.■



The First-Day-Of-Issue Dedication Ceremony Of Civil War Stamp Took Place In Charleston On 150th Anniversary Of The Start Of The Civil War



CHARLESTON, S.C., April 12, 2011 -- The U.S. Postal Service issued the first of an annual series of Forever Stamps that recognize key events of the Civil War — America's bloodiest conflict, which began 150 years ago today at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor.

Edmund L. Drago, author and professor of History, College of Charleston; and Timothy Shaw, Charleston Postmaster.

"The Civil War commemorative stamps will provide meaning and true reflection for generations to come," explained Vela. "Through events and programs held throughout the country, it is our hope that the citizens of this nation will be challenged to consider how their lives, and their own American experience, have been shaped by this signature period of American history. For it is a shared history, and a shared legacy, owned by all."

This first pane of the series, to be issued annually through 2015 in double sided sheets of 12 stamps, depicts two stamp designs commemorating the beginning of the war in April 1861 at Fort Sumter and the first major battle of the war near Manassas, VA.



Art director, Phil Jordan of Falls Church, VA, created the stamps using images of Civil War battles. The Fort Sumter stamp is a reproduction of a Currier & Ives lithograph, circa 1861, titled "Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor." The Bull Run stamp is a reproduction of a 1964 painting by Sidney E. King titled "The Capture of Rickett's Battery." The painting depicts fierce fighting on Henry Hill for an important Union artillery battery during the Battle of First Bull Run. For the stamp pane's background image, Jordan used a photograph dated circa 1861 of a Union regiment assembled near Falls Church, VA.

The first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony took place at Liberty Square in Charleston, a location within earshot of cannon fire that ignited the conflict that killed 670,000 Americans — a casualty rate exceeding the combined total of Americans killed in all wars since that time.

Thurgood Marshall, Jr., whose late father was the first Black to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, said he was honored to be back in Charleston to mark the 150th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter, "an event that we all know changed the course of our history."



"Since the founding of our country, Americans have wrestled with fundamental questions about the scope of freedom," he said, "and we know that nothing short of our survival as a nation was at stake during the Civil War."

Civil War Mail Service

Mail was a treasured link among Civil War camps, battlefields and home. Recognizing its importance to morale, both northern and southern armies assigned personnel to collect, distribute and deliver soldiers' mail. Wagons and tents served as traveling Post Offices. Visit this link below for additional information:

http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2011/pr11_034civilwar.pdf

"From this day forward, these historic images of Fort Sumter and the First Battle of Bull Run will be carried on letters and packages to millions of households and businesses throughout America," said James C. Miller III, U.S. Postal Service Board of Governor member in dedicating the stamps. "In this small way, the United States Postal Service recognizes the Civil War as a significant and uniquely American experience, and we hope to share the lessons learned — as well as the story of those who endured the four-year ordeal — with Americans everywhere."

Joining Miller in the ceremony were Thurgood Marshall Jr., vice chairman, U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors; David Vela, southeast region director, National Park Service; Dr.

"Since the founding of our country, Americans have wrestled with fundamental questions about the scope of freedom," said Marshall. "When the war finally ended, four devastating years later, the demand for separation had been denied, and slavery was forever ended in the United States. At last, the country was ready to accept responsibility for the words in its own Declaration of Independence that 'all men are created equal.' Today, many issues remain unresolved by this uniquely American war — and yet, one universal truth remains. We are truly one nation of free men and women."





First Meeting on the fourth Monday - March 28th Meeting

Guest speaker was Joe Berry (below left) who brought the branch up to date on the Ties That Bind an Organization sponsored in part by the SC NAACP Conference of Branches. Their slogan is creating a common legislative agenda for a stronger, fairer South Carolina. He also spoke about the Working Families Party and answered questions.

Member, Martha Dunlap brought the group up to date on Smoke Free SC and reported the City of Summerville recently went smoke free and reminded us, "Everyone has a right to breathe smoke-free air." Among our guests were members of Chums, Inc. including their newly elected president, Carolyn Hunter.

During branch meeting., Veronica Dukes reported 2011 Freedom Fund event would be in October - details to follow.



Special thanks to members Ken Brown and James McDuffie for the photos





NAACP Calls for Compassion During Civil War Sesquicentennial

The NAACP Tuesday (April 12th) released a letter sent to President Barack Obama and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar raising concerns over commemorations of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Further, the NAACP is calling on everyone to observe the sesquicentennial of the civil war in a solemn and truthful manner and remember the nation's bloodiest war, fought over human slaves, as a teachable moment for generations to come.



"In this moment of remembrance, let us all do the tough truth-telling necessary for our nation to finally heal from the sins of slavery and fratricide," said Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, which stands for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Commemorative events must neither ignore slavery as the principal cause of the Civil War, nor romanticize those who fought to keep African Americans in slavery. This is a time for the nation to reflect and repent, not ignore - let alone celebrate - the atrocities that tore our country apart."

The letter, dated April 7, 2011, urges the President, Salazar, "and every other employee of the federal government, to work hard to ensure that the occasion of the Civil War's sesquicentennial is not used to romanticize or otherwise endorse, in any way, the primary contributing factor to the conflict and southern secession, the enslavement of African Americans."

Further, Jealous encouraged "the entire Department of Interior workforce, as well as anybody else who is involved in the sesquicentennial commemoration, to remain vigilant and to ensure that the federal government does all it can to stay true to the message that this nation ultimately grew and prospered because it ultimately remained a nation and a people United and committed to the goal of freedom and justice for all."

Adora Obi-Nweze, president of the NAACP's Florida State Conference, said "We want to make sure that this day is used to remember the Civil War as a significant historic event, rather than celebrate slavery. We urge every American to also study the disturbingly immoral 'articles of secession' which advanced the support for the most racist and inhuman institution of our nation's history, human slavery.

"Time does not heal all wounds, and unfortunately racism and the residual effects of slavery and Jim Crow in this country are still sensitive issues," she said. "I hope that events on Tuesday and through the commemorations remain respectful, thoughtfully accurate and insightfully advance the potential of a great nation."

Chris Fleming is communications director for the NAACP which, founded in 1909, is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Their members advocate for civil rights in their communities, conduct voter mobilization and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.■



Nation Begins 150th Anniversary of Civil War at Fort Sumter

Charleston, SC April 12, 2011

Approximately 200 invited guests attended a commemorative ceremony at Fort Sumter National Monument yesterday, marking the 150th anniversary of the first shots of the Civil War.

The culmination of two years of effort and planning on the part of park staff and myriad local and national partners organizations – including the City of Charleston, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Historical Trust – today's ceremony held within the walls of Fort Sumter not only reflected back on the events of 150 years ago that sparked a war that cost over 620,000 American lives, but cast an inclusive eye forward in recognizing how the America of today emerged from that war and how we continue to be shaped by those events as a nation.

"Four million enslaved African Americans saw [the Civil War] as their revolution," said Bob Sutton, chief historian for the National Park Service. "Today we commemorate the beginning of the Civil War, but we also celebrate the fact that more people were freed from slavery at that time than at any time in world history."

Former NPS Director Bob Stanton, currently serving as senior advisor to Secretary Salazar, recalled the words of Frederick Douglass. "If he were here he would remind us that we differ as the waves, but we are one as the sea," said Stanton. "We are one people, one nation, because we are indeed one as the sea."

Other speakers included Fort Sumter National Monument Superintendent Tim Stone, Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, Jr., Southeast Regional Director David Vela, Dr. Bernard Powers of the College of Charleston, and James Leggett, an eighth grade student from Moultrie Middle School. The color guard for the event was provided by the Military College of South Carolina (The Citadel).

In other events around Charleston marking the anniversary, the National Park Service premiered a new official handbook, *The Civil War Remembered*. The richly illustrated handbook, published by the National Park Service and Eastern National, includes a collection of essays by noted historians on the war and its lessons 150 years later. Sutton and Pulitzer-prize winning author Dr. James McPherson, who authored two of the essays in the handbook, signed copies at Liberty Square adjacent to the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center.

The National Park Service also provided support for the United States Postal Service's first day of issue dedication ceremony for the new stamp designs commemorating the beginning of the war at Fort Sumter and the First Battle of Manassas, the conflict's first major land battle. Speaking at the ceremony, Southeast Regional Director David Vela said, "The Civil War commemorative stamps will provide meaning and true reflection for generations to come. Through events and programs held throughout the country, it is our hope that the citizens of this nation will be challenged to consider how their lives, and their own American experience, have been shaped by this signature period of American history. For it is a shared history, and a shared legacy, owned by all."■



8th Grader Gives Awesome Speech at Ft Sumter Civil War Commemoration Ceremony

James Leggett
Eighth Grade Student from Moultrie Middle School



James Leggett, Eighth Grade Student from Moultrie Middle School

April 12, 2011 - I was born in Charleston, an interesting and historic city. From being surrounded by history, I have come to greatly value the place where I am privileged to live. I have traveled out to this very place, Fort Sumter, with visiting relatives who wanted to

come. With my Scout troop I have camped on the Yorktown, the World War Two aircraft carrier that is docked in the Charleston harbor that holds the Medal of Honor museum. I can remember visiting Magnolia Plantation and Drayton Hall, two historic plantations, on field trips with Scouts and my school. In 4th grade I was given the chance to create a real model of a historic home from downtown Charleston as a part of my elementary school's gifted students program. We went downtown and measured the building in person. Then we constructed the final building over the course of several months from foam board and then added lights to it.

And I think back to August 8th, 2000 when I traveled downtown with my family to see the famous H.L. Hunley raised and brought into the Charleston harbor. It was a big day I remember. There were lots of people there and at the time I did not really understand what was happening. In third grade I began to understand a little better what that day was really about because we began to study South Carolina's history. But, not until now, when I have been studying South Carolina's history in eighth grade, do I really understand what that day was all about. The H.L. Hunley was an attempt to run and destroy part of the Union blockade. It was successful in sinking the USS Housatonic but in its attempt it met the unlucky fate of sinking itself. Thinking it through I can relate it all back to what happened 150 years ago today, and what we are here to remember, the bombing of Fort Sumter on April 12th, 1861 at 4:30am.

This was all because of the war over states rights, which eventually turned into not just a war over states' rights but a war over a way of life widely practiced in the South, slavery. This change in the war came about when Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the third year of the war. When issued he stated that all of the slaves in the rebelling states were free, careful not to anger those slave states that were still a part of the Union. This proclamation caused the country to have to radically change when the Union won the war in 1865. A major part of the country had to radically change their economy to where it fit the law, well, mostly. I say mostly because the former slaves were technically free, but they were smothered under the Black Codes of Reconstruction and the Jim Crow laws that lasted for a long time.

Continued on Page 12 - Awesome Speech



the Civil at War 150



Charleston Commemoration Comments



It was certainly a pleasure to travel to Fort Sumter National Monument on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Exactly one hundred and fifty years prior, the Fort would have been under bombardment from 44 Confederate guns located throughout the Charleston harbor. It is my desire that other activities planned throughout the state to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War are as well attended by a diverse audience as was seen on that day. It is also my desire that we take advantage of the opportunity to tell the complete story of the American Civil War.

Joseph McGill, Jr. | Program Officer, Southern Office
National Trust for Historic Preservation |
Member, 54th Massachusetts, Civil War Reenactment Regiment



I was pleasantly surprised that most, if not all of the speakers focused on the issue of slavery and it's connection with the Civil War. In their own way, each acknowledged that acts of slave trade could never be separated from the issues and causes embedded in the Civil War.

Most impressive was James Leggett, the eighth grade student from Moultrie Middle School. I pray that his comments reflect the hearts & minds of the next generation. They are the future of this country, and if the wounds of the Civil War are to start a healing process; the focus and vision of James Leggett's speech has set the tone for our grand children and future generations. I was moved by the young man's speech to the extent that I have invited him to present his speech at our Town of Mt. Pleasant Council meeting in May. I have also extended the invitation to the other students and their parents who were in attendance at the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration this past Wednesday at Fort Sumter. I believe his message needs to be heard by as many people as possible, young and old.

Thomasena Stokes Marshal
Town Council Member
Town of Mount Pleasant



One sure way to interest more Blacks in the commemorations would be to remove the Confederate banner that has flown on the Statehouse grounds in Columbia since the Civil War centennial.

There would be a lot of black folks who would come out if our Legislature would in 2015 officially decide the war was over and take the flag down.

(Excerpt from Charleston Post and Courier April 16, 2011)

The Rev. Joseph Darby, Pastor
Morris Brown A.M.E. Church
2nd VP, Charleston NAACP Branch



2011 Upcoming Events

- Apr 25 7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting
- May 25 7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting
- May 26-29 NAACP Leadership 500 Summit
- June 27 7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting
- July 23-28 NAACP 102nd Annual Convention
Los Angeles, California

Awesome Speech from Page 11

These laws were the beginning of the period of Segregation. This time period lasted for about 100 years. Throughout this time the Civil Rights movement came about. It slowly built and became stronger and more widely known. Generations of African Americans contributed to this movement. They were supported by many whites. The addition of the whites' support to the already strong movement helped the movement gain political strength and started changing the laws. This changed the way that America is today.

The America I know and have grown up in is a country without segregation. The fact is that the person sitting next to me in many of my classes is black, and my peers and I could not care less about the color of their skin. The United States has made great improvements, but it still is not perfect. However, signs of this improvement are evident. On November 4th, 2008 Americans elected their first African American president, Barack Obama. This milestone shows how far our country has traveled since the times of the Civil War.

There have been many struggles and many hurdles that we, as the people of this great country, have had to overcome. The Civil War, which started here, and caused so many to lose their lives, was the terrible price we had to pay to end slavery. Today, 150 years later, my generation has the task of building upon the achievements of others in a country that offers *all* of its citizens opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them, to make it greater than it already is. ■



the Civil War at 150



Comments Continued from Page 11



On Tuesday morning, i was invited to attend one of the many civil war sesquicentennial events held by the National Park Service at Fort Sumter.

As a native South Carolinian, business owner, and public servant, i know how important it is for people to get to know one another; not just from a personal standpoint but from a historical view. During this event, i had the opportunity of learning more about this era from the national prospective. It enhanced my knowledge more about the many great African-Americans that contributed to the union sources of the Civil War. The effects from these African-Americans eventually lead to the removal of a social policy that was law for over two hundred years.

As African-Americans, it is even more important for us as a people to get involved in activities such as these held at the College of Charleston. We need to actively learn more about our history, sacrifices, and contributions made by our ancestors. Over the next four years, we as Charlestonians should become more actively informed about this component of the American history. We need to involve both old and young as often as we can to tell the story of how we overcame.

Craig Ascue
Charleston County School Board Trustee



The issues at the heart of the civil war 150 years ago remain relevant today: legal and social equality, the role of the Federal government, how divergent views are reconciled in a democracy, preservation of the Union, new birth of freedom, and the question of attaining equal rights for African Americans and all other citizens.

When the events and commemorations are over, it is our hope that the citizens of our country, would have been challenged to consider how their lives, and their own American Experience, have been shaped by this signature period of American History.

Remarks By David Vela, Regional Director,
Southeast Region, National Park Service
Tuesday, April 12, 2011

**Go to the Websites Below to Learn more about the
Sesquicentennial and other Civil War Commemorations**

<http://sc150civilwar.palmettohistory.org/events.htm>

Fort Sumter National Monument:

<http://www.nps.gov/fosu/>

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site: <http://www.nps.gov/chpi/>