

December 26 2014

Church Directory And Relevant News Regarding the African American Community

NAACP Leads Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Pittman-Sullivan Park



Councilman Alan Warrick, Bill Burman and local members of the NAACP and Neighborhood Association members.

The San Antonio Branch NAACP together with Davis-Scott YMCA and neighborhood Associations surrounding Pittman Sullivan Park (Dignowitty Hill , Denver Heights and Alamo Gardens Neighborhood Association) celebrated recent park improvements at a ribbon cutting event at 9:30 AM on Friday, December 19th 2014.

On a cold and windy morning, Eastside residents gathered to celebrate and welcome to the park a brand new walking trail, improvements to the outdoor basketball courts and the addition of stylish and colorful shade covers over picnic and youth play areas in the park.

While the entire length of the walking trail was constructed with concrete material due to its durability and low maintenance, a new and pilot project of the upper area of the trail traversing the Davis-Scott YMCA building is covered and constructed with a softer rubberized walking trail material.

As Bill Burman , Chairman of the NAACP Economic Development Committee shared the history and background planning narrative for the park improvements, he pointed out fellow NAACP board members Minnie Hill and Maria Greene as being responsible for working with then Councilwoman and District Two representative Ivy Taylor for obtaining the additional funding for the pilot project and softer rubberized trail material.

Both Hill and Greene made the convincing case that the softer trail material would have less physical impact on the elderly, and indeed encourage more physically challenged individuals to walk and use the trail.

NAACP Committee Chair-persons, Bill Burman (Economic Development) and Delores Mosley (Health) Began planning for the improvements in 2011, organized and mobilized residents in the surrounding neighborhoods and held a series of meetings with the City Officials to obtain funding (\$650,000 in Bond funding and another \$98,000 in CBDG funding for the rubberized cover) and insure that the walking trail project became a part of the 2012 Bond Program.

The completed park improvements provided recently elected and new District Two Councilman Alan Warrick an opportunity to attend , to make remarks and participate in his first District Two ribbon cutting ceremony.



Bill Burman and Councilman Alan Warrick

History of Walking Trail

The concept and idea of a Pittman-Sullivan Park Walking Trail first surfaced at an NAACP Executive Board Committee meeting in November of 2010. NAACP local branch executive board secretary, Ms. Maria Greene commented to the Board that she had visited several suburban parks, including Olmos Park, within the city, and was impressed with their walking trail facilities. She questioned the possibility and potential of a walking facility at Pittman-Sullivan Park, an east-side park located within her neighborhood, and one of the oldest public parks in the city. Pittman-Sullivan Park was dedicated to the City in 1920 and was named after two young east side soldiers (Dewey L. Sullivan and Edward Burke Pittman) who were killed in World War I . (World War I -1914 -1918). Prior to this dedication, the park was originally named East End Park.

Fellow NAACP Board Committee member, Mrs. Delores Mosley seized upon the Walking trail idea. A retired registered nurse, she began to shower the Board with statistics and studies about the relationship between accessibility to walking trails and other exercise facilities and health fitness and wellness, especially within low income minority and elderly neighborhoods.

Bill Burman, a retired City Planner , and Chairman of the NAACP Economic Development Committee agreed, but also saw the issue from an economic development and neighborhood revitalization standpoint. Investments into City Parks are a "no brainier." City Parks aren't amenities, they are neighborhood necessities. Well maintained and well used city parks increase property values and bring new homebuyers into the neighborhood. They also attract into the neighborhood, elderly people with money.

The Two Committee Chair-persons, Mrs. Delores Mosley , Chair person on the local branch NAACP Health Committee and Mr. Bill Burman, Chair person of the NAACP local branch Economic Development Committee volunteered to explore to pursue and make the idea become a reality.

Led by Burman and Mosley, An extensive organizing and public involvement campaign quickly followed. Because of the physical and geographic location of Pittman- Sullivan Park in relationship to the Davis-Scott Family YMCA facility (the park wraps around the YMCA facility) it was a "no brainer " to connect with and recruit the support of both the Board and

the Administration of the Davis-Scott YMCA.

Neighborhood groups surrounding the Park were then solicited and recruited . Representatives of three neighborhood groups. (the Alamo Gardens Association, Denver Heights, and Dignowity Hills) joins the Pittman-Sullivan park walking Trail crusade almost immediately. Finally, from the neighborhood groups and individuals assembled, an advocacy group known as the Pittman-Sullivan Park Walking Trail Committee was formed.

Throughout the summer of 2011, a series of eight meetings were held at the Davis-Scott YMCA, whereupon the City of San

Walking Trail continued

Antonio Parks and Public Works Department was engaged. Several sources of funding for the project were pursued, including President Obama stimulus monies, however, no funding source became available.

Finally, and subsequent to a series of meetings held in 2012, public funding was acquired for the walking trail through the use of 2012 Parks Bond Monies.

On Thursday, November 7, 2013 a unanimous city Council voted to award the contract for the project, a gave the nod for construction to begin. On Thursday, November 14, 2013, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at Pittman-Sullivan Park symbolizing the beginning of construction of the walking trail. Construction is slated to begin (just after the 2014 MLKing annual March) on January 22, 2014.

Mayor Ivy Taylor (who at the time was the District 2 Councilperson) supported the idea and project concept throughout the entire process. She also prioritized the project to receive parks bond monies in 2012.

The winds of controversy continue to swirl surrounding events like President Obama's decision to resume relations with Cuba and the endless protest marches around the nation. African Americans are seeking forums to address the question of, where do we go from here during this time of crisis?

San Antonians could benefit from an upcoming scheduled event, An Evening with Dr. Cornel West. This internationally acclaimed scholar, theologian, and activist has a reputation as one of the most eloquent voices in America's racial debate. With the recent rash of race-related incidents around the nation events such as this could prove to be therapeutic and thought provoking for all Americans.

If we as a nation desire healing it is important that we understand the significance of coming to the table to talk about our pain and fears and agree to work together to bring about a more perfect union. It is a common belief that if we are to move forward as a nation from this turbulent chapter of our history we must find a way to understand each other and then exercise the spirit of forgiveness. Forgiving is the most crucial aspect of the act of reconciliation.

Cornel West is never short of words when it comes to speaking out about the atrocities that we are often forced to endure as people of color. For decades now has been committed to social activism, hope, healing and nurturing those who have historically been under-valued in today's society.

Often radical, never boring, he pushes the intellectual envelope to raise the consciousness of things that divide, empower, and ultimately decide America's fate as a nation and our state of existence as people of ebony hue.

His subject matter ranges from the crisis in black leadership to the issue of affirmative action, to the recent assault of black men by the hands of policemen. He never hesitates to confront the prejudices of all readers and listeners or --wavers in his insistence that they share a common destiny .

West is the author of many books, including Keeping the Faith and Race Matters. Another book, Hope on a Tightrope, is a candid look at the issue of race in America. In this book he is quoted as saying; "Race is the one issue that can bring down the curtain on American civilization. It has the power to generate levels of polarization that will make it difficult for us to communicate with one another honestly. It can generate levels of conflict that result in unprecedented chaos and disorder. It is our rawest nerve, most explosive issue, and most difficult dilemma.

West has distinguished himself as the preeminent Africa-American intellectual of our generation. More importantly, he is one of the few cultural critics in this country equally concerned with matters of our spiritual and material state. Anyone concerned about the crisis in contemporary America should hear what West has to say. He wields his learning as a polemical sword. He is the architect of a post-civil rights philosophy of black liberation that must be heard across the country.

His book, Race Matters, is laden with provocative observations on a broad range of racially- loaded topics that have delighted and irritated people on both sides of the color line. West reveals himself as a thinker of dazzling erudition whose critiques are inevitably balanced by an infectious optimism and magnanimity of spirit. Prophetic black preacher that he is, he delivers an excellent sermon.

The endless demonstrations being staged throughout the nation are merely the manifestations of the accumulated effect of the black wounds and scars suffered in a white-dominated society is a deep seated anger, a boiling sense of rage, and a passionate pessimism regarding America's will to justice. While Dr. West's books always seem to inspire us; the Holy Bible is the greatest book ever written. It instructs us to; "In all our ways acknowledge him (God) and he will direct our paths." (Proverbs 3:6)



NAACP members Maria Greene and Bill Burman

Many individuals and families residing within the vicinity of the park will now personally benefit from this public improvement project.

It is common knowledge that many of the census tracks surrounding the Park are comprised of individuals and families of low to moderate incomes. The surrounding census tracks also house a number of elderly individuals, and families who suffer from such health issues as high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol levels, heart disease and diabetes and Various forms of cancer and arthritis.

This is what neighborhood and community advocacy is about.



Mike Fribee, Department Head of Transportation and Capital Improvements Department

Do You Know Jesus?

by Darel Patterson



So often we call on the name of Jesus when we are in pain, troubled, sick, scared or in a situation in which we are not familiar. However, when we call on the name of Jesus, do we know to whom we are calling? Is it just a name that we have heard other people call whenever they were in pain, troubled, sick, or scared and happened to pick up that habit

If someone was to ask you who was your best friend growing up, would you be able to tell him or her about that person? If you really knew him or her, you could tell the one who asked the question about your best friend without hesitation. You would know where he or she lived, where he or she went to school, how many brothers and sisters he or she had, what their parent's names are and you would probably know some secrets about that person that neither you nor he or she have spoken of to anyone else throughout your entire life. You could be considered an SME of that person meaning " Subject Matter Expert,"

If someone were to ask you about Jesus, would you again be considered a Subject Matter Expert? Would you without hesitation be able to tell him or her where Jesus lives, where he was born, what are his sibling names, and who HIS parents are? Would you have some secrets that you have shared with Jesus and no there throughout your whole life? Someone here may be able to say yes, and someone here knows deep in his or her heart the answer is "NO",

I would like to ask and share a few things about Jesus with you today. Please examine yourself before you attempt to give answers to these questions,

1. How often do you talk to him? **Psalms 55:17 says "Evening and morning, and at noon will I pray and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."**
2. Are you afraid of Him? **Proverbs 1:7 says "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."**

3. When was the last time you told someone about him? **Matthews 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...."**

I have just a few more things about Jesus.

1. **Do you know that Jesus' birth came down through forty-two generations beginning with Abraham?**
2. **Do you know that Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room in the Inn?**
3. **Do you know that at the birth of Jesus, wise men sought him, and wise men still seek him today?**
4. **Do you know that Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding in Canaan where He turned water into wine?**
5. **Do you know that Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, gave sight to the blind, he also raised the dead?**
6. **Do you know that Jesus' blood was shed for the remission of our sins?**
7. **Do you know under no other name than the name of "Jesus" shall a man be saved?**
8. **Do you know Jesus has gone to prepare a pale for those who have accepted Him?**
9. **Do you know that the only way to the father is through Jesus Christ?**
10. **Do you know that He is gone but He's coming back again?**

Today's Exploration of the theme and my question to you is "Do You Know Jesus?"

Scripture: Matthew 1 23-25

President Obama's decision to resume relations with Cuba fit a recent pattern of boldness.

*Credit
Doug Mills/The New York Times*



WASHINGTON — President Obama's decision on Wednesday to radically shift United States policy toward Cuba is the latest and most striking example of a president unleashed from the hesitancy that characterized much of his first six years in office.

The announcement, made in a speech to the nation from the Cabinet Room of the White House, follows similar decisions by Mr. Obama in recent weeks to defy Republicans on immigration, climate change policy, the regulation of the Internet and negotiations with Iran.

Gone are the cautious political calculations that consigned contentious issues to secondary status and led some of the president's strongest allies to accuse him of abandoning his principles. Mr. Obama is now pushing forward aggressively on his promised agenda and ignoring his most ardent critics.

"He's going down a checklist of thorny, longstanding problems, and he's doing whatever he can to tackle them," said David Axelrod, a former senior adviser. "These are things that have been tearing at us for decades and generations. My sense is his feeling is, 'I'm not going to leave office without doing everything I can to stop them.'"

with political passions and uncertainty, especially in Florida, an important swing state. The only evidence of a change included a brief handshake with Mr. Castro at Nelson Mandela's funeral in South Africa last year and some minor revisions to the embargo against Cuba, easing travel restrictions and allowing Cuban-Americans to send more money home. The president's lack of action angered activists who believed that he would follow through on his campaign promises. Senator Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, and Senator Jeff Flake, Republican of Arizona, collaborated on an op-ed article for the Miami Herald earlier this year that urged the president to change policy on Cuba and "heed the majority of those across the country who recognize that we have much to gain by jettisoning this Cold War relic."

On Wednesday, Mr. Obama finally made good on his pledge. "When I came into office, I promised to re-examine our Cuba



Raul Castro, President of Cuba

As a candidate in 2008, Mr. Obama was scorned by his Republican opponent, Senator John McCain of Arizona, for his pledge to meet with Raúl Castro, the president of Cuba, "at a time and place of my choosing." Mr. Obama said then that if Cuba took steps toward democracy and released all political prisoners, "we will take steps to begin normalizing relations."

But for six years, Mr. Obama made little progress on an issue fraught

policy," the president said. "I do not believe we can keep doing the same thing for over five decades and expect a different result."

Mr. Obama's unilateral action on Cuba is part of a pattern that will define the end of his presidency. Frustrated by congressional inaction and Republican efforts to block legislation, the president has increasingly pushed the limits of his executive authority in domestic and international policy making — an approach that anticipates, and largely dismisses, angry responses from his critics.

On December 17., those critics were out in force: Senator Marco Rubio, Republican of Florida and a likely candidate for president in 2016, denounced the president's move as "disgraceful" and "just another



concession to a tyranny." Mr. Rubio and other Republicans threatened to withhold funding for a new American Embassy in Havana just as they had earlier threatened to undermine the president's immigration actions by trying to block federal money that might be needed to carry out the new policies.

Some Cuban-Americans in the president's party were equally angry. Senator Robert Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey, said Mr. Obama had "vindicated the brutal behavior of the Cuban government." Mr. Menendez, however, will become a less important White House ally once Republicans take control of the Senate next month and Mr. Menendez loses his position as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In the meantime, Mr. Obama is returning to the original case he made as a presidential candidate, casting himself as a transformational leader who is eager to discard old conventions of politics and policy in ways that appeal to the sensibilities of younger people. Although the midterm elections last month were a victory for Republicans, who took control of the Senate and added to their House majority, the results seem to have only accelerated the president's use of regulatory, diplomatic and executive authority.

Last month, Mr. Obama made a unilateral move on immigration, taking actions that will allow as many as five million unauthorized residents to work in the country legally without the threat of deportation. He had promised to do so as far back as 2007, during his first presidential campaign, vowing that if he were elected the issue would be "a priority I will pursue from my very first day." The president has also stepped up his



actions to combat climate change after failing to win congressional support for cap-and-trade legislation early in his presidency. This year, he negotiated a climate agreement with China, and he is pushing ahead with tough new regulations on coal-fired power plants.

Last month, Mr. Obama strongly endorsed equal treatment of websites by Internet service providers, angering some Republicans who oppose efforts to regulate providers as if they were public utilities. The president's decision to negotiate with Iran in recent years over its nuclear abilities — against the strong objections of some conservatives — followed through on one of his most contentious promises during the 2008 presidential campaign.

By framing his moves in generational terms, the president is also seeking to make an implicit case that Republicans who oppose them are dinosaurs fighting yesterday's battles. Those close to Mr. Obama say he was always ready to fight those battles, but the realities of the presidency got in the way.

"When we got there, we had an epic economic crisis and two wars to deal with," Mr. Axelrod said. "It wasn't as if he had the bandwidth or free rein to pursue every one of the issues he felt were important." Now, Mr. Axelrod said, the president will not be stopped. "Either you buy into this tangled pathology of Washington and allow yourself to get maneuvered into inaction, or you resolve that you're going to use the authority that you have," Mr. Axelrod said. "He's plainly going to use that."

Julie Hirschfeld Davis contributed reporting.

S.A. marchers conduct peaceful protest of police shootings

Participants briefly heckled

Story compiled from article written by Michele Casady, staff writer of Express News



Photo by Christopher Robinson/Facebook

A crowd of more than 200 peaceful protesters marched from a East Side San Antonio church to Rivercenter mall proceeding on to the Alamo. The marchers were voicing their anger over the fatal shootings at the hands of police in recent incidents around America.

Perpetual chants of “Black lives matter” and “I can’t breathe” were nearly constant during the two-mile march that ended where it began, near the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Antonio in caps and gowns, were momentarily caught up in the protest as they walked from the convention center where their commencement ceremony had taken place back to the mall garage. Two white hecklers who also happened upon the scene shouted at the mostly black crowd as participants stretched out on Commerce Street. One man yelled expletives. A minute later, another shouted, “It’s not doing and good!” The marchers were calm and barely acknowledged the men. Throughout the nearly two-hour protest, there was no noticeable negative interaction between the protesters and the police officers who were controlling traffic.



District 2 Councilman, Alan Warrick/Photo by Christopher Robinson/Facebook



Marchers in route to Rivercenter mall. Photo by Christopher Robinson/Facebook

The protest culminated with a “die-in” in front of the mall, where the participants sank to the Commerce Street pavement and lay in silence for 19 1/2 minutes. Each minute represented the number of times Eric Garner said “I can’t breathe” as he was arrested by New York police; four and a half minutes for the hours that Michael Brown’s body remained in the street in Ferguson, Missouri and four minutes for the number of hours organizers said police had detained the sister of Marquise Jones, a local man, following his shooting. James, 23, was shot and killed in February by Officer Robert Encina, who was working off duty security in full uniform for Chacho’s located in the 8600 block of Perrin Beitel. According to police reports, Marquis Jones got out of his car with a gun in his hand after two cars possibly bumped into each other and officers instructed Jones and the driver of one car to step out of the vehicle.

As the march proceeded to the front of the Rivercenter parking garage, a few dozen graduates of the University of Texas at San

Gerald Givens Jr. was among the event’s organizers and used a bullhorn to lead the chants. He addressed the group in front of the Rivercenter following the minutes of silence. Givens said: “We’ve been in this struggle more than 500 year; just asking to be respected as a human being,” he shouted through the bullhorn, “It’s time for a change.”



Photo taken by Edwards A. Ornelas/ Express News

Many protesters wore T-shirts bearing the messages “I can’t breathe” or Hands up, don’t shoot.” Dozens of handmade signs dotted the procession, demanding peace and the indictments of the officers responsible for the shootings. “Police the police. No more stolen lives,” read the banner, carried by three people. Organizers announced plans for another protest this Saturday at the Chacho’s on Perrin Beitel where Marquis Jones was shot.

#BlackLivesMatter Condemns NYPD Cop Killings: 'Not Our Vision Of Justice'

#BlackLivesMatter, a social movement founded in opposition to the violence and oppression black people in the U.S. face at the hands of law enforcement, officially condemned the “senseless” killing of two NYPD officers Saturday.

“An eye for an eye is not our vision of justice,” the group said in a statement obtained by The Huffington Post. “We who have taken to the streets seeking justice and liberation know that we need deep transformation to correct the larger institutional problems of racial profiling, abuse, and violence.”

Ismaaiyl Brinsley, 28, shot and wounded his ex-girlfriend in Maryland on Saturday morning before heading to New York, according to the Baltimore Sun. At around 3 p.m., he fatally shot NYPD Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos “execution style” in Brooklyn. Brinsley opened fire on the men while they sat in their patrol car, then fled into the subway where he turned the gun on himself.

Hours before the Brooklyn shooting, an Instagram user police believe was Brinsley posted that he would be “putting wings on pigs today,” according to the New York Daily News. The post, which included a photo of a handgun, also stated “They take 1 of ours ... let’s take 2 of theirs” and referenced the deaths of Eric Garner and MichColor of Change, a political organization dedicated to strengthening the political voice of black people in the United States, similarly disparaged Brinsley’s actions. “We condemn any and all forms of violence, including violence perpetrated by and against police officers,” a statement by the group reads.

Color of Change also urged law enforcement to not use the killings as an excuse for more violence towards civilians:

The deaths of these officers in the line of duty should not result in retaliation or more militarized, violent attempts by law enforcement to suppress protests or target civilians. We caution the efforts by police unions and others to draw misleading connections with this tragedy to the growing nationwide movement to hold officers accountable.

The family of Michael Brown has also issued a statement, expressing sympathy for the officers’ families and declaring they “reject any kind of violence directed toward members of law enforcement.



Slain Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos

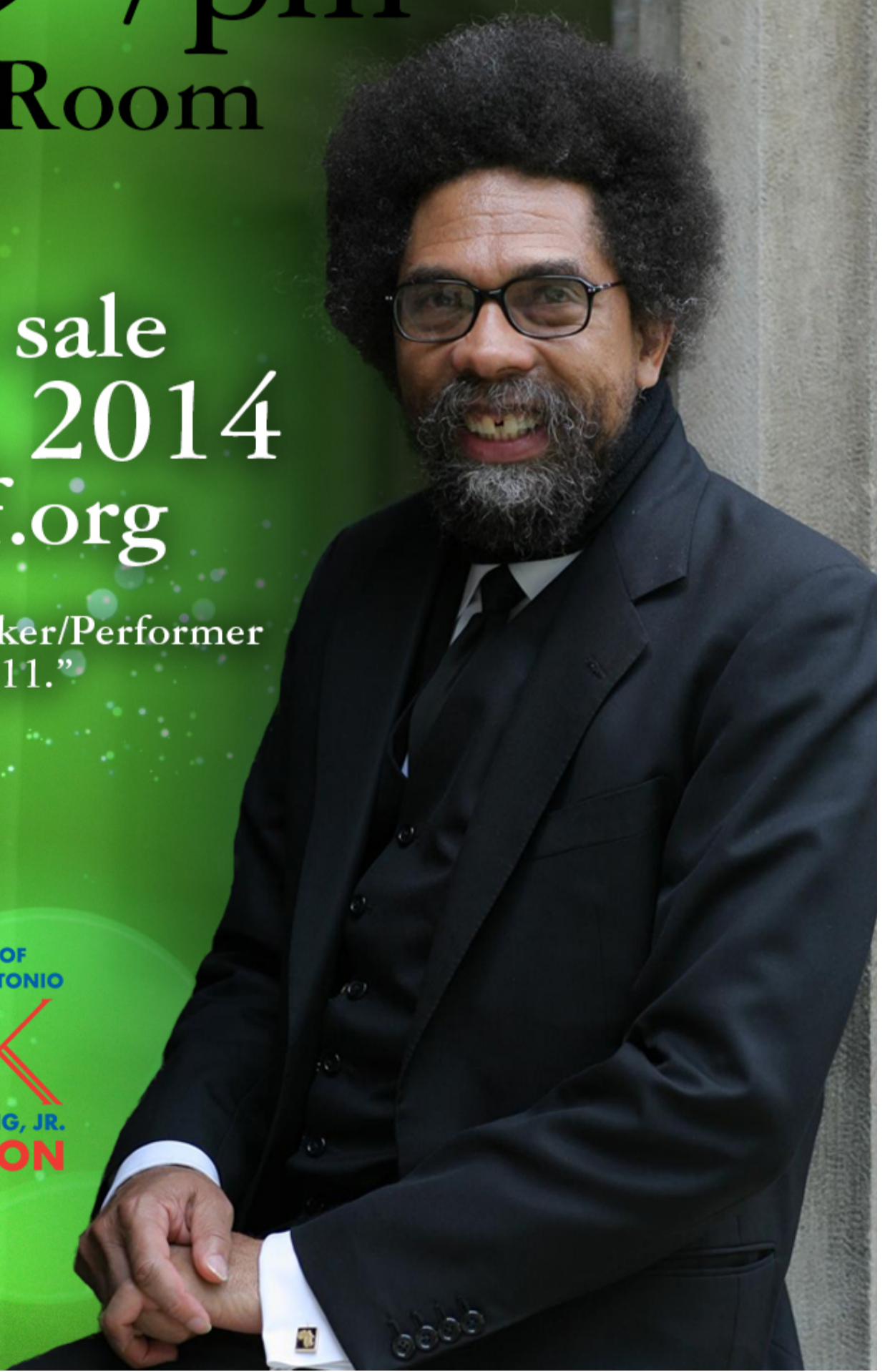
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A Champion at 20. A Graduate at 74.

Bobby Bell, a Former Football Star, Earns a College Degree and Honors His Father



Bobby Bell won a national championship at the University of Minnesota and a Super Bowl title as a Kansas City Chief. He is a member of the College Football and Pro Football Halls of Fame, but last week he achieved something that was even more important to him.

Bell finished what he had started 56 years ago: his course work to earn a degree from Minnesota. He did it to honor his father, Pink Lee Bell, who had minimal schooling himself but convinced his son that a boy from the segregated South could attend a major university.

“My father always said sports and education were things where blacks could compete equally with whites — if given the chance,” Bell said.

Bobby Bell grew up in Shelby, N.C. His father picked cotton and chauffeured bosses at the textile mill, and his mother, Zannie Lee Bell, ironed clothes and cleaned houses. He was named for Robert E. Lee, he said, but his father “wanted me to represent something different.” So Bobby Lee Bell was his name. The mill owned the home that the family lived in, and it was not until Bobby was 13 that Shelby’s black families had a park of their own.

Bell learned to swim at Holy Oak Park and became a lifeguard at the park’s pool. He played baseball in a threadbare uniform and rode to away games in a run-down bus. Bell earned money cutting the lawn of the mill boss who lived on the grounds of the all-white country club. While there, Bell heard boys his age talk about going away to college and playing college sports.

Bell asked his father if he, too, could go to a university and compete.

It was possible, Pink Lee Bell told his son, a mantra his father repeated whenever Bobby considered challenging the status quo.

In Shelby, Bobby Bell said, “You knew you had your place.”

At Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge, where he was a carhop, he could enter only through the back door. He could not sit at a table to eat there, or drink out of the same water fountain as his white neighbors. When he was 16, a scout for the Chicago White Sox asked him to come play. Pink Lee Bell told his son he had to complete school. In the fall, Bobby Bell played football at the all-black Cleveland High School — he was quarterback for three years, first for the six-man division and in his senior year for the 11-man team.

Bell was good enough to catch the eye of Coach Jim Tatum of the University of North Carolina, but the team was still segregated. He contacted Minnesota Coach Murray Warmath, who was among the first college coaches to recruit a number of top black athletes in a single recruiting class. In 1959, Minnesota’s Sandy Stephens became the first black all-American quarterback from a major college.

Warmath asked Bell to switch to the defensive line. “Coach, I’ll play anywhere because I’m not going back to North Carolina,” Bell told him.

Still, it was not easy. Some students knocked on his dorm room door, saying they had never seen an African-American in person. He had to adapt, too. He had never sat in a classroom or at a lunch table with white people.

He was a diligent student. Before he left for Minneapolis, his father gave him a gold watch “so that I would never be late for class,” he said.

Bell spent most nights at the library. He was doing it not just for himself, he said, but “for my dad, my mom, my brother, sister, cousins and friends, for all the blacks in Shelby, N.C.”

The first time his father came to Minnesota to see his son play, Bell was hauled off the field with three cracked ribs. His father followed him to the locker room and stood at the doorway as he was being taped up.

“I didn’t come up here to see you laying on this table,” said his father, who told him to go back to the game.

Bell returned to the sideline. Behind him, he saw his father in the stands.

“I got my helmet, and I ran out on the field and told the guys, ‘I’m in here,’ ” he said. “They thought the coach had sent me in. I played the rest of game with broken ribs.”



Bell, Number 78 against the Dallas Cowboys

At 6 feet 4 inches and 220 pounds, with a 28-inch waist, Bell was built like a pyramid and was incredibly fast. In tennis shoes, he ran the 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds. He was so agile and athletic that Minnesota’s ice hockey and golf coaches asked him to try out even though Bell could not skate and had never played golf. Bell did, however, walk on in basketball and became the university’s first black basketball player.

In 1960, the Golden Gophers’ football team became the national champion, something it has not accomplished since. In 1961 and 1962, Bell was named an all-American; in 1962, he won the Outland Trophy, given to the nation’s top interior lineman. In 1962, his team won the Rose Bowl, a feat that Minnesota has not repeated.

When his hometown held a parade in his honor, he discovered it was changing, although only incrementally.

The bands from the white high school and the black high school played together, and for the first time, his family sat down to lunch with white neighbors.

At a speech he gave that day, he told the crowd who had come to hear him, “I just want to be able to go across the street and walk in the front door of the ice cream parlor.”

In 1963, Bell, 13 credits short of a degree in parks and recreation, left Minnesota to join the Chiefs in the fledgling

American Football League. But that was long before multimillion-dollar salaries — Bell also worked full time at General Motors, and he took vacation time to attend preseason training.

“Black athletes were not getting a fair opportunity from the N.F.L. or the A.F.L.,” said Joe Horrigan, the Pro Football Hall of Fame executive vice president. “Bobby had to get over that first hurdle.”

Bell was a member of the 1965 All-Star team. When he and his team learned that the black athletes would not be allowed to eat at the same restaurant as the white players, the football players protested, and the game was moved from New Orleans to HoOff the field, Bell had to cope with other forms of discrimination. He looked at 200 houses in Kansas City, he said, but when he expressed interest, the real estate agents always told him the house had just sold.

On the field, his success continued. He intercepted 26 passes in his career, returning six for touchdowns, and the Chiefs won Super Bowl IV. Bell became the first Chiefs player elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame when he was chosen for the class of 1983.

“I can honestly say that Bobby Bell had as much talent as anyone I ever coached,” Hank Stram, the Chiefs’

longtime coach, once said. Stram died in 2005.

For many years after his retirement in 1974, Bell owned Bobby Bell’s Bar-B-Que in Kansas City — his old boss from Shelby gave him his secret recipes. In November 2013, Bell was back in Shelby for a Pro Football Hall of Fame ceremony. He had been given a plaque to give to his old school, but that school no longer existed. Bell presented the plaque to the integrated Shelby

High.

During that visit, he walked in the front door at Red Bridges Barbecue, and for the first time, he sat down for a meal there. “I was 73 years old,” he said.

These days, Bell gives motivational speeches, attends charity events and does what he could never do as a child: play golf. But he still had unfinished business that gnawed at him: He knew how important it was to his late father that he earn his degree.

Minnesota’s Gopher Graduation Program encourages student athletes to complete their studies by allowing them to return to the university and finish their course work. Those who were on scholarship can attend for free. In eight years, however, only 34 students have taken advantage of the program, seven of them football players, including Bell.

Bell asked Dan O’Brien, Minnesota’s senior associate athletic director, to find his transcripts and advise him about how to proceed. It took months, and the transcripts were dusty and written in pencil, but they showed that Bell was close to graduating.

“How in the world am I going to compete with young kids?” O’Brien recalled Bell saying.

Bell took three courses, including his final one, an online social science class, which reminded him of how far he had come.

After interviewing an immigration lawyer who represents undocumented residents, Bell saw similarities in his struggles as a young man and theirs. “All they want,” he said, “is an equal chance,” which is all he ever sought.

In that class, he mentored younger students and often delivered his homework days before it was due.

The gold watch his father gave him when he went to school is locked in a safe. In May, when he marches in with Minnesota’s class of 2015, Bell will prove his father right: It was possible.



While our offices will be closed from December 24-January 1, we will be thinking of our Carver families and wishing you a happy holiday and auspicious New Year!

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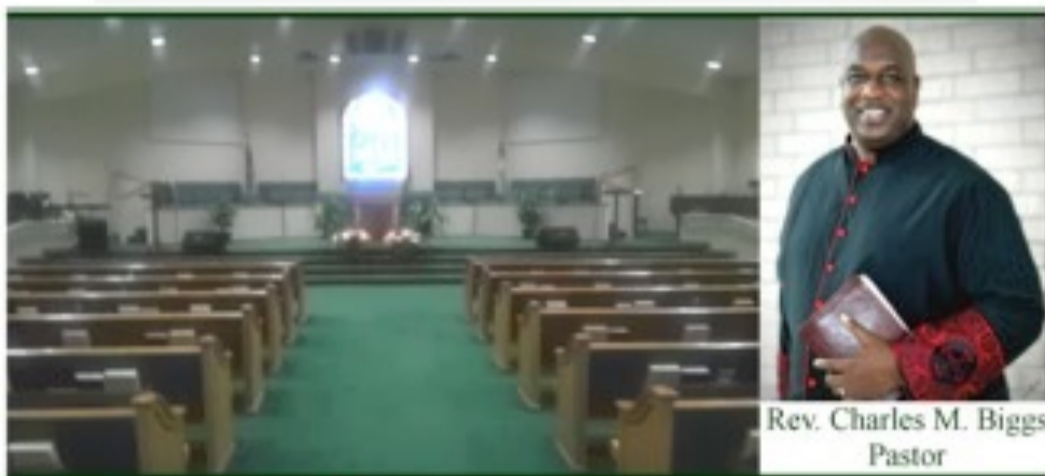
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"Equipping the Saints for Effective Ministry"

Ephesians 4:12



Rev. Charles M. Biggs
Pastor

Worship & Study

SUNDAY		WEDNESDAY	
8:00am	RISE! Worship	10:30am	Bible Power Hour
9:30am	Sunday School	6:30pm	Prayer Meeting
10:45am	Traditional Worship	6:30pm	Youth Bible Study
		7:00pm	Bible Happy Hour



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The Hope House Ministries purpose Mission

Hope House Ministries is an organization that has the vision of keeping the Lord's Commandments. We go all-out to provide a variety of social programs to address the immediate needs of economically disadvantaged and underprivileged children and adults in the San Antonio area.

Vision

Educate destitute individuals who rely on tax payer dollars for survival and teach them how to become economically independent and tax payers themselves.

Our Goal

Give to the needy, feed the hungry, educate the underprivileged, support the weak, cloth those that are bare, rehabilitate addicts. Hope House Ministries' purpose is to be available to assist anyone who is in need, without regard to race, sex, age, or religious beliefs. All services provided by Hope House Ministries will be done by qualification.



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