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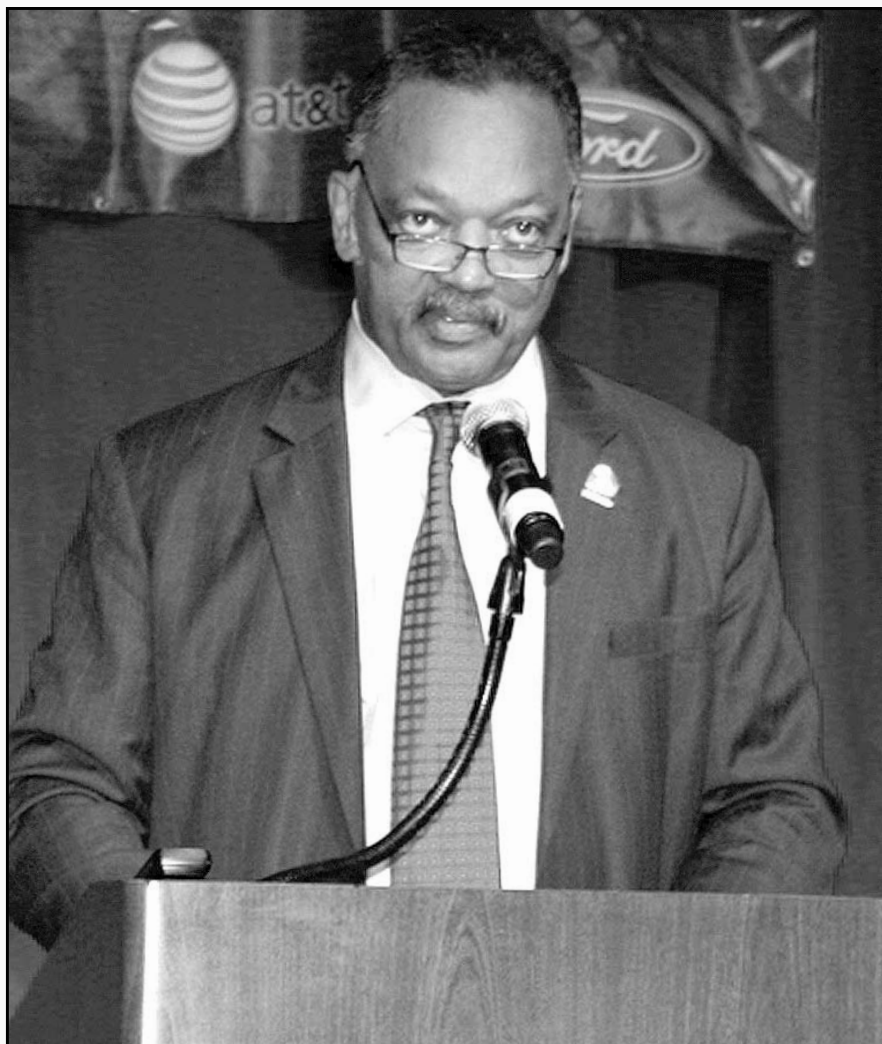
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David  
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## At Black Press Conference: Rev. Jackson Calls on BP to Help Black Fishermen



Rev. Jesse Jackson makes the case for the Gulf Coast Black fishermen to National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) members at their National Convention in New York last week.

By Pharoh Martin  
NNPA National Correspondent

NEW YORK (NNPA) - After returning from a recent trip from the Gulf Coast region Rev. Jesse Jackson called on British Petroleum to do more to help Black fishermen affected by the enormous oil spill currently consuming the region during an address to Black newspaper publishers June 18.

"So long as British Petroleum is in charge of the information flow about damages done and in control of who is able to be a claimant they control both bookends of the situation," Jackson said during a speech at the National Newspaper Publishers Association's annual convention in New York.

Jackson said as long as Americans are dependent on BP for information, they will also control who will be claimants for the damages. That process must be economically as well as racially inclusive, Jackson said.

The White House announced last week that President Obama has brokered a \$20 billion dollar deal with the oil giant to set up a claimant fund to cover residents and

workers in the area. Jackson said that for BP the money is the "cost of doing business ... That's \$20 billion dollars for five states over five years, which is \$4 billion dollars a year. Yet they make \$32 billion dollars a year," Jackson said.

The civil rights leader said there is dire need to address and close the disparities that remain between Blacks and Whites.

"What we used to call segregation we now call disparities," he said.

The face of segregation has changed but its infrastructure has not changed, he said. Now, instead of legal segregation there is health care, economic, access, ownership and educational segregation. Ten percent of the population owns 85 percent of the land and 65 percent of the income. He called it "vertical segregation", Jackson said.

"Fifty years ago we were jailed because we did not have freedom of horizontal access to each other," Jackson said. "We could not sit side-by-side [with White people] at the library, work side-by-side to each to sell clothes on Main street, we could not use public parks, sit in a hospital or die and be buried

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*Cover Story, Continued from previous page.*

in a graveyard side-by-side. Fifty years ago we marched to tear down those walls ending horizontal segregation. Fifty years later the walls are down between us and we are now able to celebrate side-by-side. A wall no longer separates us but a ford does. We're no longer in horizontal segregation, we are now in a vertical segregation."

Jackson also based his observations on recent history.

While Wall street was being bailed out by billions of dollars in no interest subsidies, African-Americans endured the largest loss of wealth in American history over the last two years because of predatory lending practices and the meltdown that ensued from the sub-prime mortgage crisis. Rev. Jackson said that the post-Civil Rights struggle is a battle for equality.

"I'm going to break some news to you—our goal was never freedom," Jackson said. "Freedom was the prerequisite to get equality. You can't get equal unless you get free but if you get free and stop right there than you would be free but unequal. Free and ignorant. Free and broke. Free and homeless. Freedom was not our goal. It was a precondition for equality. Freedom is taking the chains off but equality is catching up. We are in the catching up stage."

## National Urban League President Marc Morial Goes to aid Minority Fishermen and Oystermen

by Edwin Buggage

The BP Oil Spill has made news on a local, national and international scale. While mainstream media coverage has been around the clock, much face time has not been given to African-American and minority fisherman and oysterman. Byron Encalade, President of the Louisiana Oysterman Association has partnered with the National Urban League where NUL and former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial and New Orleans NUL President Nolan Rollins will join Encalade in a fact finding mission regarding minorities in the Gulf and their plight.

"The livelihoods, culture and community of the coastal parishes have been devastated," Morial said. "Our plan is to assess and evaluate the situation and make recommendations to begin to rebuild the



Marc Morial

region. More than a quarter of the coastal residents whose livelihoods have been affected by the disaster are people of color. In the midst of a recession that already is disproportionately affecting minority communities; we cannot afford to neglect

those who are teetering on the brink of economic devastation."

Encalade, feels that he wants to see a more efficient process and fairness in regards to dealing with the fisherman and oysterman in the area. "Thus far I feel this has not been a very efficient operation," says Encalade. "A people's way of life is at stake and threatened and we cannot allow this to happen so we are inviting people to come and see what is going on."

A media briefing is scheduled for Saturday, June 26th at 1 p.m. at the Myrtle Grove Marina and a community meeting will take place at 2 p.m. at St. Thomas Catholic Church, 17605 Highway 15, East Pointe A'La Hache. For more information on this event, please see the announcement on page 9.



Though it should only take 10 minutes to answer 10 questions, if you didn't fill out and mail back your Census form, then a qualified Census taker will visit your home to ensure that your voice is represented. Census takers are easily identified by their badges and all responses are confidential. Remember, only you can help ensure better services for your community.

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**IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

# David Johnson

## *A Heart of Purple and Gold*

by: Edwin Buggage



David Johnson is a man who has been in the spirit of giving his entire life, "My parents, grandparents and so many people I came in contact with as a young person gave me a strong foundation," says Johnson.

He is in his second year as the head football coach of St. Augustine High School. "I feel good to be in a place where I can impact the lives of young people everyday," says Johnson. "I use sports to build self-esteem and discipline; I think these are important traits to leading a successful life."

Johnson is a man that is steeped in the spirit, "I think of coaching as my ministry, it is something I can use to impart knowledge and impact lives." He is a dedicated family man and feels this is what gives his life meaning and purpose. "It is the love and support of my family that keeps me motivated to do what I am doing."

David is someone who has overcome many hardships, but says it is what has made him stronger. "There were many things I have failed at, but I did not let that stop me," says Johnson. Continuing he says, "It is about picking yourself up and not giving up, that is what I tell young people all the time."

He is a man of intense focus who has worked to always build people up as opposed to tearing them down. He feels

there are people in the community that are diamonds in the rough with many talents, but those things are often not encouraged and our children are not pushed to pursue their dreams," says Johnson.

Johnson has become part of a great tradition of St. Augustine a point he does not take lightly. "After Hurricane Katrina, I took a job making little to no money and had to sleep in my car for a few weeks, but my family supported what I was doing and now I am part of a proud tradition as the head coach of a nationally recognized school." Continuing he says, "I have had to take some detours to get to my destination, because sometimes in life we set out to do things and God leads us down other roads; and I neither regret nor take for granted anything that has happened because it makes me appreciate my accomplishments even greater."

A man with a heart of gold, he has given unselfishly of his time. "I think it is all of our responsibility to do whatever we can for our young people," says Johnson. "This is my mission and my calling in life." He feels he has been blessed to live a life pursuing his passion of using sports to help young people. For his continued work David Johnson is being awarded the Data News Weekly Trailblazer for June 2010.

**JMJ**  
Joseph M. Jones  
Continuing Education Fund



at&t



# Coors Light Ice Cold DJ Spin Off Contest to Compete at 2010 Essence Music Festival

Master of ceremonies, Doug E. Fresh, celebrity judges and the public will select the winner

Coors Light®, "The World's Most Refreshing Beer," and the official beer sponsor for the 16th Annual ESSENCE Music Festival®, today announced the 2010 Ice Cold DJ Spin Off contest's four semifinalists after an intense talent search.

The finalists, DJ Lil' Mic (Baltimore/DC), DJ Bruckup (Atlanta), DJ Rob Fresh (New Orleans) and DJ Mode (New York), will compete in two, back-to-back elimi-

nation rounds during the 2010 ESSENCE Music Festival in New Orleans, July 2-3, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Ice Cold DJ Spin Off master of ceremonies, Doug E. Fresh, a panel of celebrity judges and the public will name the winner following a final round competition on July 4. The winner will receive a \$1000 cash prize and the opportunity to perform with Doug E. Fresh during the Festival.

"The ESSENCE Music Festival is the largest, most influential African American entertainment and

empowerment event in the country. There isn't a better venue for presenting these multi-talented DJs at the top of their game to the public," said Sheldon Boyea, brand manager, African American Marketing for MillerCoors. "Coors Light is proud to continue, our sponsorship of the Festival. Equally important, we are pleased to be part of an event that annually contributes \$200 million to the New Orleans economy."

From now until August 31, 2010, Coors Light is offering a free music download to legal

drinking age consumers from major label artists. Official offer codes can be found on stickers on specially marked Coors Light packages and promotional cards are available at participating retail locations where Coors Light is sold. Visit [coorslight.com/EMF](http://coorslight.com/EMF) for more details.

During the ESSENCE Music Festival in New Orleans, Coors Light will host the Coors Light Cold Refreshment Block Party at Ernst Café, July 3-4 and the Coors Light Live Lounge at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center,

July 2-4. The Lounge is a cool get-away for Festival attendees of legal drinking age to enjoy cold Coors Light, Rocky Mountain Billiards, and music by the Coors Light Live House Band.

For additional information about ticket sales, accommodations and the latest news about the 2010 Essence Music Festival, visit [www.essencemusicfestival.com](http://www.essencemusicfestival.com). To purchase tickets, go to [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or call 800-982-2787.

## Council President Fielkow and New Orleans Public Library

### Partner on Youth Trip to Vero Beach Sports Village

New Orleans, LA - June 23, 2010 - City Council President Arnie Fielkow is pleased to announce that 40 youth from New Orleans between the ages of 12 - 15 will travel to the Vero Beach Sports Village, formerly Dodgertown, from August 3rd - 8th. The all expenses paid recreational and educational trip will focus on team building, conflict resolution, life skills and literacy, while having fun at the Vero Beach Sports Village located in Vero Beach, Florida, which is now being operated by Minor League Baseball.

"I am excited to work with Minor League Baseball and the New Orleans Public Library system in creating this very special opportunity for New Orleans youth," said New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow. "The former Dodgertown facility, long-time training home for the LA Dodgers and at one time the New Orleans Saints, is a historic venue which the youth will tremendously enjoy. We are

honored to be the first city offered such an opportunity," said Council President Fielkow.

"We want to thank City Council President Fielkow for his vision and hard work to make this program happen," said Minor League Baseball President Pat O'Conner. "Minor League Baseball has a keen interest in all of our communities, but especially in New Orleans given our history there with the team, Baseball Winter Meetings, Promo Seminar and Habitat for Humanity project in recent years. We are committed to providing a life-changing experience for the boys and girls as they share in the uniqueness that is the Vero Beach Sports Village."

An essay contest, administered by the New Orleans Public Library system, will be held to select the 40 participants. Interested youth will be asked to write an essay on the following question: "How do they feel about

New Orleans in 2010? Where are we now and where are we going?"

Essay applications can be picked up at any New Orleans library and must be returned by July 16th. Click here for a list of library addresses and hours of operation. Youth who need assistance writing their essay will have access to a 'Step-up-to-the-Plate' writing workshop presented by the library.

In order to turn in an essay, a child must have a library card, which can be obtained free of charge. Applicants must include their full name, address, daytime phone number, age, grade and school.

The first 100 entries will receive a free book on the subject of baseball or Civil Rights. All participants will be automatically enrolled in the library's Summer Reading Program and will receive coupons and tickets for local summer activities.



Maafa is a Kiswahili word that means great tragedy. In New Orleans, this is the 10th annual community-wide commemoration, honoring the memory of the millions of African people and their descendents who suffered and perished during the period of African capture and enslavement in America.

#### GREETINGS:

Congo Square-Armstrong Park at 6:30 a.m.  
ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO WEAR WHITE.

#### DRUM PROCESSION WITH DRUMMERS FROM NIGERIA, VENEZUELA, NEW ORLEANS TO

The Tomb of the Unknown Slave at St. Augustine Church • The French Quarter:  
One Sun Gallery • Slave Exchanges • Other Historical Points of Interest;  
Canal Street Ferry • The Village in Algiers Point

#### BREAKFAST AND ENTERTAINMENT

(11:30 A.M., FOLLOWING THE PROCESSION)  
Ashé Cultural Arts Center, 1712 O.C. Haley Blvd., New Orleans  
(504) 569-9070 | [www.ashecac.org](http://www.ashecac.org)

#### FREE



Sponsors for Maafa: Consulate of Venezuela in N.O., One Sun Art Gallery, Back Street Museum, The Institute for Black Catholic Studies, Xavier University, The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, AIRNOLA, The Village in Algiers, The Craige Cultural Center. Efforts of Grace, Inc./Ashé Cultural Arts Center is funded in part by the Ford Foundation; the Open Society Institute; the Nathan Cummings Foundation; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the blue moon fund; the Starry Night Fund of the Tides Foundation; the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation; the 21st Century Foundation; the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation; a Community Arts Grant made possible by the City of New Orleans as administered by the Arts Council of New Orleans, and other foundations, corporations and individuals. Efforts of Grace/Ashé CAC is also supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. The grant is administered through the Arts Council of New Orleans.



# A Taste of Chicago Music, Food, People, Culture



Dionne Character, Author  
Entertainment Editor & Columnist

By Dionne Character

Chicago is a city of world-class status and unsurpassed beauty. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan in the heart of the Midwest, Chicago is home to world-championship sports teams, an internationally acclaimed

symphony orchestra, renowned architecture, award-winning theater, and much more.

Last weekend, I had a chance to explore “Chi Town”, as I was invited to attend a friend’s welcome home party. Had a chance to taste Harold’s fried chicken and even witnessed a few folks eat one of those native hot-dogs.

Took a drive downtown on the “Magnificent Mile” and passed by the famous “Navy Pier” off of Lake-shore Drive. Witnessed tall buildings, beautiful weather, and even ran across a street named “Orleans”.

I visited this eatery called N’awlins, where I saw no hot sausage sandwiches dressed and no “Tabasco” sauce on tables, as I did have the opportunity to perform with the “live” band, and spit a few lyrics on the mic, leaving them



The famous Chicago Skyline, Lake Michigan and Navy Pier

with the true essence of how we do it in New Orleans.

On Sunday morning, I attended the worship service at Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church, where I met The Japan Voices of Faith. The spirit of their voices were no different, as it is evident

that music is universal and if you love what you do, it will show through every song you sing.

As my Gospel roots landed in the “windy city”, I had the opportunity to sing during the worship service, made new friends, and realized that the culture of New Orleans lies within The Taste of Chicago.

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Help the victims of the Haiti earthquake with the most important text message you'll ever send. Text "Haiti" to 90999 and a \$10 donation will be added to your phone bill.\* Your contribution helps the Red Cross provide food, water and shelter. Haiti is calling for help: Answer with a text.

Other ways to contribute:  
Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS



\* Standard message and data rates may apply





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At each Saints home game this year, some 70,000 fans will turn their attention to the field and the big screens and they'll cheer the accomplishment of one person.



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Nominate a Peoples Health Champion today.**

Peoples Health Champions have run the range from artists to academics, musicians to marathon runners, grant writers and fund raisers to boat builders and bicyclists. Their backgrounds and achievements may be diverse, but they all have one thing in common: they've proven that our greatest potential for achievement comes after turning 65.

The Champion award is not a lifetime achievement award. It is recognition of a specific achievement after 65. Champions inspire us – not in spite of their age, but because their age and experience have enabled them to achieve more than they could in their youth.

**Do you know someone from southeastern Louisiana or the Mississippi Gulf Coast who has performed a notable achievement after reaching the age of 65? Nominate them to be recognized before 70,000 fans on the Saints' home field in the Superdome.**

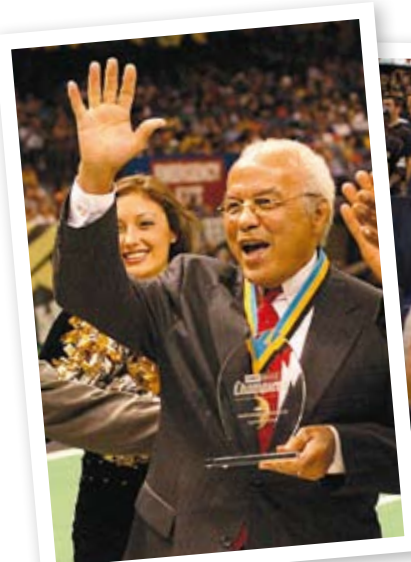
**Nominate your Champion online at  
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# Connecting the Dots: Appreciating Rev. Jackson



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

steps, foibles, and unfortunate words. Rev. Jackson is human, as we all are. In 1984, as part of his remarks at the San Francisco Democratic Convention he declared, "God is not finished with me yet." A seasoned citizen-leader, and still a work in progress; he prevails, with courage and confidence, in ways that inspire us all.

I am writing after spending some days last week during the Rainbow/PUSH annual conference, after some days of reflection on the ways that Rev. Jackson and his team connected the dots in the deliberate erosion of our public space, of the public sector, whether it is in education, civil rights, BP cleanup, or other matters. It is interesting to watch Rev. Jackson thread the needle and put all of the work together, gathering leaders who are interested in disparate issues, connecting their work into an overarching theme.

One of the best sessions that I participated in was keynoted by Diane Ravitch, the former Assistant Secretary of Education to Lamar Alexander between 1991 and 1993. She was associated with the federal effort to promote academic standards, but now she says she had no clue that her efforts would lead to the relentless testing and absurdity connect with "No Child Left Behind". Ravitch was masterful as she discussed the many ways so-called education advocates are really about dismantling federal involvement in education. And we know that there are advocates that simply want to shrink government and let the "market" work.

Here's how the market works. BP spews

a million barrels of oil onto the Gulf of Mexico because our nation has not appropriately regulated them. They've had more than 700 safety complaints in just three years, compared to Exxon Mobil's one. Republicans and Blue Dog Democrats have been anti-regulation, hoping that markets work. But they haven't. They've set up this tragedy.

The brilliance of the Rev. Jesse Jackson is that he connected failure in the Gulf of Mexico with failure in our nation's schools. In other words, the whole notion that regulation, that government intervention is bad, is being challenged.

There is no magic dust in free market charter schools any more than there is magic dust in free polluting rules for international oil polluters. Rev. Jackson connects the dots because he is able to see the big picture, the writing on the wall, the work that must be done.

Those who retreat from federal intervention into markets expect things to resolve themselves magically. Yet, last week, the United States Senate rejected legislation that would extend unemployment insurance payment to those who do not have work. They say that they are interested in a "pay as you go" system, a system they had not figured out when they decided to just give banks \$700 billion. Now, a modest bill that would spend about \$25 billion for jobs and unemployment insurance has failed. The House of Representatives did their work months ago, but the senate has decided that they have no constituents or caring. Instead, they want to lean on this

notion of short-term pay as you go, not long-term economic sustainability.

When we invest in workers, we invest in a stable workforce. We invest in long-term tax payments. We invest in workers who invest in community. To be sure, we spend some short-term money. That's the nature of economic recovery. Instead of half-stepping, why not revive a Work Progress Administration, a real jobs plan. Why not engage young people, who face an unemployment rate that flirts at 40 percent, in infrastructure repair? Why not open libraries for more hours? Why not revive, not reject the public sector?

At his conference, Rev. Jesse Jackson was always ready to connect the dots between attacks on the public sector and the diminishment of our quality of life. Conference attendance confirmed his perspective. Who can attract Gulf fishermen, a former assistant Secretary of Education, several Congressional Representatives, Senator Roland Burris, and others, and then tell a coherent story about why they are all gathered? Rev. Jesse Jackson began connecting dots when, as one of the Greenville Eight, he chafed at waiting for six days to get library books from the "white" library. Today he reminds us that we still have work to do, and we applaud him for his fealty and tenacity.

Julianne Malveaux is president of Bennett College for Women and also President of the PUSH/Excel Board of Directors.

## Ashé Cultural Arts Center's Tenth Annual Maafa Commemoration

At sunrise on Saturday, July 3, 2010, hundreds of people attired in white clothing will gather in Congo Square at Louis Armstrong Park to honor African ancestors who died during the Middle Passage—a period that brought millions of captured Africans from Africa to the Americas where they would be used as a labor force, be persecuted, beaten, and separated from their families forever. This great tragedy is known as the Maafa, a Kiswahili word that means "horrific tragedy." The year 2010 marks the 10th Anniversary of the commemoration in New Orleans. Ashé Cultural Arts Center's founders Carol Bebel and Douglas Redd, engaged by Leia Lewis, who coordinated the first Maafa celebration, joined the other similar celebrations around the country. The vision for the Maafa commemoration continued to grow and was influenced by the work of St. Paul Baptist Church in Brooklyn, then

led by New Orleans-born Rev. Johnnie Ray Youngblood, where annually a month-long series of activities form the Maafa commemoration there.

Drummers from Venezuela, Nigeria and New Orleans will lead the procession from Congo Square through historic Tremé, with brief stops at the Backstreet Museum and St. Augustine Catholic Church, the site of the Tomb of the Unknown Slave. From there, the procession continues through the French Quarter, with stops at Café Maspero and the Royal Orleans Hotel, where slave auctions regularly took place. One of the highlights of Maafa 2010 will happen aboard the Canal Street Ferry. On board, a sacred ceremony will take place. Amid high spirits, drumming, dancing, singing and praying, white flowers will be released into the Mississippi River in honor of ancestors, as participants call the names of their relatives and friends

who have passed on.

Upon exiting the Canal Street Ferry in Algiers, the Spirit of the FiYiYi Mardi Gras Indians will greet the procession and lead members into The Village at King's Plantation in Algiers Point. This beautiful African village on the west bank of the Mississippi River, once owned by the Company of the Indies in 1700s, was a site where enslaved Africans, fresh off slave ships, were held until they were sold at auction. At this location, the Consulate of Venezuela in New Orleans will present the folkloric Afro-Venezuelan women drum group, Elegua. In addition, the Taiko Jazz Drummers, poets, N'Fungola Sibò Traditional African Dance Company, choreographer/dancer Griffin Collins, and others will perform.

The Maafa continues from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with breakfast and entertainment at Ashé Cultural Arts Center,

*Ashé, Continued on page 10.*



# Haiti: Why New Orleans Should Care



**Adrian Bostick**  
Special Correspondent

*This is the second of a series of articles written by Data News special correspondent Adrian Bostick.*

This collapsed capital does not look much different than it did the week after the Jan. 12 earthquake. In the badly hit neighborhoods, large mounds of rubble remain, block after block and piles obstruct traffic.

Haiti has made little progress in rebuilding in the five months since the earthquake, because of an absence of leadership, disagreements among donors and general disorganization, according to a U.S. Senate report written by staff of Sen. John Kerry, D-MA, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and other Democrats who interviewed U.S., Haitian, United Nations and other officials and visited resettlement camps, hospitals and schools throughout the quake zone.

Released on Tuesday, the eight-page report gives Congress a realistic picture of Haiti as U.S. legislators consider authorizing \$2 billion to aid the country's reconstruction.

That picture is dismal: Millions displaced from their homes, while the rubble of collapsed buildings still dominate the landscape. Three weeks into hurricane season, with tropical rains flooding tent-and-tarp settlements, construction is being held up by land disputes and customs delays,

while plans for moving people out of flood zones remain in "early draft form," it says.

"While many immediate humanitarian relief priorities appear to have been met, there are troubling signs that the recovery and longer term rebuilding activities are flagging," said the report.

The report harshly criticizes the leadership of Haitian President Rene Preval and Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, saying it has "not done an effective job of communicating to Haitians that it is in charge and ready to lead the rebuilding effort." The Preval to take a "more visible and active role, despite the difficulties."

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton officially inaugurated a commission to oversee Haiti's post-earthquake reconstruction last week, vowing to organize and speed-up a process that has raised only two percent of the \$5.3 billion in near-term aid pledges having been delivered. The report expresses concerns that even once the money is in hand, it will not move quickly enough to help

The reconstruction panel includes representatives of donors who pledged at least \$100

million in cash or \$200 million of debt relief, including the United States, Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.

While the report calls the commission the "best near-term prospect for driving rebuilding," it

also says the panel "has the potential to dramatically slow things down through cumbersome bureaucratic obstacles at a time when Haiti cannot afford to delay."

Also noted in the report are disagreements among donors over strategy, approach and priorities, saying the disputes "are undercutting recovery and rebuilding."

One thing on which all parties agree is the importance of November elections. The legislature has almost entirely dissolved after members' terms expired because the quake forced the cancellation of February legislative elections. Failing to hold the November elections on time, even despite the losses of the electoral commission's headquarters and records, could imperil "Haiti's fragile democracy," the report says. But it expresses limited optimism that a plan for holding the vote is "apparently imminent."



*Elected Officials, Community Leaders, & Concerned Citizens  
are*

*Cordially invited to attend a Community Meeting  
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*The National Urban League,  
Urban League of Greater New Orleans,  
And the Louisiana Oysterman's Association*

**Saturday, June 26, 2010 2:00pm**

*Special Guests include:*

- *Marc H. Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League, Former Mayor of New Orleans, Former Louisiana State Senator*
- *Nolan Rollins, President and CEO, Urban League of Greater New Orleans*
- *Byron Encalade, President, Louisiana Oysterman's Association*

*To discuss the National Urban League's  
"Gulf Coast Bill of Rights"*

*at*

*St. Thomas Catholic Church  
Father Jose Tran, Pastor*

*17605 Hwy 15*

*East Pointe A-La-Hache, Louisiana  
(Plaquemines Parish)*

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# Pres. Obama Relieves General McChrystal Of Command: Takes General Off Top Afghan Post

## Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama sacked his loose-lipped Afghanistan commander Wednesday, a seismic shift for the military order in wartime, and chose the familiar, admired – and tightly disciplined – Gen. David Petraeus to replace him. Petraeus, architect of the Iraq war turnaround, was once again to take hands-on leadership of a troubled war effort.

Obama said bluntly that Gen. Stanley McChrystal's scornful remarks about administration officials in interviews for a magazine article represent conduct that "undermines the civilian control of the military that is at the core of our democratic system."

He fired the commander after summoning him from Afghanistan for a face to face meeting in the Oval Office and named Petraeus, the Central Command chief who was McChrystal's direct boss, to step in.

By pairing those announcements, Obama sought to move on from the firestorm that was renewing debate over his revamped



On Wednesday, President Obama relieved US Army General of his command of troops in Afghanistan in light of the interview scheduled to run in the Friday issue of Rolling Stone Magazine. General McChrystal, and members of his staff were on the record in the interview making various disparaging remarks about members of the Obama Administration

Afghanistan policy. It was meant to assure Afghans, U.S. allies and a restive American electorate that a firm hand is running the war.

Expressing praise for McChrystal yet certainty he had to go, Obama said he did not make the decision over any disagree-

ment in policy or "out of any sense of personal insult." Flanked by Vice President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the Rose Garden, he said: "War is bigger than any one man or woman, whether a private, a general, or a president."

He urged the Senate to confirm Petraeus swiftly and emphasized the Afghanistan strategy he announced in December was not shifting with McChrystal's departure.

"This is a change in personnel but it is not a change in policy," Obama said. The president delivered the same message in a phone call to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, the White House said, and Karzai told Obama he would work toward a smooth transition.

As Obama was speaking in the Rose Garden, McChrystal released a statement saying that he resigned out of "a desire to see the mission succeed" and expressing support for the war strategy.

With lawmakers of both parties praising the choice of Petraeus, the White House is confident he will be confirmed before Congress adjourns at the end of next week.

## Ashe, Continued from page 8.

1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. in Central City New Orleans. The day's activities include spoken word, dance, and music. There will also be intergenerational celebrations and discussions around topics of racial healing and unity.

The Maafa commemoration offers an opportunity for the whole community to pause and reflect on this great transgression against humanity and to personally, as a community, agree to distance ourselves institutionally in word and deed from that transgression, its legacy and the will to continue its evolved practice of racism in our civic, social, spiritual and personal lives.

Community support for the Maafa continues to grow, and includes sponsorship from Ashé Cultural Arts Center, The City of New Orleans, The Consulate of Venezuela in New Orleans, The Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, The Village in Algiers (the Ovah Da River Folklife Village), the Backstreet Museum, and New Orleans Youth Slam (NOYS). The Maafa is partially funded by The Kellogg Foundation (America Healing), The Ford Foundation, and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

All activities are free and open to the public. For more information, call (504) 569-9070 or visit [www.ashecac.org](http://www.ashecac.org).

"FOR TOO LONG OUR CULTURE HAS SAID, 'IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT.' NOW, WE WANT TO BE A NATION THAT SERVES GOALS LARGER THAN SELF. WE'VE BEEN OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY, AND WE MUST NOT LET THIS MOMENT PASS. MY CALL IS FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO COMMIT TO THE SERVICE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR NATION. BY DOING THIS, WE SUSTAIN AND EXTEND THE BEST THAT HAS EMERGED IN AMERICA."

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# Expanding the Child Health Safety Net



Marian Wright Edelman  
NNPA Columnist

By Marian Wright Edelman  
Child Watch®

(NNPA) - At the Children's Defense Fund, we have been working to secure health coverage for all children for more than three decades. During that time, we and many others have been slowly filling in gaps in our health care system to help cover the uninsured. The landmark health reform legislation - The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 - signed by President Obama in March guarantees access to health coverage for 32 million people in America, including more than 95 percent of all children.

It represents the largest single leap towards the finish line in decades towards expanding and strengthening the child health safety net and provides the greatest expansion of health coverage to the poor through Medicaid since that program's enactment in 1965. At least 16 million children, parents, and childless adults with incomes below 133 percent of poverty (\$29,400 for a family of four) will become eligible for Medicaid with its guaranteed comprehensive benefits. Included are 1.6 million chil-

dren currently eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) who lack guaranteed comprehensive benefits.

In order for newly eligible parents to enroll in Medicaid, they must first ensure their children are covered. Importantly, the new legislation maintains CHIP until 2019, giving us time to determine whether the new "health insurance exchanges" will provide children better or comparable benefits and cost protections than they have now. CHIP is fully funded through 2015 - doubling the number of eligible children who can be served from seven to 14 million. Finally, the bill increases Medicaid payment rates to ensure more low-income children will have access to primary care service providers who accept Medicaid patients.

Now that these improvements to the child health safety net are in place, the critical next step is to make sure children are actually enrolled in the programs for which they are eligible. To ensure all children and young adults benefit from this legislation, states must act swiftly: two-thirds of uninsured children are already eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP due largely to unnecessary bureaucratic barriers imposed by states. A study by the National Bureau of Economic Research showed that, controlling for parents' income, education, and social status, children who experience poor health on average have significantly lower education attainment, significantly poorer health, lower earnings, and a lower likelihood of working as adults. Covering all children will help states maximize their investments in education and make sure their state's children are competitive players in the national and global economy. States now have new tools and funding to eliminate barriers to enrollment, so they must work quickly to use them to enroll all eligible children.

We know how to effectively enroll children. One example is the state of Louisiana which in February enrolled 10,484 eligible children into its Medicaid program overnight by using records already on file to determine Medicaid eligibility. Using information from other means tested programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program, now SNAP) to help identify and enroll eligible children is called Express Lane Eligibility (ELE). This type of streamlined coordination can help children across the country while relieving states of administrative burdens, saving money, and decreasing parental stress. While it is one of the most effective ways to enroll eligible children in health coverage, currently only three states have implemented an express lane option. Push your states to do so.

The Children's Defense Fund is one of the organizations assisting other successful state efforts to enroll children. CDF-Texas State Office's 100 percent Campaign works with 35 school districts to systematically identify every uninsured child through school enrollment forms and link them with affordable health coverage. The 100% Campaign educates families about how to utilize and renew their children's health coverage to avoid unnecessary and costly emergency room visits. CDF-Texas's 100% Campaign has been recognized by the American Association of School Administrators, America's Promise Alliance, the Robert Wood Johnson Covering Kids & Families initiative, and Leadership Houston, which honored CDF-Texas with its 2009 Leadership in Action award.

Over 850,000 children were reached. The World Health Organization

gave CDF-Texas' 100 percent Campaign its only North American award for effective health outreach.

It's time to implement measures like these across the country and CDF will do so in its state office locations. Millions of children have been desperately waiting for these newly enacted health reforms and we must make them real. Each day we fail to act to utilize these new tools, 2,200 children are born uninsured. Good health at birth and throughout childhood is essential both for children themselves and the adults and workers they will become. As a nation, we pay a "hidden tax" to subsidize the uninsured. The hidden costs of not insuring children include the high costs of uncompensated care for those without insurance; costly emergency room treatment for non-emergencies; long term treatment of diseases that could have been prevented; and the costs of untreated emotional problems in children we pay for when children's unmet needs bring them to the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Now is the time for states to move quickly to enroll all eligible children and ensure that all eligible children realize the promise of health reform.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

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Darryl Willis  
BP Claims

# Making This Right

- Beaches
- Claims**
- Cleanup
- Economic Investment
- Environmental Restoration
- Health and Safety
- Wildlife

My name is Darryl Willis and I’m responsible for overseeing BP’s claims process in the Gulf coast. I was born and raised in Louisiana. At age 70, my mother lost her home to Hurricane Katrina. Afterwards, she experienced enormous frustration. So I know first hand that when tragedy strikes on a scale like this, people need help without a lot of hassles.

**Independent Claims Compensation Fund**

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**How To File A Claim**

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**Replacing Lost Monthly Income**

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We have already paid tens of thousands of claims amounting to more than \$100 million. We have recently simplified and accelerated the payment of commercial large loss claims. Over one thousand people are here to help in 33 walk-in claims offices in the Gulf. We have promised to honor all legitimate claims and we will.

**Our Responsibility**

The Gulf is my home. Doing this right is important to me. My commitment is that we will keep you informed, and we’ll be here as long as it takes. We may not always be perfect, but we will make this right.

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