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# President Obama Addresses NUL



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# President Obama Speaks at National Urban League Conference

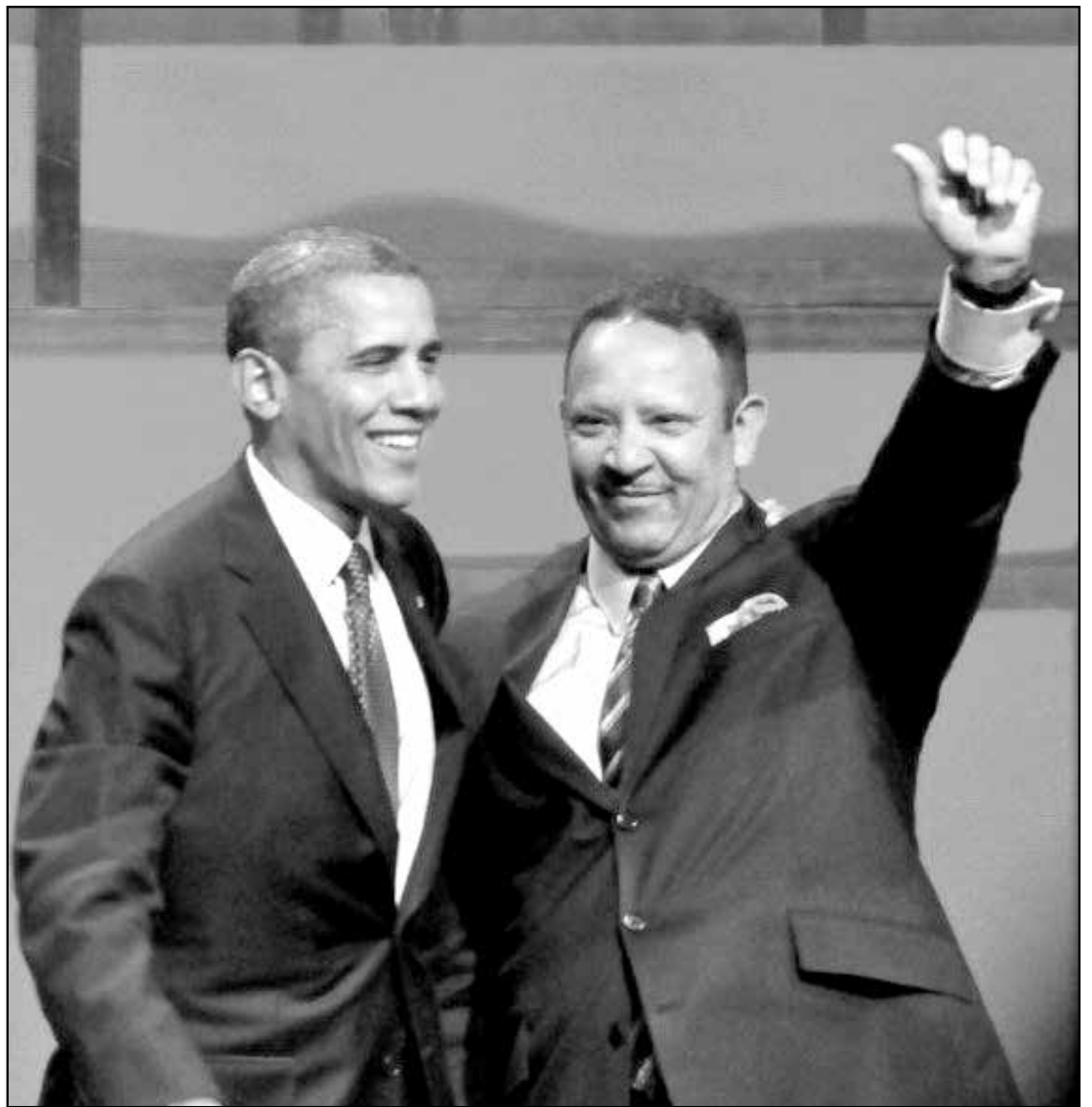
By Edwin Buggage  
Photos by Kichea Burt

President Barack Obama spoke before a receptive crowd at the opening of the National Urban League Conference held in New Orleans. National Urban League President and former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial introduced the president amidst the chants of four more years. As the president it is the middle of a re-election campaign, much of his speech dealt with a broad range of issues from education to the economy, to prevention of crime and a host of other issues that are on the front burner of the political dialog and ion the minds of Americans who desire politics to work for the people.

In re-election mode he touted some of the accomplishments of his administration. On the economy and jobs he said, "We have had 28 months of growth of jobs in the private sector." In is speech he also spoke about his cutting taxes for the middle class and how this administration has invested 7 billion dollars in minority owned business.

One of the other focuses of his speech was education as he explained during his time in office there has been an expansion in pell grants to give more people the opportunity to receive a college education and the need for strong schools to continue to move the country forward. "Education should not be a luxury. All should be given the opportunity to earn your success," said Obama.

With themost recent episode of gun violence in Colorado, President Obama took the opportunity to talk about gun control, while he is an advocate of the Second Amendment, he remarked, "Gun owners would agree that an aka 47 belongs in the hands of soldiers not criminals. Not controversial, its common sense working with all in violence reduction. We have no greater mission



National Urban League President & CEO Marc H. Morial (pictured right) introduces atthe 44th President of the United States, The Honorable Barack H. Obama at the National Urban League Convention in New Orleans this week.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



The capacity crowd showed their support for the president throughout the address with loud applause on numerous occasions.



President Obama showed flashes of the brilliance that enamored him with voters during the last election cycle.

than keeping our young people safe."

In his speech he spoke of the National Urban League and its continued commitment to social change. Harkening back to his days as a community organizer and emphasizing that this is where change begins at the local and community level he stressed that activism and advocacy for those who are disenfranchised continues to be important for a country still grappling with issues of equal access.

The Supreme Court recently made a majority ruling that Healthcare Reform was constitutionally sound, and in his speech Obama, followed by a large round of applause, says it is here to stay. The crowd was filled to capacity with people young and old rallying behind Obama as he makes his bid to reclaim the White House in November. While in New Orleans, he spoke of the resilience of the people of the city as an example for the nation.

Wesley Bishop, a Democratic Louisiana State Representative who also is an administrator at Southern University at New Orleans said of the President's address, "The president laid out a concrete plan for improving education in our nation. He made the case that this responsibility falls upon parents, educators and young people to do their best to assure that we leave a legacy of

academic excellence for the next generation. He hit the nail on the head and I stand with him to make his vision a reality."

Also another pressing issue that continues to plague the city of New Orleans is access to healthcare. Dr. Corey Hebert is a physician who is working to bring more awareness of health issues affecting African-Americans. He said of the President's Speech and the NUL Conference, "There is electricity in the air! When the NUL comes to town it brings a rich history and a new agenda that is ready to face the racial and societal changes of the 21st century. President Obama addressing the membership was just amazing. The moving rendition of "Lift Every Voice And Sing" for his intro galvanized the already excited crowd and our President did not disappoint. He addressed all of our country's most pressing issues and as usual gave us hope for the future. What a great evening!"

On this night President Obama showed flashes of the brilliance that enamored him with voters during the last election cycle. And it was befitting for him to address a group that has fought for the rights of African Americans having expanded opportunities. For today their hard work has helped African-Americans occupy places in all areas of employment, even the White House.

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Cougar's Band Together to Help Fight & Bring awareness of Rare Cancer"

Photos by Glenn Summers

John F. Kennedy Cougars Alumni hosted a concert benefit with live music and fun provided by the Regeneration Band held at The Suite Entertainment Lounge for fellow Cougar Gerard Lewis' 15 year old daughter Kirstyn Lewis who is diagnosed with a rare cancer call Rhabdonyosarcoma. For more info contact [coachlewis@campsports.org](mailto:coachlewis@campsports.org)



If you have photos of parties or events you would like to run in DATA, please send to [datanewsad@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewsad@bellsouth.net) for inclusion.

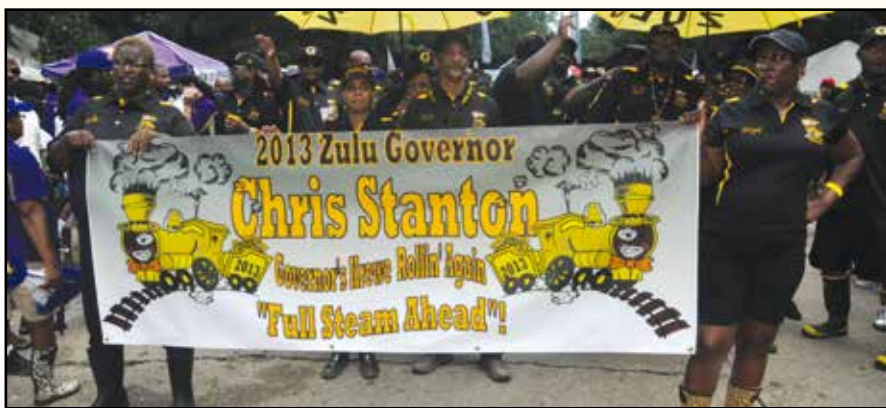


# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Zulu Annual Picnic

Photos by Ray Bonnee of Bonneefied Images, LLC

2012 Zulu Board of Directors, and fun at the Annual Picnic with Zulu Top Brass President Naaman C. Stewart, Vice President Larry Hammond, Recording Secretary Jay H. banks, King Elect Cedric Givens (waiving) and Big Shot Brent Washington (red & white).



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# trailblazer

## Joe Jones

### *Giving the People of New Orleans a Voice*

by: Edwin Buggage

Joe Jones is a man who is well-known around the City as someone who is committed to change. He is not someone who like some, simply talk the talk; he walks the walk and is doing amazing things in the City of New Orleans using media to give African-Americans an alternative perspective. Building a base of programming that not only critiques and analyze, but uplift and celebrate the positive aspects of the Black life in the Crescent City, "I feel that using media to create a space and give people a voice to be heard is important in making our community a better place," says Jones, on his work in the world of media with his 504 TV Black Network. "It is about giving the people of the City a forum to reflect on themselves and begin to do things that improve our quality of life."

He is the host of a popular cable access television show On The Streets Unhinged, where Jones interviews people from around the community on the issues that affect them, "I started producing this show to create awareness of what is going on in our community, but my goal is not just about people playing the blame game, it is about creating solutions to the things that plague our City."

Jones is an advocate of education of youth as well as adults, "I feel that we should take a holistic approach to the things that afflict our community, in education it is not just about the child, but how do the whole family and by that I do not mean the immediate family but the entire community where



everyone is involved in making sure that excellence is expected." Continuing he talks about some of his community work involving youth, "I continue to be committed to doing my part by giving time to the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) and also I serve tutoring children in Mathematics, helping them prepare for state exams as well as homework. I feel it is important to mentor young people and help equip them with the tools to succeed in life."

As he is growing 504 Black Network TV, a brand bringing uplifting entertainment to the City of New Orleans, Jones is looking to give young people an opportunity to learn about TV production as student interns. "I want to give our youth the chance to learn how to produce television and understand the power of media

so they can begin to tell their own story," says Jones. On the importance of making sure that youth acquire the skills to lead the community he says, "Our future will soon be in their hands, so we must work to prepare them to lead and that is what I try to convey and hopefully inspire others to do with my example of serving and empowering others."

Joe Jones is one who believes that the City needs more than just a physical and economic recovery; he thinks a social recovery is necessary if the City is to rebuild and be a place where all can have a chance to prosper. "What we have to do now is focus on how can we begin to work together and become a more unified City where all can benefit from the recovery and not just a few," says Jones. Continuing his remarks he says, "I am and will always be an advocate of the underdog, I believe it is important that their voices are heard and not simply heard but people listen to what they have to say and respect their points of view as valid and valuable." Joe Jones is one who lives to give and for his commitment to better his City and give voice to others he's been chosen as Data News Weekly Trailblazer for July 2012.

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



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# Details Emerge On Consent Decree To Oversee Transformation Of New Orleans Police Department

Partnership between City and Justice Department Reforming NOPD Began in Spring 2010

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and United States Attorney General Eric Holder along with Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Thomas Perez, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana Jim Letten, New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Superintendent Ronal Serpas, and City Attorney Richard Cortizas announced the details of a consent decree filed earlier this week that will oversee a complete transformation of the NOPD. The consent decree follows over two years of cooperative partnership between Mayor Landrieu and the City of New Orleans and the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division on NOPD reform efforts to ensure effective and constitutional policing in New Orleans.

"Now, after more than two years of work, the consent decree



is done," said Mayor Landrieu. "The consent decree filed today is the most extensive and far-reaching in this nation's history.

The people of this city should rest assured that together with the Department of Justice, we will fundamentally change the culture

of the NOPD once and for all."

Landrieu continued, "We have not waited on the consent decree to begin transforming the department, but we have a long way to go. With the consent decree filed, not only do we have the weight of the federal government behind our reforms, but we know the transformation of the NOPD can be systemic and lasting. We now have a clear road-map forward as we build one of the best police departments our country has seen."

"Today's action represents a critical step forward. It reaffirms the Justice Department's commitment to the highest standards of fairness and professionalism and underscores our determination to work alongside our law enforcement partners to protect not only the safety – but the essential civil rights – of everyone in this country," said Attorney General Eric Holder.

## Climbing Your Family Tree



Dr. Eric Griggs  
Data News Columnist

While Heart Disease, Diabetes, and Cancer may be the major health threats in the forefront of the American media, I would dare say that an equally formidable threat to the survival of the American family is something much more obscure, but ironically obvious. That foe is the generational breakdown of communication about health issues in the family tree. Traditionally, issues of Heart Attack, Stroke, Hypertension, Hypercholesterolemia, Diabetes, Kidney Disease, and even Arthritis, have come to be accepted as parts of

the genetic cycles of our family histories. While genetics do play a large role in predisposition for diseases, what attempts are we making to actually break or alter the cycle so our families can live longer and better lives? We need to ask ourselves, how well do we know our family history? When was the last time we climbed our family tree?

Let's start with the roots, the strongest and oldest part of a tree, buried deep in the ground - our ancestors. From as recent as our grandparents, it is important to gather medical information. What do we know about their health histories? Where did they live? What diseases did they have? At what age did the diseases start and how did they find out? Have they passed away? If so, at what age and what was the cause? If they are still living, how old are they now? What medicines do they take and Why? Ask what they would do differently.

The next step in our climb

is the trunk, the visible pillar of strength. The tree trunk is the connection between the roots and the branches. It survives the weather of the external environment day to day. Obviously, the trunk is our parents. Whether or not both are alive, medical information about our parents is essential to our survival. When was the last time we asked our parents about the medicines they take and why? The same questions required of the roots are required of the trunk. More importantly, prevention should be the theme. It is important to find out which diseases our parents feel could have been prevented (i.e.- Type 2 Diabetes). Was obesity a contributing factor? Smoking? Unhealthy Diet? Lack of exercise? Drugs? Alcohol? What lifestyles changes have they made?

These questions bring us to the most personal portion of our ascent – the branches. Here we are forced to ask the most difficult questions. While obviously, we should inquire of our siblings

about what health issues they face, we have to ask ourselves what we are doing to live educated and healthy lives. Based on data collected from our roots and trunk, what we are doing to break any patterns of preventable disease passed from generation to generation? All of this is necessary to insure that we bring forth bright, beautiful, healthy, and informed blossoms for our future – our children.

Your prescription for the week: "Start to climb your family tree; your kids will thank you later."

Dr. Eric Griggs is the owner of ResearchMDS Family Practice and Clinical Research Center and RMDs Aesthetics and Med Spa, both located in New Orleans. He is the host of "The Doctor Griggs" show on 1230AM WBOK on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 - 2:30 PM. He can be reached at 504-486-7070 or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/docgriggs1](http://www.facebook.com/docgriggs1). On Twitter, you can follow him @docgriggs1.

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