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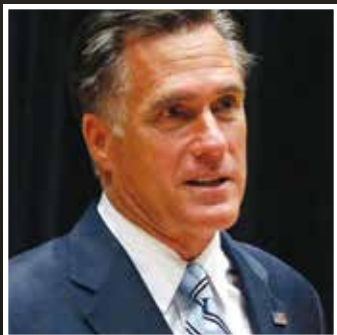
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September 22 - September 28, 2012 47th Year Volume 19 www.ladatanews.com



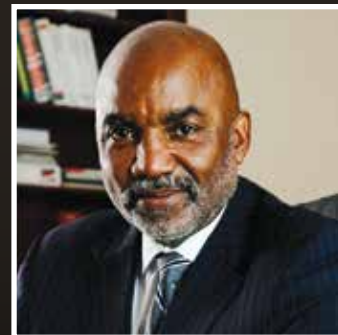
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HBO's Treme and a Look Inside the Heart and Soul of a City

By Edwin Buggage

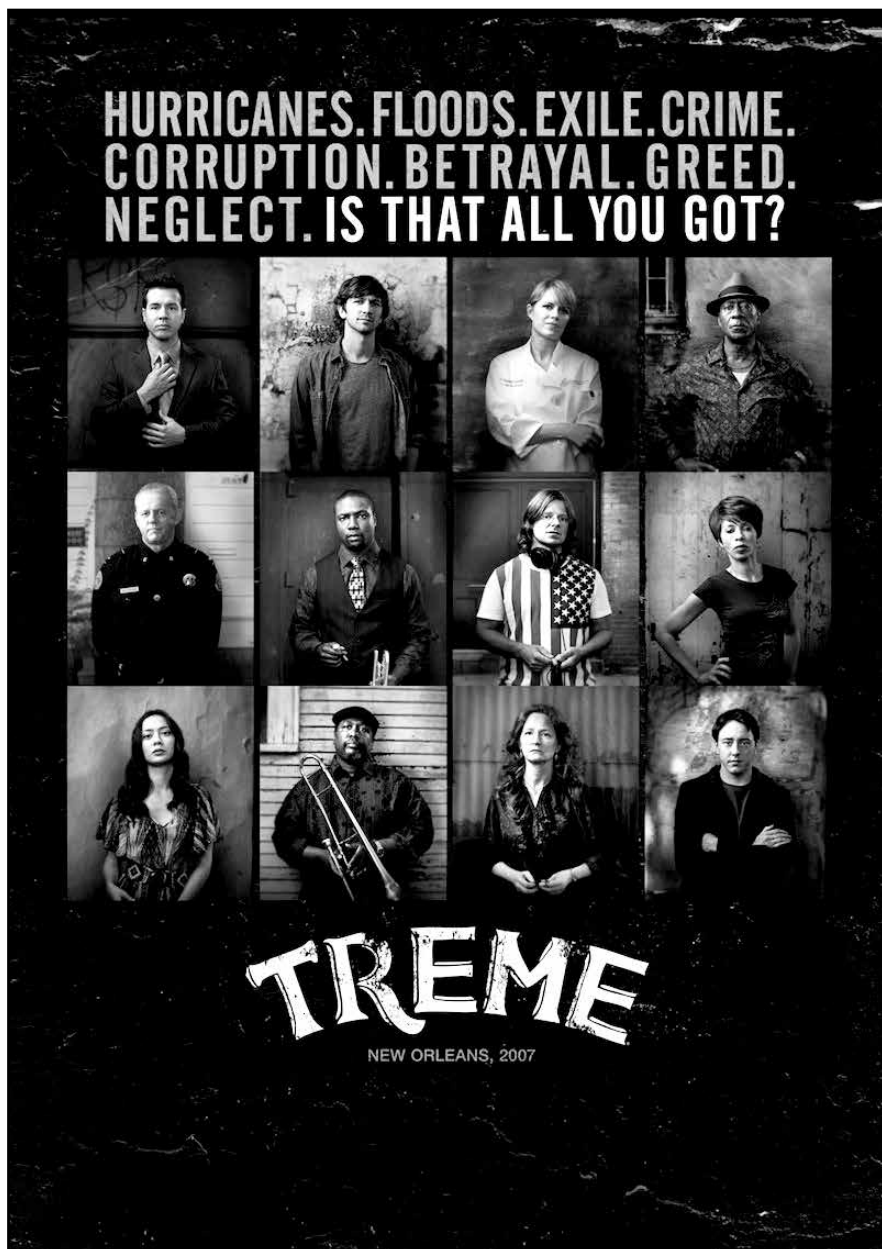
On September 23, 2012 many will be tuning in to see the season premiere of HBO's critically acclaimed series 'Treme'. It is a show that is set in post-Katrina New Orleans and has told many of the real life stories of a City and its people struggling to rebuild. What it has also done in its two seasons is to give viewers an inside look at the unique culture of this jewel of a City that is trying to regain its luster and dealing with questions of its identity and what type of City it will be as it rebuilds.

'Treme' is the oldest African-American neighborhood in the U.S. with a rich and vibrant history. Lolis Elie is a New Orleans renaissance man and resident of 'Treme'. He was one of the co-producers of the Award Winning Documentary "Faubourg Treme: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans," he is also an acclaimed journalist and one of the writers of the series the television 'Treme'. He says while 'Treme' is the title of the show, it is less about the neighborhood and more about the City, "The show is not about the neighborhood, per se. We use that neighborhood as the title of the show in part because it is so emblematic of New Orleans culture, of the things we try to focus on in the show," says Elie.

Since New Orleans has become a major player in film and television as a result of Hollywood South; Which has created an environment where

at any given time filming is taking place on any street in New Orleans that sometimes is a source of frustration for drivers or residents in the City; 'Treme' is no exception even to Elie who works on the show. But he and as many other knows that the benefits outweigh the inconveniences because it keeps the City in the consciousness of people around the world; "When I see the signs telling me that the show will be filming on my street, it can be trying. But when I think all the show does to promote local people and local customs I'm thrilled that so small a sacrifice can help reap such rich dividends."

This season is guaranteed to keep viewers glued to their TV's with another round of amazing storylines and gripping human drama that has come to be synonymous with this series. Elie says excitedly of this season, "Buckle your seat belt and stay tuned there is much excitement ahead." Continuing he says, "This will be an exciting season. I'm trying to figure out what I can say without blowing it. Our Chef Janette Desautel is off on a new round of adventures, very different from the ones she had last year. Antoine Batiste has abandoned the band, and is back to hustling gigs and teaching. Davis McAlary has a brand new scheme to save the world. LaDonna Batiste-Williams is working hard to put her life back together."



Treme Season 3. "Treme" is headed back to HBO on September 23 to zoom in on the lives of Antoine (Wendell Pierce), LaDonna (Khandi Alexander) and Toni Bernette (Melissa Leo).

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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Wendell Pierce



James Andrews

Treme' and the Rebirth of a City

Since the show began a production many people who were already local legends have seen their star rise beyond the Crescent City. In its first season the soundtrack from the show was nominated for a Grammy and one of the staples of second line music the Rebirth Brass Band who appeared on episodes of the show recently won their first Grammy; and as their name states, New Orleanians are showing the world that the City is rebuilding and being reborn with a new spirit and direction.

One of the many talented musicians to come out of Treme' is James Andrews, whose three generations strong inside of this storied community and the City of New Orleans. A true representative of his City, when he begins to talk, the fluidity of his speech summons the unmistakable music and vibe of his City and the

spirit and aspirations of its people. "I feel the show's done so many wonderful things for myself and the City, its created a new and larger audience for our culture while also creating employment for people in the City," says Andrews of the positive impact of HBO's Treme'.

Andrews as are many musicians have become much sought after by those who seek the authentic music and culture of New Orleans, "I feel blessed to be part of something like the 'Night in Treme' Tour' and I would like to thank Wendell Pierce and David Simon for making this happen. I am honored when we go to different places to introduce the culture of New Orleans to the world, I feel good about being able to be an ambassador for our great City and to let people know that the City is coming back better than ever." Continuing he says, "It is a great time for some of the traditional music of our City, we are

seeing a renaissance in the interest of second line music and of New Orleans Jazz, and it is an international treasure that has been sacred for us for such a long time; and it is great that now the world is embracing it and in doing that they are also embracing us and who we are as a people."

Inside the Real Treme'

While the show is one that showcases many of the great talents of the City, it still gives only a sliver of the City that is chocked full of talented artists. One of those who have been living in Treme' since 2004 is Samuel "Likwid" Taylor, a singer and music producer, whose music is an eclectic blend of funk, rock and soul. He says the neighborhood helps his creative process and is an important part of the City's history and its traditions, "It is just amazing to live in a neighborhood with the awareness that it is the oldest Black neighborhood in the U.S.



Lolis Elie

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Dillard and Langston Hughes Academy Launch "From Seed to Table" Gardening Program

Kicks Off on Thursday, Sept. 20 in Dillard's Greenhouse

On Thursday, Sept. 20, at 10 a.m. the Dillard University Community Development Corporation and Langston Hughes Academy (LHA) will kickoff the "From Seed to Table" program in the greenhouse on Dillard's Avenue of the Oaks. The partnership will bring LHA students to Dillard's campus twice weekly to garden and learn about biology, nutrition and agriculture.

This partnership will enhance LHA's existing garden programs, improve healthy food access for the community, and provide fresh food through the LHA Family Supported Agriculture box, which



will offer a portion of the food grown in the LHA Dreamkeeper Garden to families for free. Students participating in "From Seed to Table" will have the opportunity to sell their produce at local farmers markets and gain community service hours in the Dreamkeeper Garden.

To learn more or attend the program kickoff, please contact Rebekah Cain at (504) 952-1331 or rcain@firstlineschools.org, or Brendan Twist at (516) 428-7140 or btwist@dillard.edu.

Edible Schoolyard NOLA is a comprehensive seed to table food education program that aims to change the way children eat, learn and live at five FirstLine public charter schools. The program offers hands-on gardening and kitchen classes that are integrated into the curriculum, culture, and cafeteria programs at the schools it serves. Founded in 2006, Edible Schoolyard NOLA is in its sixth year of operation and serves 2,400 students in grades pre-K through 12 across the First-Line Schools network. For more information, please visit www.esynola.org.

ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

"The struggle
for justice
doesn't end
with me."

— Troy Davis

(October 9, 1968 - September 21, 2011)



Patients Notified of Closure of Some Services at Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center

Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center has begun notifying patients of the closure of its Ophthalmology Clinic and Podiatry Clinic and the possible closure of oncology services at the hospital.

The hospital is sending letters to approximately 600 patients receiving treatment at the outpatient Oncology Clinic and chemo infusion center. "We are working with our patients to find them a new cancer treatment home," said Sherre Pack-Hookfin, hospital administrator. She says while

hospital leadership is working on several scenarios that could possibly keep the program open, there are no guarantees. "While the closure date has not been determined, we believe it's in our patients' best interests to begin the process of transferring their care to another provider to ensure seamless care."

The hospital is also sending letters to patients of the podiatry and ophthalmology clinics informing them that both clinics will close on Friday, September 28, 2012.

Last year, the Podiatry Clinic had 1,224 patient visits, the Ophthalmology Clinic, 2,124 patient visits.

The closures are in response to a recent reduction in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate Louisiana receives from the federal government. LSU's systemwide share of the reductions amounts to more than \$329 million when federal funds are considered. Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center and nine other hospitals in the LSU Health system are working through mul-

tiple scenarios to identify ways to further reduce spending for this fiscal year while maintaining critical patient services and graduate medical education programs.

"We are working with the leadership at LSU Health to explore all options to best serve our patients, including partnerships with local private entities and enhanced collaboration with our sister LSU facilities," said Pack-Hookfin.

Lallie Kemp administration hopes to maintain the most critical clinical services, especially

outpatient medical homes providing primary care and coordination of specialty care, as well as some inpatient beds, with the goal of keeping the hospital open and continuing graduate medical education programs. The hospital has about eight residents in ophthalmology and family medicine.

For questions or assistance, patients can call Karen Applewhite, RN, LKPMC director of nursing, 985-878-1255. Oncology patients can also call Lisa Melder, RN, 985-878-1340.

Fakler sets XU 6K record at Azalea City Classic

A school record by Catherine Fakler and personal bests by Matt Pieri and Kwame Jackson were Xavier University of Louisiana's highlights from the Azalea City Classic cross country meet Saturday.

Fakler ran 6,000 meters in 24 minutes, 9.65 seconds to finish 28th out of 107 women. She broke her XU record of 24:10.3 set in 2011 at the LSU Invitational.

Pieri placed 18th out of 105 men and ran 8,000 meters in 26:39.71, beating his previous

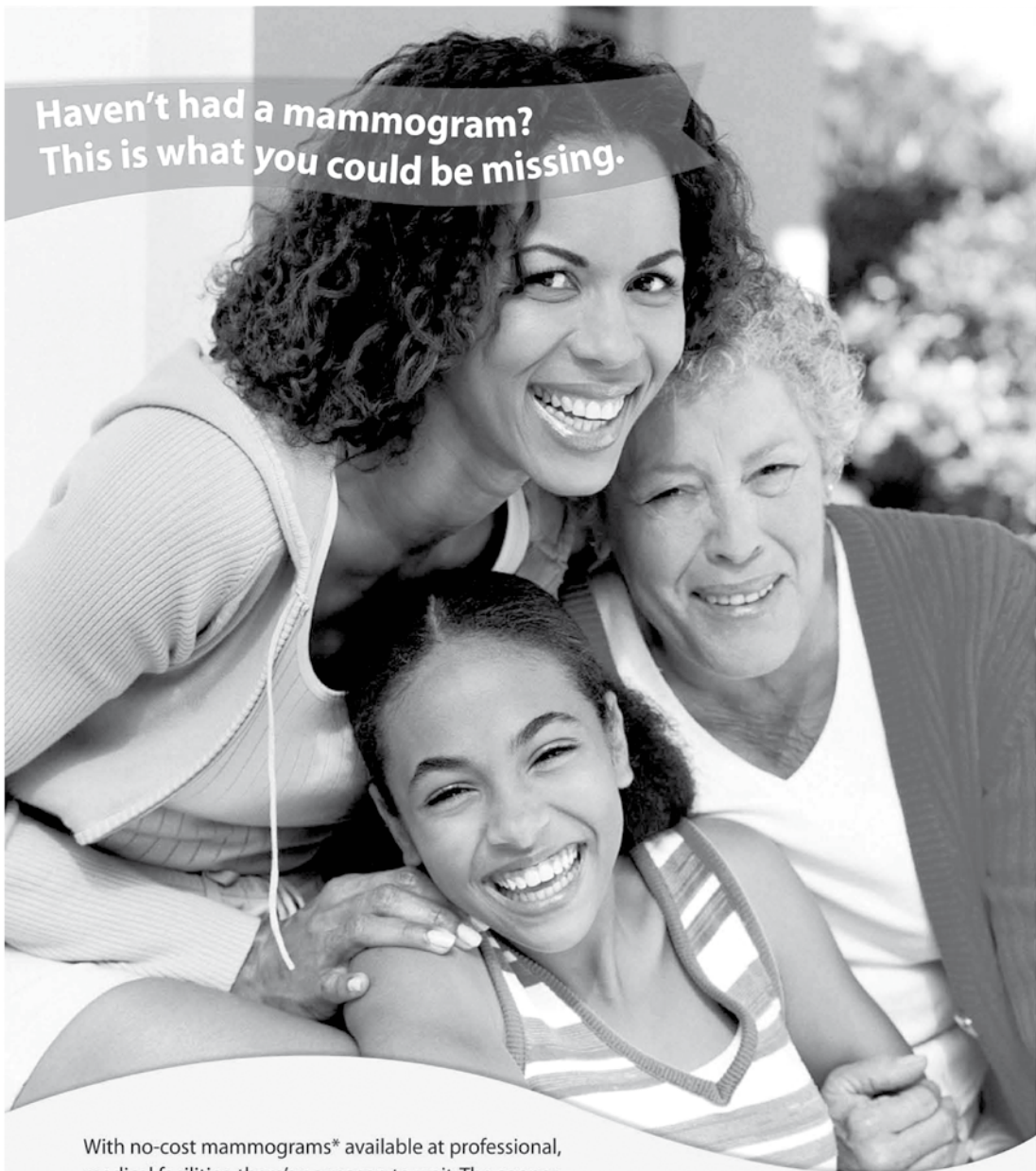
best by nearly 12 seconds. Jackson placed 20th in 26:52.13, his fastest by 35 seconds.

Xavier placed eighth out of 13 in the men's team scoring and ninth out of 15 in the women's. It was the second meet of the season for both XU teams.

Read more about the meet later today at the Xavier athletics website: <http://www.xula.edu/athletics/news/2012/0915.html>

And visit <http://www.facebook.com/xulagold> and give the Xavier athletics Facebook page a "like."

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Nicole Slack Jones

New Orleans French Connection

New Orleans Singer Gains International Acclaim

By Edwin Buggage

Nicole Slack Jones is a woman blessed with a voice and an undeniable beauty that embodies the essence of soul. She is an amazing, ebullient and effervescent chanteuse that hails from America's most international and musical city... New Orleans. Nicole Slack Jones is making her mark across the globe and becoming a force to be reckoned with drawing comparisons to the "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin and New Orleans own "Goddess of Gospel" Mahalia Jackson. She is an international phenomenon and the recording industry's best kept secret; and is taking the music world by storm gaining legions of fans with a voice that defies genres and categories. She is a woman who stirs and uplifts the spirit of those who have experienced this amazing talent.

Her love affair with music began at an early age with sounds of music everywhere in the life of young Nicole who was raised in a musical family where singing came to her as natural as breathing. She is the second of five siblings. Born to the proud parents of the late Philip Matthew Slack Sr. and Mother Judy Slack, this great talent first discovered her gift inside the church walls where she first began as a Gospel



Nicole Slack Jones

singer. Then after years of honing her talent locally her audience grew, but as her star rose she longed to share her gift with a larger audience.

In 2005 an ill-timed event happened in her native City that would change her life and direction forever. After the horrific events of Hurricane Katrina rocked the City leaving many people wondering what their future would be, Nicole took this as an opportunity to transform this tragedy into triumph by venturing

out and broadening her horizons. And since 2006 her amazing talent began to blossom and her hard work began to bear fruit, as Nicole has been traveling throughout the world and gaining a dedicated fan base in Europe and Africa.

Since then Nicole has had great success singing at many of the most prestigious festivals and Jazz clubs: Jazz à Viennes, Jazz à Juan, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Festival de Hammamet, Roma Gospel Festival, Lionel

Hampton Jazz Club, Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro and Enghien Jazz Festival opening for "The Original Blues Brothers Band" with 15,000 people.

In 2011, Nicole opened for the legendary "Percy Sledge" at Enghein Jazz Festival in France. Also Percy Sledge invited her for an amazing duet. Most recently, Nicole was invited by "Herbie Hancock" the Good will Ambassador of UNESCO and The Director General of UNESCO "Irina Bokava". She performed for the First international jazz day to UNESCO. The event was sponsored by the "THELONIOUS MONK INSTITUTE OF JAZZ" where she worked alongside: George Benson, Marcus Miller, Terri Lyne Carrington, Barbara Hendricks, Dee Dee Bridgwater, China Moses and many more.

Nicole Slack Jones is not simply an amazing vocalist armed with a wide range of talent she's acted as well appearing in films, such as "The Fighting Temptations" starring Beyonce Knowles and Cuba Gooding Jr. and she is building her brand by taking on several sponsorship deals with fashion houses and cosmetic companies across the globe.

She is a star on the rise that continues to keep her eyes on the prize. On May 20, 2012 Nicole made a special appearance at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival where she was a special invited guest of the iconic Joe Jackson; the father of "The King of Pop" "The late Michael Jackson" and the Jackson family. She feels it was a great honor to be part of this wonderful event. In another event during Cannes she performed at an event for the "The Jackson Family Foundation" at the Private Villa Oxygen and also in attendance was actress and fan Nicole Kidman for the first release of filmmaker Lee Daniels' movie "The Paperboy"

As one the premier talents of her generation, Nicole Slack Jones is on a path to redefine greatness, making her mark to become a major force in the entertainment industry. She is now preparing material for the highly anticipated album entitled «NICOLE SLACK JONES - The Original». The album showcases her incredible vocal range with a sound that's guaranteed to create a buzz and have a major impact on the music industry. Her album is an "eargasmic" mix of Soul / R&B where classic meets contemporary for a marriage of musical ecstasy. A single for the upcoming album is slated for release in early 2013...so look out for Nicole Slack Jones, the true embodiment, rebirth and definition of a soul singer.



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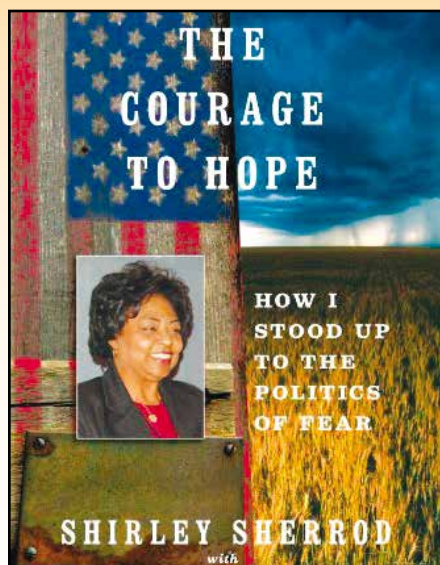
Friday, September 28, 2012 from 3:00—8:00 PM

Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 11:00—8:00 PM

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www.NOLA downtown.com

The Courage to Hope



The Courage to Hope:

How I Stood Up to the Politics of Fear

by Shirley Sherrod

with Catherine Whitney

Atria Books

Hardcover, \$24.99

252 pages

ISBN: 978-1-4516-5094-5

Book Review by Kam Williams

"In the summer of 2010, Shirley Sherrod was catapulted into a media storm that blew apart her life... A right-wing blogger disseminated a video clip of a speech she had given to the Georgia NAACP...

The media ramped up the outrage and, before Sherrod had a chance to defend herself, the Obama administration demanded her resignation. Then, after hearing... the entire speech, public officials and media professionals admitted to being duped and apologized for their rush to judgment...

The Courage to Hope addresses this regrettable episode but also tells Sherrod's own story of growing up in Georgia during the violent years of Jim Crow when her father was murdered by a white neighbor who was never brought to justice."

Excerpted from the Inside Book Jacket.

A couple of years ago, arch-conservative Andrew Breitbart (since deceased) launched a character assassination on Shirley Sherrod which almost cost the then U.S.D.A. State Director her career while temporarily ruining her reputation. For, he had posted on his website a video edited to make Ms. Sherrod appear to be an unrepentant bigot against Caucasians.

Truth be told, the tenor of her heartfelt remarks in that speech delivered to the NAACP were exactly the opposite. In the address, she spoke about how she had overcome the bitterness she'd felt about the South (including the murder of her own father by a white man never brought to justice) to the point that she became willing to help poor folks of any color.

However, Breitbart's misleading video quoted Ms. Sherrod out of context, making no mention of her having made an emotional breakthrough. Instead, it was deliberately designed to leave viewers with the impression that she was an inveterate racist.

Sadly, the clip went viral and soon not only right-wing pundits but even presumably sympathetic colleagues ranging from NAACP President Ben Jealous to officials in the Obama administration began calling for the poor woman's head.

Sherrod was publicly humiliated in the national press as if the poster child for racial intolerance.

Furthermore, she was summarily fired on the spot by her boss without being given an opportunity to defend herself. In the end, the truth did come out, affording the country a very-valuable teachable moment about innocence until proven guilty when the unfairly accused was ultimately exonerated.

Sherrod finally gets to set the record straight in *The Courage to Hope*, a poignant half-autobiography/half-tale of redemption. Not only does the moving memoir address the infamous incident which thrust the author into the limelight but, perhaps more importantly, it recounts a life story which reveals her to be a real role model well worthy of admiration and emulation.

To order a copy of *The Courage to Hope*, visit:
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1451650949/ref%3dnosim/thslfofire-20>



This Year's Honoree's

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And Much More....

Greedy King Children At It Again



George C. Curry
NNPA Columnist

In his "I Have a Dream Speech" delivered at the 1963 March on Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said he dreamed of the day his children would be judged not by the color of their skin but the content of their character. If Dr. King had known how Martin III, Dexter

and Bernice would later fight over money generated by commercially exploiting his name, he might have omitted any reference to their character. When it comes to money, King's remaining children have no character.

The latest of many examples is their profiting from the construction of the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. They – and all Americans – should be grateful that Harry E. Johnson, Sr. and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity had the vision and unflagging commitment to believe they could erect a memorial to Dr. King on the National Mall. Last year, the 30-foot, 8-inch statue of King was unveiled, dwarfing the 19-foot statue of Thomas Jefferson and

the Abraham Lincoln memorial, which is 19 feet, 6 inches.

Instead of being satisfied with this impressive memorial to their father – the first monument to an African American on the Mall – the King children saw dollar signs. They have collected more than \$3 million in licensing fees from the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation. The fees were charged in exchange for allowing the foundation to use King's words and likeness in fundraising appeals and as part of the memorial complex itself.

Harry Johnson has raised \$119 million of the \$120 million needed to build the memorial. But I doubt that any donor gave money to the project with the ex-

pectation that the King children would be able to line their pockets with their contribution.

David Garrow, the Pulitzer Prize-winning King biographer, told the Associated Press that Dr. King would have been "absolutely scandalized by the profiteering behavior of his children." He added, "I don't think the Jefferson family, the Lincoln family...I don't think any other group of family ancestors has been paid a licensing fee for a memorial in Washington. One would think any family would be so thrilled to have their forefather celebrated and memorialized in D.C. that it would never dawn on them to ask for a penny."

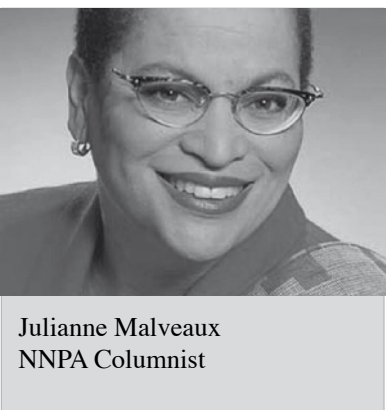
The King family is not look-

ing for pennies or dollars. They are looking for millions. They are already making millions from King's "I Have a Dream Speech." King was a very public man, giving a public speech at the Lincoln Memorial, yet the King children claim that he was a private citizen and therefore they are entitled to profit from his public pronouncements. They successfully sued CBS to prevent the network from airing the "I Have a Dream Speech" – without paying them.

But would they win such a suit today? Fortunately for them, people are willing to give them a pass because they are Dr. King's

Curry, Continued on page 11.

The Double Whammy of Poverty and Unemployment



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Last week, we learned that African American unemployment rates stayed level last month, with an absurdly high official unemployment rate of 14.1 percent. Unemployment rates for African American men fell, while those for African American women rose. These rates are way too high and understate the extent of pain that exists in the African American community.

The philosopher Albert Camus wrote, "Without work all life is rotten" because so many people value and define themselves by

the work they do. Indeed, at many professional social gatherings the first, second, or third question is: "What do you do?" Work seems to anchor us to stability, and to the world. Too many African American people have no anchor.

While President Obama, Vice President Biden and other key Democrats have acknowledged that unemployment rates are not falling quickly enough, few deal with the psychic effects that unemployment has on the person. For many, it causes a malaise and a sense of absolute disconnection. Others feel disillusioned and depressed, although others use their own talent at entrepreneurship to create work where there is none, using skills to offer goods and services to their neighbors.

We don't need government data to validate the pain that many in the African American community experience, far more pain than experienced in other communities. The overall unemployment rate dropped from 8.3 to 8.1 percent with Af-

rican American unemployment staying level, means some are enjoying our tepid economic recovery, while others are waiting for gains to trickle down.

Unemployment data were released on September 7, and the poverty data released on September 12. That's a double whammy for African Americans. Not only is the employment situation stagnant, with "real" unemployment rising as high as 25 percent, but new data on income and poverty suggest, again, that African Americans experience a greater burden than others in our society. The poverty rate among African Americans rose from 27.6 to 27.8 percent.

Some might describe these numbers as "not statistically significant," but try telling that to the 200,000 more African Americans in poverty. Overall, poverty rates dropped slightly from 15.2 to 15.1 percent. This means that nearly one in six Americans experience poverty, while one in four African Americans and Hispanics experience poverty.

Incomes have dropped by more than 8 percent in 2007, and again African Americans have lost more. While household incomes fell by 1.5 percent between 2010 and 2011, African American incomes fell by 2.7 percent, the largest drop of any racial or ethnic group. I don't mean to underestimate anyone's pain. All incomes fell, but African American incomes fell most. African American incomes hit their peak in 1999 at \$38,700. Today, with dollars adjusted, the amount is \$32,200, the lowest level since 1997. At the top or at the bottom, African Americans lost ground.

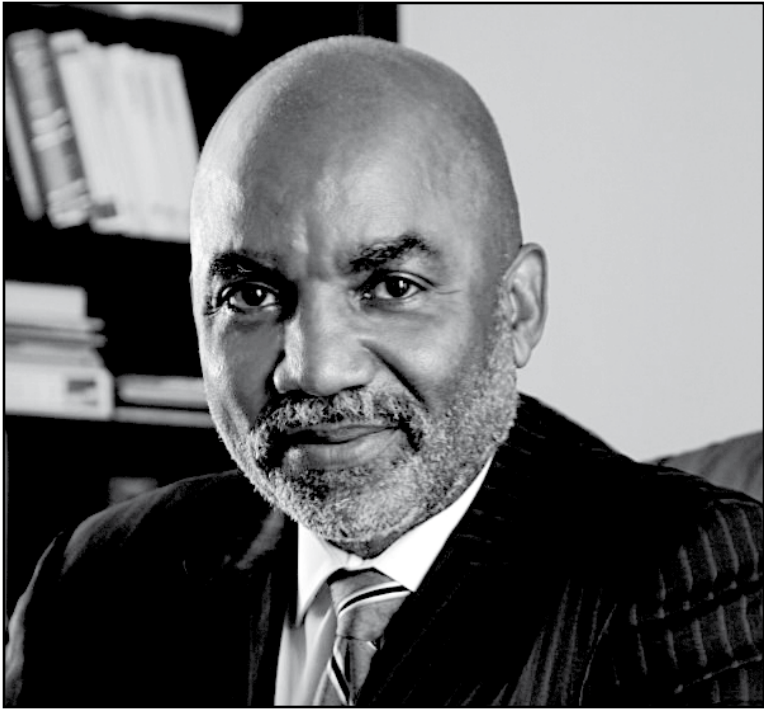
In the face of this double whammy, how do we answer the Reagan question: "Are you better off than you were four years ago?" Economists have described the "misery index" as the sum of unemployment rates and poverty rates, and using that index, all of America has seen erosion in status.

Still, legislation to improve both poverty and unemployment

rates has been stuck in legislative gridlock because House Republicans would rather see people suffer than to see President Obama appear successful. But for the obduracy of House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and his posse, including Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan (R-WI), we might see lower unemployment and poverty rates.

More importantly, the Congressional Budget Office says that extreme spending cuts and lower tax rates for the wealthy will plunge us into recession in six months or so. As President Barack Obama says, we have choices; we are at a fork in the road. With an unresponsive Congress, I am not sure how quickly President Obama can lead us to economic recovery, but with a change in strategy, I am absolutely certain that Romney-Ryan will plunge us into disaster. The double whammy of poverty and unemployment is a body blow. Spending and tax cuts will take African Americans from the hospital into the emergency room.

Supreme Court Sides with Gray in Challenge



City Council District E Candidate James Gray

This week, the challenge to James Gray's candidacy failed for the third and final time. The Supreme Court of Louisiana denied a request for a writ (filed on Thursday, September 13). The court declined to review the judgment of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal issued on September 11. In that earlier hearing, the Court of Appeal ruled unanimously in Gray's favor. The process of challenging Gray's qualifications is now final and complete, and the 4th Circuit's decision is legally binding on all parties.

Speaking about the court's decision, James Gray said "We always said this lawsuit was frivolous and irresponsible, a dirty trick of our opponent Austin Ba-

don and his supporters. Now, every single judge who has looked at it, all the way to the highest court in the state, has found the challenge to our campaign totally without merit. What we're most pleased about is that now we can get back to talking about what really matters - the people of District E and how to move our City forward."

Supreme Court review is discretionary. The justices review the request and if three of the seven justices see merit in the request, the court grants a review. Often, even when review is denied, a justice will be listed as favoring review. In this case, not one justice wrote that the case should be reviewed.

Criminal Justice Commissioner James Carter Announces Resignation

Criminal Justice Commissioner James Carter announced that his last day with the City in his capacity as Commissioner will be Friday, September 21, 2012. Carter, who began serving as Commissioner in May 2011, will still advise the Landrieu Administration on a pro-bono basis.

"When I took this job last spring, I committed to the Mayor that I would give everything I had to help him tackle the epidemic of young, black males killing each other in New Orleans," said Commissioner Carter. "We have laid a foundation and have a good, comprehensive plan and team in place to implement NOLA FOR LIFE. Unfortunately, up-

coming commitments with my law practice mean that I have to devote more time there. I will, therefore, transition out of my role as full-time Criminal Justice Commissioner."

Carter added, "My life's work has been in criminal justice. I can tell you one thing- there is no one more committed to reducing murder than Mayor Landrieu and this team. I am proud to be able to continue to serve with them as we end this epidemic."

Mayor Landrieu praised his work on criminal justice matters and on murder reduction efforts in particular.

"James will always be a part of the team. Under his leader-

ship, we've stood up the Mayor's Strategic Command, CeaseFire New Orleans, and SOS: NOLA Midnight Basketball. We've made major strides in improving programming, overall conditions, and oversight at the Youth Study Center, and we've launched a comprehensive plan to reduce murder called NOLA FOR LIFE. While his leadership will be sorely missed, I know that the team we have in place and that James helped cultivate will continue our progress."

As Carter transitions out of his current role, Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff Judy Reese Morse will oversee department heads and program directors that Carter currently manages.

City To Strictly Enforce Vending Laws At Saints Games

Starting this Sunday, September 23, the Department of Finance in conjunction with the New Orleans Police Department will strictly enforce City ordinances relative to illegal vending laws in the Superdome area at Saints home games. Vendors who have not obtained City licenses to sell items like clothing, bottled water, alcoholic beverages and other merchandise, will be issued summonses, and will have to appear in Municipal Court.

This measure is being taken to protect the interests of the licensed business owners who have taken necessary actions to acquire valid licenses.

Prohibited activities:

Alcohol sales are strictly prohibited on city streets or public right-of-ways before and after the game;

Sales not made from a fixed place of business;

Clothing and general merchandise sales on sidewalks or public right-of-ways.

The ordinances state, in a document provided by the City of New Orleans Bureau of Revenue, that sales or offer for sales in the Superdome area, without first having obtained a permit from the Department of

Finance, are illegal. Also, no person can commence any business without first paying a tentative license tax and after obtaining the approval of the Department of Safety and Permits. Furthermore, vendors must remit all sales or use tax.


The strict enforcement of the

vending laws will be enforced throughout the entire 2012-2013 Saints football season. Those persons seeking additional information on necessary permits and information can contact the Bureau of Revenue, at (504) 658-1600, (504)658-1666 or at revenue@nola.gov.

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Romney Gets it Wrong, Again

Mitt Romney's now infamous comments about half of America made at a May fundraiser are not only offensive, but also inaccurate.

In a video taken at the fundraiser and leaked on Monday, Romney claimed that 47 percent of Americans are Obama voters that "pay no income tax," "are dependent upon government" and "believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to

housing, to you-name-it."

Romney's 47 percent figure lumped together separate groups that have little relation to one another. Most Americans do pay taxes: The poorest fifth of Americans paid an effective tax rate of 17 percent last year, and the second-poorest fifth paid an effective tax rate of 21 percent, when factoring in payroll taxes, sales taxes and property taxes, among

others, according to Citizens for Tax Justice.

It is true that 46 percent of American households did not pay federal income taxes last year, according to the Tax Policy Center. But that number is unusually high, in part because of the recession – and a majority of that 46 percent still paid payroll taxes. Only 18 percent of American households paid no income taxes and no payroll taxes last year. It is largely low-income seniors and very poor people that legally don't pay federal income taxes or payroll taxes, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Tax Policy Center.

It was also inaccurate for Romney to claim that those who don't pay federal income taxes would vote for President Obama "no matter what." Nearly all states



Republican Presidential candidate, Governor Mitt Romney responds to questions regarding the release of the "secret conversation" held at a fundraiser where he made disparaging remarks about the nation's poor and working class people.

with a high percentage of Americans that don't pay federal income taxes vote Republican in presidential elections, according to the Washington Post.

Moreover, Republican policy – on the part of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush – has pushed to move poorer people off of the federal income tax rolls, as noted by the Washington Post's Ezra Klein and Newsweek's Matt Zeitlin.

As for entitlements, contrary to Romney's portrayal, more than 90 percent of entitlement benefits go to the elderly, seriously disabled or members of working households, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Romney stood by his comments on Monday, telling reporters that though his comments were "not elegantly stated," Obama's approach is "attractive to people who are not paying taxes."

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

and it is the birthplace of Jazz. It is an atmosphere that affects me as an artist to stay close to the roots of my City and its musical traditions. It is something that grounds me in something solid that I can take anywhere and whether it is rock, soul, jazz or whatever, the foundation of what we all do as creative people is definitely New Orleans."

Throughout its history the Crescent City has always had interesting eccentric characters that have become an essential part of its lore and attraction. One of those is Davis Rogan, who's renamed Davis McAlary on the show and is played by Steve Zahn. While it is understood that artistic licenses are taken when bringing a real person to the screen and making them bigger. In this case it's just the opposite according to Samuel Taylor, who lives across the street from Davis, "Davis is a really nice guy, but he is 10 times more animated than the one on TV." Of the show and it showing the City in a realistic light he says, "I think the show gives people a taste of the City, although sometimes it is not completely accurate, but what can you expect from a TV show; it can't be all things to all people, but I plan to watch it this season."

Treme' and a City at a Crossroads

Recently, one of the icons of the Treme' neighborhood died. "Uncle" Lionel Batiste, the famed drummer of the Treme' Brass passed away and two weeks of parades followed and his repast had him not lying in a casket but standing. This is a symbol of the living culture of New Orleans, one that is vibrant but is in the middle of two roads diverged seeking a direction; torn between how to marry tradition with new ideas. It is a City trapped in a tug of war of which course the City should pursue moving forward and more so, who is to be at the steering wheel. "Until the City decides that the culture of its historic architecture is worth saving, I'm pessimistic. We talk about these traditions and these neighborhoods, but saving them is not a priority for anyone with any real influence on government policy," says Lolis Elie. Continuing he says, "I think we'll find ourselves 50 years from now trying to rebuild the Creole Cottages we've torn down, much as we are trying to re-introduce streetcars to a City that didn't find them modern enough 60 years ago. I think we'll be trying to figure out how to put walking paths through the sea of parking created by this new medical foolishness in lower Mid-City, much as the new Urban-

ist around the country is trying to teach others, newer cities to be more like us."

James Andrews on the other hand sees the tradition as alive and continuing to grow, "Regardless of what some plan for the City, I see our culture living on in the young people, those who pick up instruments; I see the next generation when I see young people starting second line bands; I see our young people celebrating who we are and that has less to do with buildings and more about what is in the people's hearts and minds and that is something no one can take away from us."

It is a poignant and relevant statement that visual Artist Terrence Osborne said upon Uncle Lionel's passing, that when a person dies it is as if a library has burned down. And in the case of Treme' and New Orleans we see a City and the neighborhood is changing, but what still remains is the stories of a people and their spirit of resilience. And while the future of series Treme' may be questionable, because as we know all television shows must come to an end. But without question what will not end is the spirit of the people of a City that continues to be the lifeblood of New Orleans giving it the oxygen it needs to breathe and live again.

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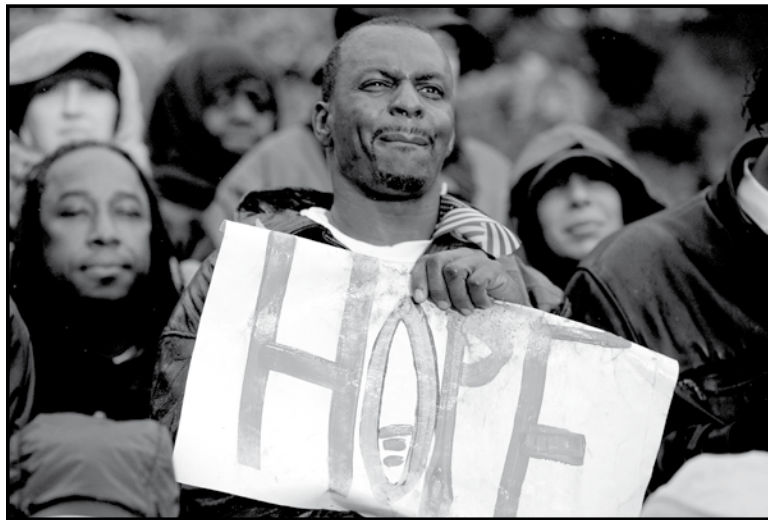
President Barack Obama's campaign recently said they there is a sense of urgency for African Americans to come out and vote during a roundtable briefing with black journalists at the Charlotte Convention Center during the Democratic National Convention.

Obama senior advisor Valerie Jarrett told the roundtable of journalists that the assault on voting rights should motivate blacks to get to the polls in November.

"The fact that laws are been made difficult should motivate people," Jarrett said. "Whatever the new laws are it should motivate people even more than ever before to exercise their right to vote."

The wave of new voter restrictions and requirements in key battleground states according to critics has been a ploy to decrease the voter turnout for Obama among African Americans.

Some of the new voter laws are requiring photo ID which has drawn the watchful eyes of the U.S. Department of Justice



African Americans, despite a poor economy are ready to help re-elect President Obama in November.

with Attorney General Eric

Holder suing states putting more voting requirements ahead of the November election.

She said Holder has "been vigorous in fulfilling his duties for the Voting Rights Act."

Patrick Gaspard, Executive Director of the Democratic National Committee said the campaign is very much aware that it would score big among African Americans, Latinos, Asians and other minority groups because of the issues that are stake for those communities.

When pressed to give an overview of what a second term under Obama would mean for minorities, Gaspard only said the political interest of those communities will speak for itself.

Taking a swipe at Gov. Mitt Romney, Gaspard said the Republican nominee has been trying to "appeal to the worst elements in that party."

On President Obama's support same sex marriage which has upset some African American ministers, Gaspard said "I

respect those pastors but I don't think they are representative of their congregations' views."

Broderick Johnson, a senior advisor to the Obama campaign said majority of black pastors are urging their congregation members to go out and vote.

However Johnson said the campaign still takes serious the concerns of those ministers opposed to gay marriage "But we also know that's a minority perspective. There is great enthusiasm out there and we have great voter engagement. So we are going to make sure people get out and vote."

Asked about the impact of the economy in the Black community Jarrett said "A lot has been done that has greatly benefited the Black community," citing investments in small businesses, stimulus and the saving of the auto industry.

She said a Romney/Ryan plan Romney would be devastating to the middle class, decimate the department of education.

President Obama is really looking forward to having the chance to debate Gov. Romney, Jarrett said.

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Curry/ Continued from page 8.

dysfunctional children, not because of anything they have done. Private citizens don't have federal holidays named in their honor. Monuments aren't erected to them on the National Mall. If Dr. King isn't a public figure, no one is.

Even worse than charging the foundation that erected the King Memorial for use of King's words and images, the King family has now told the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation that their licensing agreement has expired and the family will not extend it. Not even for a sizeable fee. And by the way, the foundation can no longer use King in its name and will have to change that, too..

So what is their angle? You

know the money grubbing Kings had to have one. Bernice King, CEO of the King Center in Atlanta, announced a year-long celebration leading to the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

"We are excited by the four days of activities we have organized to commemorate my father's 'I Have a Dream' speech, in cooperation with the MLK, Jr. National Historic Site and the CDC," she said. "As we launch the year-long countdown to the global observance of the 50th anniversary, the Dreamkeepers Program events will help us address the still relevant challenge of creating a more just society through nonviolent activism."

The King Center - which has

been managed by Dexter, Martin III and now Bernice - hopes to raise \$170 million from the events.

The famous march was about more than a young preacher from Atlanta delivering a sterling speech that mesmerized the nation. Rather, it was called the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was organized by A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

With an official Black unemployment rate of 14.4 percent, the emphasis should again be on jobs, not Dr. King's speech.

But a focus on jobs wouldn't put any money into the King coffers. And they've already shown that is one of their major objectives. They had ar-

ranged for Sotheby to auction King's papers in 2006. But Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin stepped in and organized a private group that paid \$32 million for the papers and donated them to Morehouse College, King's alma mater.

Had he been alive, that's something Dr. King probably would have done. But unlike his children, he wouldn't do it to make a buck.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA) and editorial director of Heart & Soul magazine. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge.

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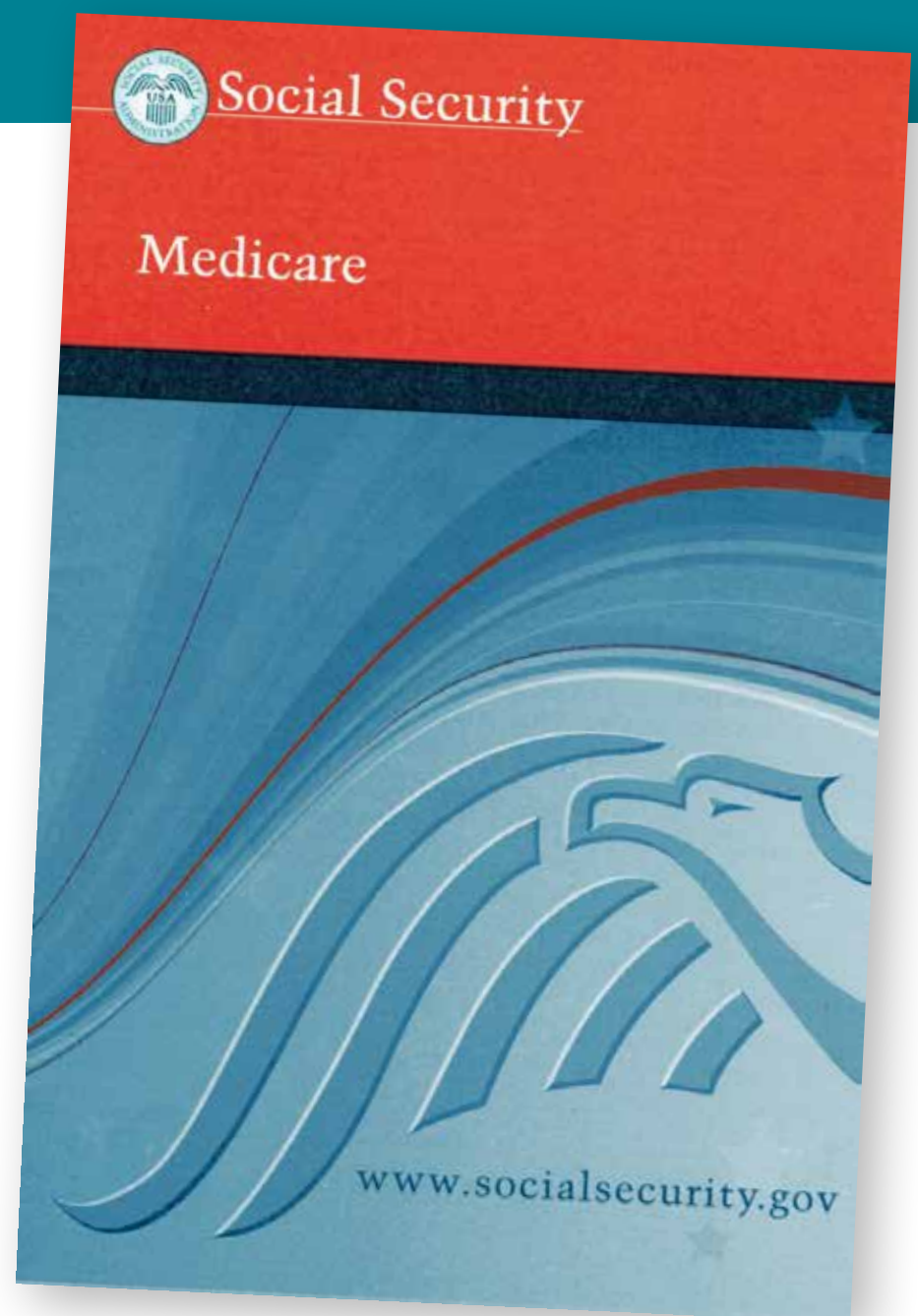
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