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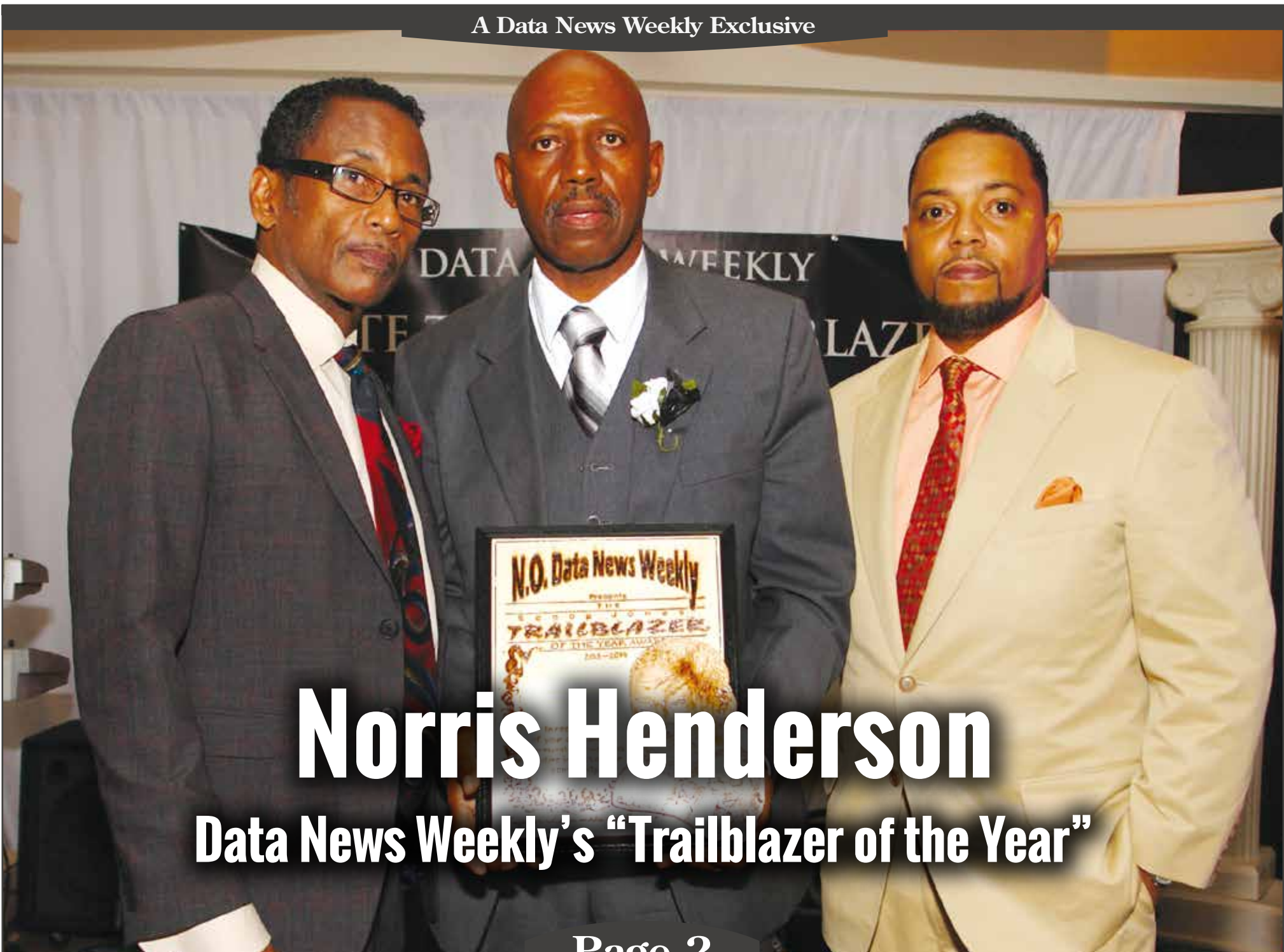


Data Anniversary Highlights

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September 27 - October 3, 2014 49th Year Volume 22 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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Data News Weekly Trailblazer of the Year Norris Henderson



NPR's Congressional reporter Ailsa Chang meets Norris Henderson, Data News Weekly's Trailblazer of the Year and the Founder and Exec. Director of Voices of the Ex-Offender (V.O.T.E.).

By Edwin Buggage

Data News Weekly recently celebrated its 48th Anniversary and Gala honoring its monthly trailblazers. These were twelve amazing individuals who come from different walks of life but have one thing in common. All are blessed with a big heart and a will to serve

others. On this night Data News Weekly also awarded one person the esteemed honor as "Trailblazer of the Year". This year's honoree is Norris Henderson. He is a man whose story is well-known. He was wrongly accused and convicted of murder and served 27 years in Angola State Penitentiary. But this fate did not keep him from opening his heart while incarcerated and

upon his release he's dedicated his life to helping others.

Through his work he has become known around the globe doing his life's work and that is to being an asset to the community and family of humanity; being a drum major leading the charge towards justice, fairness and equality. "I am humbled that I was consid-

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ered for “Trailblazer of the Month” let alone “Trailblazer of the Year”. There were many amazing people who were in attendance that also received awards that night who serve the community in great ways and I share this award with all of them

for what they do and the many others who serve to help others every day,” says Henderson.

Speaking of what he felt at the time when his name was announced as “Trailblazer of the Year” he says, “It was an overwhelming

feeling when my name was called, seeing that people value the work I do helping others.” Norris Henderson is a man filled with a spirit of humility, for he feels there are forces greater than him that is the source of his giving spirit. “I am

just a vehicle simply a vessel with a lot of stuff running through me. I don’t look for accolades or praise I am just doing the work God has charged me to do and hope it impacts and inspires others to want to contribute.”

Henderson feels he is not unique and everyone has the capacity to serve in some way. It is just about individuals identifying something they feel passionate about and doing the work. “I think that people can find their niche, it is finding something you are concerned about and put in the time and effort to help people make changes that are positive.” Continuing on a note of service he says, “When I think of service there is a quote from Shirley Chisholm that says, ‘Service is the rent we pay for our space here on earth.’ The first time I read that I thought that was it. I thought that if we all find some way to serve no matter how big or small someone benefits.”

He says he hopes that his life example of service can inspire others. Saying that while he was down, he was never out; saying that in spite of his circumstances he continued to stay hopeful and optimistic. Adding that while he may have been confined physically he was free spiritually and mentally. “When I was incarcerated and even when I got out I have been an avid reader and I remember reading a lot of the

work of Les Brown the motivational speaker and he would say, ‘If you can look up you can get up.’ I hope through my example that people can see that whatever they’re going through they can get up. I just hope that I can be the example of not giving up, not quitting and making people realize that there will be difficulties for all of us but at some point if you are putting in the work you can change that. You can make a negative into a positive.”

Henderson is a man like the biblical Job or Joseph who has been through a lot and feels his spiritual commitment is what kept him going through the tough times and keeps him going. “I know that God places no burden on any of us that we don’t have the strength to bear and so whatever I encounter I just view it as a test. I know that I have the intestinal fortitude to overcome and everyone has this in them.” Continuing he says, “In my life I’ve tried to be that beacon light and when they look at my life and journey they can be inspired and say I know where this guy has come from, where he’s been and where he’s going and if he can serve others I can too, even if I may not do it exactly the way he does it I know it is a step in the right direction.”

We at Data News Weekly congratulate Norris Henderson on being chosen as the “Trailblazer of the Year”.

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trailblazer

Tyra Barabino

Guiding the Next Generation To Be All That They Can Be

by: Edwin Buggage

Tyra Barabino has become a face that many know as an actress and writer featured in commercials, films, radio and television. But what lies true to her heart is helping young people reach their true potential. She is one who has throughout her life been a selfless giver. "I have always been involved with the community reaching back and helping kids. It doesn't matter which environment you've come from, we all can find ways to give back. I think it is everyone's responsibility to find a way to give back to others," says Barabino.

She has worked with young girls in a variety of capacities over the years at NORD (New Orleans Recreation Department) playgrounds, community centers, in her church and throughout the community mentoring and teaching life skills that for many are life changing experiences. "I have always volunteered helping young girls bringing them to different places and showing them how to become women and also how not to get involved in some of the negative things that would keep them from reaching

the goals they aspire to."

Speaking of the many life enhancing experiences she's given young girls she feels these things can broaden their horizons and help defy and combat the myth that your destiny is defined by your immediate environment, "Some say you are a product of your environment, but I would beg to differ, I feel it is important to take young people out of negative circumstances and put them in places where they can see a different way of life. With this they can see that there is always a way out and that you can make it out of any situation."

Tyra believes that many people do not reach their goals because of fear in addition to placing themselves around the wrong people. She feels that placing yourself around the right type of people creates an environment that is essential if one is to become successful. "When talking to young people the main thing I tell them is to focus and believe in yourself and don't be distracted by negative people and those who are telling you what you can't do. With hard work anyone can achieve



their goals. If you take this approach I believe the sky is the limit."

When one thinks of a formula for success and the things that make some more successful than others it comes down to having order, structure and discipline as staples in your life along with some of the

and this is something she passes on to the youth. "I served eight years in the U.S. Army, and in the military you learn patience, respect, and to have pride in yourself. It is truly a transformative experience; you go in one way and come out another." Continuing she says, "It was an awesome experience; it helps you to define your goals and to focus on how to reach them. I traveled for free, I was able to live in Germany; it was good to go abroad and live in different cultures and expand my world view. I wouldn't change this experience for anything."

Of her giving heart she says it was her parents Larry Barabino Sr. and Marilyn Barabino, who's been married for 49 years that instilled in her a sense of understanding that importance of serving others. "I give a great deal of respect to my mom and dad, they have been married for 49 years and it is rare to see that. I

have always been encouraged by my family and my parents, they have taught me well and I have passed those lessons on to others. Throughout my life I can say they have kept me on the right path."

As she looks around at the local community she says that we must get back to being our brothers and sisters keeper. That building a stronger community fabric where all are involved in coming up with solutions are key to building a better City for future generations, "We have to stop the violence, stop Black on Black crime; stop the fighting and begin disrespecting each other, we need to learn how to love each other and build for the future, because we are all we have. We need to reach back and begin giving the kids what they need when they are young by instilling the things in them they need like morals, character and values so they can be all they can be."

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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data News Weekly Honors Their 2013-2014 Trailblazers

Photos by Glenn Summers

On Thursday, September 18th 2014 Data held its 48th Anniversary Celebration and Gala at The Regency Reception Hall in New Orleans East. This year's emcees were Ed Marshall, First NBC Bank and Samantha Beaulieu. Each of the trailblazers was given awards for being the trailblazer of the month beginning May 2013 through April 2014. BRW R&B Recording Artists and the BRW Band headlined the entertainment for the evening. Other performances were by Michael Ward, Kermit Ruffins and the David Batiste Renew Youth Ensemble. We had a full house attended by guest of our trailblazers, our sponsors, family, friends, elected officials and other supporters. Everyone enjoyed the program, it was well-organized; the food was great and the entertainment phenomenal. Another great event we are looking forward to next year.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data News Weekly Honors Their 2013-2014 Trailblazers



Silicon Valley Must Embrace Diversity



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"The industry that bills itself a meritocracy actually looks more like a mirrortocracy."

— Mitch Kapor, co-chair of the Kapor Center for Social Impact

While the number of African American, Latino and women consumers of Internet and broadband products and services is rising, their numbers at the major Silicon Valley companies continue to lag way behind. After years of resisting disclosure, tech giants such as Apple, Facebook, Yahoo and Google recently released their employment diversity numbers. As we've long

suspected, they show a striking lack of inclusion.

According to published figures, at Google, 3 percent of its staff are Hispanic and 2 percent are Black. Both Yahoo and Facebook reported that Hispanics and Blacks make up 4 percent and 2 percent of their workplaces, respectively. When Apple makes an announcement, as in its recent introduction of the iPhone 6, it usually wants the world to stand up and take notice. This was likely not the case with the release of its diversity numbers last month, which showed the company is 55 percent White, 15 percent Asian, 11 percent Hispanic and 7 percent Black. In his statement upon release of the report, Apple CEO Tim Cook candidly admitted, "I'm not satisfied with the numbers on this page." This acknowledgment is a first step, but the question for Cook and his Silicon Valley counterparts is: What are you going to do about it?

For years, Silicon Valley has used the specious claim of being a "meritocracy" to explain the lack of diversity in its ranks. It has never been true that African Americans, Latinos or women are somehow less able to excel at high tech jobs. It is true that communities of color and women continue to be underrepresented in the attainment of science and engineering degrees. The National Urban League is working to increase those numbers with efforts such as Project Ready STEM, which is supporting 10 Project Ready STEM sites across the nation. The sites are successfully operating STEM programs for nearly 300 middle or high school students, with the goals of ensuring that urban students have the necessary supports and opportunities available to them to succeed in STEM-related class work and exposing students to STEM-related careers.

But as Freda Kapor Klein, co-chair of the Kapor Center for Social Impact, explains, "The reality is that

most of the barriers are structural...our sector is permeated by biases, both subtle and not so subtle." Her co-chair and husband, Mitch Kapor, the designer of Lotus 1-2-3, adds, "Even as companies scramble to find workers in the most competitive hiring market in recent memory, most are continuing to bring aboard people who look like they do."

It is not enough to lament the numbers; Silicon Valley must be more intentional about increasing diversity. The industry would do well to follow the example of some of the large telecom companies, which have taken proactive measures in recent years to increase diversity within their organizations. For example, AT&T's Workforce Inclusion website states, "We know that diverse, talented and dedicated individuals are critical to our success, so we look for people from various backgrounds and give them opportunities to grow...we serve our customers

better when we build diversity into all we do."

Verizon has also made great strides in both employee and supplier diversity. According to Verizon Chairman and CEO, Lowell McAdam "A diverse workplace is one of Verizon's biggest strengths as a global innovation leader. Our employees' unique backgrounds and perspectives are key to our success in delivering technology solutions that create value for our customers, shareholders and society."

Silicon Valley companies must not only make similar statements, they must make similar commitments. They can begin by developing comprehensive diversity plans to cover hiring, procurement, governance and philanthropy. As major consumers of technology, people of color and women should also have a fair share of the jobs and wealth that Silicon Valley generates.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

Talk is no Substitute for Action



Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Columnist

Have you ever seen a photo of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taking part of a panel discussion? It's likely he didn't have time if he were asked. It's also likely that in the 1950s and 1960s, he wasn't asked much. The period King conquered was a time of action. The actions Dr. King took got results and won huge victories.

Last year, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. This year, we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And next year with mark the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In all of the commemorating and celebrating, may-

be it's time we ask ourselves: Has activism been replaced by retracing marches and yet another panel discussion?

There is no escaping the endless hot air. There is a panel at every turn. At every annual convention. At every luncheon. Even sometimes at breakfast. Even worse, many African American events feature the same panel discussion. It is a repeat of the same problems and virtually the identical discussion the year before.

Wait, it gets worse. It's typically the case that the discussion features no "call to action" or clear, detailed set of ideas that might lead to action. That these discussions often feature some of the best and the brightest "public intellectuals" of the era may not be something to celebrate. If the smartest among us spend more time talking than acting, that can't be a good thing.

With the understanding that the centerpiece of the American Civil Rights Movement was based around action rather than panel discussions, we should view end-

less talk as a problem and perhaps even a barrier. No panel discussion ever ended police brutality. No panel discussion you will ever see or ever hear will end income inequality or put a young person through college. Clearly, the exchange of ideas is important. But when all discussed begins and ends with "the exchange" only, it may be time to re-think what creates real change.

In history, when we've seen change, we've often seen it after unrest. Unrest that scared those in power. We've often seen change after civil disobedience. Perhaps African Americans saw the biggest change after America's War Between the States. Currently, the centerpiece of "civil rights" activity appears to be talking.

What we just witnessed in Ferguson, Mo. provides a perfect example. Before so-called "Black leaders" arrived to tell everyone to relax – a notion so ridiculous it should have perhaps set off more unrest – protesters were receiving worldwide attention. If an event such as the shooting death in the middle of

the street of an unarmed teenager doesn't cause active protest, what will?

Michael Brown's death occurred only a month after New York City Police Officer Daniel Pantaleo choked Eric Garner, 48, to death on the sidewalk for all to review on video. And what was it that Brown and Garner were doing to elicit a police confrontation? One was jaywalking and the other was selling cigarettes.

We don't need another panel discussion to understand what brought those in power to the table on the issue. We don't need another discussion from "public intellectuals" who spend more time talking rather than doing (and making plenty of money in the process) to know what kept attention on the situation in Ferguson.

The activities of five decades ago yielded big results – Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, among others. But few of those big results and political victories are being duplicated today. And the problems, for the African American community in particular,

are getting larger.

Four days after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on December 1, 1955, Blacks boycotted buses in Montgomery, Ala. The protest lasted 381 days. Every day was a day of action. Every day was strategy session. The effort required 13 months of patience and perseverance. The result: The U.S. Supreme Court ordered the city of Montgomery to integrate the bus system.

The Civil Rights Act became the most important legislation and policy change for African Americans since Reconstruction. The poll tax was finally ended in 11 southern states. None of this happened because of panel discussions and press conferences. Without applying constant pressure none of it would have ever happened. Without active pressure on power today, we will be left with nothing but talk.

Lauren Victoria Burke is freelance writer and creator of the blog Crewof42.com, which covers African American members of Congress. She can be reached through her website, laurenvictoriaburke.com, or Twitter at Crewof42 or by e-mail at LBurke007@gmail.com.

Climb Every Mountain



Lyndia Grant
NNPA Columnist

One of my favorite movies, "The Sound of Music," includes this inspirational song, "Climb Every Mountain." Let's take a look at the lyrics: Climb every mountain, search high and low, follow every byway, every path you know. Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow, 'till you find your dream. A dream that will need all the love you can give, every day of your life for as long as you live.

It's a song that I first heard as a student at McKinley Technical Senior High School, back in the 1960s. The Music Department sponsored a special trip to the movies! It was unforgettable. Nearly 45 years later, I'm still watching this classic film. When the Mother Abbess, portrayed by Peggy Wood sings, "Climb Every Mountain," it's always an inspiration to me. I thought I would use some of the lyrics to share my inspiration with you.

Mountains are climbed one step at a time; we plan our route, keep striving and may have to rest. Our spiritual mountain gives us similar challenges. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 it says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also

make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Paul stated that God only gives us that which we can bear and helps when temptations or hardships come. It is comforting to realize that we are not alone and have a thoughtful Creator who will lift us up. We face many difficult challenges in our lives, but it's what we learn during those adventures that count.

People who are new to the mountains don't always appreciate the dangers hidden there. They will learn through experience that there's a proper way to climb a mountain. They will also find out that the view from the top is breathtaking.

Often, we are much more serious about our earthly climb to success, but it all ends when the breath leaves our bodies. It is temporary.

The spiritual climb is the only way that leads to eternal life, and it is worth every ounce of expended energy.

It is probably true that most people would rather avoid the strenuous and demanding task of climbing mountains (real or spiritual). Most people avoid pain and suffering; when that mountain appears too steep to climb, they quit.

In the end, the reward will be more than worth the struggle. This life is short and full of troubles, whether we choose to follow Jesus Christ or not. This life is physical and temporary. The life we hope for, pray for and suffer for is eternal. God places this hope into the hearts of all people.

Climbing mountains can be a great source of joy and satisfaction. How much greater and joyful are God's mountains when He walks

by our side. So then we can pray, "Give me mountains to climb and the strength to climb them."

Dr. Mattie Moss Clark wrote this song, which I will close with this week: "Climbing up the mountain, trying to reach the top' almost finished my journey. I've gone half way and I just can't stop. At the end of the mountain there is faith and trust I can see Jesus standing there to meet us." That's what climb every mountain really means. No matter how steep your mountains appear to be, just know that as long as you continue to keep your faith and trust, you too will someday, see Jesus standing there to meet you.

Lyndia Grant is a radio talk show host on WYCB 1340 AM, Fridays at 6 p.m. Visit her website at www.lyndiagrants.com, call her at 202-518-3192 or email lyndiagrants@lyndiagrants.com.

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CBC Joins Black Churches for "Freedom Sunday" Campaign

By Freddie Allen

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – If the Democrats lose the United States Senate and more seats in the House of Representatives in the upcoming midterm elections, Marcia Fudge, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, said that the Republicans would impeach President Barack Obama.

Even though he won't be on the ballot in November, the CBC hopes to use the Republican threat of impeachment and other personal and political attacks on President Obama to fuel Black voter turnout for the 2014 midterm elections.

Fudge said that if Republicans win the Senate they would continue to challenge President Obama's legitimacy by threatening him with lawsuits, questioning his birthplace and intelligence, and accusing him of violating the Constitution.

"We're going to have two more years of that foolishness, if they takeover the Senate and win more seats in the House," said Fudge. "They will make our lives miserable for the next two years."

Lorenzo Morris, political science professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., noted that the focus on the threat to voters' rights through stricter ID requirements, redistricting and plans to reduce early voting in some states, motivated minority voters and saved President Obama during the 2012 election.

"African Americans, as well as, Latino and even Asian voters were mobilized by the sense that the Republican Party was trying to disenfranchise them," said Morris.

Fudge said that Republicans would not only continue attacks on President Obama, but also continue efforts to make changes to



entitlement programs like Social Security, Medicaid and food stamps that would disproportionately hurt Blacks.

During a recent press conference at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Headquarters, Fudge, joined by Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.), Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.), Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) and Donna Brazile, vice chair of Voter Registration and Participation for the DNC, announced a national partnership with Black churches designed to rally Black voters and increase civic engagement.

Fudge said that by collaborating with thousands of churches across the country, the "Freedom Sunday" campaign hoped to reach 12 million people before the November elections.

Morris said that the strategy

that the CBC is undertaking is important because churches have the capacity to mobilize voters independent of individual candidates.

"While we know that voter turnout significantly decreases during midterm elections we also know that there is an opportunity to ensure that African American voters and particularly those where we have highly-contested Senate races know what is at stake in this election," said Fudge.

During the 2010 midterm elections, Black voter turnout was 44 percent, compared to White voter turnout which was 49 percent, according to the U.S. 2010 Current Population Survey. During the 2012 elections, Black voter turnout eclipsed White voter turnout by more than 2 percent.

The CBC also plans to target 19 key district and House races where

they believe Black voters can make a difference in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, New York, Arkansas, Colorado, New Jersey, Nebraska and Virginia.

"The African American vote is crucial for Democratic successes all across the country," said Brazile. "The Democratic National Committee has launched the most aggressive voter expansion program, and not just in the 19 targeted congressional districts where the African American vote will make the difference, in terms of winning or losing, but also in eight Senate races."

Brazile continued: "This is not just a campaign to say, 'go out and vote.' We're talking about crucial issues like raising the minimum wage, preventing gun violence, making education more affordable and protecting voting rights."

She said that during the last election cycle, candidates or incumbents won in 65 districts by less than 1 percent.

"By just increasing Black [voter] turnout, Latino and youth [voter] turnout, which also drops off in non-presidential years, we know that it can make a difference in this election," said Brazile. "If it's close, we can push somebody over the top."

In states like Louisiana, where the Black population is more than 30 percent, Fudge said, Blacks can clearly tip the scales in close races.

"So we're going to be spending a lot of time in Louisiana," added Fudge.

But Morris noted that many of the state Democratic candidates who are running neck-and-neck with challengers have distanced themselves from President Obama and his sagging approval ratings.

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-La.) who faces a tough battle in Louisiana, publicly criticized President Obama in the wake of the Affordable Care Act rollout last year and Senator Kay Hagan (D-N.C.) said that the president had not "done enough to earn the lasting trust of our veterans and implement real and permanent reforms" in the wake of the Veteran Affairs scandal that forced resignation of then-Veteran Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

Morris said that a big loss in November for the Democrats would make it harder for Obama to leave any kind of lasting, progressive legacy of agenda items on the table on his way out in 2016.

He said, "This [midterm] election can be a real cliffhanger and all it will take is for African Americans to be mobilized to make a difference."



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Properties include single family homes, doubles and vacant lots. The properties are located in the New Orleans East, Gentilly Terrace, Filmore, Broadmoor, Hollygrove and West End neighborhoods and many more. A non-refundable minimum deposit, per property, of \$2,000, (that will need to be increased 10% of the High Bid Price). The deposit is due the day of the auction and must be in the form of cashier's

check, money order, cash or certified funds. There is no cost to bid and no Buyer's Premium. There will be a Buyer's Seminar on October 8, 2014, 7:00 PM. Dryades YMCA, 2220 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. Registration begins at 6:30 PM.

There are 90± structures that will be open for inspection prior to the auction on Saturday, October 11th and Sunday, October 12th, 2014. Please visit www.hilcorealestate.com/NORA for exact times and instructions.

"We have received hundreds of inquiries since launching our online database of properties. We are excited to make available this next pool of properties," said Jeff Herbert, NORA's Executive Director.

Winning bidders must agree to rehab or complete construction on the property within 365 days and keep it code compliant. Bidders may use the property for green space if their property is directly adjacent to the property acquired at the auction.

For additional information, please call 504-407-5190 or visit www.hilcorealestate.com/NORA.

Chalmette Ferry is Getting a New Barge



After 36 years of dutiful service, the Chalmette Landing Barge is being replaced. In the hours after the normal 9:00 p.m. shut-down on Friday, September 19, there was no ferry service between Chalmette and Lower Algiers until Monday, September 22, at 6:00 a.m. to install the new landing barge.

The landing barge is an essential part of the Chalmette Ferry operation. The ferry ties up alongside the barge to allow pedestrians and ve-

hicles to get on or leave the ferry.

The new barge will be the result of an ongoing project by DOTD utilizing federal grant funds. It will decrease the service outages and provide a dependable level of service for the Chalmette Ferry customers.

For more information about the RTA, visit www.norta.com, follow us on Twitter @NewOrleansRTA, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NewOrleansRTA or call our Ride Line at 504-248-3900.

RTA Rolled Out New Bus Service Starting Sunday, September 21

Effective this Sunday, September 21, 2014, the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will implement improvements to bus service. This expanded and improved bus service will restore bus lines, add new bus service, and improve service reliability. Riders are encouraged to pick up a rider alert on RTA vehicles, visit the RTA

online, and call the RTA to find out more about the service improvements. RTA representatives will be at bus stops and transfer locations across New Orleans this weekend to answer questions and distribute informational fliers about this service enhancement. Learn more at www.norta.com, or by calling 504-248-3900.

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The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information contact the plan. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, provider network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year. Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-Star rating system. Star Ratings are calculated each year and may change from one year to the next. Peoples Health is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract to offer HMO plans. Enrollment depends on annual Medicare contract renewal.

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