New Orleans Data News Weekly Celebrates 50th Anniversary

On Friday, August 26, 2016, New Orleans Data News Weekly concluded its 50th Anniversary Celebration with the People’s Golden Service Award Gala. The event was in downtown New Orleans at Generations Hall. Live music was provided by Kermit Ruffins and the Barbeque Swingers and other musical artist. The event was hosted by former news anchor Norman Robinson and Benjamin Chavis, President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publisher Association, was the keynote speaker.

The event was sponsored by Macy’s, Liberty Bank, Entergy, General Motors and WBOK 1230AM.

The recipients honored at the first annual event included: Donna Brazile, Vice-Chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee; Marc Morial, CEO of the National Urban League; Congresswoman Maxine Waters, U.S. Representative for California’s 43rd District; Tanya Lombard, Assistant Vice-President of AT&T; and Sidney Williams, U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas (also husband to Maxine Waters)

(Left to right) – Congressman Cedric Richmond, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, California District 43, Sidney Williams, U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas (also husband to Maxine Waters) Terry Jones, Publisher and CEO Data News Weekly, and Norman Robinson, Former News Anchor
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Sheriff Marlin Gusman
Congratulates
Data News Weekly
on their
50th Anniversary
and
a successful Gala.

Jim Farmer, Retired Vice-President of GMAC; and Dan Packer, Former CEO and President of Energy New Orleans Inc.

Terry Jones, Publisher of Data News Weekly, was proud to recognize all six recipients. He said the six people honored served as prime examples of leadership in the African-American Community.

Jones was also thankful for community support over the last 50 years.

“I’d like to thank you guys for supporting us,” Jones said.

“What the keynote speaker said tonight is true. African-American newspapers are in trouble. But that’s why we need you. We’re the people’s paper and we need you to help us survive,” Jones added.

Jones wanted to thank guest for attending the 50th Anniversary Gala.

“I’d like to thank everybody that was able to attend the People’s Golden Service Award. I’d also like to thank Congressman Cedric Richmond, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Judge Michael Bagneris, Juan Lafonta and Patrice Mercadel for being in attendance,” Jones said.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters was happy to attend the event and spoke about Terry and his commitment to Data News Weekly.

“I’ve been with Terry Jones on the national level and he’s always been about the business of our people. He’s always helping to organize and talk about what more we can do to be that talking drums for Black newspapers. What more we can do to empower people in the community. I admire him and this newspaper,” Waters said.

“To be in business for 50 years. To be able to maintain and to have the strength and courage to turn that paper out every week is admirable,” she added.

Data News Weekly plans to continue to honor leaders across the nation in following People’s Golden Service Awards.
Image 1: Trailblazer of the Year Oliver Thomas

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Contributor

Data News Weekly recently celebrated its Golden Anniversary with two amazing events. The Annual Trailblazer Award Ceremony and the Inaugural Golden Service Award Gala. As we do annually, we feature a profile on the Trailblazer of the Year. This year’s recipient is a person who has come to embody service and the spirit of giving both as a public elected official and private citizen. Oliver Thomas has for several decades been committed to the greater good of all New Orleans. “It was one of the biggest surprises of my life. I was honored to be one of the Trailblazers throughout the year, but I had no idea that I would be selected Trailblazer of the Year. It was a joy and a surprise,” says Thomas.

Thomas’ story is one of rebirth and redemption. He believes that more people need to honor those who’ve turned their lives around and deserve a second chance. “I was so surprised at winning the award, but it wasn’t totally about me. I feel it was God selecting me because I am a believer and that it must have been about something bigger for me to do in my service to others. As honored as I felt there are so many men and women who’ve struggled and turned their lives around who deserve an opportunity and are out there and we have to begin to honor them.”

Oliver Thomas has been part of a legacy of service for many years, today he has become part of a long tradition as a member of African-American media as host of the Good Morning Show on WBOK 1230-AM. Where he imparts information about affairs important to the African-American Community. “I was thinking about the importance of Data News Weekly and our African-American owned outlets as our modern Underground Railroad, charting the course and lighting the road to freedom. “I have been honoring all the Trailblazers on the show. I feel people need to know about these extraordinary citizens that are doing amazing things in our City. Something that I would hope may inspire them to want to dedicate some time to serve others.” Then speaking of his radio program he says, “I try to use it to inform people and that is one of the biggest compliments I’ve gotten, is that it is a great community resource. I feel all the information that goes in my head that it is my job to go out and disseminate it for the community to use to become empowered.”

Throughout his life of service, he’s has had much praise and awards heaped upon him, but he still displays a great amount of humility. While being chosen the Trailblazer of the Year he feels is an honor; he feels it is an honor he shares with the others recipients at this year’s event. This character trait of selfless giving is part of a spiritual foundation that is essential to Thomas’ life and existence. “My spirituality comes from the strength of my family of my mom and dad. Secondly, it comes from my community.”

Continuing to expound on the importance of his spirituality he cites the bible, “There is a passage in the book of Isaiah 43;19 I heard...”
This past week New Orleans Data News Weekly recognized its 50 years of service to the New Orleans community by honoring some of the community’s most selfless leaders. The Trailblazer Awards, honored 12 individuals who were featured in Data News Weekly throughout 2015-16 year.

The 12 trailblazers included: Brother Willie Muhammad, Lionel Milton, Susan Henry, Erica Murray, PhD, Gail Glapion, Marian Pierre, Toya Barnes-Teamer, PhD, Sonita Singh, Gretchen Bradford, Terry Williams, Brandon Okpalobi and Trailblazer of the Year Oliver Thomas.

Publisher of Data News Weekly, Terry Jones, congratulated each of the Trailblazer Award recipients, thanking them for their undying commitment to the city of New Orleans and beyond and National Newspaper Publishers Association President, Benjamin F. Chavis also congratulated Data News Weekly on its 50 years of service.

For more Trailblazer Awards pictures, visit www.ladatanews.com or visit our Facebook page @DatatanewsWeek.
Data News Weekly 50th Anniversary Gala

On August 26, 2016, New Orleans Data News Weekly celebrated its 50th Anniversary during its first annual People’s Golden Service Award. During the event, live music provided by Kermit Ruffins and the BBQSwingers. Additionally, there were several guests of honor including Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congressman Cedric Richmond, Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman and many more.

Congressman Cedric Richmond, Glenn Jones, Benjamin Chavis, President & CEO of NNPA; Terry Jones, CEO & Publisher, Data News Weekly; Sidney Williams, Ambassador to the Bahamas, Edwin Buggage, Editor, Data News Weekly

Jim Farmer, Retired VP of GMAC; Terry Jones, President & CEO, Data News Weekly; Sydney Williams, U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas (also husband to Maxine Waters); Congresswoman Maxine Water, California District 4; and Benjamin Chavis, President and CEO of NNPA.

Xavier University of Louisiana Data News Weekly Interns - Delaney George, Mizani Ball, Nigel Palmer, DNW Multimedia Editor Eric Craig, and Prinsey Walker

President Obama congratulating Data on their 50th Anniversary

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

Letter from President Obama

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

Data Zone, Continued on page 8.
Data Zone

Kermit Ruffins, Trumpeter

(T-R) Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly; Dan Packer, Former CEO & President, Entergy, New Orleans; Norman Robinson, Former News Anchor

(T-R) Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly; Jim Farmer, Retired VP of GMAC; Norman Robinson, Former News Anchor

(T-R) Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly receiving an award from Terry Davis, Community Affairs Director of Cumulus

Judge Terri Love, State of Louisiana, Court of Appeals; and Kurte Pellerin, Owner, Regency Reception Hall

(T-R) Glenn Jones, LoveEvolution, Husband & Wife vocalist, and Terry Jones

Data Zone, Continued from page 7.

(T-R) Lloyd Dennis, Brenda Thornton, Tracy Mercadel and Joan Rhodes

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The nation has marked the historic occasion of the first woman in American history to win the Presidential nomination for a major political party.

While Hillary Clinton has come further than any woman Presidential candidate, she is not the first. Victoria Woodhull ran as the candidate for the Equal Rights Party in 1872. Margaret Chase Smith challenged Barry Goldwater for the Republican nomination in 1964. More recently, Pat Schroeder in 1988 and Carol Moseley Braun in 2004 vied for the Democratic nomination.

But the most historically significant forerunner to Hillary Clinton was Shirley Chisholm, the Brooklyn-born trailblazer who was also the nation’s first African-American Congresswoman.

The daughter of working-class immigrants from the Caribbean, Chisholm became interested in politics while serving as the director of a child day care center and an educational consultant for the New York City Division of Day Care. She served three years as a New York State Assemblywoman before running for Congress in 1968 with the slogan: “Unbought and Unbossed.” “My greatest political asset, which professional politicians fear, is my mouth, out of which come all kinds of things one shouldn’t always discuss for reasons of political expediency,” Chisholm said.

She announced her candidacy for President at a Baptist church in Brooklyn. In an article about her candidacy, the Associated Press wrote, “Ironically, her major head-ache seems to come from Black politicians.” “They think that I am trying to take power away from them,” she said. “The Black man must step forward. But that doesn’t mean the Black woman must step back.”

Chisholm hired only women for her staff, half of whom were African Americans. “Of my two handicaps, being female put many more obstacles in my path than being Black,” she said. While they’re rapping and snapping, I’m mapping.” She competed in 14 states, winning 28 delegates to the convention. As a symbolic gesture, candidate Hubert Humphrey released his 83 Black delegates to cast their votes for Chisholm. With the votes of several other delegates at that contentious convention, Chisholm finished fourth in a field of 13, with 152 delegates.

It is hard to imagine, in this era of sharp division in politics, the remarkable moment during that campaign when she visited her segregationist rival, Alabama Governor George Wallace, in his hospital room after he was shot and wounded. “What are you people going to say?” he asked her. “I know what they are going to say,” she said. “But I wouldn’t want what happened to you to happen to any one.” She recalled that her words moved him to tears.

Chisholm retired from Congress in 1982 and remained an outspoken activist for civil rights until her death in 2005. It would be difficult to overestimate the impact and influence of Chisholm’s Congressional service and Presidential candidacy. While Congress remains disproportionately White and male, one-in-five members of the current House and Senate are a racial or ethnic minority, making the 114th Congress the most diverse in history.

The nation’s first African-American President is winding up his second term, and a woman—a former senator and Secretary of State—has just won the Democratic nomination for President.

In her acclaimed speech on the Equal Rights Amendment in 1970, Chisholm said, “The Constitution they wrote was designed to protect the rights of White, male citizens. As there were no Black Founding Fathers, there were no founding mothers — a great pity, on both counts. It is not too late to complete the work they left undone. Today, here, we should start to do so.”

Hey Donald, When Was America Great?

We are so great that we wave our flags and shout out, “U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!” In some ways, it is an imperialist chant, a chant of dominance, a chant that ignores the fact that we chant because we have the luxury, as a nation, of an uneven playing field, especially in terms of resources. I’m not jumping up and down and flag waving.

It took the Simones (Biles and Manuel) to win gold medals for me to celebrate the Olympics. It took just a flip of the switch, a flick of the kaleidoscope, for me to see it differently. While there is a great difference between the athlete who comes from a highly-subsidized Russian or Chinese environment and one who comes from an urban area combining grit and corporate sponsorship, as in the United States, or those who either make it on their own or cobble together possibilities, all of these athletes are chasing greatness and perfection. Indeed, their obstacles may be a metaphor for the challenges that we all face in life. Some will be subsidized, some will scrap, and sometimes the cream rises to the top, regardless of barriers.

Even as Olympians strutted their excellence, enforcing the notion that America is “great,” at least in our medial dominance, Republican candidate Donald Trump’s campaign slogan is “Make America Great Again.” The use of the word “again” suggests that we were great, once upon a time, and that we have to regain something that we lost. When were we “great?” What have we lost? What does it take to make us great again?

Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump said he views the 1980s as the time when things were good for the nation, though he also heartened back to the late 1700s and early 1800s. “The industrial revolution was certainly important to lend and spend for economic expansion. The North and South were always connected, even in war, with economics often trumping ideology. The Cornell University historian Edward Baptist, in his book, “The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of U.S. Capitalism,” connects the dots between southern oppression and northern complicity. The era that Mr. Trump touts includes legislation to penalize those who dare educate enslaved people in the early
The Blessing of the Herbs

Editorial Note: This article is a continuation from page 9.

The Blessing of the Herbs

Edited by LMG Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The Blessing of the Herbs is first of all a Catholic tradition, so that is one reason that I knew nothing of it. Generally celebrated on August 15th, which is supposedly the date of the Assumption of Virgin Mary. This blessing comes from Germany, and formulas for it are found as early as the Tenth Century. The Blessing of Herbs was reserved only to the Feast of the Assumption. Herbs had not our restricted English meaning but included all kinds of cultivated and wild flowers, especially those which in some way had a symbolic relation to Our Lady. The people brought herbs to church on her feast not only to secure for themselves, but also to make of the occasion a harvest festival of thanksgiving to God for His great bounty manifested in the festival of thanksgiving to God for the ordinary sacramental blessing of the Church.

Although most Blessing of the Herbs ceremonies are held on August 15th, the New Orleans Unit of the Herb Society of America hosted their Blessing of the Herbs on Thursday, August 28th, on the Eve of St. Fiacre’s feast day, just as it has for the past 16 years, however this was the first time the public was invited.

The Herb Society’s Blessing of the Herbs took place in the Walled Garden at the beautiful Longue Vue House and Gardens. The Garden at Longue Vue was designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman in 1938. She was the first female Landscape Architect in American, and was known for her formal gardens and lush planting style.

Check out my “Gardening tip of the Week” at www.thegardeningdiva.com

Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!

Commentary, Continued

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Commentary, Continued

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nineteenth century, and the oppression of Black Codes in the post-Reconstruction era. Mr. Trump wants to make America great again! For whom?

Whenever anyone does that throwback stuff, “we used to be great,” I have to wonder what he or she is nostalgic for. Do they wish they were in the land of cotton? Are they hankering for segregationist signs? Or are they simply pining for the days when, though it was unstated, White was right and everybody else had to step. This manifested by the assumption of deference, the assumption that African Americans would step aside and allow a White person behind them in line to step ahead or shrugging off microagressions because they “aren’t that deep.”

Many have touted our “Greatest Generation,” the World War II contributors, as people who made America great. Yeah? These folks had to elbow their way into our nation’s service, fighting for the right to fight, struggling for the right to contribute. Is this what you call greatness, Donald Trump? Are we all supposed to put blinders on to the cracks in our collective national armor?

Thus, it is exciting that President

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Flood Survivors Urged to Avoid Fraud and Other Scams

Data News Staff Edited Report

Louisiana recovery continues with the energy and work of businesses, voluntary, faith-based, and community-based organizations along with government agencies and committed citizens.

Unfortunately, disasters also bring out criminals looking to prey on survivors who appear to be rich targets for their fraudulent services.

Being cautious is essential to preventing rip-offs. Don’t offer personal financial information over the phone. Know who you are dealing with. Government workers will never ask for a fee or payment. They always wear an official government photo ID.

Homeowners and registered FEMA applicants should watch out for housing inspectors claiming to represent FEMA or the U.S. Small Business Administration. Inspectors already have each applicant’s nine-digit registration number and a FEMA inspector will not ask for this number. FEMA inspectors never require banking or other personal information. The job of FEMA housing inspectors is to verify damage. Inspectors do not hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs. They do not determine eligibility for assistance.

Verify the license or registration number with the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors at www.lacontractor.org or call 800-256-1392.

Set up a written contract and ask for a contractor’s Social Security number from the Social Security Administration. Do not pay contractors in cash.

Keep these consumer safety tips in mind when working with contractors:

- Verify the license or registration number with the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors at www.lacontractor.org or call 800-256-1392.
- Get three written estimates for repair work. Then check credentials and contact your local Better Business Bureau or Chamber of Commerce to learn about any complaints against the contractor or business.
- Before work begins, make sure you get a written contract detailing all the work to be performed, the costs, a projected completion date, and how to negotiate changes and settle disputes.
- Louisiana, Attorney General Jeff Landry’s office and contractors should not force employees to swear to “One Nation under God,” and that’s a good thing. One nation? With a back unemployment rate twice that of the White unemployment rate? How do we transcend the flaws when Trump’s “great again” message suggests “slave again” to me?

President Obama tickled me, for the first time during his presidency, by reminding us of the flaws in the Pledge of Allegiance. How do we transcend the flaws when Trump’s “great again” message suggests “slave again” to me?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book “Are We Better Off Race, Obama and Public Policy,” is available via amazon.com for whole and booking inquiries visit julianemalveaux.com

Commentary, Continued from page 10.

Obama signed an executive order to stop the rampant use of a distorted statement called the “Pledge of Allegiance.” He wrote that federal office and contractors should not force employees to swear to “One Nation under God,” and that’s a good thing. One nation? With a back unemployment rate twice that of the White unemployment rate? How do we transcend the flaws when Trump’s “great again” message suggests “slave again” to me?

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