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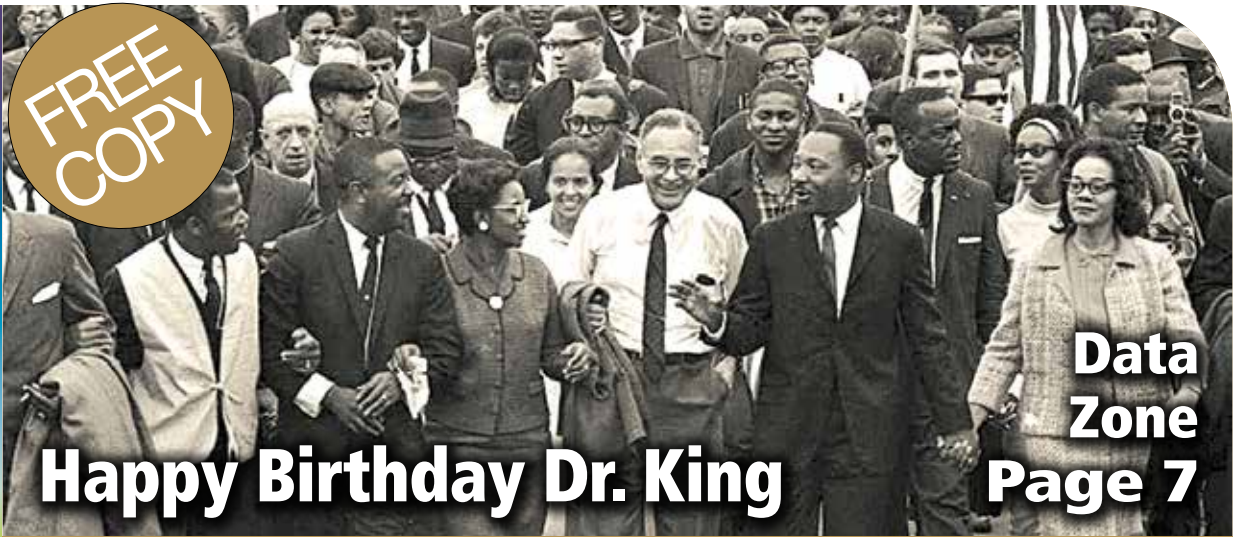
New Orleans

Data

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Happy Birthday Dr. King

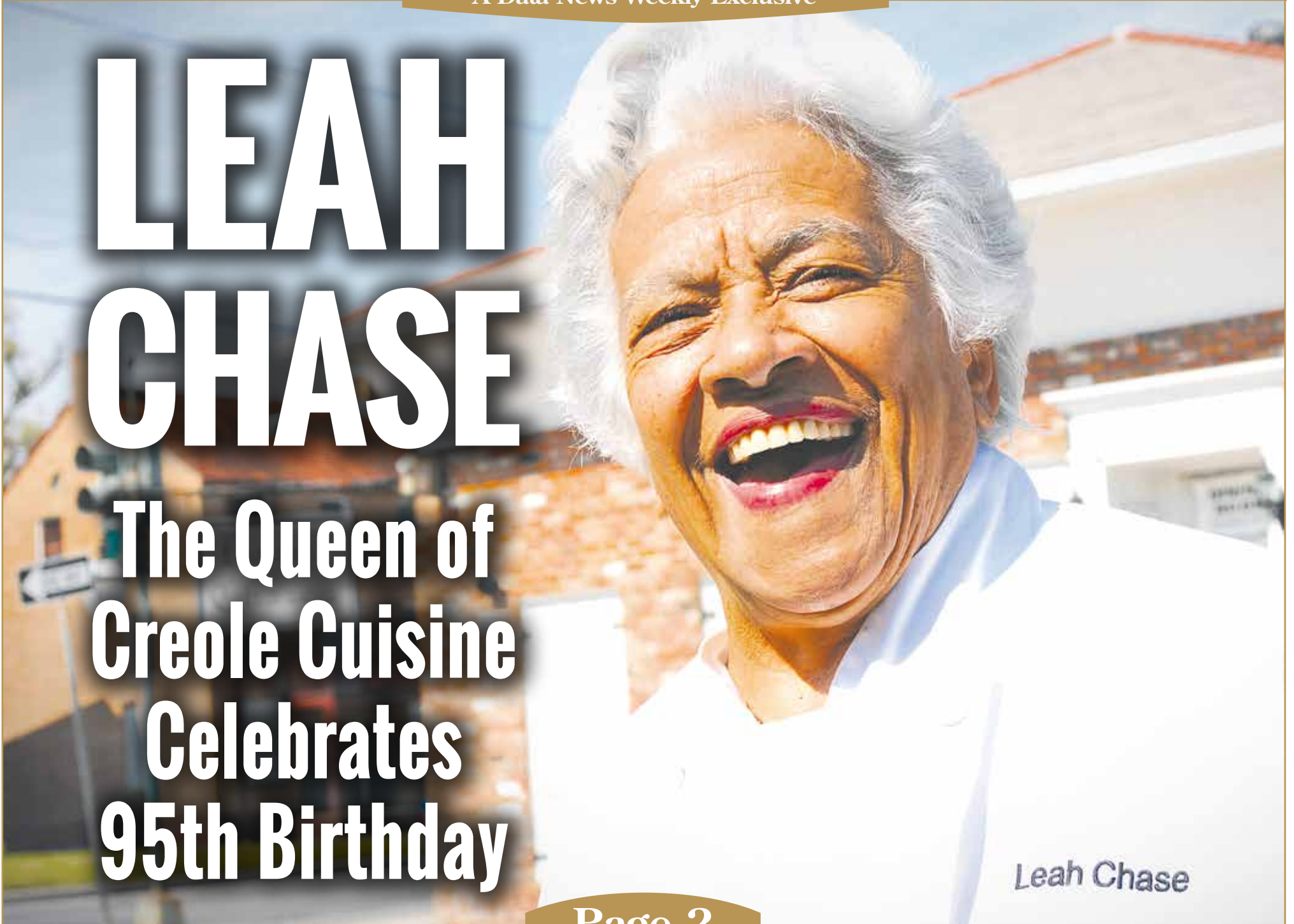
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive


LEAH CHASE

The Queen of Creole Cuisine Celebrates 95th Birthday



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Leah Chase

The Queen of Creole Cuisine Celebrates 95th Birthday



The world-renowned Queen of Creole Cuisine, Chef Leah Chase celebrates her 95th birthday at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans surrounded by family and friends. (photo courtesy of The Advocate)

Written and Edited by Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

Honoring a Great New Orleanian

The City of New Orleans is a place with a rich and colorful history that's spanned 300 years. One of those who have contributed to the legacy of this Great Histor-

ical City is the Queen of Creole Cuisine, Leah Chase, who recently celebrated her 95th birthday on January 6, 2018 at the Downtown Hyatt Regency New Orleans surrounded by family, friends, leaders from the civic and business community and other well-wishers. The proceeds from the gala supports the Edgar "Dooky" Jr. and Leah Chase Family Foundation. That's dedicated

to cultivate and support historically disenfranchised organizations by making significant contributions to education, cultural arts and social justice. Data News was at this amazing event honoring one of our local treasures that's given the gift of our culture, flavor and the recipe for a great and inspiring life and sharing it with the world.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones CEO/Publisher	Contributors Stacy M. Brown	Art Direction & Production MainorMedia.com
Edwin Buggage Editor	Edwin Buggage	Editorial Submissions datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Cheryl Mainor Managing Editor	Phillip Jackson	Advertising Inquiries datanewsad@bellsouth.net
Calla Victoria Executive Assistant	Glenn Jones	Distribution On The Run
June Hazeur Accounting	Marc H. Morial	Courier Services
	Toda Raba	

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

A Life Filled with Purpose and Passion

The amazing story of her long and storied life appears on Dooky Chase Restaurant website, dookychaserestaurant.com; and as many have reported over the years including Data News Weekly; Leah Chase has fed greats in the world of entertainment and politics including Quincy Jones, Jesse Jackson, Duke Ellington, Thurgood Marshall, James Baldwin, Ray Charles, Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama and countless others as Executive Chef of Dooky Chase's Restaurant — one of the best-known and most culturally significant restaurants in New Orleans.

Born on January 6, 1923 one of 14 children and in her early years being raised in the small town of Madisonville, LA. It was a time of segregation and limited opportunities for Blacks. There were no high schools for Black children, so after sixth grade, Chase moved to New Orleans to live with an aunt and began her interesting and colorful journey into leading a purposeful life of not just feeding people with her hearty gumbo, but feeding their souls by being an inspiration touching and influencing those who crossed her path.

In 1946, she married local musician the late Edgar "Dooky" Chase Jr., whose father opened a street corner stand selling lottery tickets



Edgar "Dooky" Chase, Jr. is Chauffeur for his wife Leah Chase as she greets guests at the 95th birthday celebration. (photo courtesy of The Advocate)

and his wife's homemade po-boy sandwiches. Eventually, Leah and Dooky Jr. took over the business, which by then had become a sit-down restaurant and a favorite local gathering place. It is in this partnership that Leah Chase found a partner in not just business and raising a family, but through their restaurant on the frontlines of a tide of a social movement cresting not just in New Orleans, but throughout America for racial justice.

Leading the Way to Social Change In New Orleans

During the ugly times of segregation, the Crescent City as were many cities in the south felt the sting of legal segregation of the races. In these dark times Dooky Chase's Restaurant was one of the only public places in New Orleans where mixed race groups could meet to discuss strategy for the local Civil Rights Movement. Although such gatherings were illegal through most of the 1960s, Dooky Chase's was so popular; it would have caused a public uproar if local law enforcement had interrupted the meetings. Black voter registration campaign organizers, the NAACP, backdoor political meetings and countless others often found a home at Dooky Chase's, and Leah cooked for them all.

Patron of African-American Art and Philanthropist

Chase is also a patron of Black art and her collection — displayed on the walls of her restaurant — was at one time considered New Orleans' best collection of African-American art. To this day, she serves on the board of the New Orleans Museum of Fine Arts and has even testified before Congress to lobby for greater funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. She has participated in countless political campaigns and has used

her culinary talents and celebrity to raise money for a myriad of charities and services. Her cookbooks, including *The Dooky Chase Cookbook*, *And Still I Cook*, and *Leah Chase: Listen, I Say Like This*, are popular and have received great praise among her most famous colleagues.

Leah Chase: A Life Filled with a Legacy of Love and Giving Back

Chase has received many awards, including multiple awards from the NAACP, the New Orleans Times-Picayune 1997 Loving Cup Award, the Weiss Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Outstanding Woman Award from the National Council of Negro Women. Chase was inducted into the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America in 2010. She was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Foodways Alliance in 2000. Chase received honorary degrees from Tulane University, Dillard University, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Madonna College, Loyola University New Orleans, and Johnson & Wales University. She is also the recipient of the Francis Anthony Drexel Medal, the highest award presented to an individual by Xavier University of Louisiana. Also, the Southern Food and Beverage Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana named a permanent gallery in Chase's honor in 2009. She also serves on many boards, including the Arts Council of New Orleans, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and the Urban League. She is a member of the Women of The Storm and the International Women's Forum. She has four children, sixteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. Leah Chase's life and legacy is a journey of greatness and continues to be an inspiration to those of her native New Orleans and beyond.



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The State of MLK's Dream in the Age of Trump

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

Keeping the Dream Alive

As we celebrate MLK Day this year we are also on the verge of the 50th Anniversary of his assassination, and while the dreamer died, this drum major for justice mission lives on as today we see progress in so many areas of Black life in America.

Things we would have never dreamed possible have come to pass where African-Americans occupy positions thought unobtainable 50 years ago. A culmination of this moment happened in 2008, when a nation with a history of racial exclusion elected the nation's first African-American President Barack Obama. At this time there was talk in the U.S. as the world celebrated that King's Dream of a Colorblind America had become a reality. There was even talk that the nation was moving in a direction of being post-racial.

King's Dream in Trump's America

Fast forward eight years and while there continues to be significant progress on the racial front; there's been a backlash among a segment of the White population who feels that inclusion, equality and justice for those who were once considered vulnerable is a problem. So as some felt anxiety about social change in response as 2016 Donald Trump won the Electoral College and became the President of the United States.

Donald Trump, whose political ascendance began with him fanning the flames of racial resentment by attaching himself to the racist myth that Barack Obama was not born in the U.S. as part of the birther movement, that attempted to delegitimize the country's first African-American President. And in his first year as president he and his coterie of Whites in his top cabinet positions are seeking to dismantle Barack Obama's legacy and his "Make America Great Again" slogan may as well be "Take us back to a White America again."

This is evidenced in how in this administration they are reshaping the courts by appointing conservative justices to lifetime appointments in the federal judiciary; something that can overturn deci-



sions and have an adverse impact on Civil Rights gains. These include issues around environmental and criminal justice, housing, employment, affirmative action, voter rights and other things centering on the pursuit of justice and equality.

Re-Investing in the Dream

Today it is important that citizens become reinvested in fighting to keep the spirit of the dream alive. Today is a time to re-engage as not only Trump on a national level but on a state level some are trying to turn back the hands of time on the gains that's given citizens access to equal rights. It is time for those today to fight in the spirit of those who came before them who have persevered the slights, the dogs attacking innocent children, the unfulfilled dreams and in spite of that they found a way to keep their eyes on the prize. Today this spirit must be renewed in this fight to continue to move America in the right direction.

King's words of a colorblind society still ring true today as it did in 1963 at the March on Washington, even if today it is a far cry from a reality. But the struggle must continue as this nation's problems with race continues, in addition to turning itself inward threatens America's position not only nationally but its place as a beacon of hope and freedom across the globe.

And while many know King's words as idyllic as they are, within his words he speaks of an imperfect

nation trying to correct itself. This is what the dream is about people

working together correcting our society so that all citizens can share in

the dream. That all people regardless of their background can have a seat at the table of power and this is a day many Americans felt had arrived when it elected Barack Obama President in 2008.

But today on MLK Day in 2018, we are seeing a president who is trying to erase Obama's legacy and a history of progress of all the great freedom fighters. This backlash of Trump and the Republicans who were obstructionist for 8 years must be met with force. Today this does not mean simply marching and protesting, it means being informed, it means voting in high numbers, it means getting an education, it means being better parents to our children, it means holding elected official accountable for how they vote on legislation. It is this that will continue to move the dream forward and make it a reality in the age of Trump.

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Leah Chase's 95th Birthday Extravaganza

Photos by Bernie Saul
Data News Weekly
Contributor

It seems all of New Orleans was ready to celebrate with our resident Grand Dame and Queen of Creole Cuisine, Leah Chase at her big 95th Birthday Bash. What a wonderful gift she is to New Orleans, and we wish her a Happy Birthday. Now of course, with a celebration this big, you know Data was there!



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

Happy Birthday Dr. King

Data News Staff Report

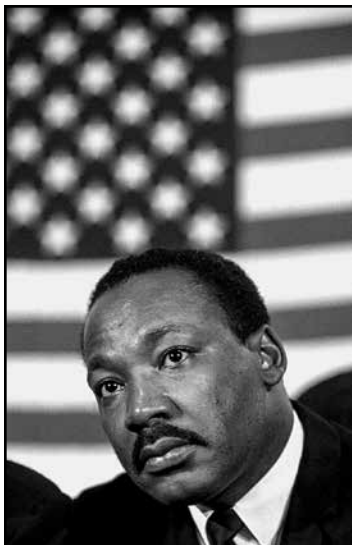
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born Michael King Jr., on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, GA. Dr. King was an American Baptist Minister and Activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using the tactics of nonviolence and civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs and inspired by the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. King forever changed the lives of the African Americans who for centuries, lived in this country without freedom and without being afforded even basic dignity or humanity. We at Data News Weekly, are forever indebted to Dr. King and the others who bravely stood up, and walked throughout this country to fight for our rights as Americans, endowed by the Constitution, of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Thank you Dr. King, and Happy Birthday!



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., addresses marchers during his 'I Have a Dream' speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. Aug. 28, 1963.

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



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- The E-Filing Training course qualifies for 2.00 CLE hours for attorneys and paralegals. Contact Lisa Griffin at (504) 407-0042 or lgriffin@orleanscdc.com to schedule for December 2017 or January 2018.

SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

- Users now have the ability to upload cover sheets separately from pleadings and attachments.
- Now, users will receive an email with a link to download and print the filed-stamped copy upon completion of the Clerk's Office review.



Dr. King is joined by workers and clergy during the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, sit with three of their four children in their Atlanta, Ga, home, on March 17, 1963. From left are: Martin Luther King III, 5, Dexter Scott, 2, and Yolanda Denise, 7.

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To Be Equal

2018 Marks the 50th Anniversary of a Momentous Year in Civil Rights



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"It is not an overstatement to say that the destiny of the entire human race depends on what is going on in America today. This is a staggering reality to the rest of the world; they must feel like passengers in a supersonic jetliner who are forced to watch helplessly while a passel of drunks, hypes, freaks, and madmen fight for the controls and the pilot's seat." – Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*, 1968"

As we embark upon the new year of 2018, we step into the 50th anniversary of a year that shook the world, in particular the world of civil rights in the United States.

Perhaps the most momentous of these events are the assassina-

tions of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy. Both of these tragic deaths hold personal significance for my family. My parents, civil rights activists, were personally acquainted with the Rev. King. My mother, Sybil Morial, and King were students together at Boston University while she pursued her Masters Degree in education and he his PhD in theology. In her memoir, *Witness to Change*, she writes of the moment on April 4 when she learned of his death:

I could hardly grasp the words: Martin Luther King has been shot to death in Memphis. Dutch was in the study. I called to him, and he came and stood by me. "Martin has been killed." I could hardly say the words; I could hardly believe it. Not Martin. Dutch and I watched the gruesome footage in silence.

She recalled the words of his final speech, "I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

He knew it, but we didn't. And we didn't understand his death. I



was inconsolable ... I said to Dutch, "Now that Martin is gone, what will become of the movement?" "It will go on. It must."

My late father-in-law, Ross Miller, was a trauma surgeon and Kennedy campaigner who was present at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5. When the shots rang out, he bravely stepped forward and tried to save the lives of Kennedy and others who were wounded.

These deaths are but two of the

civil rights milestones of that historic year half a century ago.

On February 8, the Orangeburg Massacre took place in South Carolina. Highway Patrol officers opened fire on a crowd of 200 student gathered on the campus of South Carolina State University to demonstrate against the continued segregation at the bowling alley. Three young men were killed and 27 other protesters were injured.

On April 11, amid continuing

unrest triggered by King's murder, President Lyndon Johnson signed one of the most significant laws of the era - the Civil Rights Act of 1968, more commonly known as the Fair Housing Act. The Act prohibited not only racial and religious discrimination in the sale or rental of a home, but also racially-motivated threats, intimidation or retaliation in relation to housing.

In a move often cited as inspiration by current-day activists, on October 2 Black Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos African-American athletes raised their arms in a black power salute after winning the gold and bronze medals in the men's 200 meters.

November 22 saw the first interracial kiss ever to air on television in the United States, between the characters Captain James Kirk and Lieutenant Nyota Uhura, on the program *Star Trek*.

In the coming year, we will observe many of these anniversaries in-depth. We begin the year reflection on a half-century of civil rights progress, and the progress that lies ahead.

Opinion

Celebrate Black History Month by Circulating Black Dollars in Black Communities



Phillip Jackson
Founder and Chairman
Black Star Project

Once and for all, let's get this straight. America has gotten out of the Black people business! No help is coming from Washington, D.C. No help is coming from state government. No significant help is coming from city and county municipal governments. No useful help is coming from foundations and corporations. We, Black people, are on our own. And, really, for centuries, we were always on our own.

Most jobs that Blacks once

had in America are now done by computers, machines and robots. Many of the other jobs that we used to have are now taken by immigrants or have grown beyond our collective skillsets. Black leadership is still using protest tactics and methodologies from the 1950's to address 2018 economic problems. Those tactics won't work. There is no more cotton for Black people to pick, and but our leadership teaches us to have a have a cotton picking and sharecropper mentality.

Even if Black people continue acquiring wealth at our present rate and White people stop acquiring any additional wealth, it would take 228 years to close the racial wealth gap. As of 2013, White households had \$116,000 in median household net worth and Black families had \$1,700.00 of median household net worth. Regardless,

it is projected that by 2053 Black median household net worth will be at zero dollars. Black people's net worth will be at the same level as when we came out of slavery in 1865.

Good news: Black people in America have a gross national income of about \$1.3 trillion. Bad news: Only 2% or about \$26 billion of those \$1.3 trillion are re-circulated in the Black community.

If Black dollars were more re-circulated in Black American communities, Black dollars would produce Black companies, help hire Black employees, support Black families and rebuild Black communities. Instead, our \$1.3 trillion income makes other people rich including Whites, Arabs, Koreans, Pakistanis, Indians, Latinos, Chinese, Polish, even Blacks from the Caribbean and the continent of Africa.

Black people need a simple plan to alter our trajectory. Here's a plan: One – Join with The Black Star Project in the "Circulate Black Dollars in Black Communities" and receive a "Black dollar stamp." Two – Stamp all of your paper money with this stamp (legal according to Title 18, Section 333 of United States Code and Title 18, Section 475 of United States Code) and use your dollars as you normally would. Three – make a conscious effort to spend your Black "stamped" dollars with Black people for at least one year.

You will be reminded to spend your Black dollars with Black people every time you see a "stamped" dollar. If 43 million Black people consciously move their spending efforts from 2% with Black people to 4% with Black people, \$26 billion more will be infused into the Black economy. If Black people

can move their spending habits from 2% to 10% with Black people, an additional \$104 billion will be generated. Theoretically, \$104 billion would produce between 400,000 and 750,000 new jobs and geometrically accelerate Black financial and social well-being.

As Black spending becomes more intentional, our social and economic issues will disappear. We won't have to wait for others to give us financial permission or support so that we might fix our own problems. We will declare a new freedom and help take control over the lives of everyone in our communities. Your dollar is your most potent weapon in a capitalistic society. We must learn to use our dollars to reward those who help and support us, and to punish those who don't.

Circulate Black Dollars in Black Communities!

Big Chief John Ellison Original Wild Tchoupitoulas

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

TRIBAL TIMELINE:
2016 – Present Big Chief John Ellison

Culture? Where does it start? Is it a group decision? How does it expand? It seems the answer can be liner for the first three questions. It appears, it starts from one, then followed and evolves as it moves forward. The latter question can be a tangled web. Culture has Culture bearers not admission administrators. There are no written criteria for expanding a culture, or who can, and how they should do so. There is system of Respect, in the form of permission from forefathers (Big Chief) and mothers (Queens). Allow me the liberty to say that, the process works well in theory. In reality, that can get pretty muddy, to say the least. But this culture has its own way of flushing out the spiritually weak. One unwritten rule is, anyone desiring to bring out a gang must have permission from either a select group that speaks on your behalf or to be given the right to by an original culture bearer of that disbanded tribe. Obviously, there are many scenarios that can come out of that. Just for the fact it's an unwritten rule.

Chief John was given permission to bring out the Original Wild Tchoupitoulas in 2016 by Big Chief Jolly and Big Chief Johnny original Queen Mercedes Stevenson before she passed. Prior to passing Big Queen assisted Big Chief John in getting his gang Chartered. With that said everyone recognizes, credit and respects Big Chief Roderick Sylvas for bringing "Wild Tchoupitoulas" back on the street after it went dormant for many years, in part due to the passing of Big Chief Johnny.



Big Chief John Ellison - Original Wild Tchoupitoulas. Photo Credit: Toda Raba

Big Chief John masked with Chief Roderick "Bald Eagle" for ten years as his Wildman and credits Big Chief "Bald Eagle" for the tutelage of how to be a Chief of his own tribe. So yes, that means we have two tribes named Wild Tchoupitoulas separated by the word "original" and by the spirit of the respective Chief. Which can be compared to cell reproduction. In Black masking it's desire, friction and love. That is how culture expands.

Like the majority of the Big Chiefs, Chief John fell in love with this culture at an early age. His earliest memory was at the age of 8. Watching his uncle Charlie "Pud" Robertson coming down the street and his mother grabbing him. Chief says, "at that time it (second lines/Indians) use to get violent." "it was people that came to the second lines not the Indians

(Black Maskers) themselves." Even though his mom was trying to protect him, he wanted to stay and watch the beautiful suits and the men in them. He was hit by the spirit at that point and there's no turning back after that.

This culture is an intricate tapestry rooted in spirit. That has many obstacles in its efforts to preserve itself. One such deterrent rendered Chief emotionally when he spoke on what he called "Culture Vultures". Chief John stood up abruptly and walked out expressing the feeling of seeing a giant picture of himself right now in the Ogden Museum of Art. No one contacted, consulted or compensated him for the exhibit or in production of the art work. The Museum due to "ethical laws(rule)" cannot divulged the Photographer information. Unfortunately, this is a common

occurrence in this culture. Under advice Chief and others are copy-writing their suits. I advise all to follow suit no pun intended. The aspect that confuses and frustrates many Chiefs is how can they sew and create a yearlong suit, and someone take a picture and now they own their image. The most common response given is "well you are in public". Obviously, this does not sit well with Big Chief John. Especially when a Gallery owner told Chief John an Original print can range from 5k and above and a print of that can start at \$1500. When Chiefs hear that, their first thought is how many feathers that can provide for his tribe. Or how many bills can be paid instead of splitting it with feather purchases.

Al Beit Chief John tenure as a Chief has been short. His participation in this culture has encompassed most of his life. His 9 years of masking as wild man under Big Chief Roderick allowed him to see and meet everyone. As a Chief I asked him what was the difference from the back as the anchor (need a better word??). "one thing is for sure, I see that a Chief isn't nothing without his tribe." "Sitting back watching my tribe walk and meet another tribe, I was like wow. Because the spirit was there. It's my first year and I see it. Seeing it come at me, watching them (his Tribe) handle it. I couldn't say anything but wow because they are enjoying too. Someone said to me "you Chief now you don't have to be wild, you need to be cool" and all that, but I still got wild in me."

Chief says in the next 300 hundred years he wants his tribe to bring in more youth and be an honor to the Chiefs that taught him like Big Chef Jolly, Big Chief Roderick and Big Chief KeKe. Not to mention Big Queen Mercedes proud of blessing to allow him to start the tribe.

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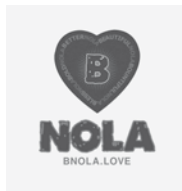
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Richelieu Dennis Purchases Essence Communications

Essence Magazine, Once Again, Black-Owned after Purchase

by Sundial Brands Founder Richelieu Dennis

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In a deal that reestablishes Essence magazine as a totally, Black and independently-owned entity, Sundial Brands founder Richelieu Dennis recently announced the purchase of Essence Communications from Time Inc.

The Essence Communications deal also comes a week after Dennis was knighted in his native Liberia by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who admitted him into the Most Venerable Order of the Knighthood of the Pioneer with the Grade of Knight Commander.

Sirleaf reportedly described Dennis as an "Awesome Hero."

"Talk about surreal," Dennis said in an interview with NNPA Newswire. "I can't even bring myself to say [knighthood]. It's been a phenomenal week."

Dennis said that the purchase of Essence Communications comes with a deep-seated passion and commitment to making sure that, "we are doing everything we can to leverage the power of the business to impact our community in a positive way and to demonstrate that we can run highly-profitable organizations."

Dennis continued: "We can also leverage the impact and the resources that those businesses generate to drive economic empowerment and social justice in our communities for ourselves and by ourselves."

Dorothy Leavell, the chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and the publisher of the Crusader Newspaper Group, said that it was good news to hear that ownership of Essence magazine has returned to the Black community.

"I hope it's a trend," said Leavell. "We do need strong Black ownership in our industry, even as I'm expecting that our Black newspapers



Richelieu Dennis purchased Essence Communications from Time Inc., returning the iconic Essence Magazine to 100 percent Black ownership. (Essence)

will prosper in 2018."

Leavell also said that she hopes that Black entrepreneurs will see the work and products of the Black Press and "seek to restore some light."

Leavell added: "We need more and more publications that depict us in a positive way and that's cer-

tainly what 'Essence' has done in the past and I hope they will continue."

While financial terms of the Essence Communications purchase weren't disclosed, Dennis said he's not only retaining Essence President Michelle Ebanks, who will continue to run the company, but

Ebanks will also join the organization's board of directors and lead an all-Black executive team at Essence, who will have equity stakes in the business.

"I'm overwhelmed with gratitude," Ebanks told the NNPA Newswire. "The 'Essence' brand... has always had a special place in the hearts and minds of Black women and entrepreneurs and leaders like [Dennis] recognized 'Essence' and its importance and wants to restore it. This has allowed a dream to come true and we couldn't be happier."

Ebanks said that it was an extraordinary and special privilege to be part of an organization that would be responsible for elevating Black women in the industry.

Dennis said the deal to purchase Essence came together rather quickly after reading an article in the Wall Street Journal about Time Inc.'s intention to sell the company.

"The stars aligned. We started to think about the implications of what this would mean if 'Essence' were truly bought back into the community and the impact it could have on the audience and on the industry to be able to create our content and to monetize our own content," said Dennis. "There was never a waiver in the commitment on what 'Essence' means to our community."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA, congratulated Richelieu Dennis for purchasing Essence magazine and for returning this iconic publication to 100 percent Black ownership.

"This is a very timely and an important milestone for the Black Press in America and throughout the world," said Chavis. "Essence magazine, under the able leadership of Michelle Ebanks, is a valued treasure of Black America and the NNPA acknowledges, with supportive gratitude, Richelieu Dennis for this significant Black-owned business transaction."

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