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“...ELIJAH WAS OUR NORTH STAR”

Nancy Pelosi

‘WE’RE BETTER THAN THIS,’

Cummings

1951-2019

Elijah Cummings was the voice that urged us to rise to a higher purpose. His was the voice of inspiration, advise and reasoning. He shared his experience and political wisdom with all - leaders, activists and politicians alike, page 3,6

Julián Castro: Tackling gun violence must include police brutality

Newyorkbeacon.com

He was the first candidate at this week's Democratic debate to bring up Atatiana Jefferson, a Black woman killed in her own home by a white police officer.

Former Housing Secretary Julián Castro said Tuesday that the conversation about tackling gun violence should include addressing violence by police, specifically against people of color.

Castro brought up the importance of racial and economic justice when asked at the Democratic presidential debate about mandatory and voluntary gun buybacks. Some candidates support such programs to address gun violence in the U.S.

"There are two problems I have with mandatory buybacks," Castro said. "Number one, folks can't define it, and if you're not going door-to-door then it's not really mandatory. But also, in the places that I grew up in, we weren't exactly looking for another reason for cops to come banging on the door."

The former mayor of San Antonio said it was not uncommon to hear gunshots in his neighborhood while growing up in the city. Julián Castro: "I am not going

to give these police officers another reason to go door-to-door in certain communities because police violence is also gun violence and we need to address that" #DemDebate

Castro was the first candidate to bring up Atatiana Jefferson, a 28-year-old Black woman who was fatally shot over the weekend by Aaron Dean, a white police officer. Jefferson was playing video games with her 8-year-old nephew in her Fort Worth, Texas, home when officers arrived at the property for a welfare check. A neighbor had called a non-emergency police number after noticing the house's doors were open.

Dean did not knock on Jefferson's door or identify himself before shooting his gun. He resigned before the police department could fire him. He was arrested Monday on murder charges, and was released that night after posting bond. Police investigations into Dean are ongoing, and Jefferson's family has called for a third-party investigation.

"I am not going to give these police officers another reason to go door-to-door in certain communities," Castro said Tuesday. "Because police violence is also gun violence, and we need to address that."



Ocasio-Cortez endorses Bernie Sanders



Newyorkbeacon.com

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez endorsed Bernie Sanders at a campaign rally on Saturday, according to two Sanders aides, strengthening the Vermont senator's pull among young liberals.

The influential New York congresswoman's endorsement comes at a pivotal moment in Sanders' presidential bid, which has stalled in the polls as he faces continued questions about his age and health following a heart attack that curtailed his campaign activities.

And Ocasio-Cortez is not the only member of the Squad to get behind Sanders — Rep. Ilhan Omar formally announced her endorsement on Tuesday night.

"Bernie is leading a working class movement to defeat Donald Trump that transcends generation, ethnicity, and geography," Omar said in a statement.

Ocasio-Cortez in particular has been invested in Sanders' political career prior to the upcoming endorsement: the 30-year-old volunteered in his 2016 presidential campaign and was encouraged to run for Congress in 2018 by a group that grew out of his campaign.

The congresswoman, who has quickly become one of the most influential voices in young liberalism after her surprise victory over Joe Crowley, plans to present her sought-after endorsement at a "Bernie's Back" rally on Saturday in Queens just outside her congressional district.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, powerful Democratic chairman and Trump target, dies at 68

Newyorkbeacon.com

Rep. Elijah Cummings — the Baltimore-area Democrat who chaired the powerful House Oversight Committee and drew the ire of President Donald Trump — died early Thursday at Johns Hopkins Hospital due to complications from longstanding health challenges, his office said in a statement. He was 68.

Cummings had represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District for 23 years before ascending in January to his perch atop the Oversight panel, from which he oversaw several investigations into the administration.

Along with House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and House Foreign Affairs Chairman Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), he was one of three committee leaders guiding House Democrats' impeachment inquiry.

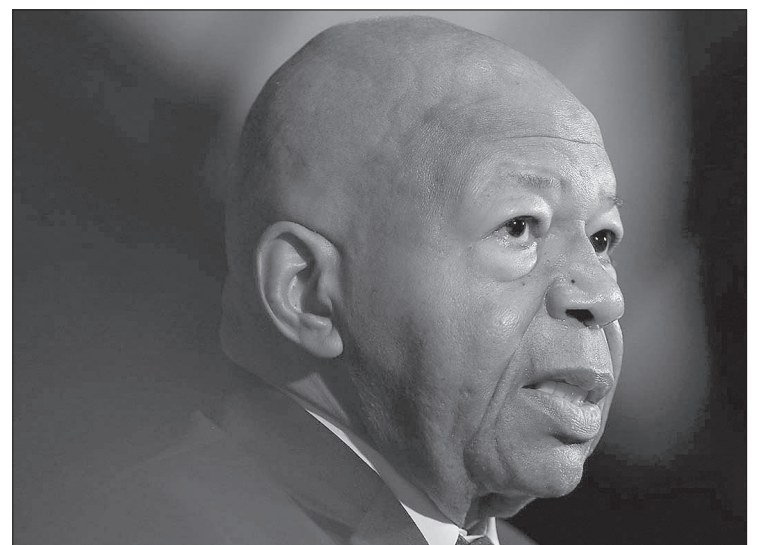
Cummings was a force inside the Democratic caucus who earned the trust of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to take on some of the toughest and most politically sensitive assignments.

He was the top Democrat on the GOP-led Benghazi Committee, pushing back on the controversial probe that Republican lawmakers used to dog Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. As Oversight Commit-

tee chairman, he convened one of the most explosive hearings in this Congress — bringing Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, to Capitol Hill to testify against his old boss.

Cummings also led an investigation into politicization of the U.S. Census that kept pressure on the Trump administration to ultimately withdraw plans for a citizenship question on the 2020 questionnaire.

Most recently, Cummings helped spearhead the Democratic impeachment probe, and was an active participant even when he was working the phones remotely. Pelosi on Friday congratulated



Cummings for his committee's victory in a court case meant to obtain Trump's financial records from his accounting firm.

In memoriam: Congressman Elijah Cummings dies at 68

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and a titan of the U.S. Congress, Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD-7), died early Thursday morning. He was 68.

Maya Rockey Moore Cummings (the congressman's wife and chairman of the Maryland Democratic Committee) said Cummings died at 2:45 a.m. at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Mrs. Cummings said her husband's death resulted from complications concerning long-standing health challenges.

In recent years, Cummings had been in and out of the hospital. "Dr. Elijah Saunders and I took care of Congressman Cummings for [years] for his blood pressure," said Cummings' longtime nurse, Barbara "B.J." Shaneman.

"He always called me the boss because he told his team I was a short woman with a big voice. I would fuss at him about watching his blood pressure. His health was my concern. I screamed when I heard the news. I said, 'this can't happen.' I said they [Cummings and Saunders, who died in 2015] were the last of the old guard," Shaneman said.

Recently, and in increasingly rare sightings of the congressman, Cummings was seen using a walker.

He underwent an undisclosed medical procedure, and his office expected that he would only miss about one week of work.

"He was an honorable man who proudly served his district and the nation with dignity, integrity, compassion, and humility," Mrs. Cummings said.

Cummings obtained his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Howard University, serving as Student Government President and graduating Phi Beta Kappa.

He earned his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.



The recipient of 13 honorary doctoral degrees, Cummings dedicated his life of service to uplifting and empowering the people he was sworn to represent, according to his biography.

He began his career in public service in the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served for 14 years, becoming the first African American in Maryland history to ascend to the position of Speaker Pro Tem.

Since 1996, Cummings has represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Cummings was committed to ensuring that the next generation has access to quality healthcare and education, clean air and water, and a strong economy defined by fiscal responsibility. Children "are the living messages that we send to a future we will never see," he often said.

In addition to the contributions he made to improve the lives of all Americans, the congressman was a passionate advocate for his beloved Baltimore, where he was born and raised.

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump disparaged the city – particularly parts of Cummings' district — labeling the city as a "rodent-infested mess where no human being would want to live."

Cummings immediately responded: "Those in the highest levels of government must stop making hateful, incendiary comments that only serve to divide and distract the nation from its real problems, including mass shootings and white supremacy."

"Those in the highest levels of the government must stop invoking fear, using racist language and encouraging reprehensible behavior," Cummings added.

"He was a champion of the people, a soldier and a warrior for his city, the state, and the nation," said Baltimore Times Publisher Joy Bramble. "Elijah Cummings made Baltimore and all of those who came across better."

The congressman told a local reporter that he and Trump had just one face-to-face conversation since the president took office in 2016.

"I said, 'Mr. President, you're now 70-something, I'm 60-something. Very soon, you and I will be dancing with the angels. The thing that you and I need to do is figure out what we can do – what present can we bring to generations unborn?'"

His last act in Congress came on Oct. 8, when he joined three others from a bipartisan group to introduce legislation called "The Family Asthma Act." The bill seeks to expand federal, state, and local efforts to improve care for individuals with asthma.

"Long live the freedom-fighting spirit of Brother Leader Congressman Elijah Cummings," National Newspaper Publishers Association President, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., said. "On behalf of the Black Press of America, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Cummings and to the Cummings family."



Suicide rates among Black children are rising, study shows

Newyorkbeacon.com

Recent studies show an increasing number of suicide cases among Black children in the last three decades.

Although non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaskan native boys and girls have the highest rate of suicide, Black children have an increasing rate, CNN reported.

Amy Green, director of research for the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention organization, spoke with CNN and said Black teens lack access to mental health services.

"Over time and particularly with Black boys, we have seen this troubling trend in a couple other studies. The fact that we are seeing this, especially with younger ages, is concerning," Green told CNN. "Because so much of this is newer, there isn't a lot of data about why,

but some of the factors are stressors like discrimination and the experience people have with discrimination and microaggressions."

The Journal of Pediatrics said Black boys have been attempting suicide at an increasing rate since 1991.

Focusing on 198,540 high school students from 1991 to 2017, the study shows a decrease in suicide attempts among other races, but an opposite trend for Black teenage boys.

"Black youth have experienced an increase in suicide attempts, which is troubling because attempts are the most prominent risk factor associated with suicide death," the study concludes. "For Black boys, a significant increase in injury by attempt occurred, which suggests that Black boys may be engaging in increasingly lethal means when attempting suicide."

Kierra Coles, another young Black woman still missing over a year

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent

This is part of an ongoing series about missing Black women and girls by NNPA media

Kierra Coles was checking off some critical milestones in her life when she suddenly vanished in 2018 from her Southside Chicago neighborhood.

Kierra sought steady employment, which she had found in 2017 when the U.S. Postal Service hired her.

The 26-year-old wanted her own apartment, and just months earlier, she accomplished that. And, she desired the opportunity to purchase a new car, which she did.

Kierra also wanted a baby with her longtime boyfriend.

At the time of her disappearance on October 3, 2018, she was two months pregnant.

"She was already excited about becoming a mother," Karen Phillips, Kierra's mother, told ABC News shortly after Kierra disappeared. "That's all my child ever wanted, to be a mom and accomplish all the things she set to accomplish – to have a nice paying job which she had, to get a new car which she bought, to move into her own apartment which she did, and to become a mother which she was about to."

While the Postal Inspection Service and Kierra's family have offered a combined \$45,000 reward for information concerning her disappearance, police have failed to come up with any solid leads.

Although she called in sick on the day of her disappearance, Kierra was spotted on a surveillance camera outside of her apartment at 81st Street and Vernon Avenue in full postal carrier uniform.

Investigators found Kierra's car still parked in front of her apart-



ment. The vehicle contained her purse, cell phone, and the lunch she presumably had packed for the day.

"Her family and friends need answers," Nakia Artis wrote on a Change.org petition that urges

law enforcement to keep up the search for Kierra.

"This has taken too long. This young lady and her unborn [child] deserve justice," Artis stated.

More than 1,500 people have signed the petition, which seeks

to "help keep our law enforcement accountable for Kierra Coles and all other unsolved and closed missing person cases."

According to data provided by the FBI, more than 600,000 people went missing in America last year. At least 180,000 of the missing were Black, despite African Americans making up just 13 percent of the total U.S. population.

According to an analysis published by the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology titled "Missing White Woman Syndrome," just one-fifth of cases where African Americans go missing receive media attention.

"Blacks face dual types of disparity, as they are both less likely to appear in the news at all and also tend to receive less coverage even when they do appear," study authors wrote.

Relatives of missing people

Continued on page 4



Cecelia Edwards (left) describes racist messages her daughter Cenayia Pope Edwards (right) found in a group chat.

High school student uncovers vile racist chat group: 'Pulling triggers and shooting N---s'

Newyorkbeacon.com

The family of a Black North Carolina student who exposed a racist student group chat is calling for those involved to be punished.

Cenayia Edwards, 14, uncovered racist threats Sept. 26 in a chat involving two students at her East Wake High School in Wendell, North Carolina, and five at Corinth Holders High in the same city, according to The News & Observer.

Her mother, Cecelia Edwards, listed some of the messages during a press conference Thursday:

"F the n-word. Kill n-word babies. Pick that cotton you Black son of a B. We do not like

n-words in our chat,' and 'pulling triggers and shooting the n-words,' etc."

Cecelia Edwards said when her daughter and other students called their peers out about their remarks, they responded with a penguin holding a gun and stating "shut up the n-word."

"Hurt and scared, she called us, requesting that we please come to the school," the mother said.

The Edwards family told The News & Observer East Wake High Principal Stacey Alston told them he's not disciplining anyone in the incident, but Johnston County school officials have since said the principal "issued consequences" and notified parents.

Children praised for saving their parent's life

Newyorkbeacon.com

Two brothers, Isaiah and Corey Walker from Florida, who are 11 and 12-years old, are being called heroes for saving the life of their stepfather through their quick actions, which even involved performing CPR.

According to reports, Terry Poole suddenly collapsed on Saturday in the living room of their home while babysitting his stepchildren. He apparently suffered from a heart attack.

Isaiah quickly responded to help and performed CPR which he said he recalled from what he learned when they took swimming lessons at a local aquatic center. Corey was the one who called 911 and passed on to Isaiah the instructions the dispatcher was giving.

"She said, 'Do CPR,' Corey told WPBF. "Just let your arms stretch and place your heel of your hand between his chest."



Their two younger siblings, 8-year old Lyric and 7-year old Cash, was also there to see the incident.

"I stayed calm with all my brothers," Lyric said. "I took a deep breath."

"I was scared," Cash said. "I thought he was dead."

The children's mother, Shono-

via Walker, said she hurried to get home from work when she received a call about what happened.

"When I got to my door, they had Terry on the floor, trying to revive him," Shonovia Walker said. "They had my kids in the back room, trying to keep them away from what was going on."

Kierra Coles, another young Black woman still missing over a year

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of color "often feel like they're stereotyped as being involved in some type of criminal activity, or that's the life that's lived in that particular community or neighborhood, so their lives are not valued," Natalie Wilson, co-founder of the Black and Missing Foundation, Inc., said in an interview with ABC News.

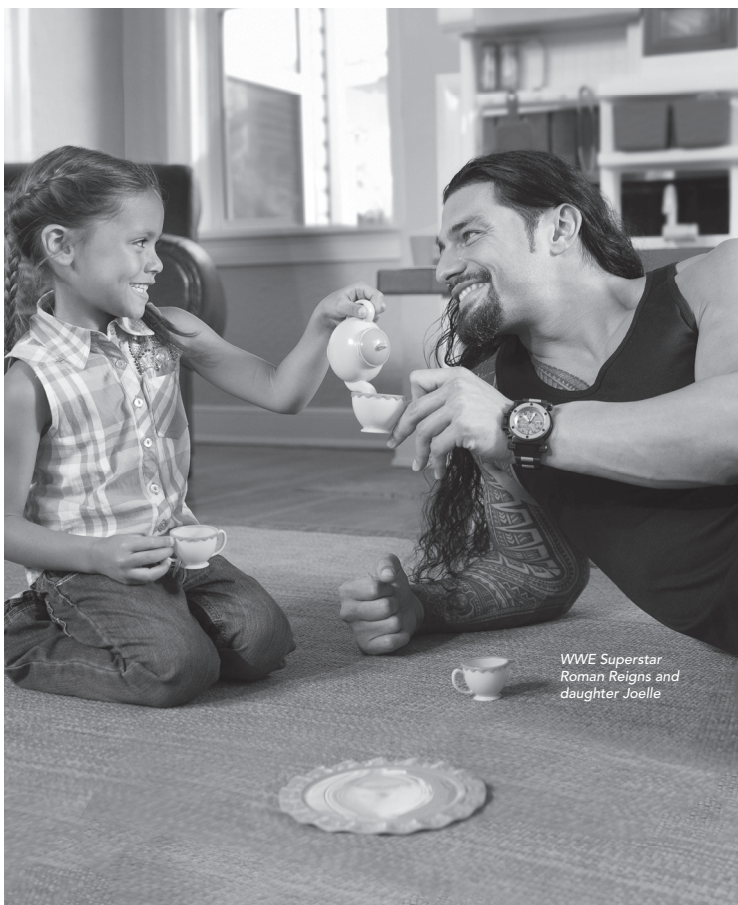
Kierra's family remains hopeful, however.

"Not a day goes past I don't think about my child and what she could be going through, what may have happened to her," Phillips stated. "I feel she is alive – being held where I wouldn't know."

Kierra is described as 5-foot-4 inches tall and about 125 pounds

with black hair and brown eyes. She has a tattoo of a heart on her right hand, and "Lucky Libra" on her back.

If anyone has information about Kierra, call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 and provide a case identification number, 2693502-WPV. Or, call the Chicago Police Special Victims Unit at 312-747-8274.



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Chicago's teacher strike is about to enter another week, with no end in sight



Newyorkbeacon.com

Marathon talks to end the Chicago teachers' strike stalled again, meaning 300,000 students will miss a third day of classes Monday.

The Chicago Teachers Union and city officials negotiated through the weekend but couldn't reach a deal. So no one knows when 25,000 educators in the country's third-biggest school district will return to school.

"These negotiations must move more swiftly so that we can get students back into school as fast as possible," Mayor Lori Lightfoot said Sunday.

Teachers picket at Joyce Kilmer Elementary School on the second day of the Chicago teachers' strike.

"Our team has been turning around thoughtful counteroffers at a rapid pace. We are hopeful that CTU will meet that pace ... so we can bring this process on a fair and

responsible end."

The union's demands echo what teachers across the country are fighting for: smaller class sizes, more support staff, higher raises and more school funding.

But the mayor and Chicago Public Schools say it's just not realistic to fund everything the union wants.

"CPS is not flush with cash," the mayor said. "The fact is there is no more money. Period."



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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

Urban League has had few greater champions in congress than Elijah Cummings



By Marc Morial

“Steely yet compassionate, principled yet open to new perspectives, Chairman Cummings remained steadfast in his pursuit of truth, justice, and reconciliation. It’s a tribute to his native Baltimore that one of its own brought such character, tact, and resolve into the halls of power every day. And true to the giants of

progress he followed into public service, Chairman Cummings stood tallest and most resolute when our country needed him the most.” – President Barack Obama

It’s hard to express how just how great a loss the death of Elijah Cummings represents to the civil rights community.

He was in the public eye most recently for his role as Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, one of three House committees conducting an impeachment inquiry of President Trump. And he will be remembered for his passionate commitment to integrity in our public institutions.

His life, and his legacy, however, encompass so much more.

The many tributes to Cummings upon his death on Thursday noted that his life represented the American Dream. Specifically, it represented the African-American dream. He was a child of southern sharecroppers who headed north

as part of the Great Migrations.

He was inspired to become a lawyer by NAACP National Youth Director Juanita Jackson Mitchell, the first African-American woman to practice law in Maryland. Under her guidance, 11-year-old Cummings and other Black boys leaped into a formerly all-White swimming pool in Baltimore, triggering mob violence that left him with a life-long scar.

It was the proprietor of the drugstore where Cummings worked as a teenager who paid his application fee to Howard University. He thrived at Howard, earning his degree in political science in 1973 and his law degree at University of Maryland three years later.

He entered public service in 1983 as a member of Maryland’s House of Delegates. He was the first African American to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore. After winning his seat in Congress with more than 80 percent of the vote,

he was reelected 11 times with overwhelming majorities.

The Urban League Movement had few greater champions in Congress than Cummings, who led major initiatives to promote economic justice, civil rights, voter protection and educational opportunity.

This year alone, legislation he introduced that mirrors Urban League policy includes a proposal to facilitate partnerships between the Small Business Administration and HBCUs to establish Small Business Development Centers. His Promoting Reentry through Education in Prisons Act would ease barriers to reentry by providing incarcerated individuals with the educational opportunities they need to successfully reenter their communities upon release. The SAFE Lending Act would crack down on some of the worst abuses of the payday lending industry and protect consumers from deceptive and predatory practices that strip

wealth from working families.

He was a champion for voting rights, making an impassioned plea on the House floor against voter suppression:

“On my mother’s dying bed, 92 years old, former sharecropper, her last words were, ‘Do not let them take our votes away from us,’” he said. ***“She had fought and seen people harmed, beaten, trying to vote. Talk about inalienable rights. Voting is crucial. And I don’t give a damn how you look at it: There are efforts to stop people from voting. That’s not right. This is not Russia. This is the United States of America.”***

Cummings saw his responsibility to conduct oversight of the President as a Constitutional imperative, but his responsibility to serve his constituents as a moral imperative. The nation needs leaders like Cummings who are guided by honor and comported by dignity. We grieve his loss and offer our deepest condolences to his family.

Congressman Elijah Cummings—conscience of the congress



By Julianne Malveaux

President Lee Saunders, and Democratic activist and pastor Leah Daughtry took to the stage to have a conversation about politics, voting, and political courage. Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) was scheduled to attend the Spirit of Democracy awards dinner, hosted by the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) on October 16; he died just a few hours after the dinner concluded.

As Roland Martin led the three luminaries who received the Chair-

man’s award from NCBCP, it was clear that Cummings would have been right at home in the company of his colleagues. It would have been great to hear his passionate voice thundering about the need to speak truth to power. As Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, he was known for his powerful and scathing attacks on this administration.

He never hesitated to use his investigative powers to check an administration replete with political chicanery and corruption. Indeed, he reportedly signed subpoenas from his hospital bed the evening before he made his transition. I always enjoyed my interactions with Congressman Cummings. He was right-on and righteous, humble and honest, and ever faithful to his roots.

He had no airs – and was proud to be the son of a sharecropping family. He loved Black people and loved the Baltimore neighborhood that he never moved away from, commuting daily from Capitol Hill to his home. Cummings wielded a powerful influence, not only among other politicians regardless of political party, but also on his

neighbors, taking to the street with a bullhorn to try to quell emotions in the wake of the police murder of Freddie Gray.

And for all his power, Cummings was also often measured. When 45 attacked his city by calling it a “rat-infested” place where no one wanted to live, Cummings held his powder and allowed others, including many Baltimoreans, to respond. And while he could be scathing in his questioning, he could also be kind and collegial, which explains why so many Republicans issued acclamatory statements upon his death. Cummings was guided by his faith and by his keen sense of right and wrong. He believed in our country and, more importantly, in our Constitution, which is why he was so very passionate about the need for those in power to adhere to it.

The Maryland congressman was also passionate about children, or the “generations yet unborn.” He chafed at the administration’s policy of separating children from their parents at the border, challenging his colleagues in a booming voice,

“We are better than this.” For all his passion, thunder, and pointed criticism, he was also a notably kind and considerate man. House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) said of his colleague, ***“In a time of confrontation and disagreement and anger and, yes, sometimes hate, he was a beacon of civility, of fairness, of justice.”*** Many others echoed those sentiments, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi describing Cummings as ***“the conscience of the Congress.”***

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (R), must set a date for a special election for Cummings congressional seat. Until then, House Democrats will have to decide who assumes his chairmanship of the House Oversight Committee. Many say Cummings’ death will not slow the momentum for impeachment. Indeed, I hope that more members of Congress will emulate the Cummings’ passion for the Constitution and disdain for those who fail to honor it.

Speaker Pelosi has pledged to move swiftly on impeachment, and not a day goes by without 45 providing more reasons for im-

peachment. On the same day that Congressman Cummings died, the President, after issuing unusually compassionate condolences for the Cummings family, announced that the G-7 meeting next year will be held at the Trump resort in Miami. This is a direct violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution and a reflection of the way the Trump family has used the White House as a cash machine.

One can only imagine what Congressman Cummings would have to say about this matter. Cummings’ death is a blow to the Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus, the African American community, and the nation. He will be sorely missed. While no one can fill his shoes, we must all be motivated by his legacy of speaking truth to power, being a voice for the voiceless, with compassion, dignity, and respect for the Constitution. Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com



By Bill Fletcher, Jr., NNPA Newswire Contributor

Trump’s favorite dictator

Egypt, which along with Tunisia was at the heart of the 2011-2012 “Arab Spring”, is in the midst of a new upsurge. It is premature to call it an uprising, but something is afoot in Egypt in opposition to the repression and corruption of the el-Sisi regime.

Abdel Fattah el-Sisi came to power in 2013 in Egypt as a result of a military-led hijacking of a massive protest against the power-grab by the administration of former President Mohamed Morsi.

Instead of deepening the process of democratization in Egypt, el-Sisi and his military cohorts reversed course and re-created a strongly authoritarian state. Dissent has been largely crushed, or at least so it seemed until very recently.

When Donald Trump allegedly referred to el-Sisi as his ‘favorite dictator’ that said a great deal about both el-Sisi and Trump. What it said about el-Sisi was to remind the world that his regime is among the favorite of the Unit-

ed States elite in its policies in the Middle East and North Africa. El-Sisi has no interest in providing assistance to the beleaguered Palestinians, is actively participating in the further destabilization of the internal situation in Libya and has worked to subvert the Sudanese Revolution.

What it said about Trump was to remind us that this is an administration that does not even pretend to have scruples. Just as they have covered for the Saudi Arabian

monarchy in the murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi (while he was in Istanbul), going so far as to suggest that a financial relationship between the USA and Saudi Arabia was more important than human rights, the Trump administration has been quite willing to support the repression conducted by el-Sisi. In fact, Trump applauded el-Sisi, offering the view that el-Sisi had brought order

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LeBron: I'm not going to harp on China issue

Newyorkbeacon.com

Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James is ready to move on from the China controversy and focus on winning a championship and other things. Just a day after criticizing Houston Rockets' general manager Daryl Morey as "misinformed" over a tweet supporting Hong Kong protesters, James said Tuesday he has more pressing issues to deal with at home.

"I'd be cheating my teammates by continuing to harp on something that won't benefit us trying to win a championship because that's what we're here for," James told reporters Tuesday. "We're not politicians.

I think it's a huge political thing but we are leaders and we can step up at times. But... you don't feel like you should speak upon things you shouldn't have to."

James said he has a list of concerns in his own backyard that he should prioritize more than political issues a world away.

"There's things that happen in my own community — trying to help my kids graduate high school and go off to college — what's been my main concern over the last couple years — and my school. Trying to make sure the inner-city kids that grew up in my hometown can have a brighter future and look at me as inspiration to get out of the hellhole of the inner city. And we don't talk about those stories enough."

Trump's favorite dictator

From page 6

to chaos and that el-Sisi was a great leader.

El-Sisi's regime has clamped down on non-governmental organizations, independent trade unions, and members of the press. There is nothing in this regime that would suggest an expansion on human rights and political liberties. But the point is

that this is irrelevant to the Trump administration.

Despite Trump's applause of el-Sisi, thousands of Egyptians, seemingly out of nowhere, began protests against corruption and human rights abuses by the governing regime. There is no way to anticipate whether this will be a brief episode or whether it will evolve into something that threatens the regime. What can

be said, however, is that el-Sisi and Trump appear to be trying to keep a bubble—the Egyptian people—under water.

That rarely works. *Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the executive editor of www.globalafricanworker.com. He is the former president of TransAfrica Forum and the author of the mystery novel The Man Who Fell From the Sky.*

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13. Publication Title: Philadelphia Observer
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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
		112,130	121,107
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	144	140
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	312	301
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	8385	8351
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	49	45
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		8890	8837
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	164	158
(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	199	189
(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	176	178
(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	608	598
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		1147	1123
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		10,037	9960
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		3092	2140
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		12,129	12,100
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)			

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
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On the scene

Wendy 'How You Doin' Williams gets Hollywood star

By Audrey J. Bernard

LOS ANGELES, CA — Talk Show host, **Wendy Williams** received the 2,677th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. in the category of Television. Wendy Watchers were thrilled as CEO of FOX Television Stations **Jack Abernethy** and Radio Personality & Walk of Famer **Elvis Duran** made the presentation as Wendy's proud son **Kevin Hunter Jr.** looked on with unabashed pride as his mom was honored for her decades of work in entertainment, television and radio. Looking ravishingly gorgeous in a Dolce & Gabbana gown, during an emotional speech Wendy thanked her son for always treating her like "just mom," despite her wild career. Williams who was born in Asbury Park, New Jersey, has a career in media that expands over 30 years. She is a media mogul, philanthropist, entrepreneur, performer and best-selling author who is best known for her nationally syndicated talk show, *The Wendy Williams Show*. Recently extended by FOX Television Stations through 2022, and broadcast in more than 50 countries, the program has been nominated for multiple Daytime Emmy Awards. Its place in pop culture has earned memorabilia from the show a place in the



Daytime TV mogul Wendy Williams was honored with her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, CA on Thurs., Oct. 17, 2019

Smithsonian Museum. *The Wendy Williams Show*, now in its 11th season, is produced and distributed

by Debmart-Mercury and averages more than 1.6 million viewers an episode. One of the most popular

personalities in radio, Williams was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in November

2009 – one of only a handful of women with that honor. (Photos by Getty Images)



Wendy Williams shows off her star



Wendy stuns in Dolce & Gabbana gown



Wendy's son Kevin Hunter Jr., 19, was on hand to support his mother on her big day



Jack Abernethy, William Williams, Elvis Duran (Photo by Just Jared)

Health

Menthol cigarettes more dangerous than flavored E-cigarettes

By Glenn Ellis
(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Most recently, like others in the media, I have written about what we know about the potential deadly effects of smoking flavored e-cigarettes.

It seems that each day we hear news of yet another young person whose life is cut short following their “dabbling” with vaping e-cigarettes. An outbreak of a vaping-related illness in the US has left hundreds sick and some dead.

The Surgeon General has reported that besides nicotine, e-cigarettes can contain harmful and potentially harmful ingredients, including: ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs; flavorings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease; volatile organic compounds; heavy metals, such as nickel, tin, and lead.

But there are two related issues go much farther than that and take this smoking thing to a different level.

One is the consistent, unrelenting targeting of young people to become smokers. A common misperception we often hear is that cigarette smoking is an adult choice. The reality is nearly all smokers started using the highly addictive product before they were adults. In fact, 9 out of 10 cigarette smokers start before they turn 18, and 98% first try smoking by age 26. Smoking is therefore

very much a youth problem. This is no coincidence. Evidence shows that the tobacco industry has targeted young people for decades.

From using cartoons in advertisements in the past to candy-flavored tobacco products still today, the tobacco industry has multiple sketchy strategies to entice young people to get addicted to tobacco.

The second issue is the disproportionate marketing of tobacco and tobacco-related products to youth. Specifically, Menthol!

Make no mistake vaping is clearly dangerous, and a health hazard. But we must keep in perspective the harm from cigarette smoking. This current crisis has led not only to (as of September 19) 530 cases of lung injury from vaping reported from 38 states and 1 US territory. Vaping has accounted for seven deaths in six states, according to the CDC.

Few of us neither understand, nor appreciate, the diabolical pathway that most black smokers followed to end up being the largest menthol smokers.

Candy and fruit flavors are appealing to teens and are a key ingredient in the tobacco industry’s plans to lure them into a lifetime of addiction. Flavors mask the bad taste of tobacco, making it easier for youth to start using. This eventually prompted the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ban flavored cigarettes—excluding menthol—in 2009 under the Family

Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

Now, let this sink in. We are currently in a climate where flavored e-cigarettes of all kind are either banned or proposed to be banned...except menthol.

Wondering what the big deal is about menthol?

Menthol reduces the harshness of smoke because of its cooling effects on the mouth and throat, making it more appealing and easier to smoke. There is no shortage of research that shows the deleterious impact of menthol smoking and tobacco use on the human body, yet for decades the tobacco industry has pumped copious amounts of dollars into advertising to influence the most susceptible users—young people.

Furthermore, a large number of studies show that menthol users have a higher nicotine addiction, and menthol users have a harder time quitting than non-menthol users. This is especially true for African American and other minority populations than it is for white smokers.

In fact, despite lower smoking rates among African-American adolescents compared with other racial and ethnic groups, studies show that African-American youths who do smoke use menthol cigarettes at a very high rate. About 70 percent of African-American middle and high school students who smoke use menthol cig-



arettes, compared with 51 percent of their white counterparts. And while 29 percent of white smokers ages 12 and up smoke menthol cigarettes, almost 90% percent of African-American smokers use menthol products.

So, the problem is that with the growing use of e-cigarettes among youths raises serious concerns about early-age nicotine addiction, and the likelihood of these users transitioning to regular cigarettes and more African-American youths to menthol cigarettes. According to findings from the Youth Against Menthol project from the NAACP, there are 10 times more menthol advertisements and retail promotions in black communities than in other neighborhoods.

Not only is it still too early to determine exactly what it is about va-

ping that has led to the lung injuries and deaths in young people; but what we do know if that menthol cigarettes are killing young African-American smokers, yet it is still legal, and allowed by the FDA!

From 2004 to 2014, as the use of non-menthol cigarettes by youth and young adults declined, the use of menthol cigarettes among these groups increased or remained constant. It’s clear that we must certainly continue the pressure for the proper regulation and/or outright restriction of e-cigarettes to protect young people from the greed of industry, but we must do something to save our children...

Remember, I’m not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

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Kremlin hosts first Russia Africa summit in push for influence, business

(GIN) –

Some 43 African leaders are expected to converge on the Black Sea city of Sochi this week for the first summit with the Russian leader as he moves to build allies and strategic partnerships in a new political landscape around the world.

President Vladimir Putin sweetened the invitation on Monday saying that Moscow could offer help without strings, unlike the exploitative West.

The summit is scheduled to run from Oct. 23-24.

“We are not going to participate in a new ‘repartition’ of the continent’s wealth; rather, we are ready to engage in competition for cooperation with Africa, provided that this competition is civilized,” Putin told Russia’s Tass news agency Sunday.

Russia hopes to host such summits every three years, with foreign ministers meeting annually, said Putin’s foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov. Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi is the co-chair this time.

Over the years, the former Soviet Union explored ties with Angola and Ethiopia and more recently the Central African Republic where ties with former president Michel Djotodia led to the arrival of Russian military and civilian trainers.

Until the death of Stalin in 1953, the Soviet Union showed very little interest in Africa. But Soviet leaders, beginning with Nikita Khrushchev, were excited



Putin and P. Oagsn

by the enthusiastic young black Africans who first came to Moscow for a major youth festival in 1957. Patrice Lumumba Peoples’ Friendship University was established in Moscow in 1960 to provide higher education to Third World students. It became an integral part of the Soviet cultural offensive in non-aligned countries.

With the decline of socialism in Russia and most Africa countries, Russia is now focused on military cooperation agreements which have been signed with at least 28 African countries, the majority in the past five years, often using counterterrorism as a basis, according to an analysis published in August by the Washington-based Institute for the

Study of War.

Moscow can’t bring as much to the table in terms of investment, humanitarian aid or even soft power but its assistance is free from conditions linked to human rights concerns, making Russia an attractive business partner for other countries chafing from Western sanctions.

One of them is Zimbabwe, whose President Emmerson Mnangagwa met with Putin in Moscow early this year and praised Russia for standing by during his country’s long period of isolation. “You, as a senior brother, can hold my hand as I try to develop Zimbabwe,” Mnangagwa said, according to the Kremlin’s report. Putin is a decade younger than him.

Liberia to raise up the country’s poorest with \$100 in cash

(GIN) –

Thousands of Liberia’s poorest citizens will be getting an early Christmas gift of \$100 this year as part of a five-year project which the government hopes will shrink chronic poverty and eliminate hunger.

Authorities at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection say they have started to disburse “social cash” to the extremely poor and food insecure citizens in two counties. The money comes from the nation’s Social Safety Nets Project funded by the U.N. Development Program.

“Over 3,000 households will be given cash to help them secure the needed support for their families,” said Minister Williametta E. Saydee-Tar, speaking at a news conference in Monrovia.

“This cash transfer is a major achievement under the Pro-poor Agenda, which says power to the

people and sub-chapter investing in social protection.”

The Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) underscores the importance of “direct cash transfer” outside centralized national poverty reduction programs, she said, adding: “This milestone also captures the very essence of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under pillar one and two that says no poverty and zero hunger.”

The five-year (2019-2023) Agenda, according to Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs Samora Wolokollie, is about strengthening people’s capacity to thrive and seeks to draw all Liberians at home and abroad into the national development process.

The two counties so far in the program are Grand Kru and Maryland.

However, not all Liberians are on board with the plan. Rob-

ert Quiminee, an activist and an author, in an article on Liberia’s Poverty Recovery Strategies, fears the program lacks the input of poor people in the policy process.

He mentioned a widely-seen photo of President George Weah in which he and his wife are eating with bare fingers but with no plan to transform lives. “Pro-poor is not about identity, it’s about transformation,” Quiminee said.

A. Witherspoon, writing in the Liberia Observer, asked rhetorically: “Where does this cash transfer program fit into the overall development plan? These ad hoc initiatives will not help our people. These piecemeal ventures are what is deepening the (poverty) situation in the country.”

Meanwhile, the first All Liberian Diaspora Conference is set for December 6-7 at the St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Center in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Could this be part of the Chinese air force?

Newyorkbeacon.com

China has been unveiling a lot of new weaponry lately, but one of their latest reveals looks really, well, out of this world.

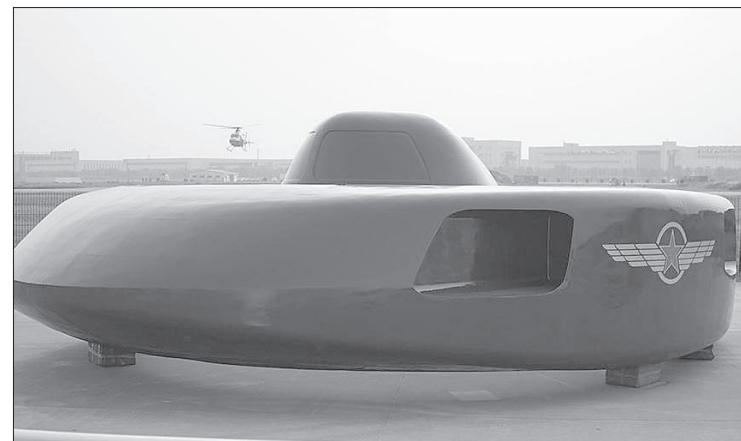
Called the “Super Great White Shark” by Chinese media, the aircraft conjures up images of 1950s sci-fi movies more than 21st century technology. But China says the “armed helicopter” was designed for the “future digital information battlefield.”

State-tabloid the Global Times published an image gallery of the aircraft, calling it a fusion of modern, proven helicopter designs — such as the American AH-64 Apache and CH-53 Sea Stallion

as well as the Russian Ka-52 and Mi-26 copters. It also has the blended-wing design employed by stealth aircraft, including the US B-2 bomber.

The Super Great White Shark is 7.6 meters (25 feet) long, almost three meters (10 feet) high and has room on board for two crew. Schematic drawings show its outer shell covers rotors and engines, which would presumably give the helicopter stealth capability because any sharp angles would be covered, making it harder for radar to detect.

The prototype was displayed last week at the China Helicopter Exposition in Tianjin. It was a static display only. The aircraft is land-bound — at least for now.



Protests escalate again in Hong Kong

Newyorkbeacon.com

Protesters tossed firebombs and took their anger out on shops with mainland Chinese ties as they skirmished late into the evening with riot police, who unleashed numerous tear gas rounds on short notice, angering residents and passers-by.

Police had beefed up security measures ahead of the rally, for which they refused to give permission, the latest chapter in the unrest that has disrupted life in the financial hub since early June.

Some 24 people were hurt and treated at hospitals, including six with serious injuries, the Hospital Authority said.

Police did not give an arrest figure. One person was seen being handcuffed and taken away to a police van.

As the rally march set off, protest leaders carried a black banner that read, “Five main demands, not one less,” as they pressed their calls for police accountability and political rights in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Supporters sang the protest movement’s anthem, waved colonial and U.S. flags, and held up placards depicting the Chinese flag as a Nazi swastika.

Many protesters wore masks in defiance of a recently introduced ban on face coverings at public gatherings, and volunteers handed more out to the crowd.



Culture



Michelle Obama's next project is a companion to 'Becoming'

Newyorkbeacon.com

Michelle Obama's first project since "Becoming" is more about her readers than about herself.

"Becoming: A Guided Journal for Discovering Your Voice" will be published Nov. 19 by Clarkson Potter, an imprint of Penguin Random House. The new release was announced Monday. It is a companion to her multimillion-selling

"Becoming," which came out last November. It features an introduction by the former first lady and quotations and questions related to her memoir. It is designed to help readers tell their own stories.

In the introduction, Obama writes that she hopes the journal will encourage people to write down their "experiences, thoughts, and feelings, in all their imperfections, and without judgment."

Casting: Zoe Kravitz to play Catwoman in new Batman flick

Newyorkbeacon.com

According to reports, the actress has nabbed the role of Catwoman in Matt Reeves' upcoming film The Batman.

Twilight star, Robert Pattinson, has already signed on to portray the Dark Knight in the Warner Bros. flick that is set to begin filming in January.

According to TheWrap, Jeffrey Wright is in talks to play Commissioner Gordon and Jonah Hill is in negotiations to take on the role of The Riddler.

We can't wait to see how Zoe Kravitz does as the feline femme fatale and this won't be the first time a Black woman has taken on

the iconic role. Eartha Kitt played Catwoman in the 1960s TV series and Halle Berry took on the character in 2004 in Catwoman.

Oddly enough, Zoe Kravitz revealed that she couldn't even get an audition for Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight Rises during a 2015 interview with Nylon.

Apparently, her race was the problem.

"In the last Batman movie [The Dark Knight Rises], they told me that I couldn't get an audition for a small role they were casting because they weren't going urban," she said. "It was like, 'What does that have to do with anything?' I have to play the role like, 'Yo, what's up, Batman? What's going on wit chu?'"



Getty Images

Little known Black history fact: Fela Kuti

Newyorkbeacon.com

Fela Kuti was a pioneer of the Afrobeat musical movement whose intense and pointed lyrics made him a target of the Nigerian government. The late musician was born October 15, 1938. Kuti was born Olufela Oluse-

gun Oludotun Ransome-Kuti to a minister father and activist father in Abeokuta. In the late '50s, Kuti was sent to London to study medicine but his interest in music was too strong. He left and entered the Trinity College of Music, where he discovered the sounds of American Jazz.

In 1963, Kuti formed his first band, Koola Lobitos, which were renamed Afrika 70 and then Egypt 80. The talented band infused the sounds of jazz, funk, salsa, calypso, and traditional Nigerian Yoruba music. Kuti's strong vocal presence and his skills on the saxophone, guitar, drums, and keyboards combined with the political consciousness he acquired after a tour of the U.S. made him a global sensation.

Like James Brown, Kuti's songs were propulsive with some lasting for as long as 30 minutes. Because of his political beliefs, Kuti was beaten several times and was jailed over 200 times, but never stopped railing against the Nigerian government. He built a large commune and recording studio known as the Kalakuta Republic, which was eventually destroyed and burned by Nigerian military forces.

In the final raid of the commune, Kuti's mother was thrown from a window and died from her injuries. In response, Kuti delivered his mother's coffin to the Lagos barracks where the Nigerian military general resided and released two songs, "Coffin For Head Of State" and "Unknown Soldier."

In 1997, Kuti died from AIDS-related complications at the age of 58.



Pharrell Williams reflects on 'Rapey' lyrics of 'Blurred Lines' six years later

Pharrell Williams is always looking for the "new." Sometimes it works out well for him, considering his long-lasting career as an innovative music producer who's worked with everyone from Beyoncé to Britney Spears. However, sometimes the "new" isn't always a good look for him, like that time in 2014 he tried to start a trend of the self-responsible "new Black."

Now, in 2019, Williams is talking about the "New Masculinity" with GQ, and this time, he might have an argument for dismantling historically oppressive forms of masculinity. He used his involvement with the hit 2013 song "Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke as an example of how he's changed on certain issues. The song initially faced backlash from certain groups for lyrics like "I know you want it" being perceived as non-consensual come-ons.

Pharrell explained in GQ: "I think 'Blurred Lines' opened me up. I didn't get it at first. Because there were older white women who, when that song came on, they would behave in some of the most surprising ways



ever. And I would be like, wow. They would have me blushing. So when there started to be an issue with it, lyrically, I was, like, What are you talking about? There are women who really like the song and connect to the energy that just gets you up. And I know you want it—women sing those kinds of lyrics all the time. So it's like, What's rapey about that?"

He continued:

"And then I realized that there

are men who use that same language when taking advantage of a woman, and it doesn't matter that that's not my behavior. Or the way I think about things. It just matters how it affects women. And I was like, Got it. I get it. Cool. My mind opened up to what was actually being said in the song and how it could make someone feel. Even though it wasn't the majority, it didn't matter. I cared what they were feeling too."

On the tube

By Audrey J. Bernard

Introducing: Holiday Movies on OWN

Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) is getting into the holiday spirit! The premium network will debut three original holiday movies this November.

“One Fine Christmas”

Premieres: Friday, November 15 at 9pm ET/PT

Marking the first time they have acted together, Rick Fox and his daughter Sasha Fox star in “One Fine Christmas.” The father/daughter duo join beloved actress Marla Gibbs and fan favorite Vanessa Williams in the ensemble cast. The families on Christmas Street have been busy with their day-to-day lives that they lose sight of the importance of family during the holiday season. Haley (Sasha Fox) comes home for the Christmas holiday, but home has not been the same since her family split up. Haley’s mother Susan (Williams) is working on a new work deal with her client (Rick Fox) which causes her to hardly have time for Haley or her mother Alice (Gibbs). Al (Mark Christopher Lawrence) is too preoccupied with work that he overlooks his wife Matty (June Carryl). Meanwhile, Bob (Rodney Van Johnson) and Diana’s (Eva La Dare) son Jesse (Alfonso Torres Caballero) comes home for Christmas with a very special surprise. This “slice of life” holiday tale shares the individual stories of these neighbors as they celebrate Christmas Eve and find themselves unexpectedly united for the holiday season.



One Fine Christmas



Carole's Christmas

“Carole’s Christmas”

Premieres: Friday, November 22 at 9pm ET/PT

Starring acclaimed actresses Jackée Harry and Kimberly Elise, “Carole’s Christmas” tells the story of Carole Jordan (Elise), an overworked businesswoman who learns the meaning of “be careful what you wish for” after she off-handedly wishes she had taken another path in life. When Carole’s wish is granted, her world is turned upside down and the only person she can confide in is Iris (Jackée Harry), a woman she recognizes from her “past life.” Carole no longer has time for the things that mattered most to her - family, friends and her annual Christmas party. She quickly learns how grateful she was for the previous life she was living. “Carole’s Christmas” also stars Cayden K. Williams (star of OWN’s “David Makes Man”), Bianca Buck and Anthony Montgomery.

“Baking Christmas”

Premieres: Friday, November 29 at 9pm ET/PT

When Patty (Aloma Wright), the founder of the town’s most popular and successful bakery, announces her plan to retire at the end of the year, her children step up to take over the family business. Patty and Phillip’s (Tim Reid) children, Jennifer (Khalilah Joi), Angela (Leigh-Ann Rose) and Anthony (Arnell Powell), are qualified—and eager—to run the enterprise, and each has their own ideas for writing the bakery’s next chapter. There is only one way to ensure the shop ends up in the right hands and that is a Christmas cake bakeoff. The gloves come off and the frosting flies as the siblings vie for control of the bakery in an unforgettable competition to create the best-ever Christmas confection. “Baking Christmas” also stars Yohance Myles from OWN’s “Ambitions.”



Baking Christmas

The Black Music Industry lauds Living Legends



Tito Jackson, Honoree Dyana Williams, Bobby Brown, Kelly Rowland

Posted By Don Thomas

The Black Music and Entertainment industries gathered to celebrate the 2019 Living Legends Foundation's honorees at the Taglyan Complex in Hollywood with special guest appearances by award winners Cathy Hughes, Kelly Rowland, Bobby Brown, YoYo, Freda Payne, among others. Famed musician Tito Jackson performed

music from this album, *Tito Time* including his new single, "One Way Street."

This year's event chairpersons were husband-and-wife team Ray Chew and Vivian Scott Chew of Chew Entertainment. The awards ceremony was hosted by DeDe McGuire, award-winning radio personality of the nationally syndicated show *DeDe In The Morning*. "Once again, this year's sold-

out awards gala proved the importance and purpose of the Living Legends Foundation and its mission. Across the board, we've increased the growth and development of the organization's revenue and overall brand awareness. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are grateful and would like to thank everyone for their continued support over the years," said David C. Linton, Chairman of the LLF.

The 2019 distinguished list of honorees included Dyana Williams, the co-founder of Black Music Month, and the CEO of Influence Entertainment, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented by Urban One's founder Cathy Hughes.

Music Pioneer Sidney Miller, founder/publisher of BRE Magazine (Black Radio Exclusive), was presented with the A.D. Washington Chairman's Award by LLF Chairman David C. Linton.

Miller shared the importance of ownership and legacy building. Miller is currently working on his forthcoming book, *Backstage with Black Music in America*, and making plans for a BRE Conference Reunion. He is also opening the Adderley School of Music (Cannonball and Nat Adderley) at the historic HBCU's Florida A&M University.

Entertainment executive Phil Thornton, senior vice president/general manager of RCA Inspiration, was presented with the Gospel Music Executive Award by Grammy Award winner and Destiny Child's member Kelly Rowland. The under 40 honoree inspired the audience with his vision for the future.

Maurice White, vice president of promotion of eOne Entertainment Group, received the Music Label Executive Award, presented by his daughter, Alexis White and Shadow Stokes. Williams shared the importance of God, family, and community. Legendary Public Relations Executive Karen Lee, senior vice president of W&W Public Relations was presented with the

Media Executive Award by Gail Mitchell, music journalist and LLF Advisory Board member.

Broadcast Owner Hymen Childs of Service Broadcasting Group received the Broadcast Icon Award, which was accepted by Geo Cook, operations manager of K-104, who shared Childs' longtime commitment to Black music, Black radio, and the Black community.

Former music executive Sheila Coates, founder and creator of BYOB—Be Your Own Brand, was presented with the Entrepreneur Award by LLF's founder Ray Harris. The ten-year business owner not only showed how she stepped out on faith, but how she managed to transition into another career. She shared how tapping into your individuality is the key ingredient to success.

New York Beacon Columnist Dedra N. Tate, CEO/president of Unlimited Contacts, received the Mike Bernardo Executive Award, which was presented by Rap Legend/Radio Host YoYo. Tate, a multi-talented entrepreneur, is also part of the team to open the Universal Hip Hop Museum in 2023 in the Bronx, New York.

Radio Broadcast Legends Frank Ski of V-103 Radio Atlanta and Steve Hegwood, CEO/president of Core Communicators, were presented with the Jerry Boulding Radio Executive Award by Amy Witherite and Elroy Smith.

Both career broadcasters have given back to their communities in many ways and have made and continue to make significant contributions to the next generation of broadcasters.



Ray Chew and Vivian Scott Chew

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